

Chas
Nichols
L.H.

Nome, Alaska. Jan 26, 1916

My dear Mr. Forrest :

I enclose a copy of a letter just received from Doctor Nichols giving a report on the Wainwright coal and his experience in using it.

You will note that he states that the coal was of lower grade than the year before, also that much of it had crumbled. This would indicate to me that last year the natives were careless in their mining, as from the little I have seen it is hard for me to believe that that is the general condition of Wainwright coal. Please talk this matter over with the natives at a public meeting. It is a serious matter for them. It is sure that the Bureau will not continue to buy bad coal just to help the Wainwright people. We want to mine more and more of the Wainwright coal and thus give the people a steady income from the mine, but the Bureau will certainly buy no more for shipment unless the coal is GOOD. The people must take a local pride in their mine and should also appreciate the fact that the income they receive from the mine puts them on an entirely different economic footing than any other natives we have.

Make a special report on the mine and on the grade coal obtainable and on its heat value.

W.S.