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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec. JAN 9

1902

66/244 ✓ 45337-01,

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. Jan. 7 1902

Pratt, R. H.,

Lt. Col. 15th Cav'y, Supt.

Forwarding copy of letter Nov. 7th to
Dr. Ira, a quack physician, Saulte,
Nebr. sent him thru Ind Office.
Subject - Report on Jennie Redwing
Returning Dr. Ira's letter with
enclosures to Ind Office.

Enc.

File
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Department of the Interior,

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT,

Carlisle, Pa., Jan. 7, 1902, 190

To The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

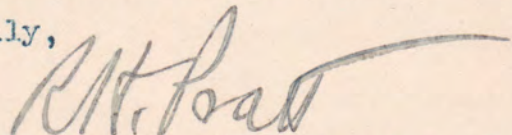
Washington, D. C.

Sir :-

Replying to yours of the 4th inst. marked "Education 45337" enclosing letter from Dr. Ira, agency physician at Santee, Neb. ^{dated Aug. 5, and} forwarded by Agent Baird, in reference to Jennie Redwing, a pupil of this school, I have to respectfully enclose to you a copy of my letter to Dr. Ira, written Nov. 7th, the original of which I sent him through your office as the last paragraph indicates. You will see he has my apology therein. I trust the original letter reached him long ago, although your letter above referred to, stating that your attention is called to the matter by the agent in a very recent letter, indicates that my communication to Dr. Ira through you has not been received by him.

Dr. Diven's original report which was sent you with my first letter was an inexcusable blunder, and whenever I can find a satisfactory physician I shall ask the Department to allow me to make a change. Dr. Ira's letter with its enclosures are herewith returned.

Very respectfully,



Lt. Col. 15th Cavalry, Supt.

Dictated(P)

1642

Indian Office

Incl. No. /

1902

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. *Nov. 7 1901.*

Pratt, R. H.,

Lt. Col. 15th Cav'y, Supt.

Copy of letter to Dr. Ira. agency
physician, Santee, Neb. original
of which was sent him thru
the Indian Office on above
date.

Subject - Report on Jennie
Redwing.

COPY.

Department of the Interior,

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT,

Carlisle, Pa., November 7, 1901, 190

Dr. Geo. W. Ira,
Agency Physician,
Santee, Nebraska.

Dear Sir:-

I have your letter of Oct. 23rd in which you state as follows:-

On March 19th, 1900, I examined eight Indian pupils for transfer to Carlisle, Pa. Indian School, one of which I rejected, the remaining seven were taken to Carlisle by Mrs. H. C. Baird; on April the 11th, 1900, a communication was handed to me by the acting Agent, for reply, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, bearing date of April the 5th, 1900, educational, in which he quoted from your report to him on above named pupils in substance that Jennie Redwing had incurable eye disease, making it impossible for her to use school advantages, and that you would be compelled to send her home; that the medical examination at the Agency was a farce, and that the physician who examined them should be compelled to pay the transportation of Jennie Redwing to Carlisle and back. Now at the end of eighteen months she has not been returned to her home and every report from you to her parents and others have stated that she was in good health the last I know of bearing the date of July 29th 1901, to her father, in which you state you have made careful inquiries from those in charge of the different girls. departments, and all say they have no knowledge of the trouble that you fear, your nurse at the hospital does not know Jennie as she has not been at the hospital for any ailment; that she went to the country May the 1st and that you had good reports in regard to her health and no mention of sore eyes. From this you will see you have been misinformed. Students in the country for the summer do not go to school but if they remain during the winter they attend the public school nearest their country home. While here Jennie attended regularly etc.

Now if not asking too much I would like an explanation of the discrepancies in statements. Whether right or wrong, I have the impression that you never seen nor heard of the original report to the Commissioner. If you made the original report without a shadow of foundation, what was your object ?

Very respectfully yours,
Signed.

In reply I have to respectfully inform you that I did write the letter to the Commissioner in regard to Jennie Redwing. It was of course based entirely upon the report of my school physician,

Copy.

(2) Dr. Ira.

which report was forwarded with my letter to the Commissioner, and was in its tenor ample warrant for what I stated. Subsequent occurrences are as you state, and my school physician therefore not warranted in his original premises. I referred your letter to him for answer and the following is what he gives:-

"
Col. R. H. Pratt, Supt.

Sir:-

In regard to Jennie Redwing, I report that when she came here she had granulated eye lids, an infectious and difficult disease to cure; that she was certified as physically sound at same time.

I do not think she should have been sent here without your previous knowledge and consent.

Respectfully,

(Signed) S.L. Diven.

School Physician.

It appears that his judgment was seriously at fault and the reflection upon you unwarranted. I am of course sorry such report was made and tender my regret and apologies for the same. Were it not that Dr. Diven is one of the best medical men in an emergency that I have had in service here, and also that he is entitled to some consideration from the fact that we have so many times been grossly imposed upon by defective agency examinations, and that even medical men are sometimes mistaken in their diagnoses, I should feel called upon to recommend to the Department some severe course of action. As it stands, it seems to me the equities will be reached by returning this answer to you through the Honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs and your Agent, which will in a measure straighten the record.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) R. H. Pratt

Dictated (P)

Lt.Col.15th Cav'y, Supt.