



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF EDUCATION  
ALASKA SCHOOL SERVICE

June 18, 1912

Eighth  
SUBJECT, Annual Report

Report of U. S. School for natives  
at Deering, Alaska.

I. General Review of Work in School.

This has been a year of busy happy work for the pupils of Deering School. Sixty-three have been enrolled. The average attendance was 23.

I am very glad to say that we have had a successful year. Each pupil seemed to enjoy school. On the first day all the children came with bright smiling faces. They were glad to get back again.

How glad I have been to see each child happy in his work and willing to comply with my wishes! How the people are improving every year!

Five and one half hours for seven months and five hours during the month of May has been the length

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SCHOOL,

DeeringDEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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of the daily session, - from 9:50 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. with one hour intermission at noon - and this has seemed hardly long enough.

## (a) Entertainments.

Five entertainments have been held during the eight months of school. One general program was given the last of October including a talk on sanitation by the teacher. Other programs of songs, readings, recitations and physical culture exercises were given for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Washington's Birthday, and a "Spring" Program near May 1st. All the Eskimos enjoyed these entertainments which have been a help in overcoming the timidity of the children as well as in their use of English.

## (b.) Advancement of Pupils

The little beginners have taken an interest in their work from the first.

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Five adults have been enrolled for regular school work. Four boys have worked faithfully in the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. One boy has done some 6<sup>th</sup> Grade work. He uses good English and has succeeded well in multiplication and division of fractions as well as in solving some miscellaneous practical problems in Milnes Advanced Arithmetic.

## (c) Alcohol and Narcotics.

Teaching has been given to all pupils each week during the greater part of the year on the Effects of Alcohol and Narcotics, and to the older pupils in the regular Hygiene and Physiology recitations throughout the year.

## (d) Music and Memory Work.

Many songs have been learned and 25 quotations from the Bible have been memorized. Two pupils have been given lessons on the organ, outside

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the regular school hours and have practiced faithfully. Both of these are able to play a number of songs.

(e) Cleaning of Rooms.

The larger boys and girls have taken turns in the daily sweeping and dusting of the schoolroom and shop. About once a month there has been a thorough cleaning accomplished by the assignment of tasks to different ones, such as washing desks, blacking the stove, and mopping the floor.

(f) Health of Pupils.

Disinfectants were used daily before sweeping. Physical culture exercises were much enjoyed for 10 minutes each day. The health of the children has been remarkably good all year. After the change of the Industrial Kitchen from the "entrance", to the private room which was formerly the hospital

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ward during the last week of March, there has been a chance for the taking of baths. This opportunity was improved by the pupils, about 25 baths being taken in the month of April.

## (g.) Industrial Work.

It is encouraging to see the children in their industries. Two hours each day throughout the year have been devoted to industrial work. I wish some of the Government officials could taste the good bread these boys and girls made, and also see other articles made in their daily industrial hours. The boys certainly had a good time working in the shop. Some of them have been interested in Knitting and bread-baking and in doing their own washing. The little folks were greatly pleased with the sewing cards.

Much pleasure and profit has been

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derived from the use of the folding and cutting papers in making boxes, chairs, lanterns, tables, wind mills and May baskets. The weaving mats are a real delight, too. The children helped in planting a little garden this spring.

The following is a tabulated report of the results in the Industrial Department.

Carpentry.

6	Sleds
11	Picture frames
4	Chairs
2	Tables
3	Cabinets with shelves or drawers.
5	Shelves
2	Spoons

Toys

3	Comiak boat frames	1	Kyak frame
4	Deer Sleds	1	Dog Sled
1	Pair Snow Shoes	5	Nets

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6	Dresses	8	Aprons
6	Parkas	4 pr.	Overalls
10	pr. Mukluks	2	small quilts
2	Sun-bonnets		
7	Cushions		

Knitting.

6	pr. Mittens
8	pr. Wristlets
6	Belts

Basketry

7	Baskets
1	Cup, saucer and spoon.

Cooking.

461	Loaves of Bread
52	Pans of Biscuit

Laundry

22	Washings
6	Ironings

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## II. In the Community.

## (a) Personal Cleanliness.

In the homes not many take baths regularly for lack of proper facilities and privacy. At all the homes the people wash their clothes frequently.

## (b) Cleanliness of Houses.

Every Saturday a special effort is made to air bed clothing, to clean under beds and to wash the floors. The teacher has made it a rule to inspect each home on Saturday afternoon and encourage good house keeping.

## (c) Ventilation.

The houses are provided with ventilators and the people have been encouraged to air their houses well each day, and especially after many have been in the house for a time.

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## (d.) Building of Houses.

The houses are not as well-built as we would like, partly on account of the scarcity of timber and expense of lumber. Some houses are large and the ceilings 7 or more feet high. Three homes have two rooms.

## (e.) Sanitary Conditions.

Some garbage has been dumped in the ocean. During June the raking and burning of trash around the houses has improved the condition of the village. It is hard to get this done in all the village because so few Eskimos are left here after the snow has melted; most of the people go away early in May and remain at their sealing place until July.

Five toilets were made for the village of fifteen houses.

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(f.) Means of Support.

The Eskimos have been quite successful in hunting and fishing. They trade furs, game, and deer meat for food supplies at the store.

Four young men have been assisting white men in mining this Spring.

They earn good wages but do not always get their pay promptly, owing to the failure of the mines to produce gold in paying quantities.

Reindeer are owned by members of 17 different families in this vicinity.

There was some scarcity of food during the last of April and the first of May, but no suffering resulted therefrom, and about that

time there was a chance to get tomcod, so that none of the

Destitution Fund <sup>was</sup> needed to be used for the relief of the people then.

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(g.) Treatment of Disease.

The frequent and repeated teaching in the eight years of school here of Hygiene and Sanitation has had some effect on the Eskimos, although it seems difficult to get them to quit eating decayed meat. Two serious cases of ptomaine poisoning from that cause took much care during May, but both recovered. Four others partook, but escaped serious illness.

The treatment of disease has been made more successful than it would otherwise have been by the use of Dr. Neuman's book and lectures and by the advice of Dr. Foss of Candle both by phone and when he was here in April and June.

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## (h) Observance of Law

It is generally believed that the law against giving liquor to natives was violated during Christmas week and during the week following March 17. Witnesses to this are almost impossible to obtain, although the infractions were reported to the Marshal at Candle, and he endeavored to secure evidence.

## (i) Moral Conditions.

Among themselves the Eskimos have not, so far as we can learn, been guilty of immorality, except in one case which was urged by a white man with the probable object of securing the girl for immoral purposes later. One Eskimo woman is a public prostitute for white men, <sup>or</sup> so it is generally understood.

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y.) To promote the welfare of Natives.  
For the honor of our land some effective way of punishing law-breakers for corrupting Eskimos should be devised.

Laws, with punishment for the Eskimos, against liquor drinking and immorality would help some.

Some winter indoor occupation for the men would be a great help here.

A competent instructor in car-  
pen-try would be a great benefit.

If a carpenter could assist the people for a few weeks or even a week or two in the Fall when they are getting their winter houses ready, it would tend to the improvement of their health and comfort and sanitary conditions.

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The Government is doing a splendid work for these people in providing useful knowledge and occupation for minds and hands, and there is a considerable degree of appreciation of this by Deering Eskimos.

Respectfully submitted,  
Iva Kenworthy

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