

## THE JOINT COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE INDIAN AFFAIRS.

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Carlisle, Pennsylvania,

Sunday, February 8, 1914.

The Commission met at 9:40 o'clock a. m.

Present: Senators Robinson (Chairman), and Lane;  
Representatives Stephens and Carter.

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## TESTIMONY OF Miss LELAH BURNS.

The witness was duly sworn by Senator Lane.

Senator Lane: What do you do?

Miss Burns: I am a teacher.

Senator Lane: At Carlisle?

Miss Burns: At Carlisle.

Senator Lane: What do you know about conditions there?  
How long have you been there?

Miss Burns: I have been there two years and five months.

Senator Lane: In what department?

Miss Burns: I have been teaching ever since I came.

Senator Lane: I know, but ---

Miss Burns: The academic department.

Senator Lane: What type of students do you have? Are  
they young students or older girls?

Miss Burns: The grade, you know, makes no difference  
in the age of the students.

Senator Lane: What grade is it?

Miss Burns: The beginning of the fourth grade. Some  
of my students are young, and some are old.

Senator Lane: Where were you employed before you went

to that school?

Miss Burns: As a public school teacher in West Pittston. I taught public schools twelve years before I was employed in the Indian service.

Senator Lane: What are the conditions out there in the way of advancement of pupils? Are they bright, or how is that?

Miss Burns: Mainly the children are bright. As far as the advancement of their work is concerned, I would say that they compare very favorably with the public school. In public school I taught the fifth grade, first primary, and the third, and these children seem to be to be just about on a par with the public schools of this city.

Senator Lane: About the average of children elsewhere?

Miss Burns: Yes, sir; they impress me as being very little different from white children.

Senator Lane: Have you been around through the administrative part of the institution?

Miss Burns: During my vacation I worked in the office one summer, and I have worked in the dining room as dining room matron.

Senator Lane: How long ago was that?

Miss Burns: Last summer I worked as dining room matron. The summer before that I worked as dining room matron for three or four weeks, and then went in the office for the rest of the summer. I have also worked in the printing shop in the summer time.

Senator Lane: Now then, you are pretty tolerably familiar with conditions there, you think, do you?

Miss Burns: Well, I am familiar with those that have come under my immediate notice.

Senator Lane: What is your opinion about the school? Is it in good condition, everything going along harmoniously to the benefit of the Indians and in the manner it should.

Miss Burns: That is rather a broad question.

Senator Lane: Well, in a general way. Does it seem to be prosperous and doing its full duty by the Indians as a ward by the Government? Is everything harmonious out there between the teachers and the pupils -- the administration and the pupils?

Miss Burns: I have never discovered anything inharmonious between the teachers and pupils.

Senator Lane: Well, say between the Superintendent and the pupils. Are they at peace?

Miss Burns: As far as I know, they are.

Senator Lane: Everything then is all right?

Miss Burns: Everything that has come under my personal observation has been pleasant and agreeable.

Senator Lane: What do you know about the institution which we ought to know, representing the Government, in an attempt to have it managed properly, that would be of use to us?

Miss Burns: I tell you, I can answer definite questions better than that. I am perfectly willing to answer any question you ask me, but I do not know that I know exactly how to answer anything as broad as that.

Senator Lane: You are in the academic department, and I guess we have made no investigation of that at all.

Miss Burns: That is the department I know more about.

Senator Lane: Then we will take up that line. We did not have an opportunity, as you know -- we came late Friday, and I guess school will not begin again until Monday morning. The children, you think, are advancing to about the same extent they would in public schools?

Miss Burns: Generally speaking. Of course, some students are more industrious than others.

Senator Lane: And they are receiving the instruction that is given to the children of ordinary private citizens at public school, are they?

Miss Burns: Yes, sir.

Senator Lane: What line of work do you use? The course that is used in the public schools?

Miss Burns: We have our course of study that <sup>they</sup> have developed for us, and in addition we are trying to follow the orders that come from Washington, and try to adapt ourselves as far as possible to the State course of study. As I know it, that State course of study is very excellent and could scarcely be improved upon.

Senator Lane: How many children do you have under your care?

Miss Burns: Forty-nine..

Senator Lane: Is that enough or too many?

Miss Burns: That is quite enough. Forty-nine, perhaps, would make an ideal school.

Senator Lane: Are you able to do justice to that many?

Miss Burns: I think so.

Senator Lane: Do you have much individual work to do with them?

Miss Burns: Just as any school teacher would have.

Senator Lane. Individual work is that which <sup>counts</sup> comes the most, is it not?

Miss Burns. It certainly is.

Senator Lane. And can a person properly attend to 49, giving them individual attention, even in the public school or anywhere else? Do you think they can?

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Miss Burns. I think 40 is considered the ideal school.

Representative Stephens. Who is the immediate principal of your department of the school?

Miss Burns. Mr. Whitwell.

Representative Stephens. Have you been under him during the two and a half years you have been in the school?

Miss Burns. I have.

Representative Stephens. Do you know the conditions existing between him and the teachers ~~of~~ under him? Is it harmonious?

Miss Burns. It has impressed me that there are really two sets of conditions in the academic building.

Representative Stephens. What do you mean by that?

Miss Burns. I mean there are some teachers who seem to be very friendly with Mr. Whitwell, and who seem to consider that his word is law; and there are others who do not seem to receive the same amount of consideration.

Representative Stephens. Then do those people appeal to the superintendent of the school over Mr. Friedman — the ones that do not give Mr. Whitwell consideration?

Miss Burns. I think I am misunderstood. I meant Mr. Whitwell did not give them consideration. I do not know of any teacher who has appealed to Mr. Friedman except after she has appealed to Mr. Whitwell. I never appealed to Mr. Friedman

personally, excepting once, and I had already appealed to Mr. Whitwell ~~Friedman~~ personally in the teachers' meeting, and I thought it my duty to appeal to Mr. Friedman.

Representative Stephens. Over Mr. Whitwell?

Miss Burns. Yes.

Representative Stephens. How long ago was that?

Miss Burns. That was this fall, when we instituted the "study hour", and I was appointed to take the girls from the school building to the girls' quarters at 8 o'clock each evening, and I found in taking these companies of girls over there that the girls were very willing and obedient and very easily managed. The officers took charge of them in the halls and were willing to really assume the charge of them on the way from the academic building to the girls' quarters. But I discovered that there were two girls going alone from the school building to the hospital each evening. I reported it the first evening, and Mr. Whitwell told me he would look into it. I went back the next day, because I thought it was a matter that could not stand even an hour, and Mr. Whitwell said he could not afford to bother with the hospital.

The next night the two girls went over alone, and there was one boy went. So I sent for the boy --- I called an officer from Mr. Whitwell's office, and I sent an officer for the boy, who proved to be the janitor of the hospital, and held him there until the girls had time to go. The next morning I spoke to Mr. Whitwell about it again and told him I would speak to Mr. Friedman about it, and I did so, and the matter was attended to immediately.

Representative Stephens. And that engendered some feeling

between you and Mr. Whitwell, did it?

Miss Burns. No, none whatever.

Representative Stephens. What did Mr. Friedman do then in regard to the matter?

Miss Burns. When I spoke to him that morning he asked me whether I had spoken to my own superior officer about it. I told him that I had, and also that I was going to speak to Mr. Friedman about it, and that Mr. Whitwell seemed to think that he had no authority in the matter. Mr. Friedman told me he would attend to it immediately, and while I was there he sent an orderly to call the matron to the office. I am not positive, but I think the girls were told to do their studying in the hospital in charge of the nurse instead of coming to the study hour. As far as I know, that is the only exception that has ever been made.

Representative Stephens. Do you know anything about the state of feeling between Mr. Whitwell and Mr. Friedman at the present time?

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Miss Burns. I know very little from direct observation. Of course, it is a matter of common gossip, which one does not want to swear to, that the feeling is not pleasant between them. I have heard Mr. Whitwell make derogatory remarks and shrug his shoulders, and smile in a sort of way, in his own office when Mr. Friedman was mentioned or some order received or something of that sort.

Representative Stephens. What is the state of feeling then between the body of students and Mr. Friedman, the superintendent? Is it good or bad?

Miss Burns. That I know very little about from personal

observation.

Representative Stephens. Those under you, you know.

Miss Burns. Those under me I know to a certain extent. I have made it a rule to teach my students the subjects I am required to teach them, and to tell them I am their friend, and to help them. Aside from that I should never encourage them in gossiping to me. I do know, however, that last week one of the boys told me he felt Mr. Friedman had not given him a square deal. When I pressed him for an answer he seemed to be lacking an answer. I don't know why. I asked him if it was something directly personal with him, and he said it was not. I never have encouraged the children to gossip to me about conditions on the campus.

Representative Stephens. Then they do not respect the superintendent as they should? The students?

Miss Burns. No, I do not think they do.

Representative Stephens. Do you think this young man was right in speaking of the superintendent so?

Miss Burns. No, I do not.

Representative Stephens. How many others joined him in making such statements?

Miss Burns. None to my knowledge.

Representative Stephens. Is he the only one you have heard complain of the school?

Miss Burns. The only one coming directly to me.

Representative Stephens. Do you hear any complaints about what they have to eat, or whether they have enough?

Miss Burns. No, I do not know that I hear anything that I could call direct evidence. Of course, I have often heard



children say that their "grub" was not good, or something along that line. They told me they had fish last Friday morning that made them sick.

Representative Stephens. Did you ever hear complaints about their not getting enough bread?

Miss Burns. Well, that is a common complaint. As I told you, I worked in the dining room, and it was my duty as dining room matron to see that supplies were made to last and to take care of them, and in order to do that I insisted upon it that the bread should be eaten — that the bread that was cut should be eaten before more was placed upon the tables. I was there in the summer time, but in the summer time the meals are really very good, because we have garden vegetables.

Senator Lane. Do you have as many students?

Miss Burns. Not as many; no, sir.

Senator Lane. Do you have plenty of furnishings for the table in the way of knives, forks, spoons, etc.?

Miss Burns. When I was there we were short on spoons, and I reported that and received one dozen. I was told that when the regular dining room matron came back she would find the spoons.

Senator Lane. You were short of spoons enough to set the table properly?

Miss Burns. Yes. Of course, the attendance was not as large as during the year.

Senator Lane. How many would there be there?

Miss Burns. I have forgotten the exact number, but it would perhaps be anywhere from 100 to 150. I was there when the country party came back, and we had 50. When the dining

room matron went on her vacation she put away the surplus silverware, and left enough for all that might be there, but the dining room girls — helpers we call them — told me the girls had carried spoons to the quarters and had not brought them back, and that I found was true.

Senator Lane. If they would carry them away and never return them, what would you do? Go without spoons?

Miss Burns. That is a condition I never met. I hardly believe so, though.

Senator Lane. Was the food supply ample, you say, and good?

Miss Burns. Very good in the summer time. We have the garden vegetables, and their meat supply was good. There was one day that the large boys complained that the meat was slightly decomposed, and I spoke to the cook about it and told him to hold that meat. The quarter master came and looked at it, and returned the entire consignment to the butcher. From that time until I left the meat supply was all right.

I would like to say that I do not like you to think that there is any personal feeling between me and Mr. Whitwell, because the matter I spoke of was a business matter pure and simple, and I conducted it as such and have regarded it as such ever since.

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TESTIMONY OF MISS ADELAIDE B. REICHEL.

The witness was duly sworn by Senator Lane.

Senator Lane. How long have you been connected with the Carlisle school?

Miss Reichel. I came in August, 1907; almost six and a half years. I taught two years in the public schools in the