

Nome, Alaska. Dec. 28, 1914

Mr. W. B. Van Valin,

Wainwright, Alaska.

Dear Sir :

I wonder if you are still looking for me? If so give me up as I am not going to make it. I was not lost, or frozen, nor did the deer lay down and give out. I just couldn't connect with the boat trip and would not make the overland trip. It takes too long. At the same time I do wish I could and would do so if I could afford the time. You folks up north are very much out of the world, not only as regards yourselves personally, but in regard to your connection with the rest of us in the service. But all that would make you feel your importance I think, as you have to plan and carry out your own work.

The main thing I want to write you about at this time is in connection with the reindeer. I suppose you did not get reindeer supplies this year as Mr. Lopp told me he was going to cut them out in this district and use all of his small fund for the other districts. We will not take on any new apprentices at Wainwright or Barrow any more and I would be very glad if we could get rid of those that we have. Can't you get the boys to take extra deer in place of supplies if you have not received supplies? If it is possible to get some herder who needs an apprentice to take on one of the Govt boys I hope you will do so. If necessary you can allow part payment from the Government. Use your own

judgement.

The Barrow herd has been depeted of Govt deer by the large number sold last year. I believe that Mr. Cram intended that part of them were to be paid for from the Wainwright herd. In any event, if you have more Govt deer than you need for your apprentices you are to help out the Barrow herd in paying for Government apprentices.

The bottom has been knocked out of the fur market, it seems by this war, which still goes on just the same. I hope that it will not harm your people too much. As soon as I get any definite information as to the price of furs outside I will inform you.

With best wishes to you all, and in hopes that you are all well, very sincerely,