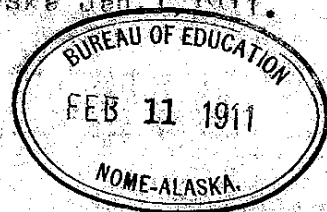


COPY

Kotzebue Alaska Jan 1 1911.

Mr. Elmer Ellsworth Brown,
U.S. Commissioner of Education
Washington D.C.



My Dear Sir,

At the close of my Kobuk trip I am prompted to forward for your consideration a few recommendations. Yet in the doing of it I can't forget a remark thrown out by Capt. Bartholf aboard the "Bear" last summer. It was to this effect, he sent regular recommendations ^{to} this department and that was the last he heard from them. There are many differences between the Revenue Service and the Alaska School Service.

First in regard to teachers. There is untold damage done to get a man into the country and in charge of a school whose heart is not in his work. It is good to have college graduates if we can get them, and also providing these men from college ^{have} the ingenuity, adaptability, and the humility that are found in well rounded men. The Service cannot afford to bring any more chunks to Alaska. It is too expensive getting rid of them. I would recommend that no teacher be engaged until he had first been sized up by some one who already knows the conditions at the school to which the man may be sent.

Also in regard to the inventory list. Teachers should make them out even to the smallest detail and when he leaves the school everything that the inventory contains should be on hand and the new teacher should sign for the goods received and he in turn should be made to be responsible for all the goods for which he signed. If any were lost then it would be up to him to make it right. I mean, to follow some such plan as that already in practice in the Army. ~~Something must be done, for many of the tools sent to these schools as well as books, and building material, are either given out or sold by the teachers in charge.~~

Further, I would recommend that nothing be thrown away, either ~~tools or books~~ but everything that is broken or worn out

COPY

be put in one place, to be condemned at the superintendent's coming. The idea of personal ownership of government property has got a hold of some of our teachers and a ^{new} regular system in this matter would greatly benefit the work. In such subjects as industrial training and domestic science it is as necessary that children should learn how to take care of tools and pens as it is to learn how to use them.

Since the assistant superintendent, in the Northern District comes into so many remote villages, where he is apt to find, as I do, plenty of sickness. He should be supplied with a compact medical outfit. I would like very much to have such an outfit in an small case this year, but since it cannot possibly be secured this, it may for next.

Dogs have been the motive power along the Arctic coast for years. Reindeer have been tried and most white men condemn them as do also most of the Eskimos. They all say "deer are good to eat but no use in travelling". They count the time, for one thing that it took to make the Barrow to Votzebue trip with deer and see that it was much slower than dogs make. This is true, but not because the dogs are faster, but because the deer men loose so much time at the villages, in going to the herd and back with their sled deer. Here at Votzebue the Mission boys have built a reindeer stable. They went up the Noatak and cut logs, rafted them down and in about two weeks they had a fine house for deer built. Now, the boys can drive right into the village, put the deer in the stable, where a supply of moss is stored and next morning go right along. No time is lost. I have directed that the reindeer boys at Seliwik and Shungnak make, this coming summer, such a stable for themselves at the village. Up the coast, where there are no logs lumber should be sent in. In summer such stables could serve as store houses for the herders supplies, outfits etc and in the winter be used as stables, which they, as well as the Superintendent, could use when he came to the village. You would appreciate the need of such a

stable, if at the end of the day, you had to leave your deer five miles outside the village and pull your sled into it. With such stables travel with reindeer would be increased.

More local school and reindeer spirit needs to be developed. The local school spirit gets its pitch from the amount the teacher has, but the reindeer can be quickened in a more general way. This year I have, at each of the reindeer camps, been talking up a "Reindeer Fair". I got the idea from Mr. Evens, at Nome, last summer. Every time I talk about it the boys sit up and listen with open mouths. It appeals to them. It will stimulate their interest in every phase of their life as reindeer men. I would suggest that such fairs be started all along the line. Jimmie Udragaluk, whom I took with me to Shungnak I am going to keep for the Pt. Barrow trip. He is full of reindeer ingenuity. If the best deer driver I have seen and takes more pride in having his outfit in good shape, than most of the men do. Since he will visit each of the camps and work with the boys, he can pass on to each camp as he comes to it, all that he has learned at the others. He is anxious to make the trip and is a companionable travelling companion. He is now a third year apprentice at the Jeliwik herd, and as he goes with me acts as a sort of assistant to the Assistant.

In looking over the reindeer lists, as I have copied them from the Annual Reports in Nome, I find that it is almost impossible to pronounce an Eskimo's name correctly from the spelling given in the Report. There is no system used. Now, one of two things should be done, either English names should be used for all of the Eskimos in Alaska, and the native name ignored or else all teachers in the service should be directed to follow a certain form. The teachers must be trained just ~~as we do~~ ^{as the} the natives. In this Kotzebue sound section, all of the natives have English names given them; if their own name is hard the English one is used, and you have such distinguished names as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln as reindeer men at the Kotzebue Mission herd. If the names are easy then the native name is held in use, a reflection upon the wisdom of the man in

charge. If we are to continue using Eskimo names in our reindeer and school work, then let us have some system to it, so that when we see a name written we can come somewhere near the native pronunciation. I am only acquainted with the natives of this section, the Smithsonian system, if explained to the teachers might be satisfactory, also I enclose an alphabet which Mr. Stephansson, of the New York Museum of Natural History, worked out with me last year.

We also need some legislation in regards to the killing of reindeer by dogs. About the first step in this direction is to issue an order that all dogs must be kept tied up. In some villages of the north it is dangerous to take sled deer into the village, for none of the dogs are tied. Also when deer are staked out, as mine were on the Kobuk and a dog team came along and injured the deer so that he had to be killed. Is there any responsibility upon the boy for the value of the deer? From the fact that it was a Government deer which was killed, it ought not to change the responsibility for the value of the deer. We need a regulation that holds for the entire country as ^{to} the killing of deer by dogs. Deer are to be used more and more each year for travelling, providing we can get stables at the villages.

I would also suggest that the Government doctor, who makes the Kotzebue Sound trip, be instructed to use sled deer wherever possible. In doing so he would help those whom we starting in business.

I very much regret that we have no Government sled deer at this Kotzebue Herd. Kotzebue is the center of the country and all of us have to use it as a sort of come-between station.

Respectfully yours

C. W. Hanksworth

5

The one thing that has been longer on my mind than any of the foregoing I about forgot. It is in regards to supplies for the schools. As our work is at present conducted, the superintendent in charge does not know what each teacher in his district orders on the requisition. If it is up to him to improve the school work he should have the oversight of the ordering of supplies. He should also have a sample of each new book put on the requisition list and then he could give some valuable assistance to the teacher.

As it is at present, books are entered and those of us in the field do not know the value of the book to use. It is not enough just to see the name. I have made mistakes in ordering books from the name alone. The superintendent should have a copy forwarded to him and the teachers should forward their requisitions to him and from him to the Supply Office.

If teachers are made more personally responsible for the Government property at their station could we not have a better grade of furnishings? It is not very satisfactory for me to come into a home and lean back in a chair and have the legs break out from under me, as they did at Seliwik. At Shungnak I was afraid to use the rocker for fear it would break. I do not want to be ashamed of our supplies and I do not want to see them abused. If high grade dishes and furniture are sent to these remote schools, where the only civilization the teacher really gets is in his own home, and each incoming teacher is made responsible for all property at his school, then we would have better work at a less expense, for, the supplies would last.

C. W. Houkesworth