

Copied Scatter

Nome, Alaska, Dec. 13, 1915

My dear Mr. Forrest :

As I wrote you some time ago, there has been a complaint that the coal mined last year and shipped to Barrow and Kotzebue by Capt. Backland was very bad. Rumors have come to me from men who have come down from Kotzebue, also reports from teachers, that it is very slack and a lot of it goes through the grates. It is very hard for me to understand that as all the Wainwright coal I ever saw was in good hard lumps. In fact I have noticed that it is quite hard to break. The Chief Engineer of the Bear remarked about that last summer.

^{well}
We you please make a careful investigation, and talk the matter over with the natives and see if they will state that the coal they took out last year was as bad as all that. Also give me your own opinion. Please let me hear from you on this matter as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

WS (This is Scatter copy)

My dear Mr. Lopp : You know that Backland had a lot of slack coal that he was going to get rid of to whale ships. Do you think it is at all possible that there was some error and that we got that dust in the end? Is it at all probable? I will see what I can find out on this matter.