

ALASKA FRIENDS' MISSION

OF

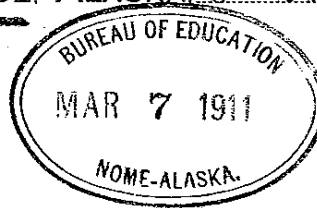
CALIFORNIA YEARLY MEETING

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WILSON H. COX IN CHARGE

KOTZEBUE, ALASKA, Feb. 10th 1911



Mr. A. W. Evans,

Dist. Supt. of Schools,
Nome, Alaska.

My Dear Mr Evans:-

Two of our Kotzebue natives and a number of Selawik natives have recently returned from the interior where they claim to have had a grand good time. Nahi-shook, the old man who went from Kotzebue, is very persistent in his efforts to break down the sentiment among our people against the old time customs of the Eskimo. I was apprised of this fact when I took charge of our work at this place. I have found the report concerning him to be very true. Potomea is one of his hearty sympathizers and supporters. The prevailing sentiment of our people is against the use of tobacco, card playing and their old time dancing festivities, and I have been free to fall in line with the established wish of our people in this regard.

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for I am decidedly of the opinion that a life free from those habits and their accompaniment is the better life. Nah-shook comes home and proclaims that Mr. Evans was present at the time of our visit in the Yukon country and ^{that} he approved of our dancing festivities and encouraged those people to come over to visit our people in a like manner.

The above is the report that comes to me of their visit and of your approval of what they did.

The old man has come home and opened his home to all who will join him in such a life as he saw while away, regardless of the wishes of myself or those of the people. He claims to be taking this course because you are in sympathy with and approve the dance.

I sincerely hope that his statements are false, and that you may see proper to give me some statement concerning

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the matter that will let us know your feeling and wish in regard to these things. I have endeavored to have the people feel that it is not well for any one to undertake to lead the youth of any community into the doing of such things as the majority oppose. That any who insist on such a course are not good citizens. They ^{natives} recognize you as their government head, and that whatever is approved by you it is not well for them to oppose. This is the expression of some who are very much out of sympathy with what Nah'shook is representing. They feel aggrieved at his attitude, but do not feel like actively opposing him, inasmuch as he claims to have your approval and sympathy. Hoping to have some expression from you to the people in regard to the above I am

Very respectfully,

W. H. Cox. **COPY**