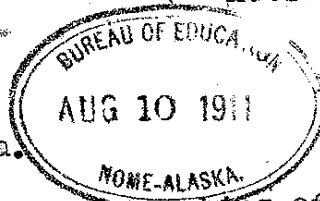


Kotzebue, Alaska,
July 15th, 1911.

COPY

Kotzebue
Hon. B. S. Rody,
U. S. District Attorney,
Nome, Alaska.



Dear Sir;-

I wish to inquire if the marking of a tract of land by measurement and stakes around it and then having it recorded by the recorder of the District furnishes any protection against trespassers. If so, how much?

A young white man here claims a piece of ground by marking it as above indicated and has had his fish cache located upon it since the time of its location. He tents upon the ground and fishes there during the summer season. Two other white men have now brought in a raft of logs and have commenced to arrange for the erection of a house on this site against the protest of the first man, claiming that what he has already done gives him no right to the site whatever. I wish to know if he has any protection in such a case. If so, what action should he take?

I also wish to inquire along the same line if the Mission has any unquestioned rights by law as to trespassing upon its site which has been made a matter of record the same as in the above case and not by patent and survey.

A long strip of land was taken along the beach by the Mission in order that the fishing grounds of the natives might be under protection. The time has come when an occasional white man will come and put a very long net into the water in the midst of the natives shorter ones, thus causing much dissatisfaction, and at the same time working a hardship upon the natives. The natives have not used extremely long nets, and many of them have not the cash with which to purchase the material for long nets if it were desirable to do so. I wish to know how much protection the law allows the natives along this line, and also if the Mission has any real jurisdiction ^{over} the site recorded.

Traders are forcing themselves upon some portions of this Mission site, insisting that the Mission cannot maintain its claim upon a strip of land along the beach, but that it must be in compact form.

From this view of the matter the white men who desire to fish or trade are encouraged to go on with their fishing and trading regardless of the hardship upon the natives and the wish of the Mission management.

Missions, as a rule, are not financially able nor inclined to go to law in these matters inasmuch as what is being done is not for gain but in the interest of humanity. And especially a needy portion of it. We, at this place, are only anxious to protect the natives in what is best for them, and I shall be very glad to have such information from your office as will be helpful to me in the control of such matters at this place. With the increased activities here occasioned by the recent discoveries of gold on the Kobuk the need of protection for the Eskimo is thereby emphasized.

Very respectfully,

W. H. Leach

Sup't of Mission and U. S. Commissioner.

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