

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION
ALASKA SCHOOL SERVICENov. 1st, 1915
SCHOOL, WainwrightSupt. Shields
Nome, Alaska

My dear Mr. Shields :-

We are sending out our invoice requisition etc. by this mail also a letter to Seattle which is too long to duplicate to you but which was mainly an explanation of our requisition. We asked for material for a coal shed to hold at least five thousand sacks of coal and requisitioned "Fuel Supplies" to correspond. Also asked that materials be sent in the "Fuel" for sleds, harness fish nets and nipples - all of which we feel to be very necessary. Besides we asked Mr. Lopp for materials for a government sled and harness as there are none here. All of the boys have short heavy sleds only suitable for breaking wild deer and not at all so for travelling. I got my idea of materials needed for a sled

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2

SCHOOL, _____

191____

from Mr. Edvardsen. He has just built a dog sled that all the reindeer boys want to buy. It weighs about a hundred pounds and we had about a thousand pounds of ice on it over fairly rough trail. If materials were sent to the Fuel Department I am sure they would all take advantage of the opportunity to make sleds.

We found there was no bathtub here. The children all say they have never taken baths before. We have baths in the school-room every Saturday, rotating girls and boys and using the galvanized wash tubs. They enjoy it immensely, except when ^{they} get soap in their eyes. We have asked for a bathtub and hope we can have it so they can get real baths.

There is a great deal pertaining to the reindeer business to report and ask about. First there are two of the boys who want to buy whale boats,

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3

SCHOOL, _____, 191_____

Segevan and Wm Shoudla, for sixteen and seventeen females each. It looks like a big price to me as they are not new boats. What is your policy in such cases? The parties are all Eskimos. Mr. Richardson wanted a list of the Barrow people that own deer in our herd and I sent him one. He then wrote saying that you had told him this summer that he might move the deer from Wainwright to Barrow. Yesterday, ^{he} sent boys here for them. There will be about a hundred deer to go.

I have divided the deer and men as nearly as possible into two equal parts. By the time the cold weather sets in the No. 1. Herders will be at their ^{new} igloos - a long day's journey up the Kuk River. The No. 2 herd are inland from Pt. Belcher now and will winter up the river that has its mouth near Pingosugarium where they

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4

SCHOOL, _____

191

built their igloos this fall. The Icey Cape Herd are on the river the other side of Metlekatavik. They, ^{the latter,} seem to be in an almost hopeless condition. All of the male deer of any size and age have been butchered. The herd is composed of females and one and two year olds. Many of these females are old, crippled and barren. I have taken ^{it} upon myself to have them butcher those which I feel sure would not live through the winter - thus saving the skin at least. I have done the same thing in the Wainwright herds. You told me to do what I thought best, to straighten out the herds and I am following the course that any stock man would follow. I have impressed upon them that I must see the deer before it is killed. I will ^{be} at the camps often enough to make this possible. Unless the government sends a power boat up next year I am sending for a

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5

SCHOOL, _____

, 191 _____

light boat and Ferro engine. If I am here another year I want to go up the largest rivers next summer and see if I can't find better moss and herding ground as what I've seen so far hasn't appealed to me.

We could ^{not} find any definite instructions as to invoicing Reindeer and Fuel Supplies at this time so are doing it to be on the safe side.

The present system of Fuel Reports is very tedious and takes a great deal of time. If the coal business is increased next year as we hope, it will be a great deal more so. Cannot you suggest some change?

Another thing we wish to mention is the School Republic here. From what we find in the reports you are probably under the impression that it is running smoothly and relieving the teacher of a great many burdens. I am sorry to say that we find things quite the contrary.

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SCHOOL, _____

The fault lies partly in the attitude of the pupils. None feel any responsibility but expect the teacher to see that the rules are lived up to, fines imposed etc. They simply forget it when left to themselves. They do not grasp the meaning of the forms they go through and merely repeat like parrots what they have been taught to say. If they would follow the same course in regard to the things they have been taught to do it would be a help, but even then the idea of the school republic, selfgovernment, would not be being learned. We are doing the best we can with it.

We made a trip by boat to Icy Cape the first of September. Brought back the tools and a few other things for use here. I will go again this month at the same time that I visit Riley's herd and bring back what else I can as if they are left there they will not be there when wanted. The Government apprentices

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191

7

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from there, Theodore wanted sugar, flour, etc. from upstairs and some of the Wainwright and Icy Cape people say there was coal oil and other Gov't supplies there. I think something should be done about it next summer when the Bear is here as everything has disappeared except a case of coal oil, a few sewing supplies and a little soap. You will notice by the invoice that there are a few things here under Reindeer Supplies. You instructed me to transfer these to Fuel but when you told me to bring Theodore up here I thought it would be better to wait until hearing from you before doing this. I have moved Theodore and his deer to our No. 1 herd. As near as I can find out from Theodore (there are no records here for his contract even) he was paid for the first year he was apprentice. He has had nothing this year or last. I shall pay him some out of the Reindeer Supplies here as I want him to stay

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in the village now and go to school. I spoke to him about taking deer but he wants supplies so there should be some arrangements made next summer. While I am on the subject I want ^{to speak about} the government deer. We have not butchered any yet as there are none fit to butcher. There is only one small three year old and the rest are two and fawns. This year we used government sled deer to haul ice from the lake to fill the ice cellar and for school use. Use of deer for these things by the teacher will do as much as anything it seems to me to promote the use of deer among the natives. Unless some effort is made to conserve the government deer in a few years there will be none for sled deer.

Since I began this letter complications have arisen in regard to the Barrow deer. Segevan came up tonight to tell us that there are certain Barrow owners that have ex-

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_____, 191____

9

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pressed a preference for having their deer kept here. So we are retaining their deer until we hear from you. Having no instructions from you in the matter ourselves it is difficult to know just what to do. Among our deer are some that belonged to Stephen Shoudlak, a government apprentice who died a year ago. The people speak of them as belonging to his wife but we can find no record of transfer. She married last summer and went to Barrow. Mr. Richardson wrote that she wanted her deer sent to Barrow also. His father ^(Stephen's) wanted to butcher one as he said he wanted to inherit some of the deer too. I would not allow this and will not let her butcher anymore until I find out who is really the owner.

We received 30 bundles of sacks from Seattle this year, assorted sizes. I had to use a good many of them to resack coal here from which the sacks had practically rotted.

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Richardson
sent 1/3/16

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, 191

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Of the 3,886 sacks that Capt. Backland took, 2,000 north and 1,886 south, 870 were dug after Van Valins left and paid for by us. I have roofed over the rest of a partial shelter and had all of the coal stacked inside. I should say there would be between 700 and 1,000 sacks here next summer. As fast as we burn coal the sacks are refilled.

We have visited all of the igloos and houses, several more than once, and know almost everyone in the village now by name and something of his characteristics. Two months ago this looked hopeless.

We are starting a night session for adults, three nights a week, this month and hope to get some good results in hygiene and sanitation as well as the English language. Our seats in the schoolroom are more than filled daily and we need some larger ones badly. You will notice we have requisitioned them.

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, 191

11

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I cannot remember now whether I wrote you before about buying coal oil and brooms from Capt. Backland - as none had been sent.

Two of my reindeer men are making preparations to go to the Fair and are looking forward eagerly to the first mail to get instructions from you.

I have requisitioned quite a little salt. I am trying to get the reindeer boy interested in teaching the deer to eat salt. It is something they have never tried and the deer are badly in need of it.

In looking this letter over I find I have mentioned practically everything to you that I did to Mr. Lopp with a great many additions.

Kindest regards to yourself and family.

Sincerely -

Carl M. Forest

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