

DEC 26 1914  
ALASKA DIV. NOME. ALASKA

Deering, Dec 2, 1912 <sup>COPY</sup>

Mr. W. C. Shields.  
Supt. N. W. Dist.

Dear Sir:

There are a number of things to speak of and I think it may save time to write to you, so that you may know before you telephone to me.

1. I am so sorry to tell that I am breaking down this Fall and Winter. I do not know whether I will be able to go through the year or not. The trouble seems to be in the upper part of my spine and back part of my head, due, I think to a fall I had last Spring and this has hurt a little since then, but more the past two months.
2. The responsibility of the work here is heavier since Ashagak left,

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and I have more difficulty in understanding the needs of the people.

The care of the sick has always been hard and takes much strength and "worry".

3. We have a large school - 38 last week - 15 in Chart and Primer Class. Almost need a Kindergarten teacher for them alone.

It is too confusing to try to have school for all pupils in one room at the same time. The little ones are restless and noisy. I am not satisfied fully with our arrangement of the daily work.

I did not receive words as to the division of the work, how much the assistant is expected to do:

At present Pommok teaches from 9 till 11:30 & from 1-2 +

She has the 15 little ones till 10:20 A.M.

and from 1 to 1:30 P.M. with the  
1st and 2nd Reader Classes.

I have Industrial hour from  
9:15 - 10:20 A.M. and teach from  
9 till 12:00 and 1:00 till 3:00  
and 3:30 some of the time.

If you have any suggestions about  
the arrangement of the work, I will  
be very glad. I have studied  
and planned, but am not  
satisfied yet. The children are  
much interested and are learning.  
Pommok is doing well, I believe.

It was very hard for her at first,  
but not quite so much so now.

4 I did not receive word of Local  
Expense Fund Authorization, but  
have had the rest of the asbestos  
paper put on the walls <sup>as you suggested last W.</sup> and some  
repairs, fixing oven to Industrial  
stove and putting new pipes and

dampers, amounting to \$25.75  
 I had some resodding of the  
 house done amounting to \$4.50

5. I hope the Freight bill will  
 go through all right. I am sending  
 on this mail <sup>to home</sup> the names of men  
 who worked and their time  
 as you requested.

6. I am also sending the report  
 cards for Nov. average attendance  
 was 30.7.

7. What about Deering saloon?  
 Topsy & her husband live down  
 town here. Mollie and "Slim"  
 also live in a house in town;  
 She has a baby, born Nov. 5  
 They says he claims to be its  
 father. Mollie's husband <sup>(Hobson)</sup> lives  
 up the Kobuk, I suppose  
 Elsie Black's husband has gone  
 Outside and she lives alone in a

house not on the Govt reservation  
I do not know how these women  
are behaving.

8. Has any arrangement been made  
with the Doctor at Caudle to  
help the Eskimos?

There is a woman sick here  
with tonsillitis (I feel quite sure  
that is the trouble). She has been  
sick for two weeks, fever  
above  $103^{\circ}$  some of the time.  
I have been to see her from  
2 to 4 times a day some of  
the time. She seems to be  
getting better very slowly now.

9. I found I was out of Vouchers  
for services other than Personal  
and sent on last mail to  
Nome office in Mr. Johnson's care.  
So I suppose these two men <sup>(see Paragraph 4)</sup> will  
wait for their pay until you

return from the North.

10.

Could you "condemn" the Industrial cook stove before I send in the Inventory? The oven door was broken off and the fire box is badly burned out. We need another very much. They cook and do some baking yet with it.

11.

I do not know whether you received Ashugak's and my vouchers for September, or not. We sent them on next to the last <sup>boat</sup> mail.

I am needing some money. I hire a man to build <sup>the</sup> school room fire, or rather fix it every morning, as we cover it so that it keeps all night. This Eskimo also brings in coal for us. I do not like to ask him to wait long for his pay.

I am sending vouchers for Oct. and Nov. to Buckland by an Eskim thinking that if you can do so, I would be glad for you to leave the checks with ~~the Eskim~~ to be sent over here.

Now this is too long, but may save us some time in phoning. We are hoping you may have a prosperous trip to Barrow and return.

Yes, we pray that God will bless and guide you.

Sincerely,

Martha Hunnicutt