

Nome, Alaska. O Dec. 26, 1914

Mr. W. T. Lopp,

Chief of the Alaska Division,

Seattle, Wash.

Dear Sir :

I have received a copy of your letter of Oct. 28th. to Mr. Coppock, regarding the new village to be established on the lower Kobuk.

I am very sorry to hear that the Friends Mission Board seem to have felt that Mr. Cox should have been allowed to go ahead and build on the new site. I hope that all parties interested will appreciate the fact that this is to be very decidedly a Government affair. It would seem ideal to me if the religious work that is carried on there, by Mr. Replogle or any one else in the future should be entirely undenominational. At this place there is practically no need for a church board sending in a building. The natives at Selawik, Neotak and Buckland have built their own churches, and even paid for most of the material that had to be imported. These people on the Kobuk are still better able to furnish their own church and I hope nothing will be done to assist them along that line. They don't need such help and would be spoiled by it. Personally I would like very much to see this new village entirely undenominational and always kept so. There is no need of it being known as a Church Mission. It is being established

by the Government and the natives alone and I cannot see why Mr. Cox or his board ^{should} ~~can~~ claim any connection with it. The fact that Mr. Replogle is a regular Quaker Minister certainly relieves us from any criticism on the part of the Friends, and in addition, ^{as} you say in your letter, he is better qualified than anyone they would ever be apt to get hold. ^{of} ~~the~~ real leaders of the natives are rather rare.

You remember, of course, that I told you that Mr. Cox was very mysterious about his own plans last summer and made no especial bid for cooperation from us.

Just what do you mean by having ^a ~~a~~ piece of ground set aside for the mission? Is this to be on the reservation? ^{Do} ~~Would~~ you approve our stand taken in my first letters on the reservation when I requested that if you deemed it best ~~xxxxx~~ we do not invite any mission to begin work on the reservation for a year at least, after the village is started? Mr. Replogle wishes to control that work himself, and I thoroughly agree with him. For a good many reasons I believe you would agree with me that Mr. Cox's work in the new village would be not needed with Mr. Replogle there. It is a pity that Mr. Cox had to select this particular site when there are other places that need his work more.

Your letter to Mr. Ceppeck encourages me very much as I see that you are expecting us to do a large work on the lower Kobuk, and I believe we will. I only hope that we may be able to serve the best interests of the natives, even along religious lines without complicating the situation too much by the presence of their workers of Mission boards.

WS.

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