

*Wainwright*

COPY

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF EDUCATION  
ALASKA DIVISION  
WASHINGTON

February 24, 1916.

Mr. Walter C. Shields,  
Nome, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Shields:

I am in receipt of your letter of December 13 inclosing a copy of the letter you sent to Doctor Nichols with reference to the quality of the Wainwright coal. I am sorry that you suggested that there had possibly been a substitution made by the captain who delivered the coal. You had doubtless forgotten my telling you that I saw the inferior slacked coal which Captain Backland had carried from Seattle delivered to his store at Kotzebue. If you have an opportunity on your visit to Kotzebue this spring to see that coal, you will realize that there was no possible chance to substitute it for the Wainwright coal.

*Nichols right a few feet*

In my opinion the Wainwright coal is of a different quality from that mined the previous year, due to the fact that Mr. VanValin was trying to make a record and permitted the natives to dig the coal from a different formation

COPY

COPY

from ~~where~~<sup>which</sup> it was dug the previous year. I tried two sacks of it in our furnace at Seattle and found it very inferior to the cheap Washington coal, which we purchased for \$3.50 per ton.

Very sincerely yours,

*W J Lopp*

COPY