

Ex. 1

State of Pennsylvania)
County of Cumberland) ss.

Gus Welch being duly sworn by E. B. Linnen, Chief Inspector, testifies under oath as follows:

Q. Please state your name and age.

A. Gus Welch, age twenty-two.

Q. Are you a member of the student-body at Carlisle Indian School?

A. Yes sir.

Q. How many years have you been attending this school?

A. About five and one-half years I have been enrolled as a student here.

Q. Are you an Indian?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Member of what tribe?

A. The Chippewa Tribe.

Q. Your home is in Wisconsin, is it not?

A. Yes sir, at Spooner, Wisconsin.

Q. You are very well acquainted with Coach G. S. Warner?

A. Yes sir.

Q. And were you well acquainted with a former student and Indian at said Carlisle school by the name of James Thorpe? Were you and James Thorpe on very intimate terms?

A. Yes sir, we were great friends.

Q. I wish you would now state in your own language just what you know with relation to a certain letter or statement which was presumed to have been written by James Thorpe regarding his being a professional athlete, particularly relating to base ball, and participating as an amateur track man.

A. It was about a year ago sometime in the latter part of January or first part of February that James Thorpe was exposed as a professional athlete. He seemed very much downhearted after the exposure, and one day we were up in my room when Mr. Warner came in and asked for a private conversation with him. Jim did not think it would be right to leave me, so he refused to having a private conversation with Mr. Warner on the subject; so Mr. Warner said he would do it in my presence. Mr. Warner took from his pocket a letter he had written and instructed Jim to read it and after reading it, he asked Jim if he agreed with him. Jim was puzzled at the time, but Mr. Warner told him that if he would copy it it would not hurt him the least bit, but Jim said he did not intend to write any such statement, only that he wanted the public to know that he was telling the truth, and he was willing to admit that he had played professional ball, but Mr. Warner approached him and said if he would copy the letter it would be doing a great favor to him and Mr. Friedman, and also stated that it would not hurt him the least bit and would also save their reputation before the public; that they were holding responsible positions and that he thought it was not more than right that Jim should protect him on this occasion. After Jim had read it over he agreed to copy it and was instructed by Mr. Warner to take it up to Mr. Friedman to have his approval. When he had taken it up to Mr. Friedman he thought that the article in there stating that Mr. Warner and Mr. Friedman had not known anything about Jim's playing professional ball was not strong enough, so he inserted a clause of his own and instructed Jim to take it to Mr. Warner. Mr. Warner rewrote the letter and told Jim to copy it again and in this letter that he had recopied was contained Mr. Friedman's own clause that he had put in there making the statements stronger that Mr. Warner and Mr. Friedman had not known of Jim's professional ball playing down South. So the letter went to the public under those conditions. Jim was not really the author of it, but was merely instructed to write the letter to protect Mr. Warner and Mr. Friedman. The letter or statement that he gave out had been prepared by Mr. Warner and was subsequently corrected in some portions of it by Mr. Friedman.

Q. Was it written by James Thorpe in his own hand writing:

A. Yes sir.

Q. And he was prevailed upon by Mr. Warner and Mr. Friedman to give out that statement to protect them, was he?

A. Yes sir. Those are the very words that Mr. Warner used when he approached Jim to carry out the scheme. And furthermore there was no doubt but that they knew of Jim's professionalism down South, for they were corresponding with him while he was playing ball

down there and he did not return to the school that fall, but Mr. Warner had written him several letters trying to urge him to return for the sake of playing foot ball, which he did not do until the fall of 1911.

Q. Then he returned in the fall of 1911 and was again enrolled at said school for the purpose of engaging in athletics, and particularly playing foot ball?

A. Yes sir.

Gus Welch

Subscribed and sworn before me at Carlisle, Pennsylvania,
this twenty-first day of March, A. D., 1914.

E. J. Limen

Chief Inspector.