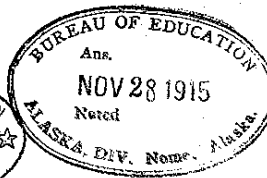
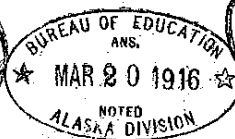


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Shungnak, Alaska,

October 25, 1915.

Walter Shields,
Supt. Native Schools,
Nome Alaska.



Dear Sir,

I have a chance to send this letter to the Coal Mine by a trapper, so I thought I would send you a few lines to tell you the limited News.

To begin with we have all had the Grip, and some of the natives were so sick that they were ready to die but all have made recoveries. The health of the Station is pretty good at present.

The Natives were prevented from putting in the Shee traps by too much water. The Whitefish and Mudshark Traps are catching a fair amount offish.

Some of the Natives caught many Salmon this Summer. They attended to business during the Salmon run better than ever before.

I believe that I told you that we raised upwards of seven tons of Potatoes and Turnips at Shungnak this year. That is pretty good for Natives.

The Children who made nets last year report that they caught from 100 to 250 fish each with these nets during the Summer.

Yukon Charley cleaned up 46 ounces of Gold Dust. I allowed John Douglas to buy the ground with part payment in reindeer. I think that Yukon Charley and his cousin Tom Loktoon have discovered a couple of new creeks. But they are keeping it quiet.

John Douglas and Michael Moran (Nauviksuk and Mokokklook) are going to take about 30 reindeer to the Koyukuk in a few days. The Herders are going to market their own deer this year. Each deer will be charged with \$ 5.00 to pay the expenses. If the Natives can attend to the driving and marketing as well as last year, and can keep clear of the

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gamblers and bootleggers they should bring back a thousand dollars in cash.

The Friends Missionary, Miss Stratton is quiet and seems disposed to be reasonable. She has been holding church for those Natives who are accustomed to go to Kotzebue to trade every summer, and those who are related to the Lower River Natives. The people who live the most of the year on the Kobuk and the head men Riley Jim and Yukon Charlie do not attend her meetings. She has a much smaller following than I expected and I believe that she will have a smaller attendance when the novelty of her visit here wears off. If she were disposed to leave the Native Dancing and other affairs alone, I think that she could do much good among her natives as some of them certainly need some uplifting influence. The failure of Bishop Rowe to build a church here is responsible for the divided interests of the natives. I have urged the natives not to allow any difference in faith to interfere with the School, business, and friendly relations. It is a consolation to me that things are no worse than at present as I was prepared to witness some more of Mrs. Myer's "Acts of Faith".

I have lined the ceilings of the School and the Residence, and repaired and improved the School stormshed and toilet. I have also placed the new windows in the residence. I am busy from morning until after-noon every day.

I made some pretty fair pictures of the Northern lights this Fall. I am sending you a couple of prints.

The school attendance is smaller than last year as the young boys and men could not get work here and have gone to the Koyukuk.

Respectfully

Fred M. Sickler.

Fred M. Sickler