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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec. JUN 17

1903

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Col. R. H. Pratt,
Carlisle School,

June 15 '03,

Circ. circular dis-
tributed among Pueblos
by a priest at Taos,
rel. to children sent
to gov. schools,

2 in.

To Supp. 6/22/03

G. Hill

Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, Pa., June 15, 1903.

PERSONAL.

Hon. W. A. Jones,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Commissioner :

Miss Dissette sends me a Spanish circular gotten out by the priest at Taos, New Mexico, and advises me that thousands of copies have been circulated among the Pueblos.

Sincerely yours,

R. H. Pratt

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Indian Office

Incl. No. |

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Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

TO THE MEXICANS AND INDIANS OF TAOS.

Fathers of family who send their children far from you, to the Government Schools so that they may be able to reach "a little of education" here I offer you a sample of fine education, taken from the "Denver Post" which is certainly not a catholic paper.

This paper published on the 26th, of March, 1903, an information which happened in a certain school of Durango, Colo., Nursery of the United States Government. Here goes a translation to the foot of the letter, that document which is worth a good reading and with a great deal of attention:

(1.) We extracted from a letter written to the "Denver Post" by Mr. J. R. Hughes from Durango, Colo.

(2) I was for two years instructor in the Department of Iron works of the school at Fort Lewis, and in all that time I was not absent one day from the Institution. I donot know Mrs Foss, but I can affirm more, that what she said to Polly Pry, was not only absolutely true, but that there is not a part of the corruption discovered which prevailes at that place.

Every Saturday the employees sent to Hesperus for liquor; from this several drunkenness and orgies prevailed, during which no effort was made to stop them of the liberties they took towards the Indians Girls.

(3) Mr Harrison whom I donot know, spoke to Polly Pry of the liberties which is conceded, in other words: the license. Times and again I my self have seen employees going with little Indian Girls to their rooms,

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INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

and one time this was done in plain daylight. I witnessed some things that were truly repugnant. Several of the employees meet a half a doz. Indian Girls some distance from the school, and they oblige them to undress and while they were in nudity they took their pictures, and at this act there were a few robust young Indian men present laughing at the poor Indian Girls who were frightened while they tried to hide behind one another.

(4) I was alone against a multitude and as such, I was unable to do any thing but to protest, which I did by speaking to those men who were perpetrating that infamous act, I tried to make them desist. But I was responded with curses, and told to mind my business.

(5) After this I wrote to the Indian Department in Washington, giving an account of all that happened. An inspector was sent, but as the Supt. of the School had announced of his coming visit, naturally nothing was heard or seen, and what was more when the inspector came, neither myself nor any one else was permitted to see him.

(6) In the last three years no less than forty Government employees were transferred from this school to other places, all on account of continued difficulties which arosed between officer and subalterns. About the Indian Boys, there have never been a third of the school that were 1-4th Indians. The greatest majority are Mexicans from Taos, N. Mex.,

A contingent largely of white children, their fathers have given them with gladness to the Government so that they may be able to save the money which they would other wise have to spend, for their education and support these people ignored what was going on at the school. At this

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same Institution they urged an education of a good many of the Navajo Girls, but when when some of them were expelled on account of going to be mothers, the Navajo people did not send any more of their daughters. They gave the preference to the School at Fort Difiance, in Arizona, where the decency of life is respected in some way.

(7) Here in goes a document received from the Indian Department etc.,

I am ready to prove all allegation which I have stated in regards to the above. I hope that the "Post " will not let this matter go to asleep untill these people of Fort Lewis lose their power and desire to commit such depridation.

(8) Mexicans and Indians of Taos! Christian fathers of family! That which is painted above with such loathsome colors, that is the Government Schools in which you have such a blind confidence.

(9) That is the non-sectarian school!

(10) That is the school with out a God or religion!

(11) There, like you said in your imperturable and refreshing manner, our children will not be made protestants. More! Ha! They will leave worst than protestants.

(12) They will be turned into a sad increadulos and fearful crinnals, the discomfort of our old age, and the dreges of socierty.

(13) Instead of occupying the honored and foremost places, which our paternal ambition wishes. They will go to jail or prison with the little education, which you your selves proposed in that impious and inmoral school.

(14) See if what I have said will benifit you!

(15) You have been told and advised!

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Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

(16) Your true friend and father:

The Priest of Taos,

H. LeGuillou

Translated from Spanish into English by Paul Segui,

Carlisle, Pa. June 15th, 1903.

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A LOS MEXICANOS E INDIOS DE TAOS.

Padres de familia que enviáis á vuestros hijos, lejos de vosotros, á las escuelas del Gobierno, para que alcancen tan siquiera "una poca de educación," aquí os ofrece una muestra de esa fina educación un gran diario del Colorado que, por cierto, no es católico. Es el *Denver Post*.

Publicó ese papel, el 26 de Marzo de 1903, un informe de lo que pasa en cierta escuela de Durango, Colo., plantel del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos. Ahí va traducido al pié de la letra ese documento que bien merece lo leais con la mayor atención:

1 Extractamos de una carta escrita al *Post* por el Sr. J. R. Hughes, de Durango, Colorado:

2 "Yo fuí por dos años instructor en el departamento de herrería de la escuela india del Fuerte Lewis, y todo ese tiempo ni un solo día me ausenté de la institución. No conozco á la Sra. Foss, mas sí puedo afirmar que lo dicho por ella á Polly Pry, no sólo es absolutamente cierto, sino que ni una parte descubre de la corrupción total que prevalece en aquel lugar. Cada sábado los empleados mandaban á Hésperus por licor; de allí una borrachera y orgía general, durante la cual ni esfuerzos hacían para tapar las libertades que se tomaban con las niñas indias.

3 "Mr. Harrison, que yo no conozco, habla á Polly Pry de la *libertad* que se concede en el establecimiento. Mejor hubiera dicho: *licencia*. Repetidas veces he visto yo mismo empleados irse con niñas indias para sus cuartos, y una vez, en pleno medio día, presencié algo que era verdaderamente repugnante. Varios de estos empleados hallaron media docena de niñas á cierta distancia de la escuela y las obligaron á desvestirse, tomando su fotografía mientras ellas se hallaban desnudas, y mientras algunos mocetones indios estaban presentes al acto, riéndose de las pobres niñas que estaban espantadas y procuraban ocultarse la una tras de la otra.

4 "Yo era solo contra una multitud, y por tanto incapaz de hacer otra cosa que protestar, lo cual hice hablándoles á los hombres que estaban perpetrando aquella infamia é instándoles á que desistieran. Mas ellos me respondieron jurando y diciéndome que atendiera á mis negocios.

5 "Después de esto yo escribí á Washington al Departamento para indios, dando cuenta de todo lo acontecido. Fué mandado un inspector; mas como el superintendente (de la escuela) anunciase que ya había tenido conocimiento de su visita, naturalmente ni se vió nada ni se oyó nada; y claro está que ni á mí mismo ni á otros que podían hablar se nos permitió ver al inspector.

6 "En los tres años últimos nada menos que cuarenta y tres empleados del Gobierno han sido trasladados de esa escuela á otra parte, debido á las continuas dificultades que surgían entre oficiales y subalternos. Por lo tocante á los niños *indios*, nunca ha habido en ese establecimiento más de un tercio de los educandos que fueran tan sólo cuarterones; pues la

7 gran mayoría la forman los mexicanos de Taos, N. M., con un contingente nada escaso de niños blancos, cuyos padres se los han cedido muy gustosos al Gobierno, para ahorrarse ellos mismos los gastos de su manutención y educación, tanto más que ignoraban cómo andaban las cosas en la escuela. En ese mismo plantel solían educarse bastantes niñas *navajoas*; pero cuando varias de entre ellas fueron despedidas de la escuela por el hecho de que iban á ser madres, el pueblo *navajo* no volvió á mandar allí á sus hijas, dando la preferencia á la escuela del Fuerte Defiance, en Arizona, donde se respeta de algún modo lo que llamo decencias de la vida.

8 "Adjunta va una colección de documentos recibidos del Departamento para indios, etc., y estoy pronto á probar toda alegación que hago con respecto á tales cosas. Espero que el *Post* no dejará dormir el asunto, hasta que se logre que esa gente del Fuerte Lewis pierda el poder y las ganas de hacer más maldades. Seguramente es el Señor el que ha movido á las mujeres que han hecho las revelaciones de referencia."

¡Mexicanos é indios de Taos! ¡cristianos padres de familia! Eso que va arriba pintado con tan asquerosos colores, eso es la escuela del Gobierno en que teneis tan ciega confianza!

¡Eso es la escuela no-sectaria!

¡Eso es la escuela sin Dios ni religion!

Allí, como decís en vuestra imperturbable candidez y frescura, no se harán protestantes vuestros hijos. Mas ¡ay! de allí saldrán aun peores.

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Se volverán unos tristes incrédulos y temibles criminales, el desconsuelo de vuestra vejez y el azote de la sociedad.

En lugar de ocupar los honrados y lucrativos puestos á que los destinan los ensueños de vuestra paternal ambicion, irán á parar á la cárcel ó al presidio "con esa poca de educación" que les habreis vosotros mismos proporcionado en las escuelas impias é inmorales.

¡A ver si sacais provecho de lo que se os dice!

Ya os tiene advertidos y avisados

Vuestro verdadero amigo y padre:

EL CURA DE TAOS,

H. LE GUILLOU.