

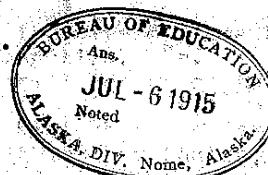
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Shungnak, Alaska.

June, 20, 1915.

Mr. Walter Shields,

Supt. Native Schools, Nome,



Dear Sir, I thought I would drop you a few lines to let you know that there was no damage to the place on account of the high water. Considerable wood would have been lost, but I placed the wire fencing around it. I am very glad to state that I was able to get in nearly all the advance. At the present "lazy Big John" has some not cut, and Lazybones Attunehas a cord to finish. I wish I had the material to make a shed to keep the wood in so it would be dry, and prevent petty theft as well as presenting a better appearance.

I have written to you about sending for Crazy Charley Nungnaks Records. He says that Mr. Evans promised him that he should keep all the deer (ie) not repay the 50 loan- in which case he should have about a hundred deer, instead of the about 60 you spoke of. He says Mr. Evans promised him stoves and other supplies out of the local Reindeer stores in lieu of those that Charley left at Unalakleet.

I have been working like a common hired hand since school finished, in grubbing the stumps out of the front yard and making it into a garden. My garden is nearly 200 ft long and stretches along the river in front of both gardens (old ones) and the buildings. I also have garden between the two buildings as far back as their back. The back yard and street of both buildings are full of stumps, weeds and holes, but I cannot do everything in one year.

My experiments with the hot and cold frames show that this method is the only one to use to raise early cabbages. I am going to try to get the natives to build a common hothouse. I was able to supply a number of them with seeds, cabbage, plants and seed potatoes. I also sent seeds and Potatoes to Fiana, and Kotzebue. I have put in a large quantity of seed turnips and will have enough seed to plant all the Native gardens in Alaska, if they turn out good. The natives have also made large additions to their gardens as I told them if the war continues for another year they will have a hard time to live during the winter.

The mosquitoes are coming there is no place in Alaska where they thrive like here. The air is black with them at times.

We are enjoying the mail service. I believe you know that M.F. Moran got the contract.

All the natives, baptized as well as unbaptized, are at work on the logs for our church. We have about 300 logs on the grounds and will try to get another 100. We have had a very quiet winter as far as the Church Question is concerned, except that at different times natives came up from Ovik with a message from the Friends (?) telling them unless they moved to Fiana within 3 years they would not be allowed in the new Reservation. That Geary had been appointed in my place at Shungnak, about complaints being sent in to Washington etc. etc. However these rumors were soon forgotten when the Koyukuk Indian Scares came up. As far as I know everyone is satisfied with present conditions which as a whole are better than any year in the past under other teachers. Of course there were unpleasant things such as the dispute about the Fox Ranch of Moran's, and Burden trying to start the Whiteman dance, but these matters seem to have taken care of them selves. We have had no rows and no scenes with any one. There are only 4 white men left. they seem to be behaving themselves.

I got a letter from Dr. Nichols forbidding the use of the Kotzebue School house. Of course it is hard on everyone to use it, or not use it. As for myself my memories of that bastille are such as I don't want any more of it. Dr. Nichols also wanted to pay for his board while here, but I do not wish pay for hospitality

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However in such a case as Lloyd and John staying with us is quite different. They had no other place to stay and were at work for a long time. Dr. says that you are paying where you stop, but I hope you will not offer to pay us should you stay with us a few days at any time.

The natives are having a hard time to get along without White man's grub. Some of the old ones say that they can cut out everything but the tea, tobacco, and sugar. But all agree that the children cannot do without many articles. It is true the children are all very thin and they have stomach trouble more than usual. There will no doubt be considerable deaths among the children if the war continues and provisions become scarce. A number of the natives have gone to the Keyukuk for work but I doubt if they can find it.

I wish that you would have come up so I could have had you advise Riley Jim Wood. On account of a store and some Mining claims, he is nearly \$3000.00 in the hole. His owing so much has a bad effect on the other natives and Jim seems very discouraged and does not seem disposed to do anything. Yukon Charley's wife left him on account of Burton and while they have made up he also has gone into retirement. So the village has lost the influence of these two strong and in a way progressive chiefs. The low price of furs has taken the heart out of all of them. I hope conditions will change so they will feel more like going ahead.

I wish you would get me a 100 lbs of Seed Potatoes from Seattle, and if too late to reach Shungnak they could be stored at Kotzebue or Kiana, and brought up in the Spring. I wish Eureka, Early Ohio, Irish Cobbler, and particularly Gold Coin.

I believe I told you that Robert Cleveland got one of those deer catching wolves. You have not yet sent us the Syhni ne.

I must close. The Mail arrived yesterday and leaves today.

I am sending you Photographs of our sewing class and garments they have made. I think our school has been second to none in the amount of real work done.

Respectfully, and in haste

Fred M. Sickle

We wish to thank you for all the congratulations you sent us from Selanik

F. M. S.

We shall be gone during a short time in July August to visit the upper fish camps. F. M. S.