

Nome, Alaska. May 13, 1914

Mr. Chas. Replogle,

Deering, Alaska.

Dear Sir :

John Douglas leaves with the mail tonight and the mail from Deering will not get here until tomorrow so if you have sent me a letter I will not be able to reply to it until the first boat goes north.

Mr. Lopp wired that he was favorable to the Deering move. That is all he said. I am unable to get anything from him as to the possibility of a saw mill etc. because the appropriation will not pass until late in June. Now my idea of the situation is this. Even if we had the funds I would hesitate to do much permanent work the first year until the people settle down at a place on the Kobuk where they think they can stay. I think that if they move you should go with them and we will try to see that you get a good house to live in and then the natives and the Government can combine on a temporary structure for school and church. We will then move the school and residence fixtures from Deering. Then next year we will all get to work and make the best plant in the country. You see in all this we have to depend on you absolutely. This will be a great step in advance to move these people to the timber, but it will also be a difficult experiment with a doubtful outcome, ^{unless} ~~unless~~ you are a real leader of the

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people and can control the entire situation. I feel sure that you can. Tell the people that one thing is certain. The Government will not maintain a school at both places.

Will all the reindeer men move? That is an important thing to me. It will be difficult to handle the reindeer situation with no one at Deering. I do not think it should be left to the mission at Kotzebue to manage it entirely.

Mrs. Shields and Mr. Johnson join me in best wishes to you both.

very truly yours,