

Wainwright

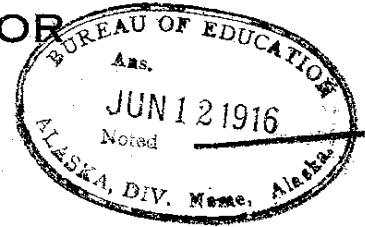
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF EDUCATION

ALASKA DIVISION

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



June 1, 1916.

Superintendent Walter C. Shields,
Nome, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Shields:

Referring to your letter of January 26th relative to the quality of the Wainwright coal distributed along the Coast last fall, I am of the opinion that the coal mined under Mr. VanValin's supervision was of very inferior quality and did not compare with that which was mined the year previous. I tried a sack in my furnace and was very much disappointed in the results. I trust that Mr. Forrest has been able to mine a better quality of coal this year. I see no objections whatever to Mr. Rank or any one else purchasing coal from the natives. In fact I think it should be encouraged. However, I am doubtful if it can be handled with profit in competition with outside coal at Nome. Captain Backland will sell us coal and oil at all the stations from Gambell northward at the Seattle price plus \$15.00 for freight and 5% for insurance, etc. We were very fortunate indeed to secure such a low rate. I have asked Mr. Sinclair to send you a statement of the quantities of coal and oil ordered from Captain Backland. Our school supplies for the northern stations, we hope can be purchased in time to ship to Nome, Teller, or Kotzebue, in time to connect with the "Bear". I have also

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asked Mr. Sinclair to send you a carbon copy of all the purchase orders issued for your district. These, while they will not show any orders short, will give you a fair idea of all the staple articles purchased and shipped to your ~~dis~~ schools.

Very truly yours,

William T. Lopp,

Chief of ~~Alaska~~ Division.

L/B.

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