

SCHOOL.

Selawik

8-315

#1.

WRITE ON ONE SIDE ONLY. DO NOT REPEAT OF TWO SUBJECTS ON THE SAME PAGE. **COPY**

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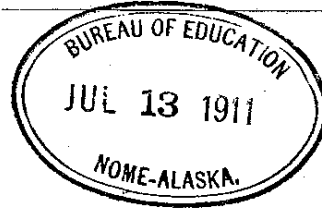
June 30th, 1911

SUBJECT, _____

Mr. A. N. Evans,

Nome, Alaska.

My Dear Sir:-



In writing up this annual report, I hope to give the same conditions as the reader would find if was here at Selawik up to the 30th day of June 1911.

I will endeavor to not only give the school work, reindeer work, but the general conditions of the village and vicinity.

We arrived back from Kotzebue August 25th, where in my judgment is the best place for the river teachers of this district to meet in July.

First, - we must go to Kotzebue to get our supplies for the next year and make arrangements to transport them to our different places.

Second, 90% of the natives from the

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villages go to Kotzebue to fish or trade, some however go to the mountains to hunt or else where to catch fish to dry. So during that time, teachers of this district are left alone.

I wish to comment on the way the supplies came last year also the date. I saw the mdse. as it was landed at Kotzebue and every thing seemed dry not broken and shortages were made O.K. as much as I know. It is very important for supplies to come in August early and good substantial vessels to bring the goods.

The facilities at Kotzebue to deliver freight to the different river points were better than has been the last four years.

I hear that Kobuck and Selawik

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amount of fish caught.

Shortly after we returned a native boy was brought to us a walking skeleton or rather he could not walk.

His folks were waiting shortly to lay him away to rest. We took the case in hand and went to work.

We gave a tent, stove, had the father act as the asst. nurse and had them close to our door. We gave baths, medicine and feed him for a period of one month which brought a change for the better. He is still living and one of the brightest pupils in school.

We have succeeded with many others the same way. But on the other hand tuberculosis in its many forms has taken a great many away in spite of all we could do. Some we sent to Candle and Deering for better medical treatment, but they did not

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There were seven new cabins built in the fall and three remodeled and raised higher and expect to see some in the coming fall with two rooms.

The cabins are well ventilated with good light and the majority have floors. All have beds or rather bunks, which is ahead of the ground or floor. It is encouraging some what to see so many whipsawing lumber for boats, sleds, snow shoes, and for things in the cabin such as floors, tables, stools, cupboards, shelves, work-boxes and the like.

While getting ready for school we bought some cranberries of poor children which fitted them out with clean parkas while those who were at Kotzebue came back well supplied. School week; - school opened Sept. 26th, with 21 as many were still

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up to fish river fishing. Every morning before 8³⁰ A.M. some were waiting to come in and after school did not seem to care to go home. I never saw such interest given in the school room before. I wish to mention the progress they have made in the three years schooling. In fact the first year we had little or nothing to work with as we received nothing from the outside and had only what Kotzebue and Shungnak schools loaned us.

These children could not speak our language at all and now have two good interpreters and many talk quite freely.

In arithmetic I think they have made rapid progress. My highest or best class has finished addition subtraction, multiplication, division and into fractions, the next class has

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finished addition, subtraction, multiplication and into division and others in proportion. My school has had a thorough drill on the tables and many know them forwards and backwards.

I have laid much stress on practice examples as selling of furs and buying provisions, so they have an idea of freight rates, commission, insurance, postage, etc.

3 | This does not seem much but from raw material that never saw a book before, I think is very good. Only recently white traders were buying skins with value from \$300 to \$500 for a 10¢ piece of tobacco. The destruction of this practice has made teachers very unpopular with traders.

In geography the two highest classes studied with great interest, eager to learn of the other parts of the world, its people, industries, products, and climate

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conditions while the younger ones were drilled in map drawing of native country and North America.

In reading there were five to six classes. The chart class were little tots learning the simple words and much kindergarten work was done. The primer class I started sentence building in different ways along with the reading also short stories written up of things around them.

In the first reader more stress was laid on correct pronunciation also on sentence building and correct ways to ask a question. Some composition work was done. The second and third readers were carried along the same lines as the first only to keep the thought of the story or to rewrite the story as they understood it. The third reader class can readily speak the words but

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to grasp the meaning, so the dictionary has been used in the second and third reader classes.

I did not attempt to teach grammar from a text book, but a thorough drill on capitalization punctuation, sentence building, questions was dwelt upon. Though much improvement now there is a great field for advancement.

The Eskimo language in writing is such as requires great tact to straighten out, so have not encouraged letter writing only from copy till a better knowledge of punctuation, capitalization sentence building etc is mastered.

There is an element around the country such as traders, miners, whalers who speak a sort of Eskimo and English language chopped up badly for either language. The natives hear this talk

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the time, so it is a problem to change from this to straight English. Each year with faithful labor, teachers can overcome this draw back with the younger generation.

Spelling was taught in all the grades. My method of spelling was to spell the word made up in a sentence or a question and to use it if possible about things they understand.

I encourage the use of the dictionary along with the spelling. I used much time explaining words also asked them to explain the meaning. I devoted a great deal in reviewing.

Physiology and Hygiene has been taught during school hours both from the book and orally.

Sanitation has been my hobby through out the village among not only the children but the older ones.

Much remains to be done

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the people. I can see much improvement over the beginning.

There is little or no liquor being used among the natives here, but the use of tobacco is not decreasing as I wish it would. This is to be regretted, as the younger generation is taking to this habit as a matter of imitating the white men vices.

I would be pleased to see a law making it a misdemeanor for any child under 15 years to use or have in their possession tobacco in any form especially on the U. S. reservation.

I have done very little with drawing this year as I realized some had only a short time for school. The older ones were drilled in arith., spelling, writing, etc., although the younger children made a good showing.

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Industrial work with the boys was little as we have small room and little material to work with and thought they needed the knowledge of arith., etc., more.

Industrial work with the girls has been quite extensive along the lines of baking, sewing, patching, darning, etc. This part of the work my wife has been the instructor. I can vouch ~~for~~ much gain has been accomplished as I can see bread being baked in every cabin where the stove is suitable to bake. On Thanksgiving the girls baked some eighty loaves of bread. In visiting the cabins one will see the ptarmigans, fish, rabbit either fried, boiled, or roasted in the oven which three years ago these meals were eaten raw especially the fish.

Much has been gained through the industry of sewing such as aprons, dresses, workbags, pockets for the

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comb cases, calendars, for the year etc to make the cabins more home like.

I have seen with a little encouragement much interest taken in making fancy designs for the reindeer harness.

From the industrial fund thirty eight garments have been made which kept them looking neat and clean. We feel thankful that this fund was sent as the natives appreciated the help very much. Many garments have been made from native material under our supervision by Eskimo women and children.

We have tried agriculture work for the past three years but under the climate and soil conditions that exist here have utterly failed.

The carpentry industry while not taught extensively in the school room has been encouraged throughout the village so this spring a large sail

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boat 53 feet long, 11 foot beam is being built, also a 38 foot sail boat and several small row boats as well as some hunting boats

What these people need is a set of iron working tools which I hope the bureau will send here as was ordered on the requisition.

Last year the natives took up a collection and purchased a new chapel organ. Mrs. Sickles has taught three boys and one girl to play and starting in January they have played for school and Sunday young peoples meeting.

This coming year if allowed to stay here, she will teach four other children to play the organ besides hope to start a string band of five pieces. I can see much advantage here from the home talent music. It educates them besides occupies their extra time.

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Where these people fail is not having the privilege of social advancement.

The fund which supt. Mr. Evans granted for destitute natives at Selawik. I have not used. While we have three who are partially paralyzed and in poor circumstances yet are taken care of by their friends.

The wood fund has been a great help for some who would ~~of~~ gone hungry, as many are out of ammunition and can not buy it at Candle even with money.

During May many went to Selawik lake to fish through the ice for shea fish, and others over to Buckland bay to hunt seal.

Last fall on account of high water, the fish traps were not a success so many were short in food especially dog food. Many dogs died the latter part of the winter. There were an

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supply of rabbits in the willow country
so many feed rabbits to the dogs
and sold some at Candle 8 for \$1.00

The ^{new} game law on muskrats
worked a hardship on the natives
this spring. The traders would not
trust along in the winter and
during the spring they had no
furs to sell. This shortage of furs is
the cause of many school children
having to leave school to hunt.

I see large piles of spruce logs
and willows which shows they are
looking ahead for next winter.

I have encouraged as many as
possible to stay at Selawik this
summer and dry fish for the
coming year.

Reindeer. - I did not visit the camp
before Tom as we expected Sept. Mr.
Evans through this way at least.

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he told the boys to break new deer and make new sleds and thought his visit would be sufficient. But learned a little later that Mr. Hawksworth was to succeed Mr. Evans so still expected him early but did not arrive till Nov. 10th. He visited the entire village, spent much time in the school room and gave many ideas for improvement.

We felt highly honored by the help and encouragement he gave.

He left for the reindeer camp Nov. 16th, and returned the 20th.

He left the 21st, with Jimmie our best reindeer boy for Shungnak, which afterwards took him with deer on his northern trip to Barrow. He expected them back the last of March and would visit Selawik herd again but as it went it was too late to visit Selawik. Jimmie not arriving till

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April 13th. I made plans to visit camp May 1st. I found things in good order with good feeding ground for the deer, night and day watch.

Farens were doing nicely. I certainly recommend the diary book for the reindeer camp as well as for the school. By encouraging the writer one can keep in better touch with the work.

I noted the new harness Jimmie was using with tugs and supports over the back which is beyond doubt the best and easy for the deer. At Selawick all harness will be made with tugs here after till something better is invented. I have an idea that skis runner sleds for the reindeer will be an improvement, though have not had a chance to test it till next winter. I noted where

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to the outside, these facts are an advantage to the natives, though a disadvantage for teachers reputation by the traders.

My last visit the last of June to the camp is made by boat, as the ice goes out of the river about June 1st but the lake about July 1st where the boys are.

I found things in a prospering conditions also worked for some time on reindeer reports.

We will journey on to Kotzebue where we will help to finish the Eskimo hospital. Last summer the teachers started the building and if material is on the ground will finish this summer while waiting for the arrival of cutter and supplies

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In conclusion of this letter, I wish to recommend a teachers conference or institute for this district around Kotzebue, also that reindeer reports be made out in August or after the fawns are marked by their mothers; otherwise reports are not liable to be accurate.

The Selawick reindeer boys are sending to Kotzebue a quantity of birch as collars, bands and sled material to be distributed at Northern points who are less fortunate for material.

Very Respectfully,

L. G. Sickles

Teacher in charge.

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