

Shungnak, Alaska

June 7 11

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June 22 11

A. N. Evans,

Nome, Alaska,

Dear Sir,

A native named John Cleveland has brought a request from Deputy U. S. Marshall Hankins of Kiama, for ten dollars as a store-keeper's license, and wants to know if a native living on a U. S. Reserve, and doing a limited business, should pay a license or not.

I told him to write to you for advice and I wish you to consider this letter as his.

Cleveland hauls the goods from Kiama by dog team and sells the same in competition with a white trader. As a result he only makes "freight money".

As you know these native "little stores" are not depended on for a living but to make make expenses when there is nothing else to do or when a native is traveling from place to another. They seldom ~~last~~ carry any length of time and the balance is often against them. Credit business and native goods (not handled by whites) form a large part of these transactions so that poor natives in out-of-the-way places are generally benefited. To require natives to pay for a little trading is rather a hardship.

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I wish you to inform me in the interest of these "little stores" if they are liable for the collection of license fee or not. Or in other words how much business may a native conduct without having to pay for a license.

Along this same line I may add that John Cleveland has been trying to interest Messrs Greenberg and Levy of Miana (Squirrel River) to establish a store here. He thinks that if he fix up his cabin for a store and clerks for Levy that he can make more than by running a store for himself. His cabin is on the reservation and he wants to know if there would be any objection to the trading post to be located on the reserve (it is on the eastern edge). I know Levy to be extremely popular among the natives and so I told him to go ahead until I could hear from you.

Please advise me along these lines at your earliest convenience.

respectfully your humble servant

Fred M. Siskler,

U. S. Govt. Teacher,

Shungnak.

A.

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