

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION
ALASKA SCHOOL SERVICE

_____, 191____

SUBJECT, _____

Report for the year ending June 30, 1914.

There are about two hundred and twenty five natives who look to this school for whatever they may be able to obtain in the way of an education. In addition to these there are often some of a transient character who come from other localities and put their children in school for a few weeks each year.

All the Selawik children of school age are now enrolled, with the exception of two, one of whom is excused on account of illness.

The scholars seem to enjoy their work and the parents are selfsacrificing and find much comfort in the attainments of their children.

Personal cleanliness has been taught by precept and example. By the use of hair clippers and kerosene, the possibility of freeing themselves from vermin was demonstrated in the schoolroom. All the children cheerfully participated in the clean up.

Their outer garments are kept as clean

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their living conditions will permit. The paper towels and handkerchiefs are a great convenience and have also some educational value.

The children readily learn the English of the books, but in conversation are not as proficient as they should be. This is no doubt due to the fact that they meet but few white people and these use a jargon that is not of much help to the native.

The small library sent last summer has been freely used by the older pupils and some of the young men of the village have also enjoyed the privilege of taking books home to read.

No instruction was given in instrumental music this year because of the lack of an organ. The organ used heretofore belongs to the Eskimos and upon the completion of their log church was removed to that building.

Industrial Work. With the jack screws sent last year the school building was raised and plumbed by the boys out of school hours.

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Much grading was also done with the use of the wheelbarrows. A fill of from two to three feet was made where the glacier had melted away adjacent to the house.

For this work the boys were paid by the hour, which gave them a chance to obtain food and clothing and instilled new ideas of industry.

Industrial work in the schoolroom has been confined to such things as could be done in a small space. In carpentry, a towel roller was made for the school room; paper holders for the toilets; several window frames were assembled and set in place in the native church building; a drop leaf table was made for the cooking and sewing departments; parts of broken chairs were collected and the missing pieces supplied; twenty toy schooners were cut out, painted and rigged and given to the younger boys at Christmas. A crokinole board was also made from boards taken from boards

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home what is learned in school is very gratifying.

Gardening. With buckets, shovel, and hoe, we managed to scrape up enough earth from the glacier to make a bed about 10x10 ft. in which were planted lettuce, radishes, turnips, and potatoes. All of these grew well until August 12th, when a killing frost ruined everything. The lettuce and radishes were good. The turnips grew to about two inches in diameter. The potatoes did not mature but were very prolific, about 100 set on the two hills planted.

From this little experiment it would seem that all of the hardy vegetables could be grown with some success. But in order to make gardening practical this village would have to be relocated in a more favorable place.

Improvements. Six new houses were constructed last fall - one having two rooms.

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conditions as they exist in this particular locality.

Sanitation. The village has good natural drainage and garbage is disposed of by a general clean up in spring and autumn.

Dog houses and toilets are much talked of but, with one or two exceptions, do not exist as yet. We hope something in this line will materialize this fall.

The importance of ventilation is impressed on the natives and all houses have the ventilator in the roof, which if left open, answers the purpose quite well.

Washing of clothes is carried on with a good deal of regularity. There are, however, some exceptions to this rule and laziness and filth predominate in such cases.

We are working to get floors put in all the houses so they can be scrubbed often.

Health. The death rate for the past year has not been excessive and the

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births are in good proportion.

All ailments receive such care as the conditions will permit. A well equipped hospital at Kotzebue would give much relief and probably prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

Dr. Nichols visited us and did what he could by prescription, treatment and advice.

Catarrhal and bronchial affections and eye troubles are prevalent.

Ethical Conditions. No case has been reported where there was serious infraction of the civil law. These natives are not criminally inclined, but through moral weakness, bad examples, and hard conditions of life, they do things at times which are not best.

Taken as a whole the ethical trend of their life is upward and aspiring for better things. Any effort put forth to help them is energy well spent and will in due time produce satisfactory results.

A district court conveniently and

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was entrusted with some medicines and ministered to the sick whom he might find in isolated places.

Contrasting this people as they were seventeen years ago and as they are today, we can see that they have made good use of their opportunities, and they are appreciative of the help extended them through the Bureau of Education.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Samms.

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