

Department of the Interior,
Office of Indian Affairs,
Washington.

April 7/93

Dear Captain

I have delayed action on your special Exhibit project hoping every day that a Commissioner would be appointed, I however do not deem it wise to delay it longer and have today presented it for the consideration & action of the Secretary as per copy of letter enclosed.

Very truly yours
W. Keel

Capt. R. H. Pratt
Cachila Pa

J. C.

Refer in reply to the following:

Finance.

9687/93

12202/93.

2 Encls.

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

WASHINGTON, April 7, 1893.

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:-

I have the honor to transmit herewith a communication from Capt. R. H. Pratt, Superintendent of the Indian Training School, Carlisle, Pa., setting forth the desirability of making an exhibit of the work of his school at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

Capt. Pratt was recently in this city, and I had a conversation with him on this subject, wherein he detailed very fully the efforts he had already made for securing space in the Liberal Arts Building, to enable him to make proper exhibition of the Government Indian school work by the side of all other schools of the country. He thought that this would be very desirable to have an exhibit of school work in close contact with other school work, for the good effect that would be produced thereby. He informed me that he had, by liberal donations of friends, received contributions to a considerable extent to enable him to accomplish this, and represented that the allowance of a small sum on the part of the Government would enable him to carry through his plans on the scale upon which they had been based.

After returning to his post of duty, he wrote me, as will appear herewith by letter of March 15, 1893, showing that he had been allotted for the purposes of his exhibit the use of 384 square feet of space in the Liberal Arts Building, the location of which he therein describes.

In a subsequent letter, dated April 6th, he now informs the Office that he had been allowed space double the size of the first allowance and better located, which will give him the opportunity to display additional work to that which he contemplated at first.

It will be understood that this exhibit is separate and apart from the general exhibit planned by the Indian Office and to be conducted in the special building erected for that purpose on the grounds of the Exposition.

Capt. Pratt has been a long time connected with the Indian service, and is one of the pioneers in the Indian educational work; is thoroughly interested in it, and I have great confidence that any exhibit that he will attempt to make of the work at Chicago will be not only creditable to the Carlisle school but also to the Indian service generally; and will show with great force and clearness the advancement that has been made in the educational and industrial training of the Indian youth of our country. I have no hesitation in giving my endorsement to the project suggested by him, inasmuch as it has had the sanction and the endorsement of the

managers of the Exposition.

Capt. Pratt estimates that to enable him to complete and put in place his exhibit, an expenditure in the aggregate of \$1,625 will be required, for the purchase of sash, paint, materials and moulding for show cases; of harness trimming and other special material for specimen work; for special photographic work, framing and mounting of pictures; for models for the proper display of tailor and dress-making work; for lumber to make packing cases, and to construct partitions, etc; also, for traveling and incidental expenses of the Superintendent in visiting Chicago to examine and plan location; to pay freight and express charges; for installation of exhibit; for decorative work, and for care of exhibit during its display, and other expenses incidental thereto.

I respectfully recommend that authority be granted for setting aside \$1,625 to be used; or so much thereof as may be necessary, in the manner above set forth, to provide for the installation and display of the exhibit suggested by Capt. Pratt, payment therefor to be made from appropriation "Indian Exhibit, World's Columbian Exposition."

Even if the things required to be procured, or the services necessary to be rendered, could be provided under contract, after due advertisement, there does not remain sufficient time to pursue this course in making the expenditure; and I submit therefor, that the character of the work and short time which remains for its

proper completion, constitute such an exigency as to require the expenditure to be made in open market.

I therefore recommend that the amount named, \$1,025, be authorized to be set apart to be expended for the exhibit prepared by the Superintendent of the Carlisle school, upon proper vouchers to be presented to this Office for approval under the authority that may be granted by you in compliance herewith.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

R. V. Belt,

Acting Commissioner.

R.V.B.