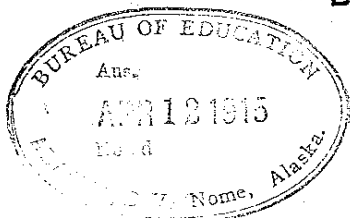


SCHOOL, Wainwright, Alaska.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF EDUCATION  
ALASKA SCHOOL SERVICE



February 23, 1915.

SUBJECT, \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Walter C. Shields,  
Supt., of the N. W. District,  
Nome, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Shields:-

Upon my return Sunday evening from attending a severe case of glossitis, I rejoiced to find the mailman at the house. We regret very much to learn that you will not be up but will now make the best of it. There is much to be said and done in a limited time so will be brief and to the point.

Reindeer circulars Nos. 1,2,3 etc., are of great interest to me. Have and shall do all in my power to co-operate with you and the Department in this matter. I notified and held a long meeting this evening with the herders, owners and apprentices of Wainwright Herd. Covered the ground of your proposition thoroughly and then put it up to them to decide for themselves, and notwithstanding the loss they would sustain in price, compared with that which they receive from the boats all summer, owing to the fine cold storage facilities here for keeping the meat, etc., there was not a dissenting voice. "A-re-ga", we will send our deer if the Barrow people will," they said, and also said, "We will send two of our men up to tell them and see what they will do. But sorry to say, more discussion brot out the

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fact that they would not be able to make it down with the deer before the Kobuk and other streams began to break up. Now they are afraid to tackle it before next fall. They regret that they did not learn about it in the first mail.

Hope you succeed in getting a satisfactory shipment anyway. This shipment of deer to the outside will give the natives a much better chance to breed their herds up by maintaining only the most suitable male deer in the herd for breeding purposes. This is one matter I have been digging at all the while. It will also preclude (in a great measure) the possibility of so many being injured, especially during mating season, by fighting. I can see the more I think about the matter, many things beneficial that will accrue through such shipments.

Our deer men are much interested in the Reindeer Fair, which I read and explained to them. You may count on them when they have an opportunity to participate.

"Van, you have Icy Cape?" is hot news to me. First instructions received to this effect, although according to Rules and Regulations thought they might come under my care. Mrs. V reported the herd last year, (which was an awful mess to straighten out) just as a matter of kindness and we have no reason to doubt the favor was appreciated. We held the Icy Cape report in anticipation of your being here to straight-

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ten some matters out about the herd.

How I'm going to make my Annual Reindeer Report of nine sheets for the Wainwright Herd on the five sheets received in the mail, is more than I have been able to figure out. I requisitioned twenty sheets. Well, we can come thru alright providing we have the wherewithal to accomplish the feat. Have sent to Mr. Richardson to see if he can spare any more (he kindly let us have three with which to report the Icy Cape Herd). Will write Kiyalina and Kotzebue in case I receive no blanks from Barrow.

No, we neither received nor needed reindeer supplies for apprentices last summer. I paid the two Government apprentices, Andrew and Stephen, in full for their third year, from Reindeer supplies on hand and have quite a bunch left. The fourth year they receive no pay here. I understand the Gov't apprentices at Barrow are paid for the fourth year, how is that? Stephen Shoodlak died of T. B. last year shortly after I paid him in full, so this year, the fourth, we have but one apprentice to pay deer.

Your suggestion to pay the Government apprentices with deer would apply alright to the one at Icy Cape, as he would be glad to get anything substantial in the shape of remuneration as this <sup>is</sup> the second year he <sup>had</sup> little or nothing for services rendered.

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Theodore Tingook, the Gov't apprentice down at Icy Cape, has just arrived from Pt. Lay and says there are no suitable Gov't female deer in the Icy Cape herd, with which to pay him, this being his third year, so I will pay him his ten deer from the Wainwright herd, and according to your suggestion have him accept deer in lieu of supplies for his wages.

Those lazy "whollopers" down there make him do most all the running after the deer and he would like to be transferred to Wainwright. I would suggest that this might be a good thing to do and also move all the Gov't deer up here as they are none too well taken care of down there. That bunch needs to be dealt with. We read the riot act to the Chief Herder, Riley Ahlook, about butchering female deer last year. Have just finished talking with Theodore, Segevan interpreting, and he says Riley continues to kill female deer, which are not even seriously sick, hurt or sterile. He says Riley is lazy and don't hunt the deer when lost, also that he traded one whole deer meat and skin for one fox skin. He traded a fawn to James Angashuk here and did not even report the matter that a bill of sale might be made.

My time is so short here now that I am rather undecided as to which is the wisest course to pursue, but think I will warn him

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and have you handle his case when you come up.

Our men are doing well. Segevan, with some others, are rounding up some stray deer. I sent three men to Barrow Herd No. 2, to get ten stray deer and they returned with them this evening.

Just a word, Mr. Shields, to clear up your mind re requisition for Fuel Supplies.

In the first place Mr. Bates informed me that he received instructions from the Seattle Office to purchase Fuel Supplies from Capt. Backland to the amount of \$500.

I received no such instructions and upon Capt. Backland's arrival ask him if he had any supplies for the Fuel Dept., or instructions to deliver me any, and he replied, "No". So what was I to do? It was simply up to me to assume the responsibility, bend the Rules and Regulations or rather "feel my importance", as you say and buy \$450 odd dollars worth of goods! My mail certainly must have gone astray for I surely sent you a copy of the letter I mailed to the Seattle Office concerning this matter and requesting them to delegate me authority to make such purchases in case Capt. Backland had no orders to deliver Fuel Barter Goods, i.e. in case they wish me to continue this business, by stocking up for my successor, as I did not care to buy the goods on my own hook again.

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SUBJECT, \_\_\_\_\_

The generators on our gas lights are a failure. They congest in a day or two and become worthless consequently we have gone back to oil lamps, and fortunately for us there was quite a supply in the store here, or we would have had to send to Barrow for it. Most of the gasoline received is still on hand, so there will be no need of more unless it is of a better grade or else a generator is sent that will not clog to the point of uselessness. Mr. Richardson says they were obliged to abandon the gasoline lights also.

Annevuks deer can be driven from the Icy Cape herd to Teller with the male deer for outside shipment next fall as well as not. Have instructed Segevan to this effect.

Joe A brought an old ignorant fellow here from Barrow, last year to serve as apprentice under him. I told Joe I would not be responsible for making out papers for him but he still kept the fellow, saying he was a good trapper and hunter. I told him also that the man would not likely be acceptable to Mr. Shields when he arrived. He can neither read, write, figure or talk a word of English, and is an inveterate tobacco fiend.

There are good bright, promising young men both here and at Barrow, eligible and obtainable for apprentices. Now since you want

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