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Deering, Alaska, 8/20, 1910.

Mr. A. N. Evans,  
Nome, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Evans:

Your note by the Capt. of the Bender Bros. reached us last night when we got on board about 12:30. We had been in almost hourly expectation of this boat since the Duxbury left on the 16th. We have also expected the Volante in for several days, but she has not put in appearance yet.

The St. Helens, evidently, wanted to clear her skirts at any one's expense possible, and left things in a "mess" here. Dr. Newsome has done all in his power apparently to straighten out the goods left, but it has rained and interfered several times, and things were pretty badly scattered when we went ashore this A. M. They used the old "Vine" sails and native sails, and kept them in pretty fair condition. The purser here seems a fair-minded fellow, but the purser on the St. Helens made some changes in manifests evidently, and by remarks made showed himself willing to let the Bureau of Ed. lose if he could gain. Our freight was billed through to Icy Cape at \$24.00 a ton, \$9.00 ton St. H. and \$15.00 on Bender B., but he had it turned around and has us charged up with \$15.00 per ton on this end. My husband left Fischer Bro. attend to the shipping for him, and we are the gainers by their work, but it doesn't help us from paying lighterage here, and feeling sure that others not so well informed have been the sufferers. The Capt. of the St. H. seemed honest, but he is

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very illiterate and at the mercy of his drinking, scheming purser. We thought of telephoning to you, but found that Capt. Knalfish had covered most of the points we wished you to know. We hope you will be on the lookout for crookedness in accounts of the St. H. If Capt. Bachland puts in pretty soon things will not suffer much but if he is delayed, it will not be easy for some at Pt. Hope especially. They are taking no freight for private parties, unless pre-guaranteed, but all government freight is on the move. All the teachers had left Kotzebue for the rivers before we came away, except the Yorks. The Horndens left on 20th, the Sickles on 23rd, and Sickles and Myers on the 24th, all quite earlier than usual. Mr. Adams sent a letter by the Capt., asking us to furnish our reindeer report and send back by this boat. It is not very likely we can do so, for unless the Chief Herder is there we could not get statistics probably in the few hours the boat will be there. Of course we'll do what we can. We'll try to help the native plan to get his goods disposed of and still leave us all the room we need.

We are sorry to have it rumored that you will not visit us this winter, but if you can be outside we understand how inviting that prospect us, and wish you perfect fulfilment of all your anticipations.

Kind regards to Mr. Shields.

Very truly,

Eva Watson Geary.

The purser of the St. H. wouldn't let Mr. Hornden check off any of the Government goods until he signed vouchers for the lighterage. Mr. H. wouldn't sign any voucher until he knew what he was signing for. The outcome of it was that the purser turned all the big storage and bills over to Dick Hall, a trader in Kotzebue. Even the letter to the Government teacher at Kotzebue was turned over to him. This Capt. was very indignant because he had to lose so much time going to Kotzebue after the manifests which had been turned over to Dr. Hall. Dr. N. had no bills to work from here and altogether it has been a hard proposition to get freight delivered. Mr. Allan got the contract for all lighterage into Kotzebue. He bought another river boat and handled that freight easily. The Selawik freight is to go when he comes back from Kobuk. Mt. Sickles took a launch from Kotzebue for his personal stuff.

Excuse such a long letter. I haven't time for a short one.

Yours truly,

E. W. G.