

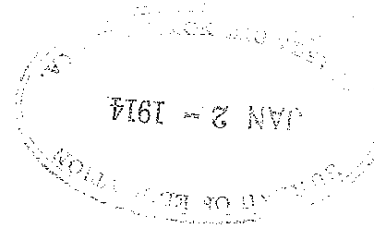
*Will let you if there is the
when I reach Nome
WS*

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Noatak, Alaska Dec. 9th-1917.

Mr. Walter C. Shields,

Dist. Supt., Nome, Alaska.



Dear Sir:-

The Native Thomas was up to see me in regard to transporting the mail with reindeer, and as he is returning, am taking advantage of this opportunity to write. We have not had a word from you or the office since August, and we are beginning to think that something is wrong. Have we any grounds for such supposition?. I hope not.

We are very busy now preparing our annual program for Christmas and we expect to make a great show then. Besides the regular program I have on the list a pyrotechnical display and we are hoping this will give them a pleasant surprise. I had a letter from the Doctor telling me that you would probably be at Selawik about the 15th of January. That will perhaps put you here about the 10th of February will it not? I have not as yet hired new apprentices, as there is nothing to hire them with, although I have practically engaged three boys. The Natives have raised the price of wood as they say Harnden told them to do each year, and they wish to give it to us for eight dollars and let it always remain at that, though I have not as yet agreed to do this and will not until I hear from you as regards the matter. I have plenty of supplies on hand to buy fuel with at that price. Shall I pay it?

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If I dont hear from you soon,I shall probably give the fuel supplies to the new apprentices and purchase fuel with reindeer. Everything is going along nicely and the Natives are getting plenty furs. There have been several nice cross foxes brought in and one black so far and an abundance of red and white. There has been no ill health here this winter so far and everybody seems to be happy,including ourselves. We were hoping you would get up to see us earlier than the date I mentioned. How about it. You will let us know as near as possible when you will arrive? I have a crow to pick with some one about Lynx and Ox as the boys say they were never used while here. Wish you would kindly send me a few pink form contracts between Government and herders,also some official typewriter paper if you have any to spare. Hope weill see you real soon,and that everything is all OK at that end as it is at this. Accept our best wishes for A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Yours Most Truly.

F. B. Snowden

Teacher.

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