

COPY

C O P Y.

Kobuk, Jan. 20th, 1909.

Commissioner of Education,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Below please find a statement of conditions on the
Kobuk:

On account of the late delivery of freight by the Schooner "North Bend" the teacher, Mr. Myers, was unable to reach Shungnak until Oct. 10th, and then without supplies. The launches and scows went no farther than Salmon River, about half the distance from Kotzebue to Shungnak, and claim to have frozen in at that point about the middle of September. From that point on Mr. and Mrs. Myers were compelled to go by sled and depend on winter freighting for the balance of the way, about a hundred and fifty miles.

When I reached Shungnak the food supplies had all reached the village. Most of the lumber and building materials remain down the river. The sledding costs three and four cents a pound. This is considered cheap freighting. It required over two weeks for the natives to make some of the trips with about five hundred pounds on their sleds. After looking over the situation it seemed best to leave the balance of the material down the river and safely store it until summer, and take it up with the freight next summer.

The house erected last year is well put up, except for the ceiling which has dried out and necessitates re-ceiling. The teachers are living in one end of the school house, but on account of the large attendance they are much crowded and need additional rooms. This will necessitate an addition to the present building, or a residence apart. An addition could not be made to the present hip-roofed house without spoiling the appearance of the building. I would recommend that a building about 22 x 20 be built for a residence, leaving the entire present house for school purposes. Lumber, nailes and paper came this past summer. Also judging from the amount of supplies also received, I think it was intended that Myers should erect a house with them. He says the lumber that came was on his requisition for completing the present school building. The lumber now here can be used for the building next year.

Mr. Myers is of the opinion that natives would be willing to get logs for the house and take female deer in payment. One or two to whom this was suggested expressed themselves as glad of the chance to get deer in this way. I authorized Mr. Myers to have the logs taken out if this is possible and pay deer. In that case there will be ample supplies now at Shungnak after the payment of freight on this year's sledding of supplies.

I enclose a statement of expense on supplies and freight to date. The rate of \$40.00 per ton as bid by the

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Keewalik Lighterage Co., and others, I consider too high. Thirty dollars per ton is ample and I am informed that freight for private parties was carried on the same scow for thirty dollars. I have not been able to see the representative of the Lighterage Co., since seeing Mr. Myers, but consider that fifteen dollars per ton is ample for carrying the freight to the point where it was left. It was left about half way between Kotzebue and Shungnak. Other parties were willing to carry a part of the freight for Thirty dollars, until the Keewalik Lighterage Co., advised them to hold the price up to Forty dollars.

The village at Shungnak is in good condition. The settlement is well laid out in lots and all the natives occupy new cabins. One case of destitution was reported, that of an old woman. With a little assistance her young children will be able to support her. She was sick at the time of my visit.

The natives are very proud of the herd and the entire village seems to take a lively interest in the deer. I trust that at least ten or fifteen natives will get deer in payment of services in connection with getting logs, etc., for the house.

The chief herder, Okitkoon, left for Unalakleet before my arrival. Four apprentices were at the herd and one more will be appointed this spring. Many of the females are old and thin. It is unfortunate that so much of this region has been burned over. Large tracts of what was formerly fine moss lands has been destroyed, and at the same time large tracts of timber, largely due to the carelessness in leaving fires, or fires started to drive away mosquitoes.

The Kobuk Reindeer Report has been mailed. A copy was mailed from Deering in July. At the same time a copy of the Kotzebue herd report was mailed. The failure to reach Washington was undoubtedly due to the mail service.

I have added to the enclosed requisition for supplies four window sash for the industrial shop. The natives will build a shop from logs if windows are furnished. The Forge could be placed there for instruction.

Mr. Myers is respected on the river, but is deficient in scholarship. Mrs. Myers is constantly in the school room and if she should continue to assist Mr. Myers could well occupy a part of his time with industrial work another year. Mrs. Myers is under contract with the Friends Mission Society.

Very truly yours,

A. N. Evans.

FREIGHT ACCOUNT (SEEDS) SALMON RIVER FO

SHUNGNAK.

Reindeer supplies

Cash,	\$181.83
Supplies,	<u>42.49</u> \$224.32

Part of the supplies were hauled by Reindeer.

Building Supplies.

Cash,	\$123.32
Supplies,	<u>212.03</u> \$335.35

Of the item marked "cash" under reindeer supplies I instructed Mr. Myers to pay reindeer or returns from the herd. He had already paid \$116.75 leaving \$65.08 to pay in this way.

Of the other items marked "cash" under building supplies, he will pay supplies in lieu of this.

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SUPPLIES FOR KOBUK SCHOOL (SHUNGNAK).

- 1 Broad Axe
- 3 Doors
- 8 kc. sash.
- 4 storm sash.
- 4 window frames,
- 1 6 in. Tee,
- 2500 ft. building paper,
- 50# 6-d nails
- 50# 16-d nails.
- 500 ft. flooring,
- 3 sets locks and hinges,
- 500 ft. ceiling.

For Industrial Shop,
4 storm sash.