

DEC 6 1913

Report of U. S. Govt. School at Pt. Hope, Alaska,  
for year of 1912-1913.

The U. S. Point Hope School was in session a total of 187 days during the year of 1912-1913. The pupils were enrolled, and an average daily attendance of about 17 pupils was usual in all the months, except during the whaling season, when the attendance was doubled. The register shows the average of the daily attendance of the nine months to be 21.

Of the children enrolled about  $\frac{2}{3}$  lived in the vicinity of the school, about  $\frac{1}{3}$  had their homes at Kivalina, while the remaining third were visitors from Tigara, Pt. Barrow, Wainwright, Noata and Kotzebue. As a result of the visitors being double the number of resident pupils, less than 25% of the children enrolled attended more than 50% of the total number of days taught. However, the attendance of the resident pupils was remarkable, as they were never absent without cause, and would attend in the most violent blizzards. Considering that the majority of the children were very young, and that the nearest house is half a mile from the school, I believe that the record has not been equalled in all Alaska. Several children show a perfect record of attendance for the entire school year.

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I have made "correlation and concentration" the foundation of the school work. In the work outside the school I have tried to develop in the natives better ideas regarding responsibility and the respect for obligations. I am a believer in "efficiency" and believe that this end is best accomplished by removing all cause of "friction" between the whites and natives. By being friendly and just towards all races, my good offices were solicited repeatedly, and I feel very well repaid that the school year ended without an unpleasant incident, and that I have the entire good will of the children, parents, and those between whom I acted as an arbitrator.

Excellent relations were maintained throughout the year with the Episcopal Mission of St. Thomas.

As most of the pupils were deficient in English I required each pupil to translate or interpret his exercise. I also required each pupil to write a diary so that he might become familiar in using the words and phrases that are suited to describing the village life. Spelling and often drawing, and the text for the penmanship exercises were taken from the reading exercises. At times the pupils were required to make out lists of the singular and plural forms of nouns and the principal parts of verbs which occurred in

their reader.

The result of the year's work was to greatly reduce the use of "Pigeon English" and "Ship Talk", which have been the common speech at Pt. Hope since the advent of the whale ships. The pupils are also better prepared to undertake such subjects as Geography, Arithmetic, etc., which require a good knowledge of English to understand intelligently.

The cooking class consisted of all the girls and boys, except those in the primary grade. They were taught to make bread, biscuits, doughnuts, cookies and cakes. A total of 64 loaves of bread, and 650 biscuits were baked, 320 doughnuts and 575 cookies were made, besides several cakes. The cooking class was rather handicapped since there was neither a regular cooking room, nor an abundance of cooking utensils. Prior to the opening of the cooking class, all the girls who were in both the cooking and sewing classes, made themselves aprons and caps from the white muslin furnished by the Government. They made a neat appearance in the kitchen, and created no little amount of envy among the less fortunate "outsiders" from the "visiting" schools who came to Pt. Hope for the whaling season. Both boys and girls were much interested in the work, and it was with great pride

afternoon. I reminded all the children to take baths, and on Monday morning I asked each pupil concerning ~~their~~ <sup>his</sup> bath and laundry work. The pupil was also required to make entries in his diary concerning his bath and washing.

Sanitary conditions are better than in several other districts that I have seen in Alaska. This is due to the fact that the houses are distant from each other. All the yards are cleaned up after the snow melts in the spring. The houses usually have their floors scrubbed at least once a day, when there is water available. During the summer months the houses are quite abandoned, and the natives live in tents on the beach. Two new houses were built and others were improved by additions of glass windows, lumber ceilings and better beds.

The financial condition of Pt. Hope is not encouraging. The natives, having enjoyed a season of two years prosperity, owing to the high price of whale-bone are having a hard time to make their present expenditures correspond to the drop in the value of whale bone from \$8.00 a pound to 50cts a pound.

The fox catch last winter was a rather poor one, and this season's whale catch furnished no bone of considerable value. Fish were more plentiful than usual, and there were a large number of seals taken.



A number of families made their living by making native boots or "mukluks" for white trade. There is practically no work for which wages are paid at Pt. Hope, except a few days long-shoring, coaling, gathering eggs, and sometimes helping on a building.

Most of the natives owe from \$20.00 to \$750.00 to stores, and unless they happen to have extraordinary success in some direction, they will not be able to pay their debts for a number of years.

Trading among the natives is a pastime, rather than a means of making a living. Their transactions are full of lies, tricks and bad faith generally.

Captain Backland, Tom Berryman and others have tried the experiment of placing natives in charge of stores, but, so far, I have not learned of a success.

At Cape Prince of Wales, the store keeper paid Capt. Backland with a cheque, and then slipped to Nome, and withdrew his deposit before the cheque was cashed. While he has means, he still finds ways and means to avoid fulfilling his obligations. At Kotzebue a native "raised" a cheque, which shows a tendency toward high finance. At Selawik the store keeper used all the butter and dainties for his own table. At Shungnak and other places the store keepers sold the furs for cash to rival traders. At other points unlimited "trust" was given, the store keepers and their families, cousins, aunts and uncles, as a matter

of course, while "open house" was held on Sundays, and several times a week. Another evil is that an Eskimo store keeper, true to the old custom, often wishes to get an additional "wife", and in other ways uses his goods to corrupt the morals of the village.

As a result of the mismanagement of the native store, the stock holders are at a loss of thousands of dollars, the natives are head over heels in debt, and the morals of the natives are lowered. At Pt. Hope we had several examples of this kind.

I suggest that the teacher should be given authority (with the mutual consent of the native trader, and of the white company which supplies the native) to examine the books of the native trader from time to time, to see that the native is not wasting the goods, nor keeping open house, nor disposing of furs to other companies, nor allowing too much credit, nor keeping too many women "cooks".

Under present conditions white capital will not be tendered the native, or else the white stock holder will resort to trickery to beat the native at his own game. The native morals at Pt Hope are very good. Nothing is ever stolen, fights and brawls are very rare, adultery is uncommon, debts are usually paid, and contracts generally fulfilled.

This winter the school enjoyed a visit from <sup>the U.S.</sup> Deputy Marshall, and the U.S. Commissioner of this

district. These gentlemen did much for the natives in giving them advice, and friendly relations were established between the school and the local Department of Justice, so that the teacher would be aided in enforcing order and morals, and the natives would be protected from being prosecuted on trivial charges and for offences that he might not understand the nature of.

In the medical work I was most successful, as I had been during the previous two years. The natives of the village of Figara who have been accustomed to obtain medicines at the St. Thomas Mission, have, from time to time, come to me for medical aid, and I have given them such satisfaction that now nearly all prefer to come five miles to receive treatment from me than to go one mile to the Mission.

The vital statistics which have been forwarded on the monthly report cards, show the number of births to <sup>be</sup> more than double the number of deaths. Of the natives that died, practically all died at Figara, or in the more distant whaling camps.

The natives at Figara greatly desire a Government School. The Mission School is open but a very few hours a day, and most of the time is devoted to learning songs, prayers and other church work. It is also too far from the village for the little children to

attend in winter. The natives also need instruction in iron work for use in repairing whaling gear and boats.

One of the greatest needs of the service is an appropriate List of Medicines. A number of important drugs are omitted from the present list, while a number of less important ones might be omitted if economy demands.

Dr. Neuman has prepared a series of letters to teachers, in which he aims to be "practical." However, the teacher cannot derive much benefit from such practical suggestions, when he is not furnished with the "practical drugs."

The Surgeon on the "Bear," when consulted by me concerning twelve patients, in every case recommended medicine of which I have none in the Standard List.

The surgical equipment is very limited, and some of it (dental equipment) is ill-suited for the purposes. I was called to attend a patient who received a wound from a pistol shot. The bullet entered above the clavicle, and passed through the shoulder, lodging in the muscles of the back. I extracted the ~~bullet~~ and fragments of clothing from the wound with a razor and a pair of dental forceps! The wound and incision soon healed, but I think that every teacher should have a better assortment of instruments.



A small volume of Materia Medica should be included in the list of medical books.

The reindeer industry at Pt. Hope has proved a success, and is still in a position to be more of a success in the future. In the past the demand for whaling kept the best men from the Reindeer Service, - but now that the youths realize that a better opportunity awaits them, they are eager to enter as apprentices.

Eloktoona, the owner of 555 reindeer, in spite of the low price of whale bone, is still able to whale at a profit, since he can pay off his crew in female reindeer, and feed them on demison while they are on the ice. When Eloktoona entered the service 17 years ago, the rich "omaliks" thought him "poor man." Now he can slaughter a big steer every week, wear fine skins, and hire the "omaliks" to work for him.

When I took charge of the herd I found the camp records very poorly kept, as none of the apprentices had sufficient education. I have caused monthly reports to be sent to me, but even then I find that errors are still made.

The discipline at the camp was exceedingly poor, as Eloktoona was a "free lance", and was not often under the direct supervision of the teacher.

The boys took advantage of Eloktoona's good nature, and did much as they pleased. It was

only after I suspended Dick Agasina, and secured two new reliable apprentices that the boys remained at camp, and attempted to give a "square deal" towards each other and towards Eloktoona.

An arrangement has been proposed by Supt. Shields to divide the herd so as to place Eloktoona's deer in a herd by themselves. This will give the smaller owners a chance to observe their own deer, as they will not be mixed with so many of Eloktoona's.

During the year 100 deer were transferred by order of Supt. Evans to the district north of Icy Cape.

In the summer of 1912 a number of foxes, reindeer and reindeer dogs died of a disease which exhibited every symptom of rabies. A short time before this the Icy Cape herd was attacked by the same disease. Mr. Evans seemed sure that the disease was due to the cysts of tape worms, but of this I am not entirely convinced.

The market for reindeer meat is exceedingly limited, owing to the management of the Friends' Church herd at Kotzebue, and the connivance of Friends missionaries in charge of Government herd in the Kotzebue Sound district.

The fawning season was interrupted by a cold snap, during which time many of the fawns froze to death.

I visited the herd three times, and Mrs. <sup>COPY</sup> Dickter

and Mr. Maguire each made a visit to the herd.

Eloktoona disposed of so many female reindeer that Supts. Evans and Shields were obliged to limit his sales of female deer during 1913 to 1914 to twelve deer.

The small owners showed a tendency to kill too many male fawns for the sake of their summer skins. They are limited to four skins each by order of Superintendent.

The Herders' papers for those apprentices who completed their terms were made out, but the "number of deer" was not entered as it was believed to be better to confirm the records by an actual count when the division of the herd takes place this fall.

As in my previous reports I am in favor of improvement in the reindeer by selective breeding, exchange of bucks from different herds, castration by use of knife, experiments in dehorning, introduction of new breeds from Europe, and mixing caribou with the tame stock. I believe, under present conditions, the reindeer are degenerating.

respectfully your humble servant

Fred M. Sicker

U.S. Teacher of (Native)

U.S. Pt. Hope School