

Carlisle, Pa. Ex. "Ld."
June 28, 1913.

Hon. Franklin K. Lane,
Washington, D. C.

Dear sir:

I have been requested by the Misses Richards, of this place, to write you giving my opinion of the present administration of the Carlisle Indian School, formed after almost three years' connection with the school, as assistant disciplinarian and acting disciplinarian at Large Boys' Quarters where about three hundred boys are quartered during the winter months.

I desire to say that any opinions that I may have or express are not the result of any personal animosity toward Superintendent Friedman. During my connection with the school which terminated the 7th of last April, by voluntary resignation, Mr. Friedman and I had no words nor trouble of any kind whatever as is shown by the following extract from a letter I sent with my resignation: "I take great satisfaction in the fact that, so far as I can recall, you have not in any way by word or letter took exception to any of my actions."

The main, but not the sole, reason for my resigning was the fact that I appreciated that under Mr. Friedman's administration it was impossible to establish and maintain the discipline which should exist in a school like Carlisle, and which would make one feel that their efforts were successful.

The trouble at the Carlisle School, is that there exists an unsettled air, a lack of beneficial co-operation on the part of the employees. There is no system--no head-- the school apparently runs itself, the head of each department doing as he or she thinks best. When things conflict, as they are bound to do, when no system is in force, it is practically impossible to get Mr. Friedman to make a decision. Consequently the employees do not have the proper respect for the Superintendent. When two or more employees are together it is rare that some remark is not made as to his actions or failure to act. I have even heard employees speak disparagingly of the Superintendent in the presence of students. Of course, the employees know that this is wrong, but it is the atmosphere of the school caused by the, to my mind, utter incompetency or carelessness of the Superintendent. Subordinates must respect their superior, but the superior must act so as to command that respect--that is, be a man.

Unfortunately, this same situation exists among the student body. The students have absolutely no respect for the Superintendent. The matron told me that while Mr. Friedman was addressing the girls in the Gymnasium one evening, some of them called out disrespectful names. About a month after I left the school, one of the boys told me that one evening while Mr. Friedman

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was walking around the grounds, the boys (that is, some of them) made remarks which Mr. Friedman could not help but hear.

As acting disciplinarian at Large Boys' Quarters, I received many complaints from the boys regarding their money matters and the opening of their mail. I had, of course, no jurisdiction in these matters, but always referred them to the proper officials at the administration building. The boys invariably complained of not being able to secure any satisfaction in these matters.

As a result of these, especially the feeling toward the head of the institution, there is absolutely no school spirit. The students may cheer their football team and applaud their band, but that school spirit which tends to make the student behave and do what is right so that no discredit is brought on the school, is totally lacking.

The efficiency of the employees, discipline among the students, and the healthful and beneficial influences which should be found at a school like Carlisle, is impaired greatly by the apparent incompetency and actions of the Superintendent, who does not command the respect of the faculty and student body.

I believe that an honest investigation of the school administration, including the securing of statements from the employees and students, those who have left the school as well as they who are now there, will result in the finding of a deplorable state of affairs at the institution.

I have not, Mr. Lane, gave any incidents, or entered into details, upon which I base my opinions as herein given, but I am perfectly willing to do so before you or any investigating commission. May I repeat that opinions are not based upon any animosity toward Mr. Friedman. But, as a native of Carlisle I am anxious to see the school remain; and, as a former employee whose duties brought me in the closest possible relations with almost half of the student body present on the grounds, I have seen the wonderful opportunities which exist at Carlisle to help and educate the Indians, and fit them to take their place among the citizens of out country. When one has seen these opportunities, and has seen how opportunity, time and money are being wasted at Carlisle, I believe it becomes a duty to acquaint the proper authorities of the true conditions.

I cannot help but envy the man who has the opportunity to help to carry on this important work, but I cannot understand why the man who has the opportunity would waste it, as does the present Superintendent of the Carlisle School.

I am firmly convinced that the life of the school and the welfare of the students depends upon a change in its administration, and the placing of a man at its head who will be a man-- firm, fair, square and impartial. This will indeed be a change that will be appreciated at Carlisle.

Respectfully,

(Signed) John M. Rudy.