REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT NATIVE SCHOOL AT SHUNGNAK, ALASKA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF 1914, BY FRED H. SICKLER, U. S. TEACHER. COPY

During the month of July, 1914, I was at Shungnak, engaged in gardening, giving the natives advice on all their affairs, preparing the annual Reindeer Reports, visiting the reindeer camp, dispensing medicine, and conducting various weekly meetings for the benefit of the natives. On July 24, I left for Kotzebue to confer with Superintendent Shields, to attend to the dis embarking and forwarding of the Shungnak goods, and incidentally to find a dentist, as I suffered from time to time, from severe toothaches. I arrived in Kotzebue within a week, and was welcomed by a number of our natives, who were engaged in trading, and also by the Point Hope and Kivalina natives who were glad to see their former teacher. Mr. Shields arrived early in August, and the freight was discharged about the same time, but it was several weeks before a suitable boat was ready to leave for Shungnak. During this time Mrs Sickler and I occupied a large vacant loft in the Kotzebue School building. Our baby caught a very bad cold , and while Dr. Nichols and his wife were considerate of our welfare, the fact that the greater part of the building was being used for hospital and Mission purposes prevented us from obtaining better rooms, and no doubt, our presence in the building caused Dr. and Mrs. Nichols no little inconvenience, as they were more than busy. As teachers from at least five Government Schools are often obliged to be in Kotzebue every year on account of business , or en route to their proper stations, I think that if the Bureau of Education is at all considerate of the ordinary comfort of its teachers, that proper quarters should be maintained at Kotzebue to accomodate teachers sojourning at Kotzebue. The lack of proper facilities to care for the annual Freight Invoices, landed at Kotzebue during the rainy season, and consigned to several Government Schools, dependent on no regular transportation connections with Kotzebue, should als demand attention. There is no Government warehouse , no watchman, nor even tarpaulins to cover the stores during the weeks that may elapse before the boats are ready to start up the rivers. It is true , that perhaps, in the past that but little damage resulted, but this is due to the facts that either the necessary tarpaulins were contributed by boats expecting to secure freight contracts, or else the goods were stored by merchants in their own overcrowded warehouses, thereby causing contemptous remarks concerning the "cheapness" of the Bureau of Education.

The month of September was spent in rendering the Residence habitable. Oweing to the manner of construction, and the lack of sufficient building materials, the building could not be occupied in the winter , except by keeping up fires to the extent that the building itself was nearly destroyed by fire several times, while the draughts caused the former teachers and ourselves considerable ill health. We were forced to abandon the residence in February, 1914. The repairs consisted of caulking the building with moss, gunnysacks, and clay, of relaying the floor, of papering the walls, and of repairs to the windows, doors, chimnies, stairs, and stormsheds. The building was not completed for the lack of building materials, but the building proved quite comfortable during the winter. In this work , I was assisted by a reindeer herder, Nauviksuk, and by a local carpenter, Mr. Lewis Lloyd.

The repairs to the cabin(Residence) were watched by the natives, and now nearly all the houses are plastered withclay from the clay beds that I discovered. The native cabins were so cold in winter that it was customary for several families to move into one cabin in order to use less fuel. Some cabins had been plastered with lake mud, and others with mixtures of ashes, salt, and silt, but these plasters soon fell [illegible]

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small spruce trees, o the spirits of some depart warriors. A big pow-wow was held and it was decided to send the original informer over to the "hostiles" with a message that the Kobuks desired peace, and wished the Indians to come over and celebrate with them , a "trade dance".

While this excitment was going on in the village, an old woman some miles below, packed up a few belongings, and without snowshoes, set out to warn the natives at the deer camp. She told some natives whom she met, that she had heard firing, slow at first,and then general , and saw smoke rising in the direction of Shungnak. She said that she believed that the village was destroyed, and that she would go to warn the Selawik natives.

In the meanwhile, the reindeer men stampeded their deer to the hills , and then retired to a high peak in order to scan the the plains for war parties. The old woman found the camp deserted, and wandered about for several days before being found; her feet were badly frozen and she related some wonderful experiences of being taken captive by a band of spirits who changed at will from men to wolves. No less wonderful were the testimonies of the young men who followed the tracks of the old woman and finally found her. They related how for a mile she had fled from her pursuers, and left tracks in the snow showing that she had taken bounds of from twelve to sixteen feet.

On their return to the deer camp, two herders decided not to be eclipsed by those in the limelight, and began to pose as "old doctors" or sorcerers. One of them went out to herd the deer but did not return that daynor the next .The herders decided to look for him , and in their absence he returned to camp.A woman was alone in a cabin cooking supper, and her children were playing on the floor when the door opened and the missing herder stood in front of her with a bloody knife in his hand , and blood streaming down his breast, his eyes were wild, and he spewed water from his mouth and breathed loudly. "Do you wish food", said the woman after the Eskimo custom. "Lets see , said the herder and lifted the pot from the stove. "Ah , there is old Keetuk(a sorcerer who died recently), he dosnt like the way you have the sticks piled", and thrusting in his naked arm into the stove he held it there until the fat fried and sizzled, and yet brought it out without a blister. No sooner had he turned around, he took of his native boots and shouldering them walked out into the snow yelling like a demon. In the meanwhile the woman s husband returned, and his father having been a famous sorcerer, he decided to look at this young aspirant to see if he had the symptoms of a young sorcerer,or was shamming. On his arrival at the young herders cabin, he found ropes on the floor. "I tied him" ,said the confererate, "but his magic was too strong". Thereupon the young sorcerer made a noise as if a raven had snapped his beak, and at this unwelcome omen the doubting Thomas fled to his house , and everyone fled from the deer camp as do rats from a leaking ship. The two herders were at first elated by their success, but then became fearful of the result. They implored the other herders not to tell me, but finally came up and confessed that they were "just fooling" ,,and that the blood was that of a rabbit , and the effect of the raven s beak was produced by clicking a pipe on the floor. As I told a number of natives that I was considering swearing out a warrant for the arrest of theprincipals in these panics, they became very penitent, and promised to leave such practical joking alone.

While the Kobuks were enjoying scares after the Eskimo fashion, the Indians were also having a sympathetic panic on the Koyukuk. The greater portion fled to the Yukon, and the remainder becoming separated mistook eachother for hostiles, opened fire.A woman was shot and her husband recieved a gash in the leg from an axe.

The arrival of the Kobuk runner with overtures for peace was greatly welcomed, so all the remaining families, except the wounded pair, set out for Shungnak, arriving on Christmas Day.

to keep warm . I ask concerninge clay deposits but the natives knew of none less than thirty miles distant. I began to look for a deposit nearer the school, and was fortunate in finding clay beds, covering several acres, about a mile from the village. I have tested this clay and found it well suited for the manufacture of bricks. White men have h hauled this clay several miles to their homes, and say that their cabins have been rendered much warmer this winter. The U.S. Commissioner took a quantity of this clay to Kiana to plaster his house, and the Midnight Sun Packing Co . shipped a quantity to Kotzebue to line the oil furnaces of the cannery. That so many people have benefited by my discovery causes me no little satisfaction.

School was opened October 5, 1914, with an enrollment of 43 pupils During this winter the average has been the highest in the history of the School, and in spite of the facts that less wages were paid here than for many years, while those families who left for the Koyukuk, were able to earn considerable moneyand were continually sending for their relatives to join them , and in spite of some natives, claiming to represent the Friend's church at Oxik, have persistently endeavoured to persuade these people to abandon Shungnak and remove to the new r reservation at Oxik. Those families who seceded from Shungnak during the early part of 1913, and made a village at the mouth of the Ambler, were persuaded to come back to Shungnak. During the month of November, I was ableto conduct a successful herd count of the Shungnak Herd. This was the second in the history of the herd, the other count being made by myself in 1910. In this month I was also successful in placing a sale, for reindeer and herding , to the amount of $1500.00, which is the largest single sale in the herd to date, and will no doubt compare favorably with the sales from other herds in this district. These deer were bought by I. Proyda, of the firm of Robinson, Magids and Co., and were shipped to the Koyukuk under charge of Thos. Shea. The Shungnak herd, however at this time, suffered a severe loss from wolves, over twenty deer were killed, and the herd was scattered.

We had hardly recovered from the excitement, caused by the Koyukuk expedition and the wolf's raid, when we were awakened at midnight on the 19th, by cries of terror and violent pounding on the doors. I called: "Come in" , supposing that someone was ill , and that I had been sent for. However a delegation of chiefs rushed in , and with their teeth chattering, informed me that a warparty of thousands of Koyukuk Indians was a few miles away and was expected to burn the village and kill all the Eskimos. I was asked to open up the schoolhouse so it could be loopholed and converted into a fort; I was also requested to pray. For their part they informed me that they had purchased several hundred rounds of ammunition apiece, had loopholed their houses, and some of the old folks were practicing sorcery. As they spoke , sleds from the fish camps began to arrive and additional runners were sent out to warn the deer camp and the trappers. I refused to get up and laughed at their story, thinking that they might be ridiculed into disbelieving such an impossibility. However, when I got up in the morning, I found both storm sheds occupied by natives who had cocked rifles in hand, while parties of guards patrolled the village on all sides. Towards noon, two young men were detailed to go up the river to look for tracks of the invaders. The scouts did not return at dark, so the whole village decided not to wait to be burned at the stake, but to retreat down river. All the sleds were packed and I was asked to go with them. Some women and their children came crying to my house, saying that they had no sleds nor dogs, and they were afraid that they would be left behind. I became very much alarmed at the loss of the school children, and also on account of the suffering that might occur if families, ill prepared, ran away in the hills. The first sled had just started to leave when the scouts came in saying that they had seen no tracks and that the original informer had either seen some

A large cabin was converted into a lodge , or "happy house", h the Indians were quartered around in the homes of the chief Eskimo families, and for a week these ancient enemies feasted, and danced, and pledged their good will to each other.

Truly the Eskimo is a fit subject for the psychologist.

During the month of January, Dr. H.F.T. Nichols, U.S.P.H.S., paid us an official visit, and was of great service to us in the matter of restoring hope to a woman who was recieving thecalls of her friends and relatives who consoled her kindly assuring her that she had no chance, and relating how they had known other women who had met a similiar death, and the other customary eskimo "Comforts". As the woman was not encouraged to take medicines, it was only the presence of a professional doctor that could restore her faith and her health. Dr Nichols is a hard and conciencious worker.

Shortly after the departure of Dr. Nichols, I went to the Reindeer campto attend to the matter of transfering some deer to the Selawik herd. A herder, Oreeeluk,drove his deer over from the Selawik, and it was feared that the two herds would become mixed, but the transfer was made without notable incident.

In February, I was able to have considerable wood cut. The natives were becoming disgusted with the low price of skins, and were more than glad o get a job cutting wood, which is usually a task distasteful to them.

In March, a large number of natives left for various camps where a few fish could be obtained by fishing through the ice,and where small game was in abundance. Several whitemen went to the Hot Springs, about 40 miles south of here, in order to take baths for rhumatism,and other complaints, but chiefly as a change from their winter cabins and daily routine which becomes very tiresome after several months. A number of natives ,complaining of rhumatism, also resorted to the springs, ostentatiously for the purpose of taking baths, but in reality out of curiosity to see what the white men were doing, and because this is the nearest point from which moose and caribou may be hunted. This annual resort to the springs is attracting more natives each year, and seriously reduces the spring average of the School. If all the natives would go to the springs, the matter would be quite simple as the school could be conducted at the Hot Springs for a month or two each year. At present to have the whites and natives use the springs at the same time is rendering less effective our supervision over the natives.

We were very glad to have with us fo several weeks, the very Venerable, F.A. Hoare, Archdeacon of the Arctic. Mr Hoare was greatly surprised at Mrs. Sicklers success in teaching the children to sing by note, and was greatly pleased to hear the chanting of the hymns and services done so well. Mr. Hoare took up the matter of building a church at Shungnak, and the natives promised to get the logs and donate the necessary work. At present nearly 300 logs are on the ground, and it is expected that 100 more logs will be brought shortly.

About this time we were agreeablly surprised to be notified that our Postoffice had been reestablished, and that I had been granted a commission as Postmaster. Since that time a regular schedule has been in force, so it is now possible to send in my reports monthly, while in the past I was often compelled to wait for months to find a way to send mail. This Post office was reestablished through the sole efforts of Mr. Lopp and the whole community feel very grateful to hi m .

In April, I converted one of the south rooms into a hot house by making a rack in front of the windows, and placing on it boxes filled with earth. The natives regarded this mode of gardening with considerable interest, and several families were in daily to see how the plants were growing. I also made a cold frame on the roof of a storm shed, and this also caused considerable comment. As fine results were obtained from

both methods, I expect the natives to put up a special propagation h house.

It was practical to conduct school but a single week in May, as a number of families wished to remove to higher ground, and better camping places before the breakup. The older girls were employed in sewing water boots, in overhauling nets, and in gathering spruce gum to calk boats. The younger children, wished to play, or else gather berries that had been exposed by the melting snow. The parents often changed day into night, and night into day, as best suited their work, and on account of all distracting conditions, I am afraid that while children may be compelled to attend school in May, their attention cannot so easily be compelled, and their health demands more sunshine than can be obtained in the school room.

The ice broke in the Kobuk River on May 17, 1915. Since that time , I have been employed principally in improving the school premises, and in instructing the natives in gardening. We have had an unusually wet spring, and the potato crop looks very promising. The birds have destroyed much of the turnips , but as a whole, the gardens are larger and better than last year.

Having given a general report of the work for the year, I will give detailed statements under various heads as desired by the Bureau of Education:

SCHOOLWORK. At the opening of school , I found a large number of pupils to be young men who would soon be called upon to assist in trapping, and of young girls, who would be shortly called upon to gather wood, ~~A~~ hauling fish, looking after snares, and the other duties that fall on the older girls when the trapping season opens and the village is is practically deserted by the men and youths. Then the women must do all the housework, mind the young children and babies, do the chores, and provide the home with wood and small game. I devoted the most of my attention the first two months to these older pupils. After the o older pupils left, I was able to devote nearly the whole of my time to the young children of which there a number who could not read nor write. The older children came from time to time, when they were not occupied , but they were treated more as visitors than regular pupils. The young people were seldom absent from sing~~ing~~ lessons as they greatly enjoyed music. I confined the studies in the fall to the most practical kinds, and reserved the more attractive work for the spring when the children become tired of work that requires considerable concentration of attention. The youngest children were taught largely by monitors, a system that they enjoy, and which proves as instructive to the monitors as to the pupils. The large children were taught reading and interpreting the lesson into Eskimo, very simple and practical arithmetic, writing diaries, penmanship and drawing. An hour and a half were devoted to industrial work which consisted in sewing, and making of baskets and fishnets. After the close of school the children were encouraged to make gardens, and were given informal instructions in the planting and caring for food plants. No instruction was given in cooking as we had no funds nor materials for this purpose. No instruction was given to any large extent in manual training as we have not the room , nor the benches for such work, and further the children find sufficient instruction at home in assisting their parents make snowshoes, sleds and other articles. The other studies are therefore more profitably taught in the few school hours. The work in sewing consisted of a progressive series of lessons as outlined in Kirkman's Sewing Practice., after which each child was allowed to make a garment for himself, and one or more for the younger children. The activity of the sewing class is shown by the following list of completed articles: 8crochet caps, 2 knitted caps, 4 baby hoods, 38 crochet and knitted wristlets, 2 crochet baby boots, 4 knitted stockings and mittens, 36 mosquito nets, 1 aprons,

9 shirts, 8 romper suit 2 dozen hemstitched handk rchiefs, 9 hand bags, 4 embrodried collars and ties, and 18 fish netsha g a combined lenght of a quarter of a mile.

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N.B. With in Arctic Circle

3 AGRICULTURE. Little attempt was made to teach Agriculture as class work in the school room. I have enlarged the schoolgarden from year to year until it now covers nearly all the school premises. I plant a large variety of vegetables, and am constantly experimenting with new seeds, which I obtain from the Department of Agriculture, and at my own expense from seed houses. I endeavor to grow enough turnip seed and seed potatoes to supply the natives. This year , I recieved requests for seeds from Kiana, Oxik, and Kotzebue, places over a hundred miles distant. Whileit I have made a number of shipments to these places, I have not been able to fill all the orders but hope to be able to grow seed for all the may ask for it next season. I read carefully the Alaska Experimental Station Bulletins, and am a subscriber to the Farmers' Bulletins and other papers on gardening that are sold by the Superintendent of Documents, Wash. D.C. This Spring , I made a south room serve for a hot house in the following manner. I made a rack 5x9 ft in front of a double window. I bored holes in a number of shallow boxes, filled them with earth and placed them upon the frame . I began planting the 1st of April. By the 1st of May, my boxes were over crowded with young plants, so I made a cold frame on the roof of a south stormshed and transfered my surpluss plants to the frame. In this manner I was able to supply myself, and some of the natives with fine cabbage and other plants, The cabbages at the present writing are forming fine heads and still have a couple of months to grow in. I have hopes of persuading the natives to build a hot house to be used in starting all their plants. I started my potatoes indoors this year and the plants bloomedearlier than ever before. As the amount of land in the village is limited, and hard to clear, I have several experimental gardens about a mile from the school, in order to show the natives that there is abundant room for gardens outside the village. This year ,I have conducted a number of experiments with high grade commercial fertilizers, in order to determine if these may be used profitablly in this region. That the natives can supply themselves with vegetables without a great deal of labor is apparent from the yield of the School garden last fall: 1000 lbs of turnips, rutabagas, Kohlrabis, beets , and carrots, 400 lbs of potatoes, besides cabbage, radishes, lettuce, kale, and other plants. The potatoes and turnips were kept in an ordinary cellar, and required only the heat from a small lamp to keep them from freezing. All roots keep without much trouble from sorting and 95% are in good condition at the time pf plantingthe next spring. The natives are apt to regard a small school garden as child s play, or as the means of obtaining an occasional relish, or as an attempt to force civilization upon them, but they need no argument when they see the teacher working a garden for himself and in this way supplying himself with a regular article of food. Nor can the natives be expected to weed and care for his garden, if he perceives that the teacher is content to praise gardening, and the value of plants as food stuffs, and yet takes no further interest in the matter beyond planting a model plot which is soon grown up in weeds while the teacher is spending his time elsewhere in other occupations. We have a number of natives who have large well kept gardens, and raise all the turnips and potatoes they need. The example of these progressive natives are sure to be followed by the others who have small gardens but are learning the value of them. As the planting season is exceedingly short, we are considerablyd handicapped by the lack of sufficient tools. It is with difficulty that I can retain a rake and a hoe for my own use. We should be supplied with a hand power stumppuller which costs about $15.00 in the States. A number of our streets are filled with small stumps, and if these were removed, the cleanliness of the village would be greatly improved, and the gardens easily enlarged. The winch could also be used to pull logs and boats up the river banks. For clearing new land, we

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the lower Yukon . The sick children complain of those symptoms which indicate rickets, infantile paralysis, anemia, and incipient tuberculosis. I am confident that the greater part of the cases , if not all, could have resulted in recoveries to health, had the children been supplied with proper nursing and food. It is in vain that we give I.Q.S. and Syrup Hypophosphites , when the stomach is not supported by the proper food. It is very common now to go into a cabin and hear a child crying for bread or mush and milk, not withstanding that the family may be well supplied with what was once the staple diet of the Eskimo. The physical condition of the children in general was poorer this spring, than in the several years that I have known them.

HONESTY. As a whole these people are quite honest, but occassionally I have thefts reported to me. Various people have missed articles from their caches, and there have been articles taken from the barter goods of the school by persons who have been permitted to enter the store loft, to examine the goods, or to leave some of their personal effects or for similiar pretence. There are a number of young boys in the village who are crazy over tobacco, and the natives seem to agree that these boys will steal to get articles that can be traded for tobacco. I have never had stolen any of my personal belongings, but I have found children stealing from the sewing supplies. I punished the culprits so severely that I believe this practice has been discontinued. Since that time a number of articles have returned in a mysterious manner. The natives are becoming less prompt in the payment of debts, and verbal agreements are not kept as well as in the past. However these natives will still compare favorablly with any that I have met.

MORALS. Regarding sexual morality, these natives apparently lead very proper lives and seem to be the most devoted Christians. However, from time to time, I come into the posession of information and confessions which show that the present standard of morality practiced by them, is capable of a great deal of improvement. This is not remarkable as the native customs practiced openly until recently, were what we consider to be highly immoral, but were highly regarded by them.

REINDEER. The Reindeer Industry was very successful in the marketing of forty-two reindeer at a single sale, besides a number of smaller transactions. The butchering of an occassional deer in case of the owner s illness has been greatly appreciated on several occasions. However there has been drawbacks. The herd was raided by wolves once in the fall, and once in the spring. The wolves killed principally female deer, and slaughtered these as much out of pure lust for killing as for any other motive. I visited the camp on the occasion of one of these raids, and standing on a hill, I counted the carcasses of a dozen deer which Had been killed at regular intervals as if shot down by a repeating rifle. A more serious matter is the presence of grubs, cysts, and parasites in the flesh of the reindeer. This infection makes the sale of su such meat very difficult locally, and should any quantity of this meat be shipped to the states, it is very probable that it would be destroyed by quarentine, and cause a general prejudice to be established against reindeer meat in general. There is a great demand for meat in the Koyukuk, several dozen heads of cattle , and large shipments of salt, canned, and smoked meat, being shipped in each year. While the sale of game is expressly forbidden by law, a large number of sheep, moose and caribou are killed by pot hunters and sold in the open market without regard to the open and closed seasons. It is very probable that the authorities would take steps to suppress this illegal traffic if assured that the Reindeer Service could supply them with a regular supply of fresh healthy meat. It is equally true that less beef would be shipped in if the dealers knew that they would have to compete with reindeer each year. I [illegible] with regret that I view this fine opportunity for a market bl[illegible] by the diseased condition of the reindeer. While forty head sold for ~~the remarkable~~

[illegible] cost about75¢ in the State. A man can cut more willows and brush with this tool than can several men with axes. For raking up the long moss, long-tined rakes or manure hooks should be supplied as garden rakes become quickly fouled, and in fact cannot be kept clean except without a great waste of time. For cutting up the tough sods and shrub roots, we should have hazel hoes as mattocks are too heavy to be used for any considerable lenght of time. If we could have a horse (and its feed for the first year,) we could easily raise all the vegetables that the natives could use.

CLEANLINESS. In order to encourage cleanliness, we daily appointed pupils to act as inspectors, and these examined the ears, necks, hands, arms, and faces of all the schoolchildren. We also asked for a report once a week, from each pupil, concerning his weekly bath. By these means we were able to keep the children fairly clean, but it was a much harder task to secure the wearing of clean and neat clothes, as these depend on the parents' prosperity and mode of living, while to keep the children free from the ever present louse is the most difficult problem of all. The use of so many articles of skin clothing, the raising of puppies in the house, and the indifference of the older natives make the louse independent of our efforts. All the native families, with one exception, live in cabins which are larger than those found in neighboring villages. They are well supplied with stoves, heaters, beds, trunks, sewing machines and some have tables and chairs. The standards of housekeeping range from very clean to very dirty. Those natives who remain in the village all summer, rake up their yards and burn the trash, but they refuse to clean up the premises of those who spend their summers elsewhere.

INDUSTRY. In an industrial way the natives have shown great improvement in the building of sleds and boats. At present the building of a seagoing schooner is contemplated. One large cabin was built this winter, and another one is under construction. Three native companies are successfully operating placer mines. Native trading is confined to the bartering of crossfox and reindeer skins for sealoil, and like native wares. The natives who formerly held regular trading posts are helplessly in debt. They are unable to do any considerable amount of business without supervision. Pride, hospitality, extravagance, and the inability to understand market fluctuations, interest, and contracts, place them at the mercy of their white competitors. It is as one white trader remarked "The higher the apple the harder the fall". In general the native's success as a trader is in an inverse ratio to his stock in trade. In their collection of debts the natives are far less successful than white traders, and this disadvantage is in itself a serious one. However, I am in favor of native cooperative stores under the supervision of officers of the Bureau of Education.

GAME AND FUR. The low price of fur, on account of the European war, and the loss of wages due to the abandoment of local placer mines, has greatly disheartened the natives. The fall catch of whitefish, due to high water and a late freeze-up, was very light. Before fish traps and long seines were used at Kotzebue the natives often had on hand dried salmon that was three years old. For the past two years there has not been a year's supply on hand at any time. The ptarmigan and grouse, which have been very plentiful for a number of years, migrated to other regions and only returned in small numbers. Rabbits were plentiful at a distance of about 30 miles from the school, but in the neighborhood of the village they were extremely scarce. The natives killed a number of black bear, sheep and caribou, and were fairly well supplied with meat and skins for clothing. A large number of young men, and several families did not attempt to trap, but left for the Koyukuk to work for the white miners and to sell native wares.

HEALTH. During this year, quite a few deaths have occured among the children, due in part to the sudden change from a diet largely of imported (whiteman's) food to a pure native diet of tainted meat, fish, [illegible] herries, and in part to the infections brought by other children from

the remarkable price of 40¢ per pound, I have heard that some of the purchasers were dissatisfied with the condition of the meat, and they may start such a prejudice against the meat that will render further sales at such an advantageous figure, impossible. I recommend that the Reindeer Service should secure the services of a veterinarian from the Department of Agriculture, to inspect the Government and other reindeer herds with a view of devising means to eliminate these parasites. The high rate of deaths among the fawns, due to late snows, inbreeding, and parasites is causing this herd to remain nearly stationary as far as numbers are concerned.

The principal cares of the Reindeer camp, are the annoying quarrels and jealosies between the herders, who nevertheless are close relatives of one another. They quarrel about the division of the fish that they catch, about being absent from camp, about sleeping on watch about using supplies that belong to different ones, and about various other matters. Rather than yeild to the others they are prepared to loose all of their own deer. The herd was practically abandoned twice this year, and herders have repeatedly refused to go on watch. I have recommended to Superintendent Shields, and secure his approval, to divide the herd into two portions, and if this means does not prove satisfactory, to adopt drastic methods in dealing with the herders.

I recommend that we should have a large supply of lumber at our disposal in order that we can properly finish the residence, make suitable closets for storing the books, tools and supplies, for the construction of work tables, and work benches. The roof of the school building is so poor that it is impossible to properly heat and ventilate the schoolroom in the most severe weather. The roof should be lined with malthoid paper and clapboarding on the inside, and covered with malthoid roofing on the outside. The chimnies are too small to carry the volume of smoke from the heaters, and consequently the smoke and ashes fill the room whenever it is necessary to open the heaters. We should have stovepipe or terra cotta pipe in the flues a couple of inches larger than the pipes inside the building. The toilets are simple shed of rough lumber, which are quickly filled and blocked by soft fine snow, and the temperatue in them is the same as the outside air which may be -60 degrees. I am quite sure that the health of the school children would be greatly improved if the toilets were such that resort to them would not be a hardship. The toilets should be provided with stoves, double doors, ventilators and a covered passage leading to the school. Another improvement needed is a woodshed. The woodis usuallycut in the winter and piled on the frozen mud and snow. In the spring the surface of the ground thaws out unevenly causing the cords to fall over in unsightly heaps where it is in great danger of being swept away by the spring freshet. Being exposed to the snow and rain causes it to smoke and fill the chimnies with frozen, condenced vapor. In severe, or slushyweather it is a task to dig the wood out of the snowbanks. In the summer the village is covered with a high thick growth of grass which becomes a firetrap when dry. Should a fire occur, the woodpiles would easily catch fire, and it would be impossible to save the buildings. I recommend the construction of a galvanized iron woodshed, having a capacity of 50 cords. This would greatly add to the appearance and safty of the place.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred M. Sickler

U.S. Teacher. Shungnak, A.

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