

Nome, Alaska. Dec. 13, 1915

My dear Mr. Forrest:

U I am very sorry that I have not written to you before this. There are several good reasons for my neglect however. Since Mr. Johnson left I have had all the office work which is considerable in addition to the special work that always falls on me at this time of the year. Also I have had to make a twenty day trip to Norton Bay from which I have just returned.

Your letter dated August 26 was read by Mr. Lopp here.

I note that Theodore wants to be transferred to the Wainwright herd. That will be satisfactory and you can make the transfer whenever it is convenient. I think I told you that there is no way that we can support Government apprentices any more. Not only are there no supplies for their support, but also there are no deer in the Icy Cape herd. There were Government deer there three years ago. The fact that there are not enough now to pay the apprentice who was employed to take care of the Government herd is certainly partly his fault. I state this only to show that there is really no obligation on the part of the Government to carry out its contract with Theodore. I am sorry that there are no supplies for him at all. You can use your judgement as to allowing him not to exceed two extra deer, but I want him to understand that the way the Icy Cape herd has gone to pieces, even if he is not much to blame, makes it impossible for the Government to keep apprentices there.

2

I note that you have arranged for the division of the Wainwright and the appointment of Ben Tagarook as Chief Herder. ^{herd} That is approved. I enclose a letter to Riley Ahlook in ^{which} I notify him that he is no longer chief herder. I leave it to you to appoint another man in his place temporarily. It might be well if you could put a good man from one of your Wainwright herds in there as chief herder. In that case you are authorized to pay that man not to exceed two Government deer for his work. As a rule we give Chief Herders nothing, but in this case it may work a hardship on a Wainwright man to go into that herd. The man who goes might leave his deer in the Wainwright ^{herd} without the understanding that he was only going to the Icy Cape herd until that herd is on its feet. Use your judgement

Where men own a fairly large herd and they really need the skins we have allowed them to butcher male fawns for the skins. However, I don't believe I ever gave permission for a man, no matter how large his herd, to kill more than six. The boys can see themselves what a bad practice it is. However, I believe it is better to give them permission to kill a limited number, as if you do not the fawns are very likely to have accidents. I have written Mr. Richardson suggesting that he have a meeting of all the herders next year and let them set a limit for each man. As much as possible make your reindeer men organize and work out such things themselves.

Please make a list of all the fuel supplies that you consider absolutely useless and unmarketable at Wainwright and send the list to me. Also have such articles packed up and it is possible that I may have them all brought down on the BEAR. But send me the list by mail ^{with prices} at once. Of course you should reduce the price on

COPY

all such articles and try to get rid of them if possible.

I have written you several letters in regard to the poor grade of coal sent to Barrow and Kotzebue last summer. It is very hard for me to believe that the natives would be willing to dig out dust instead of lumps. All the sacks I noticed bulged with lumps. There is something peculiar about it. Make a careful report to me at once on the coal business of last year as you are able to get on to it. Make a study of the grade of coal that can be mined, also try to find out how soon it slacks if exposed etc. I am sure that there is considerable room for improvement in the manner in which the coal business was handled. You will be able to do valuable work along that line.

If the Barrow owners wish to move their deer to Barrow and will furnish the men and supplies for the transfer it will be a good plan for them to move out.

You state that Anton Edwardson is in charge of Captain Baklands store at Wainwright. Will you please inform me if this store is on the reservation. If it is it has no right to be there. In the past all stores that were on reservations were managed by natives. Please make a report on this at once, but it would be best to make no public reference to it.

I send under separate cover some bichloride.
With best wishes to Mrs. Farrest and yourself.

Very truly yours,