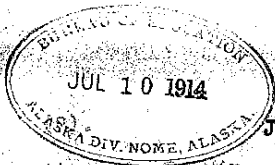


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July, 1st., 1914.

gave a good time to all the natives... then on Christ-  
Annual Report of the U.S. Public School at Deering, Alaska.  
was night the "white" people gave a program in the school-house using  
The school:-

the same tree, which was most beautifully decorated, and invited all  
The work in the school room has been satisfactory to our  
conception of the needs of this people. After adjusting ourselves  
written invitations; over 50 Eskimos were present. It certainly  
to the conditions, and familiarizing ourselves with the material on  
was a treat to them and they appreciated the respect with which they  
hand, we decided on a definite system of instruction. With no

written language, and no literature, it became evident to us that the  
The Eskimos who could understand English; sending them special  
English language must be acquired; thus giving them the benefit of  
a world of literature, and a vast field of knowledge outside of the  
school during all of March, returning to the herds in time for the  
Government School service. We encouraged every body to talk

English every where, especially in their own homes, until even the  
oldest men now use a few words, and always encourage the children to  
Business in town closed and every one attended. It was a good time  
do so, which I understand was never before attempted. We have made

no effort to learn the Eskimo, but have insisted that they all learn  
the English. Some have begun to speak a comprehensible English.

Most of the teaching was given on the subjects of Hygiene,  
English and Mathematics, which met with enthusiastic support from all.

Our total enrollment for the year was 67, with an average  
attendance of 41 for the eight months of the school. No tardy  
marks but with almost one half the school present an hour before time.

A thirst for knowledge was so intense that we had the greatest  
difficulty to accommodate all who wished to attend. Whole  
families attended for as much as a month at a time.

We gave much contest work so as to develop the independent  
thinker. In our mathematical contests it is remarkable how  
quick and accurate some of the pupils have become. One 10yr. old

boy often defeated both his father and mother in a spirited contest,  
their chagrin and the enjoyment of the school.  
Five public entertainments were given during the year, furnishing  
the entertainment by recitations, songs and drills.

Often the store and saloons closed while the proprietors attend  
the exercises. A Thanksgiving program and dinner was given to all  
who were present in the village together with some of the white people  
living at Deering. All enjoyed the day very much. Again on  
Christmas Eve a splendid entertainment with a well filled Christmas

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gave a good time to all the natives in Deering. Then on Christmas night the "white" people gave a program in the school-house using the same tree, which was most beautifully decorated, and invited all the eskimos who could understand english; sending them special written invitations: over 50 eskimos were present. It certainly was a treat to them and they appreciated the respect with which they were received.

The apprentice boys all attended school in a body during the month of Jan. going out to their herds through Feb. returning to school during all of March, returning to the herds in time for the fawning season.

On the last day of school a splendid program was rendered. Business in town closed and every one attended. It was a good time.

Mrs. Hilka Robinson of Candle brought her violin and gave several well rendered selections which greatly delighted the children.

Other features of the work will be considered under the proper heads following.

#### INDUSTRIAL WORK.

##### "Carpentry"

We have been able to do some work in the limited space available for a shop, and with the tools provided. The boys were taught how to sharpen plane-irons, file saws and the proper use of the many different tools. We gave the entire village access to the shop, and much work was done by those who were not scholars this year.

The school built 12 sleds, 19 tables, 3 book-cases, shelves, medicine cabinet, 1 stepladder, boxes and benches. In June I built a 14ft. skiff which the natives declare is the best model for a fishing boat they have ever seen in Deering. It greatly facilitates the handling their nets and is to be followed by the building of several others as soon as suitable lumber can be secured. We are not trying to make all of them carpenters, but such as seem to have a gift that way. Some build better sleds and others build better houses, so we encourage each in his special line. Two of the boys built a dish cupboard of the slash grained lumber

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furnished by the government; and borrowed a blow-torch from a white man and flamed the wood which makes a beautiful finish. A suitable building for a shop is very greatly needed.

"Sewing".

This department has been entirely in the hands of the asst. teacher Mrs. Replogle; The girls and some of the boys have had much satisfactory instruction in the art of Basketry, Crocheting and general sewing. Almost every afternoon they were given one and one half hours of practical teaching on these subjects. *Boys grand total of 10 baskets were made, 2 table mats, one large and useful raffia baskets were made photo holder and other small articles.*

At Christmas time each girl was presented with a skein of yarn and a crochet hook and shown how to use them. Most of the girls were greatly enthused as there has been a great demand for wristlets and mittens. One 12 year old girl knit 7 pairs of mittens receiving 75 cents a pair for the labor alone. In the school classes the following articles were made; 30 pairs of mittens, 15 pairs of wristlets; while in the sewing classes were made 7 dresses, 10 aprons, 12 towels 30 handkerchiefs, 64 needle cases, (one for each woman in the village,) 8 sewing bags, besides the repairs made on many yarn stockings and dresses brought from the village.

A sewing class was organized in the village and two of the school girls were placed in charge, which resulted in a very decided improvement in the fitting and finishing of garments.

"COOKING".

In this department there has been more instruction given in the village than in the school-room. We found the children could not practice their acquired knowledge in their limited conditions so we undertook to teach them how to make the best use of what they had to work with at home; often loaning them things to enable them to acquire a liking for better facilities. We could not mix bread on their floors so they have made tables and now most all of them have one in the home. Since the advent of the table very little baking-powder bread is made in the village. They were taught how to prepare meats and pastry to a limited degree, even how to make candy. Very little cooking or baking was done at school except for teaching cleanliness.



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## "AGRICULTURE".

This is a department not capable of much development at Deering. Every thing is <sup>against it. The shortness</sup> ~~against it. The shortness~~ of the seasons, the fierce cold winds, the lack of fresh water to irrigate, with suitable soil three miles away up the river. When finally on the ground the first difficulty of the gardener is the Field Mouse, a kind of Mole, which if he misses the seeds he gets the young plants as soon as they are through the ground. Should he miss them entirely, along comes the squirrel and has his share; the numbers of these rodents is problematical. The gardener must needs live in the center of his garden surrounded with traps if he saved many of his plants; an island is no protection as they readily swim the river. But when a sturdy seed escapes these and dares to any pretensions, the thousands of birds, small fellows, with their young ones, all have their meals from the tender garden which must be protected by a fine netting. All these things tax an experienced gardener to say nothing of the discouragements coming from the easy going native heart which can hardly be expected to compete with such odds. A small garden is planted at the school house and with mouse traps every where and real fresh water far away, with birds, and cold winds we are having a strenuous time of it. But with all these drawbacks we have a fair showing of young onions, lettuce, cabbage, turnips, rutabagas, spinach, brussels sprouts, carrots and celery. It all takes much patience and careful watching. Then again the time when the native must get his seal supply is just when the garden should be planted, the fishing grounds being necessarily far from the garden almost prohibits any agricultural attempts at this place.

## "MINING".

Some of the school boys and some men from the village are working for wages in different capacities about the mining operations and are becoming interested in such occupations. They realize that the eskimo cannot depend wholly on the original methods for his living, so they are seeking to develop other avenues for support.

## "PERSONAL CLEANLINESS".

Personal cleanliness is one of the perplexing questions with the eskimo. With no public sentiment and few examples he seems to have little idea what the term cleanliness means.

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Explain to him that he must wash his hands and face and take a bath; but thus far little progress is made except in getting him to comb his hair, while it is very difficult to keep it looking as though it had been done, on account of the germ laden, infected "parka" being stripped off over his head so often. Scarcity of fuel prohibits them from melting snow or ice for more than necessary drinking purposes. The snow water is discolored and full of particles of sand, moss, and leaves blown in by the blizzards so that it must be strained before use. No facilities for baths, and no possible privacy; which makes it most discouraging. With the better houses of which we speak under another head we will largely overcome this difficulty.

#### "WASHING CLOTHES"

Again the lack of water and fuel is a serious drawback to the proper washing of clothes. Their parkas have gingham covers which they wear until the cloth is too dirty, then they reverse the cloth and finally when it gets too bad they wash it, but the fur part is never washed; so we have fumigated a number of them this year. Under clothes are generally worn and not very often washed. The skin pants worn are never washed and often the children have no other clothing on than the skin pants and fur parka. We succeeded in getting all but the poorest to put some kind of under clothes on and to wash them every week. Also they are now making skin coats for ordinary wear and use the parka only on long journeys or during severe blizzards. This necessitates their wearing washable clothing under them which will greatly help to teach them to keep clean.

#### "CLEANING AND VENTILATING HOUSES."

The commissioners of Health and Public Works have the general oversight of this department and have recommended some changes in ventilating and ordered some houses cleaned where the occupants were neglectful. The floors are scrubbed and disinfectant used once every week when the house is occupied; the disinfectant is supplied from the school supply. This has eliminated the body pests from all the houses except four and they are under control. The houses have all been numbered and a plat of the village made, naming the street and locating every man's property. He therefore understands just what the law expects him to keep clean.

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**"BUILDING NEW HOUSES".**

5 new houses were built this year with some improvement over old ones. They were planned and in course of construction when we arrived; being unfamiliar with climatic conditions we could offer very little practical advice. During the year we have carefully studied the subject, investigating various methods of construction and have devised an improved plan of house to be built of timbers 5 inches thick by 12 inches wide laid up like a log house but with the joints cemented together. Cold only penetrates 3 to 4 inches of solid timber so that the 5 inch solid wall and roof will fully protect against the extreme temperature. These houses are planned with 2 or more rooms below with a sleeping place above, which can be kept warmed with the same fire that now keeps the other house warm. The price of timber is almost prohibitive at present. Could we but have a saw mill and the village located in a suitable place this lumber could be supplied for less than half the present price. An order for one new house of this kind has been placed; more would have been builded had not the prospective moving of the village been decided upon. These houses will be more easily lighted and will be thoroughly ventilated, dry places of abode: a minimum amount of fuel will keep the house warm in the most severe storm quite different from the little, dark and damp igloo of the present.

**"GARBAGE".**

The village law requires the burning of all garbage possible and the disposal of all tin cans by taking them out to sea. Several public toilets are provided with vaults beneath them.

**"GENERAL SANITATION OF THE VILLAGE".**

The commissioner of health has this in charge and has been an efficient officer. Where premises are not kept clean he has hired it done, and the owners were obliged to pay the bill; to which they readily acceded. Some who feared the payment made a journey of about 80 miles to do their own cleaning up when the snow left; they being away at the sealing places. Suitable covered caches have been provided for seal, seal-oil and fish so that objectionable odors are minimized.

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## "Native Support".

There are three chief means of support employed by our natives.

"First"- Hunting. The hunter finds his avocation greatly hampered since the advent of the white hunter and trapper. He has made it necessary for the eskimo to go on longer journeys than before while the chief supply has been the game birds of the summer season.

"Second":-Fishing & Sealing:-The seal is plentiful, the natives going about 80 miles for it, while the mining operations at the heads of the rivers, sending their muddy, gasoline soaked waters to the sea has reduced the salmon supply to only half enough for the present population of this station. This together with the large number of dogs owned by both natives and whites, consume large quantities of that which is caught from our ever decreasing supply. More salmon was shipped in from Kotzebue this year than was taken in Deering Waters.

"Third":- The Reindeer:- The final great bulwark of native dependence. How the eskimo could live with out him is a mere hazard: it surely is a dispensation of Providence to them and should be encouraged in every possible way. With his meat for food, his skin for clothing and his strength for freighting, and no outlay for his feed, the reindeer is an indispensable blessing. Without him the future of the eskimo would now be very doubtful. The miner has furnished a ready market for the meat thus far, at 20 cents a pound, although there has been much complaint from the merchants about the high price. Every station should have a cold storage in which to keep the meat until the demand is urgent: this would enable the slaughtering to be done in the autumn when the deer are fat, saving from 5 to 10 pounds in the weight of every deer. In the spring the deer are nearly all poor in flesh.

A few <sup>men</sup> work for wages at \$2.50 to \$3.00 per day with board and room given. A few add to their income by freighting during the winter. A little financial encouragement from the Government with suitable supervision for the establishment of other industries would be of untold value. Such as a store, a tannery, a fish curing plant, etc., all of which need financial help and a credit to get a beginning.



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## "MEDICAL DEPARTMENT".

This department has been much appreciated by the natives and but little severe sickness has occurred in the village. 2 cases of Pneumonia when we arrived, fully recovered. One young man with Tuberculosis has fully regained normal strength. One long standing case of stone in the bladder,; an operation successfully removed 3 large stones. This was rather a serious operation without a suitable anesthetic. Another man fell and dislocated his hip joint which was set, and he has fully recovered. The constant teaching has prevented many disorders. Besides the proper medicine being at the school has made it possible to prevent any serious sickness from getting a start. Was called in 5 cases of Obstetrics where the mother was threatened by hemorrhage. /<sup>0</sup> fine babies were born and one still born. The/<sup>0</sup> babies are all doing nicely, thanks to the medical department and the insistant teaching. 2 cases of chronic <sup>sore</sup> eyes, and 2 cases of enlarged glands of the neck were sent to the hospital at Kotzebue.

## "LAW ENFORCEMENT".

There is no trouble about the enforcement of the law as the village Commissioner of Public Safty is empowered by the popular vote with such duties and has received ready compliance from every one in the village. He is also instructed to see that all territorial and national laws are obeyed. A strong public opinion has been created by this self government plan.

## "GENERAL MORAL CONDITION".

A strong public sentiment is growing against any moral ~~degener~~ degeneracy. We have no knowledge of any infraction of the moral code this year. Some severe teaching was given with expected results. The people are becoming more modest in their habits and clean in their language.

"SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE PHYSICAL, MORAL  
AND INDUSTRIAL WELFARE OF THE NATIVE."

The decreasing natural food supply will soon require other means of livelyhood. There should be a surplus earning power. This is now lacking and the native only gets his daily food as he needs it. If a part of the appropriation could be used in helping the people



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places

ould cold storages and curing for their game and fish it would give them new ideas of life and enable them to provide against a possible time of want. Money is scarce and material very expensive. ~~the~~ whole production being used for food alone, there is no surplus for advancement. A few dollars invested by the Gov. in a general store in which to train eskimos for a business life would be economical educational investment. The industrial question is a large one, but the first and most needed industry now is some means to supply the lumber for a better house. It is little use to teach men to be carpenters with lumber selling at \$50 to \$75 per thousand, poor lumber at that. Fish bring 5 to 8 cents a pound, and scarce: A carpenter needs more than packing boxes and empty spools to work into houses and furnishings.

It seems to me a better condition generally could be obtained by having the people more closely associated in one or two communities with thoroughly competent instructors in the various lines of endeavor than to have the people in small scattered settlements, with the whole range of their instruction committed to some specialist of one subject with little zest or knowledge of other subjects. Then again many of the villages are so located as to give only one vantage point and that a minor one. They should be led to seek the most economical location as well as to choose the best gun or build the best sled. To bring them together into one village would enable the Gov. to give them special instructors in the various lines and would teach the people a more comprehensive idea of "man's relationship to man" as no other system in the abstract could do. Their former life being so much like the animal, they scarcely realize the importance of restraint of the one for the good of the many.

Self- government is the fundamental idea of every race, as well as the assurance of its permanency. With this in view we have already called the village in mass meeting and organized ~~as~~ a simple form of commission government; electing by ballot 5 commissioners to control the affairs of the village. All over 16 years were given the franchise. The officers are designated as com. of public safty, ~~health~~ health, public works, finance, and judge. They have been installed since ~~Jan~~ Jan. and have had no trouble with law enforcement. All laws are subject to a referendum vote so every one respects them.

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ing men were chosen more for their fitness for the place than for ~~the~~ their popularity. The result has been a clean village and a thorough fumigation of every house in it. One of the first acts of the new commission was to provide for the destruction of useless dogs which ate the provisions with which to feed good animals. Also provided for the care and sheltering of the dogs from the severe storm. They have secured control of the dog situation for the first time. Every dog is now securely tied.

Next a town clock was decided upon and a subscription secured of \$250<sup>00</sup> and one ordered. Many of the people have no time piece, or no reliable one, they had little idea of time. The children were out at all times of night so a curfew law was voted; a time was proposed for meals, They ~~ate~~ whenever they had occasion, which caused much intestinal trouble, headaches and often serious conditions of health. The public time piece will teach them to do their work more systematically and break up their haphazard life. The village is now looking for a better location where they can have fuel and water more convenient and get lumber to build good houses. They must needs build in the ground, burrow as it were, where they now are because of the surroundings which deprives them of the needed facilities for health and cleanliness. Now that summer is come, more washing is done and with the use of naphtha soap this is respectably accomplished in cold water.

All the civil and secular affairs of the village are now controlled by the commissioners while all the spiritual and religious affairs are controlled by the church organization. Deering Monthly Meeting. They are seeking new sources of supply so that when the population again increases beyond the resources of the country, they will not be compeled ~~to~~ eat such food as will produce an epidemic and again reduce the population to a minimum. This has been the sad history of the past.

Respectfully submitted,

*Chas. Replogle*