

K. I. Ex R. I.

State of Pennsylvania)
County of Cumberland) ss

Margaret M. Sweeney, being duly sworn by Inspector E. B. Linnen, on oath deposes and says:

I have been employed as a teacher at the Carlisle Indian School since Nov. 21, 1909. During the calendar year of 1913, I had taken to Dec. 24, 1913, twenty-five days of annual leave and was, therefore, entitled under the Regulations, to an additional five days of annual leave during said calendar year 1913.

On Dec. 23, 1913, I received a telegram from my sister, Mary J. Sweeney, St. Josephs, Pa., requesting me to come at once. I knew that this was occasioned by ~~the illness of my sister.~~ ^{or death} I was quite exercised and excited over the receipt of said telegram, and made preparations to go at once. Being pressed for time, I requested one of the teachers, Miss Burns, to ask permission of the Superintendent for my going. She returned, saying he was not in his office. I then sent Miss Wilson, another teacher, to advise him that it was necessary for me to go at once. This Miss Wilson advises me that she did convey this information to Superintendent Friedman, prior to my leaving, to which he made no objection.

I was absent five days, and when I returned I learned that Superintendent Friedman had employed a teacher in my place. Heretofore there has been a vacation between Christmas and New Year's. This year seems to have been the exception and Superintendent Friedman employed a teacher as substitute in my absence. The teacher which he employed, a Miss Leas, was without any experience in school work, and entirely ignorant of the general routine work of the school room. During this same period, there was a Miss

Johnston on the grounds who was a regular teacher, who could have, and should have very properly, substituted in my stead. A little later he did have Miss Johnston substitute for another teacher who was absent, Mrs. Foster.

I consider the action of Superintendent Friedman in withholding seven days' pay from my salary during this forced leave of absence to attend the bedside of my sister, who was ill, unjust and unwarranted, and especially so under the circumstances of illness, and when I justly had coming to me five days' annual leave.

I want to add further that I believe this action on the part of Superintendent Friedman to have been influenced largely by the reason that I am and have been very friendly toward the Principal Teacher, Mr. John Whitwell, whom I have every reason to believe is a good, honest, worthy, competent man, but for whom Superintendent Friedman now has a dislike.

In consideration of these facts, I further state that I believe Superintendent Friedman was fully unwarranted in reporting to the Honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, as he did by his letter dated Jan. 3rd, 1914, that I was absent from my post of duty without leave, etc. Superintendent Friedman, in his letter to me dated Dec. 31, 1913, admits that I sent a verbal message to him by another employee. I did not report to him on my return to duty, because it has been customary for the teachers on their return to duty from leave, to report to the Principal of the school, and I have been informed personally by Superintendent Friedman heretofore, that I did not have to report to him on my return from

leave, but to report to the Principal Teacher.

I believe that in justice to myself, this explanation is due me, and I feel that I should not be injured in my position, or my standing with the Department, by reason of this unwarranted and unjust action on the part of Superintendent Friedman, when I was compelled to go home on account of illness in my family, which fact was well known to him and reported to him prior to my leaving the grounds.

Margaret M. Sweeney

Subscribed and sworn before me at Carlisle, Pennsylvania,
this eleventh day of February, A. D. 1914.

E. J. Linnen

U. S. Inspector.