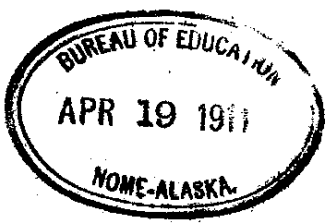


Shungnak, A.

March 10 '11

W. H. Evans
Dist. Supt. U.S. Schools, A.
Nome,
Alaska.



Dear Sir,

In response to your favor of Jan. 13-11, I have to say:
Mr Hawkesworth settled the claim of John Smith to look to his satisfaction and Billy Strong will no doubt be as well satisfied when he hears of the disposition of his claim. He is working at Nola Creek above Bettles. I have sent him letters by mail and by natives.

Concerning the claim of Riley Jim, I have nothing more to say except that Jim left the service before the expiration of his contract and the wording of the contract was altered at this date. Mrs Myers said that they allowed Jim to quit so that he could take them to Kotzebue because the white men had made a combination of the natives so that they (Myers & Wise) could not go down without paying excessive fares or fees.

I have no personal feelings in the matter but thought it to the government's interest that he transfer until the departure of the Myers, so

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is to make it appear that the deer were
given him by the Govt. and not by favor.

Besides the government opportunities put in
Jim's way, it seems that Mission goods intended for
distribution among the poor were turned over to
Jim to ^{gratitude to his} his advantage. I have no fault to find
with Jim's benefactor. I have always been pleasant
and agreeable in my conversations with Jim and
treat his children with perhaps more consideration
than others. He and they are often in to spend
an evening. I agree with you that Jim is a
valuable man to have in dealing with the natives
but it is not possible for myself, or any one in
my position, to use him as long as Mrs. Myers can
talk to him. I delayed the round up of
the reindeer three times on Jim's account last fall
and since that time I have reason to believe
that the delay in obtaining fuel and the
great fear that the natives, for a while, had of
me on account of my being a "Roman Catholic" and
eating their sacred bird, the Raven, were due
to Jim's activities as a result of being invited by
Mrs. Myers. I do not think that Jim entertains
~~my personal dislike for me, and should the Myers~~
leave he would fall in line. His power is not
what it used to be among the natives as ~~it was~~
it least two or three other chiefs now, whose in-

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fluence is at least as great. They feel that there has not been a just distribution of the deer. After the arrival of every mail I receive a number of visitors who inquire if I have heard from you regarding the erection of the Teachers' Dwelling and how many deer would be given out. They talk at length among themselves and when they depart they say: "Piley Jim - too many deer." which leaves very little to imagine what has been the topic of conversation.

I admit that my action in disposing of the barter goods was irregular but I believed from the information furnished me by Myers and Wise that the wood would have to be procured at once, if at all, on account that the dry wood would be covered up by early snow. Further the men would all shortly all go to Squirrel to work for wages) that I was justified in taking steps to insure the school not being short of fuel in the winter. I was told that the natives had been encouraged by the white to raise the price of wood from \$4.00 to \$6.50 and that Siverly had bought a few cords at \$8.50 so that the school would have to pay for same at same rate. I have reason to believe that Mrs Myers told the natives to stand pat until the Supt. came ~~COPY~~ that she would secure them a raise above

what I have offered. She reported to Mr. Hawthorne ^{COPY} that Mr. Myers had made a requisition for wood at \$7.00 per cord. I was in ignorance of this particular or else I would have not experienced the difficulty. Chas Coffin secured me the services of several men before Mr. Hawthorne's visit and since that time I have had all the wood cut, I have wished. There are nearly fifty cords (mostly green spruce) on the grounds, at present so that my successor) will not have to worry about wood for the next two years.

I beg leave to state that goods furnished for barter, while excellent for coast natives, are not the best suited for these natives, used to working for white miners since '98. I would recommend that only one half the usual amount of Flour be sent and that beans, meal, sugar and condensed milk should be the main items. In clothing, overalls underclothes, white drill and gingham are best suited to demands. Sweaters and "print" (calico) could be omitted with advantage.

Regarding the "Reindeer" rations for this inland station. I think that the Flour and Syrup could be greatly reduced and other articles substituted as above. If it were possible to furnish seal oil, ugruk soles and ugruk rope it would be ^{COPY} great advantage to the apprentices, as such articles were

a demand this year and the local price is double that at Kotzebue. I hope you will not regard these suggestions as out of order.

Regarding the barter for Reindeer apprentices I will say that Mrs. Meyers accused the reindeer boys of killing Govt. fawns and of giving the meat to their mistresses. She also said that sugar was also used to further immoral purposes. I investigated the matter, and while, I found that the moral condition was not good on the Kotuk when the men leave their wives in the summer and go over to the Proatak for months at a time, I could not find any evidence as to the fawns or the sugar. However as the demand for sugar soon exceeded their needs, I concluded that if goods were bartered, that I should be reported to and that I should deliver the goods to the party in question so as to satisfy myself as to the disposition of the commodities. I made no arrangements other than these. The state of morale here is not as good as I desire. Mr Harksworth gave the apprentices a good lecture on the subject, but there are several examples of conditions embracing adultery, bigamy and incest in the same family that are not receiving attention at present. I have reported these cases to Moran & Harksworth. Since my supervision of barter does not meet with your approval, I wish to be relieved of same and to comply with your wishes.

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As to the amount of sinew on hand, I will say that I found only one piece of back sinew in the attic.

The Agricultural work will be taken up as soon as it is warm enough. I brought a supply of seeds with me and some white men have given me more. I have received a letter from Wash. D.C. that other seeds would be sent in time for planting. The soil on the reserve is all right but limestone. The adjacent lands are either too wet, too acid, too exposed or too wooded to make good gardens at present. At the falls on the Kogalukstuk, four miles distant, there are loads of salmon die and float ashore. These fish would be available and I think a garden would do well there. At Kalla, the fishing camp another garden should be started. I have already spoken to the natives as to the use of fish and lime. I was once employed as a chemist in a fertilizing factory.

Concerning the white men here I would say that they have practically supported the community from the output of their mines. They have made practically nothing for themselves but have paid good wages, they have taught the natives how to build and to mine, they have looked after the sick and have done much for charity, such of the natives as can cook bread learned (with one exception) from the mine. COPY
I have heard of the natives complaining of their

^{hands of}

treatment at the ^{hands of} traders and Missionaries, I have not heard one word spoken against a miner. They have been kind to me and willing to assist me in every way. You may depend that as long as I am here the school and reindeer will not be molested by white miners.

Concerning the Reindeer, I am sure that the Reindeer will admit of great improvement through selective breeding and paying close attention to experiments and results. The deer that I castrated by use of knife shows me that this method is practical. I expected to be able to dehorn a few deer this Spring but I am afraid to begin early on account of freezing, after this I am afraid of disturbing pregnant females and after the fawns come there will be mosquitoes and flies. The best time for the annual count, dehorning and castration is evidently the Fall. I think that the plan of moving the deer to the coast a good one and will undertake same in person or other wise if you will order me to do so. This would also allow the apprentices to secure reindeer dogs and to procure their own seal oil and nyrak skins. I wish that you could maintain a model farm where deer could be bred for fine, glossy, hides both in solid colors and also variegated in pure distinct colors; these hides should be as tough as caribou. I would like to undertake such work with a complete stock and equipment.

Mr Lopp advised me to give such aid, to native COPY as were engaged in mining, as I was able and to give them proper information and encouragement in the location of new claims and districts. I undertook several trips to the mines last fall. On one occasion I was gone three days; the other trips were less than a day each. I have had considerable experience as chemist, assayer, surveyor and officer in the Western Federation of Miners. I think that I could be of great help to native miners. I have a transit and level and could survey their claims and ditches. Mrs. Myers had a great deal to say to Mr. Harksworth about my visit to the mines. I would like to hear from you, as to your opinion concerning my wife taking care of the school in May and June, while, I superintend the mining of the natives. They are more than willing to have me help them.

I also offer you my services, as surveyor in surveying the school reserve in your district. I would undertake this work while my wife (who is H.S. graduate and has had normal work in college) remains in charge of this school at my present salary only expending traveling expenses. The location of this Reserve is very defective. It includes private claims that are prior to the reservation. The map showing the allotment of parcels COPY of the reserve is not on file. I tried to have Mr. Harksworth

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Iain the map from Mr. Myers, but Mr Hawkesworth did not seemed much interested in the matter.

As it is, there are a number of vacant lots, whose owners? are at Squirrel or Kayukuk. These parties have no other right to the ground than that it was allotted to them and perhaps they drove stakes at the corners. Several Eskimos have asked me let them build on the reserve but as I do not know to whom the vacants plots belong and how long a time should elapse before a vacant (unimproved) lot reverts to the Reserve or Govt., I am not able to answer them. Mr. Myers says that he furnished one map to Dr. Kopdegraff. I wish that you would try to secure a copy of the map for the School Records. I also wish you to advise me concerning the disposition of vacant plots and applicants for plots. As soon as it is warm enough to use surveying instruments with comfort, I shall make a map and forward same to you.

Another matter, I would like advice concerning is the sanitary, medical and industrial work among the natives. I found that only a few of the native women knew how to bake bread and these few, with the exception of Riley Jim's wife, learned of miners. I therefore told my wife to instruct the girls and women in the art of bread-making. The girls were delighted and had excellent

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ulls. We made arrangement to teach COPY the women after school the following day but Mrs Myers took the women during school hours and kept one of the older girls out of school as well. The same experience happened to the sewing class. Mrs. Myers conducted a bakery here and of course it was not to her interest to teach baking during her three year stay. However I wished to avoid friction and therefore I have abandoned my attempt to promote domestic science among the natives until I hear from you. Please advise me.

The medical work is of a different nature. The first year ^{natives} fourteen natives died, a great number of died since. This winter one man died from heart failure. We were successful in all of our many cases.

The Bureau of Education sends me the medicines and I believe it is expected that I should use them

If it were not for saving the lives of the natives I would abandon this work also until I could hear from you as Mrs. Myers goes around and throws out my medicine and gives my patients quack remedies. One of these is guaranteed to cure over a dozen ailments. She tells the natives that my medicine is no good, that the Bible forbids other than members of the church ministering to the sick. She is long on prayers in their cabins and pretends to have revelations from God. The last is her long suite and appeals to all natives especially the women more than sense.

Mrs. Myers gave me very little trouble until Mr. Hawkesworth's visit but since that time she has been looking for trouble with a search-warrant. She says that Hawkesworth is an intimate friend of hers (they came up on same boat together) and that he promised to support her in all differences with me. She says that Mr Cox has lately taken great interest in her and now she had the church and state behind her and intended to have things her way. Mr. Cox is a very sensible man and I don't think he is much concerned in her rows which are chronic.

Mr Hawkesworth spent a great deal of his time with Mrs Myers and paid considerable attention to her complaints and past history. I think that Mr. Hawkesworth desired only to affect a reconciliation between all interests here, but Mrs Myers has placed a wrong interpretation as she would rather keep the pot boiling.

I tried to keep friendly with Mrs Myers but she wanted to build a church and for the sake of interesting the natives she circulated the report that I was a Catholic and other falsehoods. I sent for Mr Myers to straighten the matter out but Mrs Myers would not let him talk with me. Since that time I have had COPY to do with the Myers beyond keeping up a show