

*See also letter
J. H. B.
Richards Oct 26.*

Mr. H. C. Sinclair,
Supply Agent,
Seattle, Wash.

Nome, Alaska / Oct 26, 1915

Dear Sir :

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 11th, in regard to fuel expenses at Wainwright.

When I reached Barrow and Wainwright this summer I was much surprised to find that expenses had been incurred at both places as I knew that no authorizations had been made to cover. This was due partly to the fact that the year before no supplies were sent on Backlands boat because the appropriation had not passed but the teachers were instructed to get the supplies needed and then when the Captain returned, the supplies were purchased from him. This has something to do with the bad practice of purchasing supplies from the Captain or his stores at these northern stations.

No authorizations have ever been made for the purchase of fuel supplies or for kerosene, as it has always been presumed that the necessary supplies would be sent. This has not always been the case, partly due to the delay in receiving the appropriation. There has always been a shortage in kerosene at these places. Mr. Forrest stated in a recent letter that such was the case again this year.

I have not made subauthorizations for local or other expenses at these two schools for two reasons. First, because I have presumed that they should need nothing along that line as they should receive an ample supply from Seattle. Such is especially the case at Wainwright where there has usually been a good stock of barter goods that could be used for the payment of storing supplies etc. The second reason is that it is impossible to get any returns from these two schools of the balances on the authorizations until too late in the summer, when the balances can not be used. This year I have made small authorizations. I certainly do not intend to spread my authorizations all over this district in small amounts which are hard to control.

The fact that in the past only 50 odd tons of coal was taken out at Wainwright was due to the fact that the mining business was not pushed as it should have been. That is, I believe the supplies that were on hand for the purchase of coal each year were intended as much as possible to be used during that year. I instructed Mr. Van Valin to get out all the coal possible last winter. Naturally I meant by that that he was to expend all of the supplies on hand. I did not intend that he should purchase additional supplies so that he could get out more coal, as he did.

You state that during the winter Mr. van Valin got out about 250 tons to be delivered at various points in the Arctic Ocean. All he did was to get out the coal, I ordered it distributed to Barrow, Kivalina and Kotzebue. As a result it will not be necessary for you to send any coal to Kotzebue or points north. This will mean that all the supplies for points north of Kotzebue can be sent to Teller and there taken north by the Bear. It is possible for me to make this recommendation because now Kivalina, Kotzebue and Barrow have enough on hand for over two years. Any year the weather conditions may be such that the Wainwright supply may not be landed, for this reason the schools have to be stocked for two years. Next year I recommend sending Wainwright coal to Wales.

I had understood that the freight on the coal was \$5.00 per ton on Backlands ship. I had to order the coal distributed as there was no use to let it lie on the beach at Wainwright.

Mr. J. Forrest has written as follows: "Backland had over \$500 worth of fuel supplies for us - a good part of it useless - the same as heretofore so we bought nothing. Moreover he only brought a few, mostly old, sacks and they have already all been taken. By the time those at the mine and inlet are brought in there will be very little, if anything left of the fuel supplies. Since you left they have dug about 1000 sacks of coal."

I note what you quote from Mr. Richardson as to the quality of the coal from Wainwright this year and I will instruct Mr. Forrest to inspect all the coal and to see that only the best is delivered. However, I was certainly given the report this year that the Wainwright coal was better than ever. I only wish I could get it at Nome instead of the dust that is here for sale now.

The price of the coal landed at the different points is, you state, \$15.00. It seems to me we are certainly lucky to get coal at the different schools in the Ark Arctic for that price. Here at Nome we pay \$20.00. Of course this price is a great deal less than what we would pay for outside coal, even if the latter is somewhat better, when it isn't too much slacked. Another thing to consider in connection with the Wainwright coal mining, can be appreciated only by those of us on the ground. Here all the cost of the coal goes right to the natives, and this is the only case in this district where this is the case to that extent. The mine kept the Wainwright people last year when the price of furs was so low.

While possibly the teachers at these two schools last year, especially Mr. Van Valin, who was an old hand, deserve some criticism for running up bills, it must also be remembered that neither of these schools were inspected last year and the teachers had no chance to confer with any of us.

I suppose you know that last year Mr. Gram and Capt. Backland between them arranged to allow Capt. Cottle 500 sacks of coal

which Backland agreed to replace this year. At Wainwright prices this coal was worth \$15 0.00 I left word at Wainwright to see if captain packland would not let that coal apply on his vouchers this year that as that would suit us much better than to get the coal. But he refused to do that.

I realize that this is a very rambling letter but I have written it under considerable pressure and would advise that you read it when your rush is over.

very truly yours

S.

Superintendent, N.W. District

cost at Wainwright costs abt \$10 for
ton. but at W. prices. It costs
is actually somewhat less.