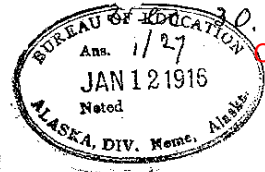


Mr. Walter C. Shields,  
Nome, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Shields:-



From time to time I have found it necessary to employ a native girl ~~in the capacity~~ a few hours at a time in assisting me with the medical work here at Kotzebue. I dislike to pay her entirely out of my medical subauthorization which is only \$500.00 for the year. She has been glad so far to receive a variety of junk in payment, as coal, schoolroom sewing supplies, household articles and notions. She would continue to take coal, which I discourage because when she takes home a sack of coal her father <sup>apparently</sup> sits around and enjoys the heat from it instead of getting out with his team and rustling wood. She would like to acquire a female reindeer and would take one as pay.

Are there any female reindeer nearer than the Buckland herd that could be so used? If her services or the services of some other native should be needed to the

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herd of several reindeer, are in fact plenty of them that could be so used. To be definite, can I use <sup>female</sup> reindeer in this way, and if so how many, and in what herds?

Mrs. Nichols' leaving the service in Sept. liberates \$900.00 for something. Is Mr. Lopp making arrangements to have part of this available for my use in securing paying for services that Mrs. Nichols would otherwise have performed herself were she here?

For instance; I have at the present time two patients, mother & little boy 7 yrs. old, both of whom need careful nursing such as Mrs. Nichols could give were she here. Yesterday they had run out of bread that the Mission had given them and I found them feeding the little boy on hard tack. The other day I found the little boy eating a piece of dried fish and in a little while he was in distress. Prognosis for mother is bad. For little boy not very good.

Yours very truly  
H.N.T. Nichols, M.D.

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