

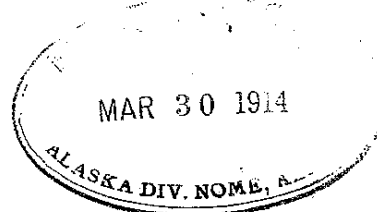
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Noatak, Alaska March 7th-1914.

Mr. Walter J. Shields,

Dist. Supt. Nome, Alaska.



Dear Sir:-

Following is a full explanation regarding the rumor that is in circulation to the effect that I was interested in tolls exacted for the transportation of Government freight from Kotzebue to Noatak last summer.

We were badly in need of better transportation facilities for our own personal effects, and I was about to purchase a boat for this purpose when Henry Cople interceded and offered me our own and the transportation of our freight if I would loan him the money to buy a larger boat. The money was loaned and the boat purchased by Cople, with the understanding that my loan was to be paid this coming summer from the proceeds of the boat or else from Cople personally. Everything would have been perfectly satisfactorily had not the boat broken down on the way up, when Cople became disgusted and renounced all rights to the boat and declared his intention of having nothing else to do with the boat, and also refused to make good my loan. Therefore I was compelled to take the boat as security against loss towards the loan.

I could have unloaded the Government freight where the break-down occurred, but this would have put us to a great convenience as regards the purchase of fuel. I received no compensation for bringing the freight on up, but paid it from my own pocket.

Yours Very Truly.

*J. B. Snowden*  
Teacher.

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