

Nome, Alaska, June, 3, 1909

Mr. Harlan Updegraff,

Seattle,

Wash.

Dear sir;-

I am in receipt of a letter from Mr. Stuck, of the Episcopal church, concerning the Shungnak school. He writes that he has received letters from a man by the name of Lloyd who lives on the Kobuk that to the effect that the school is not properly conducted on the Kobuk. He does not state what his grounds for complaint are but says that certain natives complained to him and uses some pretty strong language.

I understand that Lloyd has written to you as well.

I heard no complaints while on the Kobuk. During the four days I was there, the natives had ample opportunity to make complaints if they wished to do so. They were all happy and attended school well as is shown by the reports. Lloyd knew that I was on the Kobuk and knew that I was at Shungmak, the first night of my arrival. He was only four miles distant and had ample opportunity to see me or communicate with me by letter, if he wished to do so.

Just previous to my visit the village had been disturbed by a party of miners on a protracted spree and I understand a clash took place between Myers and the crowd. One of these men was living with a native woman and had a child by her. He had ~~planned to desert the two and go to the Koyukuk but was forced to~~ marry the woman previous to my arrival. This is undoubtedly one of the "travellers" Mr. Stuck refers to.

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I wrote you from the Kobuk concerning conditions there. You realized when Mr. Myers came up that his training and previous life had not been such as to especially fit him for the work he is now in, but he seems greatly interested in promoting the welfare of the natives and for ^{that} reason is deserving of commendation. The general condition of the settlement showed the work that had been done and the interest taken in the natives, Mr. Myers' accounts were not in the best shape and were difficult to straighten out. He had full instructions but his inexperience in business matters had led him off in a several instances. I found no evidence of any intentional errors. The burden of Lloyd's complaint seems to be against the Missionaries of the Friends' church in general. Where the Episcopalians are located you hear the same complaints against them and in other regions against the Presbyterians.

Mr. Moran, U.S. Commissioner at Shungnak, spent several weeks at Nome last summer and I saw him frequently. While here he published a statement in the local papers highly commending the work of Myers. Lloyd was acting in Moran's absence.

If Lloyd has any specific complaints I would like to know what they are.

Very truly yours,

A. N. Evans

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