

Representative Carter. 12 acres is not enough of this native grass for 40 cows, is it?

Mr. Ryan. No.

TESTIMONY OF DOCTOR EUGENE A. NOBLE. *President of Dickinson College*

The witness was duly sworn by the Chairman.

The Chairman. Doctor, your name was handed me by Mr. Wetzel, with those of a number of other gentlemen. He informed me that you were familiar with some of the conditions prevailing in the Carlisle school and an intimate friend of the superintendent.

You are the President of Dickinson College?

Dr. Noble. Yes, sir.

The Chairman. How long have you been at the head of that institution, Doctor?

Dr. Noble. Three years.

The Chairman. Are you a native of Pennsylvania?

Dr. Noble. I am not.

The Chairman. What State are you from?

Dr. Noble. New York State.

The Chairman. Have you been connected with school work the greater part of your mature life?

Dr. Noble. Yes.

The Chairman. Where else have you been?

Dr. Noble. The Women's College of Baltimore, President of the Women's College of Baltimore.

The Chairman. You are acquainted with Superintendent Friedman, are you?

Dr. Noble. Not in the way you represented a few moments ago.

The Chairman. Your name was handed to me, with those of three or four other parties on this list — Doctor Allen, and Mr. J. W. Henderson, and the Reverend Mr. Diffenderfer — by Mr. Wetzel, an attorney whom I chanced to meet this morning, who stated they would be glad to appear before the Commission to make a statement, and we said we would be glad to ~~it~~ have you come.

Dr. Noble. That is what I understand, and it is a voluntary statement on the part of these gentlemen who come. They have not been invited by the Commission to come and offer testimony concerning certain specific things.

Representative Carter. How does the Committee know that you know those things?

Dr. Noble. I am not sure that I do.

Representative Carter. Then why should we invite you?

Dr. Noble. It seems to me that if you are here to get information there may be certain collateral things it might be well for you to find out about, but I would not presume to come without the invitation of the Committee.

The Chairman. You are invited to appear, Doctor; just consider that as final. We want any information you have that will throw any light upon the conditions in Carlisle College, if you desire to submit a statements of facts that are within your knowledge as to that. We want all the information that we can get that is germane, and I had no information from Mr. Wetzels as to any particular state of facts about which you had knowledge. I merely understood you were friendly to the institution —

Dr. Noble. That is correct.

The Chairman. And I also understood that you were a friend of Mr. Friedman, and that Mr. Friedman — at least that Mr. Wetzel thought that Mr. Friedman would be glad to have you here. We would be glad to hear any statement you may make. I do not know what your idea is. You say you were not informed you were invited by the Committee. You were invited in that way, and you are invited, and we want all the information we can get.

Dr. Noble. Mr. Wetzel called me up and said there was no invitation from the Committee. He thought it might be well for some of the men of the town to meet the Committee and say what they thought about the Indian school. And, as one of the citizens of the town who by virtue of his position is regarded as perhaps contributing public sentiment, I am perfectly willing to come and make such a statement as I can about conditions at the Indian School. I have read no formal charges —

Senator Lane. Pardon me there. I don't think we understand one another's position. This Commission was appointed by Congress to investigate Indian affairs throughout the country. It is a Joint Commission specially delegated for that purpose.

Dr. Noble. I did not know that.

Senator Lane. Now, as matters arise, where attention is directed to any particular institution, at the first opportunity that presents itself, just ~~at~~ a few hours notice, we make a trip and look into that. We did not know we were coming here until just an hour before we came. So we are here now to find out all we can, and if you have anything we want to get it from you. It is purely informax; at the same time it is official. You can understand perfectly well it would be very hard to send notice

ahead under those circumstances.

Representative Carter. We are here on official business, making an investigation of the school, and we are glad to get information from anybody that has information to give, but we have not any way in the world to know whether you have information or not unless you tell us.

The Chairman. Shall I interrogate you, or will you proceed to make a statement, Doctor?

Dr. Noble. You go ahead, and after you have asked my questions I may want to make a general statement.

The Chairman. What opportunities have you had of observing the conditions and the work that is being done at the Carlisle school?

Dr. Noble. I have been a frequent visitor here. The relations between the Indian school and Dickinson College have been intimate since I came to Carlisle. Fundamentally those relations are athletic. There have been times when they were not cordial, but during the last three years they have been very cordial, and in order to show good will I have been here frequently as a visitor.

The Chairman. How often do you think you have been here?

Dr. Noble. Oh, I should say — you mean in three years?

The Chairman. Yes, sir.

Dr. Noble. I should say from 15 to 30 times.

The Chairman. What has been the extent of your opportunities for observation, and what has in fact been your observation of conditions?

Dr. Noble. I have seen the school in their general assembly. I have seen the different departments of the work of the school.

I have seen them in their dining hall. I have seen them in their social functions. I have seen them in their athletic contests. I think I have seen them rather generally.

The Chairman. What were the occasions of your visit? I mean, what prompted you to come?

Dr. Noble. The interest in athletic games, which is general, prompted that, of course. Then I have been asked over here to make addresses two or three times, and asked to participate in the commencement. I have come without invitation, voluntarily, in order to know the educational value of the work done at the Indian school. That has been, I think, the chief method of coming, excepting when I have come on some special occasion, like their commencement.

The Chairman. What conclusions have you reached with reference to the educational value of the work done here?

Dr. Noble. Of course, it must be understood by you gentlemen that I am not looking at the work solely as a resident of Carlisle. I am trying to estimate the educational value of this kind of work. It is right at hand. There is a general agitation concerning vocational training and that kind of thing, and I have been interested to see how it worked here. And I have come over and gone into their shops and seen what the boys were doing, and tried to get hold of the educational value of the kind of work they are doing here.

Now, as to my knowledge of it — I think it is mighty good work — I think it is very much better work than in other institutions which I have visited. There is a coordination between studies and practical work in shops that I do not find in other places. Of course, I do not regard conditions in any

school as so ideal that they could not be improved, but I have approved in my own thought and in public speech the work of the Indian school as it is now being done.

The Chairman. That relates to what constitutes the vocational training, Doctor?

1027

Dr. Noble. Take your printing shop here. It has seemed to me that perhaps that might be a test of the mental quality of these Indian boys, and I have been a good many times to see whether they could read manuscript, set type without too many blunders in spelling, how they could do press work, what their abilities as practical printers might be, but always with the thought that the printing was related to their educational training.

The Chairman. What number approximately have you observed that are securing this training in printing?

Dr. Noble. I should say there have been perhaps 15 to 20 in the place at the different times I was there; whether the same group of students, of course, I would not know. They might have been the same or different ones.

The Chairman. Have you visited other shops?

Dr. Noble. Yes. I have gone in the various other shops and seen what they were doing, but it has not seemed to me that the thing I was looking was as clearly indicated as in the printing shop, but there has been an attitude of understanding and an air of diligence. I do not know the teachers personally, so that I cannot call them by name, but it has seemed to me — of course, I am not discriminating now against any teacher. It has seemed to me that the quality of some of the school work I have observed was very inferior/

The Chairman. What do you mean by the school work?

Dr. Noble. I mean the ability of the teacher to teach.

1028

The Chairman. How does that compare with the capacity of the pupil to grasp, as a rule?

Dr. Noble. Of course, that would raise a very big question. But it has seemed to me — sizing up teachers — as one does as a matter of business — that there was not quite as good a grade of teaching ability. I do not know the teachers personally, so that I could not say that the teacher of this is better and the teacher of that is inferior, but I have not been impressed with the ability of some of the teachers in their teaching work at the Carlisle school.

The Chairman. Are you in any way interested in agriculture or any of the ^{kindred} ~~Indian~~ arts?

Dr. Noble. Yes.

The Chairman. What do you think about what has been done here to teach these boys those subjects?

Dr. Noble. I do not know enough about it to have a definite opinion. It is one of the things I have not investigated.

The Chairman. You know they have two farms here?

Dr. Noble. Yes; I have never visited them.

The Chairman. Have you observed the difference among the pupils?

Dr. Noble. Yes.

The Chairman. What do you think of that?

Dr. Noble. It seemd to me to be pretty good. Of course, I know school work well enough to understand there will be breaches of discipline, but as I have observed the school in its social functions, in its athletic contests, in its shop

work, and schoolroom work, it has seemed to me to be pretty good.

The Chairman. Are you intimately enough acquainted with the conditions to know how the superintendent feels towards the pupils, and how they feel toward him, as a rule?

Dr. Noble. Well, in this particular. Every time I have heard him speak, either in personal relations or in public, it has seemed to me he had a rather high conception of his job. He has championed the Indian sometimes in a way I have thought was very enthusiastic.

The Chairman. Have you received any information of widespread hostility existing among the pupils towards him?

Dr. Noble. No; I knew nothing of it.

The Chairman. You do not know that on some occasions in public they had jeered and hissed him, and called him "Jew" and names of that sort?

Dr. Noble. I did not know until after your representative from the Indian Department was announced as having come to Carlisle. That would not be a basis for judgment with me. I think the senior class of LaFayette College last year walked out when President Warfield rose to speak, but I know ~~xxxx~~ President Warfield as a high-minded educator.

The Chairman. I am asking as a matter of fact. It would not be a matter of judgment with me to know who was censurable but it would reflect upon the conditions as they actually exist here if throughout the student body there was a feeling that Mr. Friedman was not in sympathy with them and their work, and did not encourage them, and if on diverse occasions he had called them "savages". Those facts would disclose a state

feeling between the superintendent and the pupils.

Now, I can say to you, Doctor, that it has disclosed that for many months there has been a condition here bordering on insurrection among the pupils. It has manifested itself in acts and marks of discourtesy for the superintendent, and it presents a condition that must be taken notice of. We are trying to find out, and it is a matter of surprise to me that one who has as much interest in the institution as you have should not have known something about it.

Dr. Noble. I knew nothing until the investigator appeared.

Representative Carter. How did you learn it after the investigator appeared, Doctor?

Dr. Noble. It was told me by one of the citizens of the town that such a thing had occurred, and he, as I recall, gave a special reason for it.

The Chairman. What was it?

Dr. Noble. That there was some friction in connection with the administration of the school.

The Chairman. You mean among the employees?

Dr. Noble. Yes.

The Chairman. Which had prompted or encouraged lax discipline?

Dr. Noble. So is my inference.

The Chairman. Can you give any more definite information than that?

Dr. Noble. No; I do not know the names of the employees here, excepting perhaps two or three. I know Mr. Warner quite well. Then I have heard the names — I know two others.

The Chairman. But in any event your information is not

definite enough to go into that?

Dr. Noble. No.

The Chairman. When was your last visit to the school when you observed the work?

Dr. Noble. I was here sometime in December; it must have been toward the end of the month. I had a visitor from some where out of Carlisle, and I brought him over to see the Indian school, and Mr. Friedman was not here. So I felt as if I had some rights in the premises, and I walked around with this visitor.

The Chairman. Did you in that way inspect the quarters occupied by the students?

Dr. Noble. No, sir.

The Chairman. Have you ever been present while a meal was being served?

Dr. Noble. In the dining hall? Yes, sir; last fall.

The Chairman. Did you know that complaints are universal that an insufficient quantity of food, and especially of bread, is served, and that those complaints have been extended over a period of several months?

Dr. Noble. I had not heard of it. But I used to be the head of a boarding school, years ago, and such complaints at certain times of the year were not infrequent.

The Chairman. From your experience, there is no reason why a school boy ought not to have all the bread he wants?

Dr. Noble. He ought to have all he needs.

~~The Chairman. There might be good reasons for depriving him of other things, but not bread.~~

Fr
1

The Chairman. There may be good reasons for depriving him of other things, but not bread. I can state to you, doctor, that it appears from the testimony of a very large number of witnesses---persons who have observed it, and pupils, and employees of the school---that that condition has extended over a very long period, and the complaint is so widespread and uniform among the pupils as to the insufficient quantity of bread that there has been no conflict whatever in the information that has come to us on that point, and we have been unable ~~to~~ so far to ascertain why that sort of condition should have occurred.

5 Doctor Noble. Of course, that information would come from people more intimately related to the school than any of us on the outside.

The Chairman. Now, when you went around and made that---I will call it inspection, for want of a better term---what places did you visit?

Doctor Noble. We visited some of the rooms in the school building. We came over here and saw the gymnasium---this building. We went into some of the shops; I do not know that I could say just which shops. We looked around to see what the students were doing. I did take my friend, who was connected with an educational institution, into the printing department, and asked the gentleman in charge---his name, I think, is Smithy---if he would explain to us just how the students did their work, and that was about the extent of our visit.

The Chairman. I want to ask you a question that is quite a general question, and I do not know whether you will feel like answering it or not. In your various visits

here, and especially on the occasions that you were observing the pupils at work and study, how were you impressed with the general character of the pupils, and what what their conduct as a whole? Did you see evidences of disorder of disquiet?

Doctor Noble. No; I have never seen evidences of disorder. I have been rather favorably impressed with the behavior of the ~~pupils~~ ^{students} as I have seen them, here and in town at night gatherings, or at church or anything of that sort.

The Chairman. On the whole, you think the conduct of the students, so far as you have had an opportunity of observing it, has been commendable?

Doctor Noble. I have seen nothing objectionable, Senator.

Senator Lane. This being a school for the general education for the Indians, and in addition to fit him for vocational work in life, if some sort of standard can be set as to what ought to be obtained, everything being considered, there ought to be then a certain amount of results obtained in that direction?

Doctor Noble. There certainly should; but I believe it that fundamentally ~~it~~ should be a matter of ^{instruction} consideration. I think the results should relate fundamentally to instruction.

Senator Lane. He should receive the instruction?

Doctor Noble. He certainly should receive the instruction. Fundamentally it is a matter of instruction. I am going to say to your Committee quite frankly that it seems to me there is a weakness here. I know the Indian is a peculiar educational subject, but it strikes me as I

look at the work of the school from my point of view that there is a weakness here in the teaching of the Indian girls and ~~boys~~ boys.

Senator Lane. And in so far as it fails therein it lacks fulfilling the function it should fulfil?

Doctor Noble. Certainly; that is what our investment is for.

Senator Lane. Now, then, assuming that the Indian is to go out and become useful as a farmer, as a mechanic, as a printer, whatever it may be -- let us take the dairy; that is a useful vocation, and it is profitable too in some parts of the country. We find, as a matter of fact, that the boys are not sent there to learn that part of it, but as a punishment, and regard themselves --

Doctor Noble. Will you just make that statement again? You mean that the dairy work is not a part of the curriculum?

Senator Lane. No, sir; they are sent there as a punishment, if you please, as a penalty, for getting drunk; punished, if you please. Consequently they come there dissatisfied, do not like it, and then tear up the milk records.

Doctor Noble. Why, gentlemen, that is surprising to me, because the *chance* for agricultural education --

Senator Lane. Now, doctor -- and to show that they did not expect that they ripped up the records of the dairy cows, so that the milkman in charge is unable to keep the record of the milk product of his cows. Now, doctor, that is not a proper spirit. They come, they go; no one stays there long enough to become proficient. As they become good workers they are removed and sent somewhere else.

4

In the carpenter shop it is the same --

Doctor Noble. Carpentering is not a punishment?

Senator Lane. No, but the head carpenter tells me they are taken away from him.

Doctor Noble. Senator, a course that lasts a certain number of weeks --

SENATOR Lane. But no one ever finishes it.

Doctor Noble. But, gentlemen, at the commencement exercises there is always an ocular demonstration of the work that is done.

~~SENATOR~~ The Chairman. Have you read the catalog, Doctor.

Doctor Noble. Yes.

Senator Lane. They inform me -- I have been up through the shops this morning and they did not know who I was. I asked, "Where is your finished work," and they say, "We have one of two, but they do not remain long enough." He said, "I could go out there and build their buildings for them." The tinner told me the same. The blacksmith is in a similar condition and the farmer told me that he cannot get young men to work for him that are useful to work anywhere else. ^{It} ~~This~~ is all down the line, apparently told in good faith. I went down into the cooking department, and I ^{found} ~~found~~ for a ration, and I submit it for your consideration; five pounds of oatmeal mush for 100 students to eat; five pounds of oatmeal mixed with butter and dished out into one hundred equal parts for one hundred persons to use.

Doctor Noble. And nothing else?

Senator Lane. Oh, yes; and a half pound of tea, at 20 cents a pound wholesale, for one hundred persons to drink.

5

Doctor Noble. I wonder if this is so. Have the superintendents of this school and other Indian schools the power to employ and dismiss incompetent people?

1034

Senator Lane. Oh, yes; if there is a complaint; anything they can justify.

Doctor Noble. One of the things I was informed of within a few days was this, that there was no possibility of administration here because the superintendent --

Senator Lane. Because the superintendent did not have the power?

Doctor Noble. Unless he preferred charges that involved moral character. Is there anything is that?

The Chairman. We are looking into that.

Senator Lane. Here is an institution with 600 or 700 children, and a farm of 300 or 400 acres, and we find as a matter of fact that it does not raise enough potatoes to keep them -- a thousand and some odd bushels for some 700 people. And they are raising wheat on the land. No man who does that can teach farming to any one.

Doctor Noble. They do not teach farming, from what you say.

Senator Lane. They could not possibly, from that conception of farming. Doctor, I wish you would look into that.

The Chairman. Now, doctor, at this school this vocational work is alleged to be taught, and yet when a building is to be constructed or painted, when brick are to be laid, not one dollar's worth of that work is done by the student labor; it is all done by outside labor. At some of the schools we have found it our duty to visit all of that

work is done by student labor.

Doctor Noble. Gentlemen, you greatly surprise me. I thought most of this work being done here was being done by the students.

The Chairman. Our information is that none of it is done that way.

Doctor Noble. Have you asked why? Are they not competent?

The Chairman. We are trying to find out. People seem to assume it is done.

Doctor Noble. I assumed it was done.

The Chairman. Do you know anything about the moral conditions in this school? Have you looked into that?

Doctor Noble. Yes.

The Chairman. Do they meet with your approval on the whole?

Doctor Noble. I think if certain people leave the Indian boys and girls alone --

The Chairman. Do you know that a great many of the pupils are in the habit of getting drunk?

Doctor Noble. Not a great many.

THE Chairman. How many?

Doctor Noble. I should think an insignificant number.

Representative Carter. Do you know that some of them are in the guard-house almost all the time for being drunk?

Doctor Noble. No.

Representative Carter. Do you know that they are being arrested down in this city?

Doctor Noble. I have heard of two occasions. I heard that the liquor was furnished by a notoriously immoral person.

Representative Carter. Has there been any attempt made to prosecute that person?

Doctor Noble. I think there has been.

Representative Carter. What was the result of it?

Doctor Noble. I think the person was taken before the local court and got some kind of a sentence, and was out of town for a while.

Senator Lane. When we came in here yesterday we found seven boys in the lock-up --

Doctor Noble. Who has that in charge?

Senator Lane (Continuing). -- for drinking and getting drunk.

Doctor Noble. Is there not a man here who is called the disciplinarian?

Senator Lane. Yes, sir.

The Chairman. And there is an assistant disciplinarian.

Doctor Noble. Of course, we have to recognize, gentlemen, that there is a relation between all forces, good and bad, of the town and school; and some of the people, if they know that Indian boys have a little money, try to get it from them, and one of the cases that I heard of seemed to me just a scheme to hold the boys up for as much money as possible. That was over a year ago, and it struck me as a rather ~~was~~ sad reflection upon the lack of decency of certain persons of the town.

1036

(An informal discussion which here followed, relating to the subject of moral conditions in the school, was not reported.)