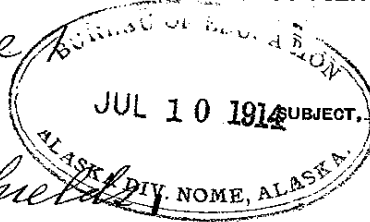


DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF EDUCATION  
ALASKA SCHOOL SERVICE

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April 26, 1914SUBJECT, Wood Fund Barter Goods

Walter Shields,  
Superintendent of Natives,  
Nome, Alaska,

The practice of paying natives from the fund (Wood) in barter goods has been far from satisfactory in this school.

In the first place the trade goods sent in are as a whole not attractive nor suitable for the purpose.

In the second place these goods have to pay freight which is excessive and the goods often arrive in a badly damaged condition or may be "froze in" on account of late shipments.

Thirdly the natives insist on getting the goods cheaper than the local (store) price. They also are very jealous concerning the disposal of some of the coveted articles. The teacher should be saved from these disputes concerning price and disposal of goods.

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April 26, 1914SUBJECT, Wood Fund Barter Goods

I ask therefore your consideration of a plan that will save the Government the freight charges and will also insure the teacher against the unpleasant arguments that result in the disposal of trade goods.

1st: that you should fix the cost, per cord of wood, on your annual visits and should give the teacher a number of personal checks for that sum (say \$8.00 this year). Upon a native finishing a cord of wood the teacher would write his name in the appropriate space. The natives signature on the back and other endorsements would insure the department of the history of the transactions.

or. 2nd: that you should make contracts with the natives and pay them in advance, in cash, or by check, with the understanding that if any native died, or was not able to fulfil his contract, that the other contractors should make his failure "good".

respectfully  
Fred M. Siskler

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