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6-4345

535-95-1915

CARLISLE

File No.

150



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL
CARLISLE, PA.



May 12, 1915



Hon. Cato Sells,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Sells:

FILED BY C. P. F.

I am in receipt of your letter of May 11th, enclosing a copy of a news item which appeared in the Carlisle Herald under date of May 3, 1915. In compliance with your request, I submit the following report regarding the matter referred to therein:

The statements made in The Herald article are, generally speaking, true. There are a few of the details as to which I am not positive. For instance, we have not been able to determine whether or not the girls referred to in the article actually furnish our boys with whiskey. We believe they do, but so far have not been able to get positive evidence of the fact.

Comb
The statement that these girls have been carrying citizens' clothes to our boys in order that they might change their uniforms for them and go to town to secure liquor is rather farfetched. Our boys would have no trouble in getting citizens' clothes or getting down town if they are determined to do so.

The statement in the article as to drunken revels lasting for hours is questionable. As a rule, Indian boys get

off to themselves when they have liquor, and I have seldom known of them engaging in drunken revels down town.

With the exceptions noted, concerning which there is grave doubt, the general ideas conveyed by The Herald article are I believe within the facts. I have reported to the Office frequently the bad moral environment of the Carlisle School. A few weeks ago when Mr. Dortch, of the Office, was here, I took him through the east end of Carlisle, that part of the town adjoining the school grounds, and showed him just what the local situation is and how difficult it is for the school authorities to handle. In fact, we cannot handle it at all except we have the cooperation of the town authorities. Until recently, I have not felt that the school here had received much sympathy from the authorities of the town of Carlisle. They were generally very bitter during the investigation here last year, and I hesitated to approach them on the matter of cooperating with me to suppress the moral conditions with which we have to contend. However, a few weeks ago, I sent Mr. Corbett, the night watchman and deputy special officer, and Mr. Gehringer, the disciplinarian, to see the town burgess and lay the matter before him and ask his cooperation. He very willingly agreed to cooperate with us and immediately issued orders to the chief of police to carry out any instructions that we might issue regarding the apprehending and arresting of students found in town without uniforms and without passes. So far the police officers have been cooperating with us in a very

gratifying manner.

I am determined to do all I can to break up this business of Indian boys going down town without uniforms or without passes, and congregating in undesirable districts of the town with girls of ill repute. I am informed by the chief of police that there is no ordinance in the town of Carlisle prohibiting street walkers, and this is our problem. We have no authority off of our school grounds and these girls and women are constantly walking along the railway siding and the streets and back alleys, leading up to the school grounds, and in every way enticing the Indian boys to accompany them. Most of these girls are known to the police to be women of bad repute, but occasionally some of them may be respectable girls who chance to meet Indian boys with whom they may have become acquainted at Sunday School or at Church, and we have no way of discriminating, so it would be a very serious thing for any school employee to challenge a girl whom he might find in company with an Indian boy near the school grounds, unless he knew positively the character of the woman.

I am told by the chief of police that these girls of ill repute are constantly seen around the grounds of Dickinson College, and he stated to me that only a few weeks ago he saw one of the college boys take one of these girls to his room in the building on the college grounds. From all the things that I hear and from casual observation, it seems to me that the moral conditions of Carlisle are deplorable, and that our Indian boys

are less affected by them than are the boys at Dickinson College and Conway Hall. Unless something can be done, I believe we will finally have to make Carlisle a girls' school and cease bringing boys here to be corrupted. We have no trouble in handling the girls, but to keep these boys strictly within the limits of the school grounds here would require half a dozen troops of soldiers, and guards would have to be posted clear around the grounds from the entrance to the first farm.

I desire to state, however, that all during the winter we had no trouble along these lines, and with the coming of the spring and the call of the wild, I began to take precautionary measures to prevent our boys going to town without permission or congregating on the corners of the streets and alleys off the school grounds.

A few years ago, quite a notorious scandal grew up out of alleged cooperative arrangements with the school authorities here and the town police. The school had been paying the police \$1.00 for each arrest made, and one or two men on the police force had an agreement whereby they induced Indian boys to go to town and would immediately arrest them and claim their dollar fee for each one. I have understood all along that I could not get the cooperation of the police force without agreeing to pay them for each arrest. This I declined to do and when the matter was brought to the attention of the burgess recently, he agreed that no charge whatever would be made and that in no case would any policeman be allowed to accept a

fee for arresting and holding an Indian school boy. The arrangement is that no boy will be put in jail down town, but that we will be notified here immediately when a boy is arrested, so we can send for him which we do immediately. I have heard it intimated that we have no authority to direct the arrest of a boy found in town who is behaving himself, even though he may be there without the permission of the school authorities. This is a rather serious problem, and I doubt myself if there is any real legal authority for making such arrest, especially if the boy is more than twenty-one years of age and a citizen. However, I realize that something must be done and to sit idly by with hands folded means to invite chaos and unrestrained rowdiness and of the two risks, I prefer the former.

I am told by old employees of the school that we are having less of this sort of trouble at the present time than there has been at Carlisle for many years. We have had only two or three cases of drunkenness since we made our fight against the saloons in the early part of January, last. We are dealing promptly and more or less drastically with every case and we are showing no favors. We still have a number of students here with no purpose and they are the ones that are the constant source of trouble. Another year every possible effort will be made to accept only such students at Carlisle as have demonstrated their earnestness and desire to be benefitted by the opportunities

that the school affords. It has been a dumping ground for incorrigibles for so long that it is a very difficult matter to attract the better class of Indian young men and young women to Carlisle, and it will take time for the school to outlive its past record in this respect.

I am returning herewith the newspaper clipping mailed to me with your letter of May 11th, and am also enclosing copy of a circular letter issued by me to all employees, requesting their cooperation in the matter of discipline among the students of the school.

Very respectfully,

OHL:SR


Supervisor in Charge.

MAY 11 1915

Mr. O. H. Lipps;

Supervisor in Charge, Carlisle School.

My dear Mr. Lipps:

I enclose herewith a copy of a news item which appeared in the Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Herald under date of May 3, 1915.

I will thank you to submit a report on this matter at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Cato Sells.
Commissioner.

5-ANB-10

7/16

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EARLISLE (Pa.) HERALD

MAY 3, 1915

ONE CENT A COPY

ARREST OF TWO GIRLS DISCLOSES ALLEGED INDIAN 'PARTIES'

CLAIM WOMEN SOLICIT GOVERNMENT'S WARDS

Crusade Started to Rid Lower-End
Of Town of Nightly Meetings Be-
tween Women and Girls and Local
School Students

With scores of meetings scheduled nightly in the vicinity of the lower-end industrial plants and the railroad junction of the Cumberland Valley and C. and H. lines, solicitation of Indian students by girls and women of the town has reached such an alarming situation that local police officers, in co-operation with officials of the Indian school and Indian department, have begun a crusade against the evil.

Further startling disclosures of the moral conditions existing in the town have come as the result of the investigation which has been going on quietly for some weeks, the first effects of which were felt last evening when two girls, 17 years and 15 years of age respectively were arrested while in company of a party of Indian students. The Indians succeeded in escaping the officers but the girls were arrested, recognized and are held for disposition in the case. One of the girls was concerned in a recent notorious court case.

This condition has existed for some-time but has been gradually growing worse. Girls, scarcely in their teens, with others considerably older and even some married women, are in the custom of making "dates" with the wards of the government, according to information which local officers have received. Whiskey is carried with them in many cases it is alleged, and the affairs end in drunken revels lasting for hours.

The vicinity of the Beetem Lumber Mills and spots along the railroad are favorite places, of meeting it is said. Girls go there, meet one or two boys, and arrange further parties, when both the Indians and local residents bring "friends" for a "party" of larger proportions.

Arrangements for more stringent regulations as to passes and the like have been made and will probably be enforced by the school authorities. Arrangement has been made whereby boys without passes shall at once be arrested by officers of the local force and held here until they are taken to the school. No boys without uniforms will be allowed in town with the permission of the authorities, it has further been decided. Pass buttons may be secured and issued to the students when they come to town so that officers can see at a glance whether or not they have permission to be here.

These meetings with girls have been one of the most prolific sources of trouble in combating the liquor traffic among students. The women whom they meet carry citizens clothes to the rendezvous and the boys change, coming to town to have liquor purchased or in some cases, where the racial characteristics are scarcely discernible



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL
CARLISLE, PA.



May 3, 1915.

FILED BY C. P. F.

TO ALL EMPLOYEES:

It is the duty of every employee in an Indian School to cooperate with those having charge of the discipline and moral training of the students, and to render every assistance possible in maintaining proper discipline and deportment among them. I would thank employees to promptly report, either to me or to the proper disciplinarian or matron, any infraction of the rules of the school that they observe on the part of the students, and this may be done verbally or in writing.

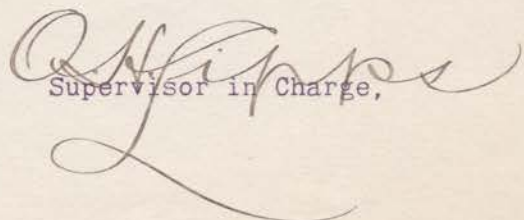
The fact that students may not be under their direct charge at the time is no excuse for employees neglecting to take notice of improper conduct or do what they can reasonably to correct students and to report the facts to the proper authorities. It is only by such cooperation that we may hope to maintain proper discipline and give to the Indian boys and girls committed to our charge the training they need and that their best interests demand.

The inclosed Code has been adopted for the government of all the boys. Only with the full cooperation of all employees can it be made entirely successful.

The police have been instructed to arrest all boys found in town without passes or uniforms. Should you see such boys in town at any time, you should promptly report that fact to the proper disciplinarian

Hereafter there will be noted on the semi-annual Efficiency Reports of all employees their neglect or failure to properly cooperate in maintaining discipline among the students. Do not hesitate to correct any student at any time when you observe him violating the rules of the school no matter whether such pupil is under your immediate supervision at the time or not.

Very respectfully,


Supervisor in Charge,