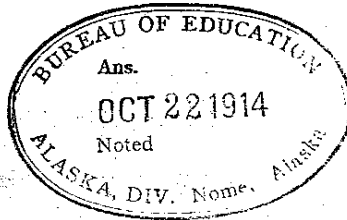


This copy for your information.



October 5, 1914.

My dear Mr. Tallman:

The Eskimo inhabiting the village of Deering, on the southern shore of Ketzibus Sound, in northwestern Alaska, wish to migrate from Deering to a site on the lower Kobuk River, where, within a tract reserved for their use, they can secure a plentiful supply of fish, game, and timber, and be secure from the intrusion of unprincipled white men.

The reasons for the proposed migration are set forth in detail in the following paragraphs from a letter, August 29, from Mr. Walter C. Shields, superintendent of schools in the district including Deering and the desired reservation:

"Deering is not a good site for a village by nature. It is a long way to the sealing grounds. It is a long way to good drinking water. There is very little drift wood on the shore near Deering; never enough to keep the people warm. As a result they have been burning green willows and alders, few of which are as thick as a man's wrist. These willows and alders, being of very slow growth, are now practically gone. Last winter the village could barely keep warm.

"As a result of the development of mining and the number of white prospectors, the game of the country has been killed off and driven off. It therefore has become increasingly difficult for the natives to secure rabbits and ptarmigan for food, and it is almost impossible for them to make a living from trapping.

"For the above reasons there is no future for the Deering people at their present home. They are very anxious to get ahead and they know they cannot do so where they now are.

"The site that has been selected for the new village is the very best one I have seen on the lower Kobuk. Last winter

COPY

I saw the different proposed sites between Kiana and Aksik and none of them is equal to this one. The village can be set up on a high bank where the drainage will be good. There is plenty of good timber all around. The river teems with fish, winter and summer, and the hills are full of game.

"In addition to all these natural advantages, within this whole tract, as far as known, there is not a white man living. As far as I can see there can be no contest on the rights to the ground. This would not be the case anywhere above Aksik, and any place in that section would keep the natives near the white village of Kiana.

"To make this migration a success it is absolutely necessary that the Bureau give its own strength to the matter. We must have this section reserved by Executive Order, and the sooner the better. With this end in view we have put down a stake, with a location notice, and have claimed, in the name of the Bureau of Education, a tract fifteen miles square. This matter should be taken up at once and steps taken to have it set aside. Of course it will have to be surveyed. I hope that can be done this next summer. It is absolutely vital that it be done.

"We have taken up fifteen miles because we want to have all the timber that we can get in, and in addition we want to have a tract sufficiently large so that white men can be kept a long way from the village. It is hoped that this new village will in the course of time be the home of all the natives on the Kobuk below Kiana."

The reserving of the tract under consideration would be in accord with my policy to attract large numbers of natives to reserves from which undesirable white people may be excluded, and within which the funds at the disposal of the Bureau of Education can be more economically and effectively expended than in small and widely separated villages.

I therefore recommend that action be taken by the General Land Office looking to the reservation by Executive Order, for the use of the United States Bureau of Education and of the natives of Alaska of indigenous race, under the care of said Bureau, of the tract described in the accompanying memorandum

and location notice which have been submitted by Mr. Shields.

Yours sincerely,



Commissioner.

Honorable Clay Tallman,
Commissioner of the General Land Office.

2 Inclosures.