

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION
ALASKA SCHOOL SERVICE

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To the Dist. Supt.,
U. S. B. of E.,

(Three pages.)
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Nov. 4th, 1911.

SUBJECT Cause for Corporal Punishment

Nome, Alaska.

Dear Sir: At the close of school Tues. Oct. 17th, I gave Joe Webber, a native boy 12 years old, twelve blows on the seat of his pantaloons with a good strap that I have. For several days children had been telling lies. For instance the previous day Irene Ticket, a big girl, had been told to stand on the floor for not studying - she was angry and cried all the while and as it was a short time before noon, she went home crying. When asked by her parents why she was crying, she said that I had shaken her so hard by the arm that I had nearly broken it. This I had not done but when I went over to their cabin to find out why Irene did not come back to school in the afternoon, I found the whole family in tears. I asked them what was the matter and her uncle said I had about broken Irene's arm. I wanted her to let me see her arm but she would not. I wanted Ticket and the uncle to go over to the school house and ask the children about it but they would not. I went back to the school and called out a dozen of the oldest children one by one and asked them if I had hurt Irene. They laughed and everyone said "no"! Then I sent for

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"Riley" Jim to interpret for me and we all went over to the 5th cabin. Jim said, "Eskimo children 'flenty' lie"! These children, fortunately, all testified to the fact before the Tichets that I had not hurt Irene. When she came back to school a couple days later I should have punished her good had she been a white girl but instead I only talked to her. Such tricks might make a person a great deal of trouble and are bad elements to leave in a girl's character. Since her return, however, she has been a model girl.

Now for Joe Webber's case. Someone had been closing the storm windows against my wishes at noons and recesses and no one would "fess" up" to the act. At last - this same noon - Mrs. J. caught Joe doing it and watched [✓] close the windows. She did not say anything to him however as we wanted to see if he would confess his fault. On the contrary he not only would not confess but ~~stoutly~~ ^{stoutly} denied doing it when accused of the act. He said someone was lying about him. However he did confess all about it when he saw that he was really going to be punished. The strange part was that I had had the other Eskimo children to tell him in Eskimo that if he would tell the truth right.

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away I would not punish him for the first offence.

As witnesses to the punishment administered I called in Mrs. Van Houten, the only white lady in S., Charlie Coffin, Mr. Sheldon and two boys, Peter Sheldon & Jacob Thomas. I sent for "Riley" Jim but he was off hunting. Of course my wife was present. They all approved of my action and judging from later events a dose of strong medicine has about cured the disease. Since then I have had no trouble to find out offenders.

Very respectfully yours,
Leash Jones.

Teacher U. S. Pub. School,
Stungnak, Alaska.

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