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THIS COPY IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION

October 28, 1914.

Mr. Benj. S. Coppeck,
1425 Bank St.,
South Pasadena, Cal.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of October 20th, with reference to conditions at Kotzebue and containing two enclosures, has been received. I greatly regret that the establishment of the new village on the reserve selected by Supt. Shields and Mr. Replogle had to be delayed one year and also regret that they were not able to see and confer with Mr. Cox. I can readily understand why Mr. Replogle desired no building erected on this new village site before the same could be platted, and also how embarrassing this delay must have been to Mr. Cox. I see no reason why the materials for your new church could not be moved to the village site and get a piece of ground set aside for mission purposes, and I believe that Supt. Shields Mr. Replogle and Mr. Cox will be able to arrange for this during the winter and arrive at a complete understanding as to the scope of the mission and Government people who are at work in that field. If the mission board places its church in this new village and has need for its worker elsewhere, it is probable that Mr. Replogle, being a minister and possessing a personality which makes him a leader, could, as long as he is in the village, carry on the religious work more success-

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fully than any man your board could place there. If, however, a man not so well qualified for that work should succeed Mr. Replogle the mission board could then send a missionary there to attend to the religious work of the village. I believe, however, that Mr. Cox as the head of your work there, and Mr. Replogle as the head of our Government efforts, will be able to work together and will build up a village which will be a credit both to the Department and the mission. It is not our intention to make a closed reservation as has been done in the States. The plot of ground set apart is simply for the protection of the natives; that is, to keep white traders and squaw men away from the native village. If this can be accomplished, it will be our aim to help those natives establish a co-operative store for the village which will be patronized by the teachers as well as the Eskimos.

Believing that all these matters will be adjusted satisfactorily, and that there is promise of building up a prosperous village at that place, I am,

Very truly yours,

W. T. Lopp,

Chief of Alaska Division.

L/H.

P. S. The two enclosures of your letter are returned herewith.

Enc.

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