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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

Alaska Service

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SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

U. S. SCHOOL

SHUNGNAK, ALASKA.

Chas. D. Jones, Teacher.

Lydia Ikik, Asst. Teacher.

COPY

Shungnak, Alaska, June 30, 1913.

Hon. P. P. Claxton,
Commissioner of Education,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

I beg to present for your approval the sixth annual report of Shungnak Station and to lay before you a brief account of our labors at this station during the past year.

During July and most of August, we were at Kotzebue, Alaska, and had charge of the Department's interests there. As soon as the schooner "Alaskan" arrived from Teller with Shungnak's government supplies on board, as well as our personal outfit, we made immediate plans to go up the river. In fact the freight was loaded on the river boat off the deck of the schooner. We first attended to the purchase of \$300.00 worth of material and other goods from Capt. John Bachland's Agents at Kotzebue to be used in the construction of a new residence at Shungnak. These goods were checked and loaded on the river boat.

On the evening of the 29th of August, we left Kotzebue for Shungnak, two days after the arrival of the "Alaskan". When about half way up the river, the water became too rapid for our boat to climb; so half the freight, including the native teacher, Mrs. Jones and myself, was left behind while the other part was taken through to Shungnak.

Mr. Blane, the owner of the boat, wanted us to go through with the first lot, but I declined for reasons of my own. I wanted

to be where I could see that all the freight got safely to Shungnak. If for any reason a part of the building material had been left at this camp, it would have been next to impossible to have built the residence this year. However, in due time, the boat came back, got us and the remainder of the freight, and finally landed us safely at the end of our destination. Mr. Blane was kind and courteous to us during the whole journey and we do not wish to censure him in any way, but we do condemn the poor service on this river provided for the government teachers and government supplies. We were eighteen days making a trip that should have been made in not over six days. We hurry to add that the contractor, seemingly, had a good excuse for turning the freight over to another boat because his own boat was wrecked before it reached Kotzebue.

THE BUILDING OF THE NEW RESIDENCE.

As soon as we arrived I tried to get things in shape so that we might start building the new residence at the earliest possible date. I realized that winter might set in any day. We needed a considerable number of poles for stringers, sleepers, rafters, etc., and I wanted to get them rafted down the river before it froze over. The situation was not encouraging, for the village was about deserted except for a few young men. They were old enough to cut the poles but not old enough to be relied upon to get over a hundred picked poles. Then they wanted exhorbitant wages because they knew I wanted the poles very badly. I finally told them that I was in no hurry but would wait until some of the older men came home

from the fish camps and hunting grounds. I had to wait a week while the loveliest autumn days were passing by. I learned later that certain white men were somewhat to blame for the young natives' strange actions. These parties were disgruntled because they did not get the carpenter work job at double the wages I had been able to retain a man equally qualified for the position. Finally I let a native by the name of Ko-pat-kok, who had just closed down operations for the winter in his own placer mine, have the job of getting the poles and some stone for the foundation. He was over a week getting them and had a terrible hard time getting a crew to help him as he had to use these same young fellows. However, he did a good job and got us some fine poles. Thus after two weeks of patient waiting all the material was on the ground. In the meantime we had dug a cellar and also a deep hole to be used as a cesspool. We walled them both up.

The problem of getting laborers was still confronting us. This time of the year is a very busy season for the native for it is at this time that he lays away the larger share of his winter's fish supply. We offered the natives \$3.00 a day but we had a very hard time getting them to leave their fish nets and work on the building. In fact Riley Jim Sho-no-ko and Yukon Charlie Ko-pat-kok said they would not work for that wage but wanted not less than \$4.00 a day. \$4.00 and \$5.00 a day are common wages in the mines. Either one of these natives is worth any other two natives in the community when it comes to doing carpenter work or any sort of mechanical labor, so I made a compromise with them. I told them I would give them \$3.50 per day for outside work if they would go to work

away on the building and help me to get others to come and work on the building while the nice weather lasted. They finally agreed to my proposition but after all each of them had to be off more than a week when I needed them most, and the other fellows came and went.

As mentioned I had already made arrangements with G. P. Marshall, a very capable man of this section, to have charge of the laying of the logs and doing the carpenter work that was beyond the skill of the natives. It was my intention to let the natives do just as much of the work as possible and, I think, if I were to build the house over again, I should let the natives do all the work. It is surprising how apt they are with mechanical tools and how readily they become fairly good carpenters.

The first snow storm came about the 20th of September but it was not until October that we were bothered particularly with cold or stormy weather. On the 22d of October the river closed up and winter practically set in. From that time on it was very unpleasant and backward work. There is so much work about a log house, where practically everything is made out of logs, that it is hard to describe the task we had before us. Suffice it to say, that the miners laughed at us when we told them that we would eat our Thanksgiving dinner in our new house. They said we would do well to eat our Christmas dinner there. However, we did eat our Thanksgiving dinner in the new house in company with these worthies of the North and from that time on made our home there. On the eighth of November I laid off all the men. Later in the month, I retained Mr.

Marshall to do a few days work. He made a large cabinet for the office and finished up one or two other little jobs about the house. The weather was so bitterly cold and stormy in the early part of November that we were barely able to put a temporary roof on of heavy paper. We were not able to shingle the roof or to complete the other outside work. While the men were laid off we were still on the job from the time school let out at three thirty in the afternoon until after midnight every day up to the middle of December. At that time the la grippe epidemic broke out in our village, which we shall mention later in our story.

As soon as the weather was warm enough in the spring, we employed men to finish up the house. We shingled the roof of the house and storm sheds, gave the outside doors and windows one coat of paint as well as the roof, and we repaired the outbuildings connected with the house. Had we had the material we would have finished the house this spring but we were short on windows, ceiling, flooring and paint. We used every scrap of material that was of any use about the place. After the house is banked next fall, even though no improvements are added, it will be quite a comfortable place to live in. It should, however, be repossed or, better still, the openings between the logs should be filled with cement. The other improvements, which we have mentioned in our requisition, are very necessary and should be attended to right away.

It may be well to relate some of the important uses to which the house has been put already and to which it may be put in the future. In the first place, it should be understood

that the whole space on the lower floor of the school building should be turned into one large schoolroom or, better, be made into two rooms in order to provide for the large attendance of school children at this school. With an enrollment of seventy pupils there is no reason why these two rooms should not be filled for seven or eight months in the year. This eliminates anything but the regular school work to be done in the schoolhouse; so the domestic science work, manual training and agriculture must be done some where else. We hit upon two plans to meet these needs. We first thought it would be advisable to have the kindergarten in the front room of the house and in that way half of the school room could be used for these other purposes. This, however, would necessitate some changes in the school room. We did not try this plan to any extent but during my wife's illness I did hold classes in the front room of the house and I was constantly interrupted by outsiders coming in, so I do not think this would be advisable. We preferred to have the domestic science classes over to the house as well as the agriculture classes, and we even did some wood work in the house. We had to use a great many of the cooking utensils that belonged to the house and it was much more convenient to conduct the lessons at the house rather than at the schoolhouse and carry these utensils back and forth. The double windows on the south side of the house furnished an excellent place for sprouting seeds and starting cabbage and potato plants. Both the dining room and the front room make good sewing rooms, and let it be said right here, that every

part of the house is used as a utility shop. Were it twice as large we could find use for every nook and corner in it. In this work there is no such a thing as privacy or separating yourself from your occupation. One's whole thought is to put every bit of space, material and energy, available, to the use of the service. Whether the space or material happens to be intended for one's private use or, in fact, happens to belong to you, if it fills a need, into the service it goes. Half of the upstairs makes a good storeroom for the reindeer and fuel supplies as the upper floor is well supported by a heavy beam and pillar in the center of the house. We are so far from *physicians and doctors hospitals* that the ¹ medical work forms one of the important parts of the teachers tasks at this station. For this reason we needed a room to treat our patients in and to hold our medicines and surgical appliances. The little room used as the office also fills this requirement very well. Another thing that must not be forgotten is the social entertainment of the children. This is one of the strongest factors in keeping up the interest of the children in the school and also has very much to do with their moral elevation. The proper entertainment and reception of the old people is quite important to this work also. The dining room and front room furnish a very convenient place for both of these features. In all I am sure that no one will gainsay me, when I say that our new residence is here to fill a long felt need, and will greatly increase the efficiency of the service at this place.

OUR AMBITION.

We expected to accomplish much at the outset of this

year. We felt positive that we had learned some lessons the first year that would assist us in solving the problems of this year. With the added help of a native assistant and interpreter, we were sure that we should have no trouble to keep in touch and sympathy with our people. The prospect of building a new residence, alone, was inspiring; our minds were full of visions of great things that we could do for the natives with these newly acquired facilities. We were so very enthusiastic and optimistic that the spirit of hopefulness permeated the whole village. The natives hurried their fishing and berry picking to a finish, so that all the children could start in school at the same time. New cabins were put up and old ones repaired. People who had never had a permanent home in Shungnak made arrangements for one this year. Before winter set in there were more natives gathered in the village than had ever been here at one time before, so we are told.

POLICY.

We had faith in the policy we adopted last year and our belief in it has grown stronger as time passes on. It is almost identical with the one we stated last year, but it may be well to restate it again.

1. We would use the material on hand and add to the structure of enlightenment already started rather than tear it down and attempt to build a better one on its ashes.

2. We would endeavor to uplift the people in a moral and spiritual way that would be non-sectarian but, wherever the natives had made a choice of denomination, if they came to us

for ~~advice~~ information, we would advise them to be true to

the teachings of their church. (For the good of the natives this seems the only course to follow. It would be rankst folly, in our minds, for every new teacher to thrust upon these people a new doctrine of religion. There could be only one result: The natives would finally come to the place where they would distrust both missionary and teacher - lose faith in the reality of God and the rectitude of man.)

3. We would urge harmony among the natives as a vital principle of their future welfare.

4. We would try to study more carefully the needs of our people and make plans whereby their necessities can be supplied.

5. We would try to make the school work practical, interesting and refining.

6. We would continue our study of the reindeer industry.

7. We would strive above all things to be kind, courteous and fair in our dealings with everyone irrespective of race, creed or politics.

REVIEW OF SCHOOL WORK.

School began the first day of October and ended the latter part of May. During the year there were seventy pupils enrolled. This is nine more than were enrolled last year. The average attendance for this year was 35.5. This is a gain of almost five pupils per month in average attendance over last year. We believe that this could have been better and would have been better if there had not been so much sickness in the middle of the year. It is better than any previous year's at-

cord for some time. The school work was somewhat interrupted this year by several things which were unavoidable. The building of the house took part of my time, so that I had to neglect the school work to some extent for the first two months. Then came the la grippe epidemic which not only kept the children out of school but seemed to dishearten the parents' interest in the whole educational system and caused some of them to want to move away from civilizing influences. Then again in the spring my wife was sick and that broke up the work to some extent. However, a great amount of work was done and good accomplished. Lydia Sheldon Ikik, a native girl, was given charge of the kindergarten classes while I took charge of the first four grades. Her children were drilled on the exercises in Wade and Sylvester's Primer, and were taught how to count, add and subtract. They were shown how to sew on cards and were given some instruction in drawing. We think that Lydia got some excellent results from the exercises in the Primer. (We wish to remark that this is the best book for these children that we have ever seen.) The B class of the first grade, in my department, read through Baldwin's First Reader and started reading Three Little Kittens. They did simple problems in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They were given six words a day in Baldwin's Speller. They had writing, drawing and phonics at the same time the rest of my pupils had these subjects. The girls did paper cutting and needle work and the boys took a part in the wood work and agriculture. The A part of the first grade reviewed the first reader and read through The Overall Boys. They were given ten

words every day in Baldwin's Speller. Their other work was much the same as the 3 class except that their number work was more advanced. The second grade read through Baldwin's Second Reader and book one, Around The World. They were given from ten to fifteen words to spell every day in the speller. Part of this class did number work with the first grade and part of it were in the next higher class in arithmetic. The third grade read through Baldwin's Third Reader and Around The World. They had from ten to fifteen words in Baldwin's Speller every day. They were given practical problems in arithmetic such as they would come in contact with in trading their skins, fish, etc., for outside supplies. They were taught to read and write numbers rapidly and they were drilled on the multiplication tables and forty-five combinations. The members in this class were quite irregular in their attendance. The Fourth grade read through Heath's Fourth Reader but I am not prepared to say that they understood everything they read. This class knew how to master big words and to read very well but when it came to explaining the lesson it was apparent that they had grasped very little of the thought of the theme. When they couldn't get the thought out of the lesson for themselves, I used to tell them the story in the simplest words that I knew and then let them read the lesson over again. Some times they were considerably helped by this method. They did some very nice work in geography and were very good spellers. They recited with the third grade in arithmetic.

We have mentioned the fact that all of my grades had writing, drawing and phonic lessons practically at the same time. The phonic lessons are of great benefit to the children

as they are much troubled over the proper articulation of many of our consonant sounds and some of the vowel sounds are hard for them to distinguish.

The advanced sewing class sewed nine white aprons and caps, nine blue gingham aprons and they pieced and tied a large quilt. They sewed a great number of hand towels and they received some instruction in making their own dresses and wearing apparel. At the end of the year we gave the girls the gingham aprons as a reward for their faithful work in the class during the year.

The cooking class was without question the most popular class in the school. Each girl prepared a cookbook for herself. After each cooking lesson they were required to copy the recipes they had used that day into their cookbooks. The boys were allowed to make cookbooks also but they did not take any part in the cooking or baking exercises except to observe. The whole thing was optional with them but nearly all of them wanted to copy the recipes. If we were to be here next year, we should permit the boys to take the cooking lessons the same as the girls for they have quite as much use for them. Many of the boys go off and cook for the miners and traders. During the year, this class made thirty-nine loaves of bread, three dozen baking powder biscuits, two and one-half dozen cinnamon rolls, twelve and one-half dozen brown cookies, and thirteen large cakes. They were, also, taught how to fry, boil and roast meat and fish and to make nourishing soups. The making of the vegetable soups is more important than it appears at first as this is a new addition to the Eskimo's diet and he

understands very little about properly preparing for the table these important food products. Beside their cooking lessons they were instructed how to keep their kitchens and living rooms clean and attractive.

We had a small class in basketry. This is a new industry for the Kobuk people and one which we think might be cultivated to some advantage; provided, that the local grasses may be utilized. They made a few very nice saphia baskets but undoubtedly will do better next year.

The boys helped me to make a cupboard for the medicine and they themselves made two benches for the schoolroom and some rakes to be used in cleaning up the yards in the spring. The whole village received a great lesson in carpentry as they watched the progress of the building of the residence. There wasn't anything new but what they wished to know all about it. There were dozens about every day asking questions, handling the tools and observing the work.

We shall take up the sanitation and hygiene lessons under another topic.

The children adopted the following school yell this year:-

Zip-a-boom-bah!

Zip-a-boom-bah!

Shungnak! Shungnak!

Rah! Rah! Rah!

Whenever we had any social gatherings this yell was used to
good advantage.

TREATMENT OF DISEASES

This community is considered one of the most healthful communities in Alaska. Nevertheless there are sporadic cases of tubercular and syphilitic origin in this community. It will only be a matter of time when these diseases will be epidemic among these people on account of the peculiar habits of this race. Unless drastic measures are immediately adopted to change their present mode of eating and sleeping together, I look for the extermination of the race inside of a very few years. Not later than the dawn of the next century than scientific parties will be looking for the fossils and curios of the extinct Eskimo tribes that lived along the Arctic Ocean in Alaska. If the proper measures are adopted to preserve this race right away this will not be true.

well

There were two/developed cases of syphilis, with complications, this year. One we treated under the direction of Dr. Barbour while the other refused all medical aid. In both cases there was intense headache followed by loss of sight. Both had running sores on the neck and other parts of the body. The child that was not treated died several months ago. The other one is gaining in health but will probably never regain her eye sight.

For about three weeks in the middle of the winter, we were in the midst of a la grippe epidemic. It happened to come when the temperature was very low which made it much worse. There was a great deal of misery. During the worst of the seige, as the assistant teacher and myself visited them, we found cabin after cabin with every inmate flat on their back or curled up near the stove writhing in pain. One or

have been against him. After he had recovered from his operation at Kotzebue he again broke his leg and was sent over to the Candle hospital by his friends down the river. He recovered from this operation but again broke his leg during the period of convalescence. We are very sad to learn that so much pain and medicine had weakened his system so that he never recovered from the effects of the anesthetic administered for the last operation.

While Dr. Barbour was at the station in the spring he treated one little boy for tubercular meningitis but could not save him. The Doctor attended to several minor complaints while he was there and performed one minor operation upon a native.

Just after the ice went out, a native chopped his forefinger off and I had to dress that. I sent him down the river also to a doctor.

SANITATION & HYGIENE.

It was our custom to make weekly talks before the school on sanitation and hygiene. When the Doctor was here he gave a lecture to the whole village on the subject. Most of our natives wash their clothes regularly every week and scrub out their cabins. It is very hard for a native to keep clean owing to the small space that he lives in and considering that his foods must be cooked, his skins must be tanned and practically everything, he does in the winter in the way of labor, must be done in his little cabin. When he hunts, he brings his ~~skins and meats into the cabin to be dressed, so that it is~~ often a wonder to me, that their cabins are as clean as they are at times. I have been into many white men's cabins that were

far below the average of our native cabins in cleanliness and appearance.

On every nice day during the winter we advised them to take their bed clothes out of doors where they could be aired and freed of disease germs. Most of them followed our suggestions.

While there is no bathtub in the schoolhouse, we remind the children very frequently about keeping their bodies clean and wholesome, and we are sure that soap and water were used very freely. We also recommended and insisted that the children wear some sort of underwear next to their skin that could be taken off regularly and be washed. Very few of them wore parkas in school except as an outside garment much as we wear an overcoat.

At intermissions we always opened the windows and doors for a few moments, at least, to change the air in the room. Often we opened the windows during school hours while I conducted^a five minute physical culture drill. During the whole session we endeavored to keep the room well ventilated. Whenever the whole population was gathered in the schoolroom we were very particular that there was good ventilation even though it was necessary to keep a roaring fire in the stove to maintain a comfortable temperature.

It is very hard to quarantine a native ~~a native~~ unless there is a hospital to put him in. However, we suggested every safe guard against the spread of disease that was at all practical. We cautioned everybody about expectorating on the floor, in their cabins as well as in the schoolroom. It is an interesting, if not a pleasant sight, to see every native

and comfort of the home. It was our privilege to see every cabin, during our two years regime, improve its sleeping quarters. Many of them slept on the floor, when we came here, but, at the end of our two years, there is hardly a cabin where there are not bunks or beds provided for all the family. Another thing we suggested was screening off the family's sleeping apartment or even the bed from the rest of the house. This suggestion has been taken up quite generally in the community.

SOCIALS, ENTERTAINMENTS, ETC.

The village united with us in holding a great Thanksgiving feast at the schoolhouse. The men hunted rabbits and ptarmigan for a week in order to supply the meat part of the feast. The school garden and the native gardens furnished their quota of turnips, ruta bagas, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, etc. Sauce was made out of native cranberries and blueberries. The cooking class of the school had charge of the cooking and baking but were assisted by the native women.

We made plans ^{and} preparations for the most extensive Christmas program and festival that had ever taken place in this part of Alaska. We arranged for some nice dialogues, tableaux, recitations and songs and the children had them all, practically, committed to memory a week before Christmas. We planned on extensive decorations in the schoolroom and stage arrangements. Both the natives and the white population for miles around were expecting great things. You can partially imagine our disappointment and their disappointment when the la grippe epidemic came into our neighborhood just at that time and laid native and white man flat on their back. It was a-

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mazing to think how soon and ruthlessly our plans were thwarted. It was funny in some ways to find some of the big strong miners groaning in the natives' cabins a day or two after they had come in from their mines intent upon a big time. We had a Christmas tree and a sort of a program but it only served to impress upon us the melancholy of the occasion.

The first year we entertained the school children every month at our home. This year we were only able to entertain them once in this manner but they spent many evenings at the house intertaining themselves.

IMPROVEMENTS.

There were some reformations and improvements that we were unable to inaugurate this year which we had planned on early in the season. We received a copy of **THE SCHOOL CITY** by Mr. Wilson L. Gill, for instance and while we were very anxious to try out some of his ideas we could not find the time to do it this year. We have several organizations in the community now but the natives are very dependent upon the teacher in every move they make.

The building of the new residence for the station has been mentioned.

The progress made in gardening will be mentioned later.

There were five new native cabins built last fall and one new cabin, that was built by white men, was purchased along with these parties' mining interests by a native family.

Three native cabins were enlarged by additions.

Several cabins were reroofed and new floors laid with

native lumber.

One roof that appealed to Mr. Schields, our District Superintendent, as being especially odd, was replaced this spring with native lumber and flint coat roofing paper. When he was here this winter, this cabin had a dirt roof with ever-green trees laid on top to shed the rain. He took a picture of it as it was then, we have a picture of the place improved.

Large and cozy kennels were built by all our natives in camp last fall. It took a year to get this improvement. We asked for it the first year but were told to wait until next year. Nearly all the natives kept their work and we are proud to say that Shungnak natives can now boast of the finest dog houses to be found in any part of Alaska. One native took so much pains to get his dog house perfect that he put a stove in it and kept a fire during the coldest weather. The natives are becoming much interested in the welfare and appearance of their dog teams in various ways. They are more humane in their manner of handling these faithful animals and feed them better than they did in the aboriginal state. We have urged them to shoot the old and useless dogs rather than to permit them to starve to death. They are adopting the white man's harness and making their sleds after the most up-to-date patterns. Riley Jim Sho-no-ko turned out two sleds this year that were beautiful to behold for neatness and workmanship.

We planted two little trees in the front of the house this spring. In time they will add greatly to the beauty of the place. The Eskimo is altogether too practical in some ways. He cares nothing for pretty flowers or shade trees. I am sure that the cultivating of pretty flowers in their gardens would

have a signal influence for good upon their children and, if a few lovely shade trees were placed about their cabins, they would be more homelike.

Another improvement that might be noted is the peace and harmony with which the natives have worked together this winter and also the friendly relations that have been established this year between the village and the miners.

AGRICULTURE.

This industry is gradually gaining in importance. Whereas, when we came here, there was hardly a quarter of an acre under cultivation, including both the natives gardens and the teacher's garden, now there is a good acre under cultivation. This is an industry which is going to take time and patience to mature yet I anticipate the time, if the natives thrive, when there will be little farms scattered all over the region.

It was an interesting sight to see the burning and clearing that was done this spring. Probably two acres were burned off and will be ready for cultivation next spring.

The natives need some farming implements very much and it would be very nice if they could get the use of a horse in the spring time. An old native and myself made a V-drag which was a novelty to the people. As soon as we were ready to give it its first trial, Tommy Par-uk hitched on to it with his nine-dog-team and the fun began. He and his brothers had a garden patch about a hundred feet square which we intended to harrow first. This first exhibition was more ludicrous than anything else as the dogs almost ran away several times and Tommy was unable to keep them anywhere within bounds, but I am sure that such an implement will be of practical use in the

near future. It may be necessary to use a horse or reindeer in place of ^{the} dogs.

REINDEER INDUSTRY.

The natives are becoming more enthusiastic over the reindeer industry than ever before. This year we had no trouble to get them to take deer in exchange for labor. One of our poorest natives invested \$175.00 in reindeer this year and several others bought one and two deer.

Since our Superintendent appointed Jimmie Oo-re-gel-yuk, Chief Herder, a year ago, the conditions at the reindeer camp have improved greatly. Jimmie is a wide awake boy who has had a great deal of experience. He has made the trip north as the Superintendent's guide for three successive years and, in that way, has had a chance to observe the methods employed in many other reindeer camps. He is a quiet, unassuming boy and we anticipate for him a great future in the reindeer service. Since he has been in our camp our boys have changed the pattern of their harnesses and sleds. They also have learned many new things about the herding and driving of the deer. We have some of the best trained sled deer in our herd now that can be found anywhere in the reindeer service.

One of the interesting events at the close of this year's service was the witnessing of the marriage of our Chief Herder and our assistant teacher, Lydia Ikik.

RESOURCES.

In the fall time the natives catch great quantities of fish for their own consumption and for the market out of the Kobuk river. In the fall and winter, they hunt and trap and, also, do some freighting. In the springtime they put in their

gardens and then scatter out to various occupations. Part of them follow the ice down, catching muskrats on the way, and then they proceed to Sealing Point where they catch sea lions and hair seals. Most of these products they barter for goods at Kotzebue, although they take some of the seal skins and seal oil home for their own consumption and for the natives up the river. Some of the natives work in the mines during the summer months while others serve as pilots on the river boats. Riley Jim Sho-no-ko and Yukon Charlie Ko-pat-kok are owners and operators of placer mines. Jim also ran a general store this past winter. The reindeer industry is just beginning to be one of their means of support.

SUMMARY.

The following are a few condensed items of interest:-

Number of women bread makers in community	41
Number of men bread makers in community	unknown
Number of sewing machines in community	12
Number of igloos in community	1
Number of native cabins in community	40
Number of two story native cabins in community	2
Number of cabins having two or more rooms	8
Number of cabins built this year in community	5
Number of additions made to cabins	3
Number of families having garden patches in community	22
Approximate area in gardens	1 acre
Number of boats built this year	18
Approximate number of feet of lumber whipped-sawed	20 M. ft.
Total population	242
Number of births during this year	14

Number of deaths during this year	9
Increase in race	5
School enrollment last year	61
School enrollment this year	70
Increase	9
Average attendance last year	30.64
Average attendance this year	35.25

Increase nearly five pupils per month.

Distribution of the Reindeer herd-

Reindeer owned by government	134
Reindeer owned by herders and apprentices	424
Reindeer owned by other natives	196
Total number reindeer in the herd	754

In conclusion let me say: There is no place in Alaska that looks as much like the outside as our village did this spring after the gardens were planted and the woods were green; there is no place in Alaska, that can match with this place for natural scenery and location; there is no place in Alaska that we know about that can match with this place and this people for the progress they have made since the dawn of civilization in their horizon.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

This year we shall make few recommendations, owing to the fact that we are going out of the service. The following, howsoever, seem to be very important to us, so we shall indulge upon a little more of your valuable time to mention them:-

- ~~1. We recommend that the Department consider plans~~ for supplying this community with a saw-mill at the earliest opportunity. It would be best for the natives, if they could

go into partnership with the government at first but eventually be permitted to buy out the government's interest. The source of spruce and birch timber surrounding this station is quite extensive and the Kobuk river furnishes cheap transportation facilities. The logs can be easily rafted into Shungnak and the lumber can be easily shipped to points down the river and on Kotzebue Sound.

2. We feel that this school ought to have two teachers as the ^{field} ~~work~~ is too large for one teacher and his family to manage alone. We would recommend the hiring of an assistant teacher who would be willing to enter into the social life of the community as well as perform her set duties in the school-room. A proper social leader among them could work wonders in reforming the moral life of the young people.

3. We recommend the necessity of a traveling doctor or nurse in this region and the continuance of the hospital at Kotzebue.

4. We recommend that a United States Commissioner be placed upon a regular salary and not upon a commission basis. This is not a reflection upon the person but upon the system. The natives do not get fair treatment under the present system.

5. There are enough children and people at the lower end of the Kobuk river to guarantee the necessity of the early establishment of a school near Oksick.

Very respectfully yours,

Charles H. Jones.
Teacher.