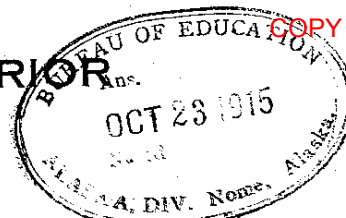


DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF EDUCATION

ALASKA DIVISION

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON October 11, 1915.



Supt. W. C. Shields,

Nome, Alaska.

Dear Sir:

At both Wainwright and Barrow, during the last fiscal year and the present fiscal year, purchases were made without authorization and we have found it very difficult to take care of them. Will you kindly see that your stations have sub-authorizations and that we receive proper notification of same or else instruct the teachers in your district positively to make no purchases without first obtaining authorization. In the present state of our finances we will be compelled to charge any excess or any expenditures without authorization against the salary of the teacher incurring same.

Last Winter Mr. VanValin got out about 250 tons of coal to be delivered at points in the Arctic Ocean by Captain Backland. This compelled a delivery charge of approximately \$2500.00, something on which we had not figured in the least, inasmuch as the put-put of coal at Wainwright has been less than 50 ton in the past. If Mr. Forrest is going to get out any quantity of coal, advise him at once that we must have a knowledge of the quantity he will mine in order that we may make preparation to take care of the delivery charges.

A letter from Mr. Richardson states that the coal obtained from Wainwright this past Winter was evidently taken from the outside of the vein for the reason that it burns poorly, gives very little heat and is very much slacked. Kindly instruct Mr. Forrest that should he mine any coal to go down into the vein and get the best coal obtainable. Since we have to pay such a price for mining and delivering (about \$15.00 per ton) we want the best coal that we can get. Will you kindly attend to this.

Very truly yours,

S-P

H. C. SINCLAIR

Supply Agent.

COPY