

10-13-1917

Excerpts from the Writings of Henry J. Minthorn 2/3

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but they seem to want the Natives to look to them for advice and direction. The fact is what they are doing is simply trifling along in order to draw their salaries.

"Another thing I would like to show is that these people are making good, and from now on can be left to manage their own business affairs. But what they do need is some real Industrial training for the young people to enable them to be prepared sooner and better for what they are going to have to do in later life. And also some help in developing new industries -- and new resources.

"But above all, what they need is careful and reliable assistance in character building, to inculcate principles of honesty, industry, frugality, etc. etc., and some kind of a just and stable local government, that will protect them in the possession of their property, and make safe to them Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

1917. Letter to Mr. H. S. Welles. From Metlakatla.
October 13.

"The people are beginning to arrive at home. There seems to be a general good feeling on account of the prosperous season, and the stores are being filled with new goods and are doing a good business. The talk is all about the summer's work, about boats of different sizes and builds, as it has transpired that the style of boat has much to do with the result of the season's work.

"I have heard that some of the canneries have offered to furnish boats for next season's work to Metlakatla Natives on the customary terms of two shares to the boat, but it is said that no such offers are being made to any other Natives, and of course not to all the Metlakatlans.

"The Rev. Mr. Van Harter came over on the mail boat on Tuesday to see Mr.

was thought best to have the Anniversary very informal, and his friends, Dr. Myers, Mr. Strong, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Van Harter, and others, will come together on some boat obtained for the occasion, but on mail day, so that others who want to can come also."

"I learned as I told you in my last letter that General Pratt had some things to say to people in Ketchikan. One was that Mr. Duncan had led an immoral life among these people. General Pratt also wrote something for a Portland paper. Of course no one who knows anything about Mr. Duncan is going to be influenced by such things except to have contempt for General Pratt, but considering that he is a General in the U. S. Army and his former official positions, it is embarrassing for Mr. Duncan's friends for him to circulate such reports."

"Of course the meaning of this is that there is nothing too mean for them to do in order to have it appear that there was excuse for what has been done."

"Probably I do not need to make any comment on this article. But as I knew that the TELEGRAM has several times defended Mr. Duncan in its columns, it seemed to me that the Editor had tried to say in the opening paragraph what it seemed to him that General Pratt ought to have said, as that paragraph gives an impression opposite to what General Pratt tries to give, for the general slurs both MESSINES and the GOVERNMENT."

"Mr. Duncan has seemed somewhat discouraged for some time past, and the action of Baradan in trying to prevent his friends from coming to see him has had something to do with it. Mr. Duncan had always been used to having much company, but now being out of all business, comparatively few people come to see him so that he is lonely as well as discouraged."

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"Added to this a persistent effort on the part of the Government employees for several years to discredit him in the eyes of the people, the attendance at his services is, it seems to me, very remarkable. On last Sunday there were 75

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"I think that clipping showing what General Pratt had to say is important as it shows that Marsden sent for him and that what he says is for Marsden's benefit. Which confirms Dr. Myers' statement that Marsden is the instigator and agitator, and is determined that there shall not be any harmony here if he can prevent it."

1917. Letter to Mr. H. S. Wellcome. From Metlakatla.
October 31.

"Mr. Lopp is here and had Council meetings yesterday, and today is trying to make some disposition of the mill, as the lease was for one year.

"It seems the Commercial Company wants to lease it for four years or buy it. The lease which is just expiring has not been very satisfactory to the community as almost nothing has been realized for the Community out of it, and the lumber which the Community is supposed to have an opportunity to buy is held higher than at Ketchikan, and the variety and quality are very inferior, so that no one is buying it.

"The Commercial Company is supposed to have made a lot of money out of the contract to furnish the lumber for the construction of the cannery and expect to repeat the operation next year.

"As you can see it makes no difference to Smiley what price is put upon the lumber as it comes out of the Community, and as neither the Community nor the Council had any say in making the contract, it is easy to see how it might be a very good contract for the Commercial Company.

"On the other hand as the Commercial Company did not make any repairs on

in the Commercial Company, they do not like to be herded into such a raw scheme.

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"The other poor merchants also try to have something to say about everything being rounded up to the door of the Commercial Company. *[erry from Matthews letter]*

"Then this year there are people in the Community that have made more money, by their unaided efforts than the whole Commercial Company. George C. Williams made \$7,000.00, and his crew consisted of himself and his two sons, so it is all in the family.

"John Hudson made over \$3,000.00 and all in the family, and he and both of his sons have joined the reserve with their boat, and stand ready to do their part for the Government.

"Such people as these can afford to, and do pour scorn on such people as Marsden and Atkinson, who with the connivance of the Government officers, hatch up schemes to take from the Community and put into their own pockets the few hundreds or thousands of dollars that would, if honestly administered, be used for the general benefit.

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"The councilman (Joaish Beeth) said that after he was elected last winter some one tried to have the Church taken from Mr. Duncan and given to Marsden, but he and nearly all the councilmen voted against it, and that he wanted Mr. Duncan to stay here and do his work."

1918.

Letter to Mr. H. S. Wellcome.

From Metlakatla.

January 28.

"* * * There has been such an increase in the interest in the Church and Sunday School that I was sure you would be interested in it, so I am sending you a copy of the report of the Sunday School yesterday. It was about the same as last Sunday, but as Mr. Thompson was here, about which I wrote you, I did not send you the report for that day as it might have been supposed that it was, as some said, a joint session &c., and partly on account of Mr. Thompson being here &c., &c.

"The school has been recently reorganized entirely by the people without any help from any white person. As you will see, it was done with an idea of promoting harmony, as a representation was given to the Government employees. But you will also see that Marsden is not in it nor the Salvation Army, the Salvation Army having a Sunday School of their own.

"The Government employees, as I stated in my last letter, had attempted to have a Sunday School just as every other set of Government employees have, ever since the Government took charge. Mrs. Beattie I think was the only one who had any one attending a class, and her class which she now has in the Sunday School at the church is as large as the one she had in what they called their Sunday School, and I think fairly represents the people who favor the Government trying to monopolize everything that the mission had and was and is doing.

"During the month of January Mr. Duncan held eight preaching services besides his juvenile Sunday School class on Sunday

and with them. He conducts a teachers' Bible class every Saturday evening for the teachers in the Sunday School. I have made 64 visits to the sick at their homes during January so far, also had 57 cases at the office and attended one obstetrical case. Mrs. Minthorn has attended 3 prayer meetings, visited the sick among the women and prayed and sung to them, and had the class twice in the Sunday School — the first Sunday 14 and the second 20 girls nearly grown, besides having had many callers at the home.

"This is a little idea of what the Mission is doing. I am making this statement to try to show that among these natives, numbering according to the census taken also in this month, 557 people, there is a Christian Mission in active and successful operation, even now after the Govt. has been actively attempting to destroy it for nearly four years, and has been during the past year trying to supplant it right in its especial field of religious instruction by attempting to maintain a Sunday School and in other ways. It has, through its agents, (who are actively also engaged in business enterprises in competition with the Natives) taken from the Mission the pipe line, (which was at the time in their possession by a pretended decision of the Attorney General but without any process of law) and the sawmill which they had leased to themselves (in the person of the METLAKATLA COMMERCIAL COMPANY which is managed and controlled by the Agents of the Government), and sold said Sawmill (which cost about \$14,000, for \$500.00) to themselves in the person of said Commercial Company which they actively control.

then transferred to the Commercial Company for \$500.00, although nothing has ever been said to Mr. Duncan about acquiring his title.

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"And I think it is a fact that all of the Mission work done among the natives in the United States under the control of Government agents is always liable to interference by these agents. This it seems to me is a violation of the Constitution of the United States which forbids union of Church and State, and some legislation should be had to remedy it.

"It cannot be shown that any good ever came from this practice, but the self-important ordinary Government official, clothed with what usually seems to impress him as the unbounded authority of the GOVERNMENT and without any experience or knowledge or even comprehension of the nature or objects of missions or of what they have accomplished, and in undue haste to feel himself the sole authority in the situation, proceeds to destroy the mission, as was done here. * * *."

1918. Letter to Mr. H. S. Welcomme. From Metlakantla.
January 18.

"Mr. Hawkesworth is here and they are taking stock and I suppose are going to make a dividend which may be large, owing to the contract of the Commercial Company with Mr. Smiley for the lumber for the Cannery Building, but the larger it is the more unsatisfactory it will be to all but the few stockholders, for the reason that it was obtained by an advantage taken over all the rest of the community. The Post Office is now in the Commercial Company's store.

"They have commenced to move the steam boiler from the wharf to the mill site, and repairs have been commenced on the mill building by making and putting on shingles. I have heard that the Commercial Company had borrowed the money from Mr. Smiley to finance the mill project and would repay it in lumber. The work on the cottage has been stopped for some time, as I heard for lack of funds, but it is said that new funds have been obtained and the work will go on.

"Moses Hewson seems to have a good trade, I think more than the Commercial Company, in proportion to his stock in trade.

"I understand that sufficient money has been obtained to make the repairs on the church. The attendance is large. Mr. Duncan is having his Juvenile class in the vestry and it is large. Last Sunday it had to be divided and another person took part of it.

"The school teachers have tried to have a Sunday School with the usual success.

"They complain that the children care for nothing but entertainment.

"Mr. Duncan is quite well and seems more cheerful than he has been sometimes.

"Perhaps what is still more important is the fact that they see Marsden an owner in the Commercial Company, manipulating everything for the sole benefit of that Company, and the Government taking an active part in its operations. Mr. Beattie's house is connected with the store by phone, and the principal work of Mr. Lopp and Mr. Hawkesworth when they come, is with the business of the Commercial Company, and both Mr. Beattie and his assistants are frequently seen in the store engaging in its transactions, especially in the Post Office, now that it is in the Commercial Company's store. * * *

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"A man calling himself Thompson and saying that he was from Seattle and was a Presbyterian, came here on Saturday with Marsden and gave out that he was here on Sunday School business. He stopped with Mr. Beattie, and they had what they called a union Sunday School in the church but did not consult Mr. Duncan. Marsden presided. He then attended a meeting in the large hall in the evening, which as I understand, Marsden and others made him believe was one of a regular Sunday evening meeting held there, (which is not true). He also attended a meeting of the Salvation Army in the evening later."

1918. Letter to Mr. H. S. Wellcome. From Metlakantla.
February 12.

"* * * The Sunday School still keeps up its attendance and interest. Mr. Duncan's services are more largely attended than when you were here and there is more interest. The people are doing much more themselves to carry on the church work than ever before. They have put new and good lights in the church, and have fixed the roof so that it does not leak, and have kept the church

a prayer meeting and qualified by the person (Daniel Reeves) who is considered to stand for Mr. Duncan, but I think without anything having been said to Mr. Duncan. There were also some sort of helpers appointed, called "CHRISTIAN WORKERS", to hold services when among people away from home and help the people have prayers when away from home, also to be ready to serve as teachers in the Sunday School when called upon, also to lead prayer meetings at home.

"* * * I think I said something to you about Mr. Thompson being here from Seattle, and I think others have written to you about him. He was evidently here in the interests of the Presbyterian church. I do not know what others know about him. He came here with Marsden and stayed with Beattie, so I thought best not to have much to do with him. As near as I understood him, he would have been glad to have seen a way to make it appear that Marsden had been used as a tool by the Government, and then have made some move to have an investigation of the Government agents and let Mr. Duncan be represented and show up all of the Government transactions, with the hope that some of the agents would be discharged, and others appointed who would not interfere with missionary work. I think Dr. Myers knows much more about it than I do, and I think I will go to Ketchikan some time soon and see what I can find out, and then I will write you more fully. I understood Thompson went to Samman and interviewed some of the people there about Marsden. He also sent for Moses, Benson, and Baldane from here.

"I thought it not best to say much to him, but just called his attention to things existing. For instance, I told him; 'you are here unheralded, and you find a Sunday School of nearly 150, and Mr. Duncan having a Juvenile class of about 50. He has had this class for more than 50 years, and uses no inducements to encourage attendance, such as cards, pictures, etc. Just apply that to your city and would it not make any church in Seattle famous to have an old man over of doing such a work in its Sunday School? And another thing - suppose Mr. Thompson

"Marsden says he is Secretary of the town council, and therefore he knows that the census taken in January 1913 was 557 natives and 15 white people, although he gives it at about 700. He also knows that there were not 1200 when they first came to Annette Island.

"What he says about the people being better satisfied now is not so, outside of the stockholders of the Cooperative Company, which has increased its capital stock from \$3,000.00 to \$17,000.00 in three years at the expense of the community. The people were never so dissatisfied as they are now.

"In all the history of the community there was never so little done for the good of the community. I asked Marsden's mother yesterday whether she had any dried Salmon. She said no, that she could not get any to dry last summer as the traps took it all and would not let the people have any.

"There were 20 white men and Japs employed in the cannery last summer, occupying all the places that were desirable. When they bought Salmon from the people here, they figured out the cost of their time and oil in making the trip to Ketchikan, and gave them that much less. All the tales about the community getting royalties, etc., has never yet realized anything for the community, although this management has been in charge now nearly four years and the traps have been operated three years of that time and must have made from \$20,000.00 to a \$100,000.00 for someone. I have no way of knowing exactly how much the traps have realized except what the people say about how much each one has done, but judging from such reports, I feel sure that at the price that it is said the lessee paid for the fish taken in the traps last summer, the community should have had from the rental of the traps that have been operated here since they were put up not less than \$30,000.00.

"I feel sure that up to this time the community has never received alto-

Company increased, but I do not believe what he says about the increase of the number of the stockholders. Benson tried to buy stock in the Company, and they would not let him in. Also I have heard of one other person who wanted to get in and they would not let him in. Marsden has furnished a choice lot of statements in this article, but the only way the truth could be arrived at would be through a properly authorized investigator, and call witnesses and examine them under oath. * * *.

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"Although I cannot adduce much evidence, I feel sure the Commercial Company would not stand investigation and the Government is actively engaged in it.

"Also, it is not the policy of the Government to engage in speculative ventures, especially in competition with its citizens. This store is in active competition with several other stores in the village, and by having the active aid of the Government and advantages which it could only get through the partiality of the Government officials, is making it hard for its competitors and is in a fair way to freeze them out.

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"* * * I think the Presbyterians (as I understood from Mr. Thompson) are thoroughly disgusted with Marsden, not on account of the things he did, but on account of the things he failed to do. I do not think they would have had much to say about his methods if he had only delivered the goods, and I think what they want now is to see if there is not some way now by which they can get a hold here and save the day yet, for Mr. Thompson made particular inquiry as to whether someone else would be likely to get a work started here.

"To put someone else here and gather up a congregation and use Marsden as an interpreter would not only seem to save the day for them, but they seem to

to invite other denominations to make plans to succeed him. This is why I said I thought that Mrs. Minthorn (nee Miss Atkinson) could help to keep things going until you found someone to fill the place permanently. She is learning the language, has a class in the Sunday School, attends the prayer meetings held in the houses of the people which were being held when she came, has a Bible study class for her Sunday School class, has a children's day for the small children at the Guest House, etc., etc., all of which has helped to increase the interest in the services of the church and Sunday School, which as I explained in a previous letter, is one of the objects of it.

"She also visits the sick, prays and sings for them, etc., etc., with which they are much pleased and which I think is doing much good and helping to promote the interest and increase their appreciation of the Mission.

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"In connection with Governor Strong's other report in which he said that the Indians wanted to go faster than Mr. Duncan was willing for them to go, there are some important statements in Marsden's article in regard to the pool rooms (two now), picture show, Commercial Company, etc., etc., and his statements about the dilapidated appearance of the village. Summed up it shows that the musical and benevolent, choral and other such societies of a beneficial nature were here before the Government was here, and only the two pool rooms, the picture show, the Commercial Company, and the dance halls, have been introduced since, and that no improvements have been made in the village. Marsden's statements also show that he seems to be proud of such things and does not mention what is the largest Sunday School in Alaska at the present time or probably ^{and} ever, not even the Salvation Army.

"It does not seem to be possible to find out yet about how the sawmill, which was taken possession of by the Government was eventually sold by someone

water power. I will take a snapshot for you soon.

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"John Hudson and George Hall are putting things to rights for Mr. Duncan about the store, etc., and had to go to Beattie for the key to the old warehouse. They say that Beattie lets the hands who are working for the Commercial Company have the key and they go into the warehouse and take bolts, bearings, shafting or anything they want to use about installing the mill and in fitting up the old mill and in making changes, etc., etc., and use them in their work.

"I am at a loss to understand how any kind of an excuse could be made to justify this, as the Commercial Company is a private company, and no matter who the said property belonged to, this company certainly would not have any right to use it.

"Also, as the Government has no property in that old warehouse, I am at a loss to know what the excuse is for Beattie having it under lock and key, and requiring Mr. Duncan, who has thousands of dollars worth of property in the warehouse, to go to him for the key when he wants to get anything."

1918. Letter to Mr. E. S. Wellcome. From Metlakatla.

February 20.

* * * Aleck said Mr. Thompson went to Saxman and showed him the statements made by the people there about Marsden.

"He said they were very voluminous and all to the BAD. All agreed he was a grafter, and always on the job.

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"I heard that Marsden's uncle warned Benson that his store might be burned, and so he went and took out insurance.

2-26-18

"I asked Benson about the fire -- he said old Mr. Burton (Marsden's uncle) told him that his store was going to be burned because he did not connect with the Commercial Company, -- so he had it insured.

"I was told that Lopp had written to Brandible and Marsden that if they were going to refuse such men as Benson (which they did) he would stop the whole thing, and that they were very angry with Lopp.

"The Sarman people applied to Mr. Duncan to send some one over there to hold some services, but he said that Sarman belonged to the Presbyterians and he would not interfere. But the people themselves appointed a Committee to go over there and they went, -- George Eaton, Daniel Reeves, and John Hayward, -- to do the talking, and Solomon Dumas and Benjamin Baldane to have charge of the singing.

"Dr. Condit was here today and attended the morning service and the Sunday School, and Marsden was there and took a class. Condit made an address and wound up by inviting all to attend a meeting at the hall in the evening. Take this in connection with a report I heard, that Marsden had ^{recently} had a meeting of the members of his tribe (the Kitlans) in the hall ~~assembly~~, and asked them if they wanted him to have a Presbyterian church here, and that it could be held in some house. The person who told me said that not one person made any reply.

"But all the same, I think it is likely that that is what he is here for, and as I looked over the house this afternoon and saw Marsden, Catherine Marsden, Mr. Beattie, and Mrs. Beattie, all acting as teachers, I thought, supposing Mr. Duncan should get sick, what a temptation it would be for Marsden to step in and take charge. Probably having Beattie to back him that is what he would do.

"* * * I think Mr. Duncan preached well both in the morning and evening service today, as all of the people seemed attentive and interested, and I do

"The great difference between Mr. Duncan's way and that of the Government is that Mr. Duncan made prosperity general, while the Government, through the Commercial Company, makes it for the special few at the expense of the rest.

"There might be such a thing as that the Government would regret ever having had anything to do with the business department.

"Beattie's new house leaks nearly as bad as the one they lived in before. Beattie and Marsden went to Ketchikan yesterday to meet Condit.

"* * * I think you will remember that he [Milton] and Atkinson were deposed while you were here for holding an Elders meeting (so called) all by themselves and authorizing Marsden to take the church, etc. I think you will also recall what I said a few weeks ago about the elders and Mr. Duncan refusing to accept them or to qualify them, and that Marsden had qualified them, etc., etc. But I did not say that Moses would not qualify before Marsden. Yesterday while Condit and Marsden were skirmishing around about, whatever it is that they are trying to do, a meeting was held at Milton's house and Moses was deposed from being an Elder because he would not qualify before Marsden.

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"I have not heard yet whether a Presbyterian church was organized or not. So far as deposing Moses is concerned I told him that he was still an elder of the Metlakatla Christian Church, and that he and Solomon were the only Elders of that church, as it is an absurdity to talk about people in no way connected with the church having a meeting at a private house and without any kind of sanction of or connection with the church, appointing officers of the church. ~~Of course it complicates matters; Mr. Duncan having never had any kind of an organization.~~

"~~But no matter about that.~~ That the Government people and the Presbyterians are doing is in violation of the present practice of the world, viz., that political Governments shall not meddle with religious matters, and is also in violation

depended upon to make a failure of anything they undertake here.

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"I have made some inquiry about the Marsden-Condit business, but it is not settled yet, so I will have to leave it until next week. Also I think Moses is writing you and he can tell about it better than I can. But from what I have heard I do not think Condit is going to have it all his own way, also from what I have heard it appears that Marsden has informed Condit, and probably the Board also, that the people here want a Presbyterian church, and him for Pastor, etc., etc.

"It seems that Harry Lang, the Mayor, is opposed to it, and I think Tom Hanbury is going to oppose it strong. And Moses is, I think, coming out strong against it. And I have heard that Adolphus has made a strong speech against it. I would be ever so glad to be at the meeting tonight but I suppose it would not be best.

"I heard that Harry Lang told Condit that there were DOORS to people's houses, and if any one went into the house they ought to go in at the door. That the door to school affairs was Mr. Beattie, and if any one came here on business about the school they should go to Mr. Beattie, and that he (Lang) was the door about the council, and if any one wanted to have anything to do about such things they should come to him. And that Mr. Duncan was the door about the church, and any one wanting to do anything about such things should go to him — I think this illustration was inspired."

1918. Letter to Mr. H. S. Wellcome. From Metlakatla.

February 28.

"I saw Moses this morning, and he was at the meeting last night and will
after that I think will be about the transactions.

many years ago and at that time had a meeting of the whole community and the Elders of the Christian Church. We had a large Bible that we had purchased, and we presented it to Mr. Duncan, and ordained him to teach us that Bible. Mr. Duncan stood up and agreed there before us all to be our Minister and teach us the Bible, and he has done what he agreed to do and is yet, although he is getting old. And you can look around among these people and see how well he has succeeded. Even the young men seem ~~very~~ like Christians. And he is our minister today, and we do not want any other as long as he lives and continues to be our minister.'

"Dr. Condit replied, saying: (in part). 'The Presbyterians have always been the friends of the Metlakatians, and it was Presbyterians that helped to get this island, and men like Mr. Wadhams and Mr. Ladd were the ones that always helped,' etc. (Moses can tell you better himself.)

* * * * *

"I heard more that he said to Condit about the door. It was that there was a right way to come into the door and that was to ring the bell, and let the man inside come and see if he wanted to have them to come in."

1918.

From Metlakatla.

March 5.

"Monday March 4th. There were about 100 people at church yesterday, and 120 at Sunday School. Mr. Duncan had over 30 in his class, which he has in the vestry now, and there were two classes that had been taken out of it in order to grade them better. One of these classes had 11 in it and Herbert Murchison was the teacher, and the other had 14 in it and Daniel Reeves was the teacher, -- making 57 of the Juveniles in all at Sunday School. The next largest class was Mrs. Minthorn's with 16 in it, young girls the age of Frances Hanbury, Tom's

reads very much as he did but not so much general reading and more of a religious kind. He does not seem to be thinking much of his wrongs as he used to be and seldom mentions them. He comes over and sits with us from 8 to 9 or 9:30 four nights in the week, and tells his reminiscences of the past and mostly of a cheerful nature, which he seems to enjoy. ~~His being hard of hearing prevents much conversation on the part of either of us.~~

1918.

From Metlakatla.

March 18.

"The attendance at church on Sunday, March 10th, was 75. It was the coldest weather of the winter and the building was not well heated.

"It has been cold for several weeks although not so cold as during some former winters, yet the temperature has been below freezing point every morning for five weeks, and there is now five inches of snow on the ground at sea level and very heavy snow on the surrounding mountains.

"The attendance at Sunday School was 112. Food administrator Wagner from Juneau was present and gave a talk and announced another in the hall for the evening, which he gave and also one on Monday evening. * * *

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"Work has commenced at the cannery with 10 white men and no Natives employed. Mr. Gail is the bookkeeper. All seem to beard with the Jap family in the old Girl's Home. The work is at present on the foundation of the new building. The City of Seattle came in with a large amount of freight for the cannery, among which was a large amount of wire netting for the new fish traps. It is said there will be seven. Mr. Smith, who was the foreman on the building last year is here again.

carriage to let it gain speed, but it may do better when things get to running better. It takes three extra men on account of the change to steam instead of water power, viz., engineer, fireman, and a man to get wood. The fuel item is also extra.

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"I have heard that Mr. Marsden called a meeting of a few of the KIVLIKS and got them to formulate a request for him to make his head-quarters here while doing his missionary work at Samman, and ~~thereby~~ so I suppose he will continue his old tactics."

1913. Letter to Dr. H. S. Wellcome. From Metlakatla.
March 29.

"Mr. Duncan has had a severe time of it with his side where he struck it when he fell at Haldane's March 21st; it did not seem to give him any trouble at first but began to pain him Saturday night, not so bad but that he attended to his services on Sunday. It kept growing worse until Wednesday it was quite severe, and his pulse was rapid and intermittent, and he fell on the floor in his room and could not get up without help."

1913. Letter to Mr. H. S. Wellcome. From Metlakatla.
March 30.

"I met Daniel Reece on the side-walk today and he asked me if Duncan would conduct the church services on Sunday, and that if not THEY (the elders) would take charge of it. I told him I did not know whether Mr. Duncan would conduct the services or not, but if he did not he would designate some one to do so. I also

the church, and after they once got possession I feel sure that Beattie would come in with his authority and help them to hold it.

"There are but a very few that would want this to be done, but they do not seem to feel like standing out against the Government and the result would be that they would just quit going to church like the people did at Saxman. For personally, Marsden is not liked any better here than at Saxman, and in addition, he is the head of the little faction that has absorbed what was once property that belonged to the community. And the Commercial Company, of which Marsden is a stock holder, having put the fire company out of existence by taking their lot and improvements, and having taken the saw-mill and pipe-line, and having control of all contracts with the Company that is operating the cannery, and having indirect control of all the fishing privileges adjacent to the island, are looked upon with great jealousy and I might almost say hatred by the community which they have unmercifully plundered.

"I think you have heard of Benson's store being burned. There being no Fire Company since the Commercial Company took their property, nothing was done to put out the fire, ~~not even~~ ^{was not even} Benson notified that his store was on fire, and although Marsden lived right across the street from the burning store, he did not even go outside of his house but watched it burn from the window. When the adjuster came one of the clerks in the Commercial Company's store told him that Benson did not have more than \$500.00 worth of goods. I mention these things because they have a bearing on what I have said about the people not wanting Marsden here. Then there is the fact that he has always been a failure at whatever he has attempted.

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"* * * She (Mrs. Minthorn) took Mr. Duncan's place yesterday at his request and will probably continue to do so, as it may be necessary until some other arrangement is made. The people are pleased with this arrangement. there being 200

"Also as you will readily see, it was the only thing that I could do to be ready for just such an emergency as occurred yesterday, and as we all knew might occur at any time. Marsden was here yesterday and was at the morning service. Nothing is more certain than that he would have made an attempt to step in if Mrs. Minthorn had not been here. As it was, she had talked to the W.C.T.U. and on other occasions, and the people wanted to have her conduct the service. She talked in English and it was interpreted, which gave the white people an opportunity to hear, and some of the cannery people as well as the Government people attended. * * *.

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"* * * At the same time if the Government does not feel like making some kind of compensation to the Mission for the property taken forcibly from it without any legal process, then of course it is not disposed to recognize the rights of the Mission, and there would be no guaranty that the same thing would not be done again, and the Mission should go to some other place where its rights WOULD be safeguarded.

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"They, in a general way, might be said to treat us with contempt, and certainly as though we had no rights. I think they would go to almost any length to get rid of us and Mr. Duncan, as they would think that then they were safe from criticism on account of what they have done to the Mission.

"They also seem to think that they are making a much better showing in a business way than ever was done before, and put on some airs on that account."

council or the board of Elders.

"Other reports are in circulation, one being that it was to have the Salvation Army disciplined in some way for not obeying an order from the Council to abstain from parading the streets with their drum performances.

"I think most likely if he sent any message about religious affairs it was to give possession of the church to the ELDERS, who were appointed by the council and sworn in by Mr. Marsden.

"TUESDAY -- APRIL 4th. I learned yesterday that the Council has had the Salvation Army up before it twice and have tried to stop some of their activities -- parading the streets and recruiting -- but the Army contends that the Council has no authority over them, that the Army of the United States and England is back of them and that their authority is higher than that of the Council.

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"FRIDAY -- APRIL 5th. Mr. Duncan is improving slowly. Had a fairly good night and is some stronger. He will probably try to conduct the services on Sunday morning, especially as the Elders seem so determined to step in and take charge. He has been talking of his successor, and regretting that he had not found some one and had him learn the language, etc. * * *.

"MONDAY -- APRIL 8th. Mr. Duncan is improving slowly but did not feel like conducting the services yesterday, so we did as we did last Sunday -- there were about 90 at the morning service and between 45 and 50 at the evening service, and about 100 at the Sunday School.

"The telegram about which I spoke in the forepart of this letter, it seems, was in reference to the possession of the Church, but we have not heard anything about any action that has been taken in reference to it. A number of people have been in here and have given some information in reference to the doings of the council.

was because the Cannery and Mill were not in use that they were taken, but that ~~that~~ could not be said of the Church, for Mr. Duncan had never missed a day before, and now only because he had been hurt by a fall, and that on the Sunday before they sent the telegram there had been 200 people at the service. While Marsden, to whom they proposed to give the Church, had been Pastor of the church at Sazman for more than a year without holding a service and had taken pay for the time when he was not holding any service, and I thought that would be taken into account, and that so long as there were services conducted in this Church, either by Mr. Duncan or some one provided by him, that it would not be taken from him and given to others. So far as I can see there is no ill feeling, unless it might be on the part of Marsden, Milton and Edmund Verney, and outside of these three I do not think there is any desire to make any change in the custody of the Church.

"Many have expressed their satisfaction with the services as conducted by Mrs. Minthorn, and I think by next Sunday Mr. Duncan will conduct the services himself.

"I think I mentioned about how the Sunday School is organized and the fact that it was entirely under the control of the so-called board of Elders. I think you saw from what I said about it that it is really their Sunday School, and ~~as far as I can see it is fairly well managed, and so far as Mr. Duncan and the Board of Elders are concerned, there is no objection.~~ ^{xxx} Marsden sometimes steps in and takes the pulpit and does as he pleases, — also Milton, who claims to represent what he calls the church army, has come in and taken the liberty of making an address without being invited, and so has the Envoy of the Salvation Army, and they all seem to want to claim the church, and I think that is why Marsden had the Salvation Army brought before the council. He probably thought he would soon have the church and he wanted entire control.

"There is no recognized authority except that the Government seems to hand

notice. Mr. Duncan filed a complaint with the court in Ketchikan and the aggressor was fined \$50.00. Other infractions of law have been committed but no notice was ever taken of them.

"I agree with Mr. Duncan that the prospect of doing anything where there is such a state of confusion is very small. The Government in plundering the Mission of its property set an example of lawlessness that will bear fruit in all the future history of the place, and the cooperation of the Government with one mercantile establishment and in competition with other business concerns on such unequal terms, and with such disregard to the welfare of the community, for which nothing except the improvement of the water supply has been done in all the years the Government has been in charge, is the cause of great dissatisfaction. Still the employment furnished by the cannery and the mill and the school are beneficial to many individuals.

"What I am trying to do is to contrast the help given to individuals with the many, many things done for the community by Mr. Duncan, amounting to more than \$60,000.00 since coming to Annette Island."

1918. Letter to Mr. H. S. Wellcome. From Metlakatla.
April 22.

"Enclosed you will find a clipping from the Progressive Miner of April 16th, comparing which with what Moses Hewson says Dr. Condit said at the mass meeting at Metlakatla, it will be seen that he (Dr. Condit) did not do as he said he would. A person in Ketchikan has copies of the correspondence passing between Dr. Condit, General Pratt, Rev. Marsden and the Presbyterian Board on the subject of Mr. Marsden's reinstatement, but I am not at liberty to copy them. I think perhaps you can get to see them but might not be allowed to copy them. I think it is no

Minthorn had classes, also Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Benson and Moses Howson, of what might be called the Metlakatla Christian Church, Mr. Beattie and Mrs. Beattie of the Government, Daniel Reese, Superintendent, and John Hayward and Ernest Milton might be said to represent the Elders, and occasionally Edward Atkinson and others, who might be said to represent the Salvation Army.

"For instance, at the Sunday School yesterday -- Edward Atkinson was the President, Daniel Reese, Superintendent, Ernest Milton seemed to be Assistant Superintendent and teacher of a class, young Roderick Murchison, Organist. Roderick Murchison, Sr., had Mr. Duncan's class in his absence. Other teachers were Mr. and Mrs. Beattie, Mary Hudson, Catherine Marsden, Mrs. Benson and Mrs. Minthorn. The attendance was about 140 and the attendance at the morning service was over 100, and at the evening service over 50, both services being conducted by Mr. Duncan.

"The services are all controlled entirely by Mr. Duncan, and when he was not there, either Mrs. Minthorn or I took his place.

"The Sunday School is really controlled by the Elders, and Mr. Duncan has made no objection and has his class in the vestry when he is there, which has not been for four Sundays on account of his health, and he has not said anything about who should take his class but has allowed the Superintendent (Daniel Reese) to provide a teacher. I have not heard any objection to this arrangement, and there has been no friction, unless what I have related to you before about the Elders telling me that if Mr. Duncan did not officiate they would find some one to fill the place, and my telling them that Mr. Duncan would make the necessary arrangements (which he did), would be called friction.

"I hardly knew what to do myself, but thought it was not my place to be a party to any arrangement taking the control of the church out of Mr. Duncan's hands. Being very sure that the majority of the people want, as stated in the mass meeting by Harry Lang (Mayor), that Mr. Duncan shall continue to conduct the services as

always go as such people plan them to go.

"As to your question as to whether this is an intrigue on Marsden's part to get possession of the Church, I will state that the idea of the Board of Elders is I think Marsden's, and was for the purpose of getting the control away from Mr. Duncan. But the Board of Elders, even after Marsden got it constituted and swore it in himself, is not subservient to Marsden, but want to control things themselves, and even have ignored him in their management of the Sunday School and some other work outside of the church. But no doubt he would have the support of the Government if his course was at all plausible, which it is not. But is a very clumsy scheme.

"I have a complete record of the attendance and other data of interest in reference to the Sunday School and Church. * * *.

"And you ask in a note at the end of your letter about the feeling of the people towards Mr. Duncan. This subject of the attitude of the people might take up a large space, but after all I think it is very simple. Exclusive of Marsden, Atkinson and one or two others who want to dominate the people themselves, and who the people do not want to dominate them,

"The feeling of the people towards Mr. Duncan is not only friendly, but full of gratitude and respect. This may not have always seemed so, for the reason that it was always expected that Mr. Duncan would sometime give the property to the people, and like children and some grown people they wanted it now. As you know Marsden used this to make trouble, and got them to sign petitions asking the Government to take it from Mr. Duncan, and as they expected, give it to them.

"I need not go over the various acts that this led to, but just call attention to the situation as it is now, viz., that the people have never had anything, not even the sidewalks, repaired, and all the property of any value that has not been destroyed is now owned by Marsden and a few others under the name of the

He does not deal with the native council, or with the community.

"This is the situation after four years. Of course all of the people except the few stockholders in the Commercial Company are disappointed. But still there is the property in the store which they are told is theirs, and there has been some talk of dividing it up among the people (forcibly) like everything else has been done, but it serves to keep the people from thinking about what has become of all the other property, also to make some of them think that Mr. Duncan is holding something back that it would be very agreeable to them to have, especially now that everything is getting so high.

"You can see that the taking of Mr. Duncan's property from him by the Government gives some show of reason for the assertion that it was not his and that he was keeping it from the people. But this, as I have tried to show, has been almost entirely counteracted by the *fact* that it has mostly become the personal property of Marsden and the other stockholders in the Commercial Company (that is the mill and the pipe line).

"I seemed to have to go over all this in order to define the feeling of the people towards Mr. Duncan.

"First I will say that every disrespectful or disparaging statement that I ever saw or heard about Mr. Duncan, was made by Mr. Marsden or some white person that I feel sure got it from him.

"I have never heard a disrespectful or disparaging statement or expression made about Mr. Duncan by any native or white person except Marsden, or those white people who are trying to help Marsden in his attempts to discredit Mr. Duncan. I say white persons, for I have never heard any native speak disrespectfully or disparagingly of Mr. Duncan except Mr. Marsden, and Mr. Marsden refers to Mr. Duncan in the correspondence I have referred to connected with Mr. Marsden's reinstatement as 'old Duncan'.

in trying to get him displaced
been implicated in taking Mr. Duncan's property, or in order to give his place to Mr. Marsden. * * *.

"It seems to me that it is impossible that the Government approves of having its officers engaging in business here in competition with the Natives, standing in with one firm and handling its money and throwing Government business in its way to the great advantage of that firm, letting that firm use property ^{Very, the people think} ~~Government property~~ ^{calling it} and pretending ^{it} to be for the benefit of the COMMUNITY, ~~the people here used to run the planer in the mill~~ ^{which cost the Government a large sum (said to be \$7,000.00),} without paying anything, etc., etc.

"This and much more like it would naturally come out in the investigation of Mr. Marsden's relation with the Council as Secretary, which he evidently brings into the case (at least apparently) as a reason for his reinstatement, and being given larger privileges and to be allowed to live at Matlakatla, and to be put in charge of the congregation, etc., etc., and which it looks as though the Board thought well of.

"As to Mr. Duncan's store.

"He has not had it open for some time except as he went himself to get something for some one. Then he employed Solomon, and had him to be there when some one came to get something instead of going himself. As the things were sold at the old prices, considerable was sold. Nothing new was added. A license was gotten as before. Some of the solder was sold to Mr. Heckman and the rest is now in the store. (not in the shop) Replying to yours of April 6th, ----- Mr. Duncan closed the store immediately upon the receipt of Dr. Claxton's telegram. I made some copies of the telegram, and Solomon showed it to some of the people who came and wanted to buy. I do not think anything has been sold since, although many wanted to buy because the goods were cheaper than in the other stores.

Mr. Marsden and the board that caused all the trouble here.

* * * * *

"* * * and it seems to me an awful thing for them to deliberately destroy this mission and blacken Mr. Duncan's name after his sixty years of self-sacrifice, and when he is so old and afflicted.

"They are not only smashing a mission while in successful operation, but are violating an understanding that one church shall not interfere with another's work.

"They are also proceeding not only without the consent of the congregation, but in violation of the expressed wish of the people and promise of Dr. Condit.

"About the mill and the Commercial Company, Mr. Beattie is making a very strenuous effort to make it appear to be a success. This is why he turns all favors its way. As he, and especially Mr. Lopp, seems to think that everything hinges on that. I have from time to time shown you that it only really means impoverishing the community to enrich a few individuals, and in doing so they have adopted many very doubtful expedients, and probably also done several illegal things.

"So far as I can judge I think it is almost sure to end as all Marsden's schemes have -- in failure. About 20 men are employed at the mill and there is also a logging camp, so that the daily expense must be away over \$100.00 a day, and there is the steam engine and boiler to pay for, and I do not see or hear of any lumber being sold except what is sold to the cannery.

"The lumber is very carelessly piled and will not sell very well. The mill management is very bad. No one is really working but just putting in the time.

* * *

to property rights.

"For instance, the first agent encouraged some persons to make arrangements for the construction of traps, and four traps were thus constructed, but Harris took possession of them and, although he did not go on with his cannery contract he disposed of the traps, then when Smiley made a contract he took possession of the traps and still has them.

* * * * *

"As to the action of the council in telegraphing to the Commissioner of Education about the Church, I understand the telegram was worded so as to ask a question as to who had authority over the Church, and was not a petition from the council to have authority over the Church, which enabled the Government to say that no petition from the council had been received.

* * * * *

"But I am more discouraged now than at any time since I came here about the situation, as I am more convinced every day that Beattie was sent here to finish the strong arm work he commenced here nearly four years ago, and he seems very confident and appears to think that because they have succeeded in starting the mill and in getting a cannery that all the past has been much more than justified. Still none of them feel safe as long as Mr. Duncan is here. He acts the part of an accusing spirit, and his comparing them to ACHAN and ANAB makes them boil inside, and I am satisfied that they will do anything they can to get us out of here.

"Last Sunday Beattie had not a single Native in his Sunday School class although he commenced with 20. The whole attendance was considerably over 100 and there were over 60 little fellows. Mrs. Beattie had 3 in her class. Should they take the Church away from Mr. Duncan, Mrs. Minthorn will go on with what she is doing outside of the Church.

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"So far as appears, nothing is being done for the Community except what the

"Everything about the Government buildings looks untidy and shiftless. The addition to the school house so long promised has not been commenced yet, the appearance of things about the mill is that of carelessness and indifference. The buildings under Marsden's care as custodian of the Government property, outside of the school house, are in extreme disorder. I do not think the door of the library building has been shut since you were here, and not only the glass in the windows of the schoolhouse (where Mr. Duncan held his meeting on Wednesday night) has been broken, but the sash and doors have been broken. The old warehouse which has thousands of dollars worth of property in it has five holes in the roof as large as a blanket, and last winter one end of it blew out so that any one could walk right into it, and remained that way until Mr. Duncan had John Hudson and George Hall to go and fix it, although Seattle had the key and kept Mr. Duncan locked out from his own property.

"There has not been a tree or shrub planted except what Schell got of me and planted, since the Government has been in charge, and not a panel of fence built nor even the old broken and rotten fences been repaired or removed.

* * * * *

"There were 66 at church on Sunday and 108 at Sunday School. Mr. Duncan has not been at the Sunday School since he was sick. I doubt if he goes any more. Marsden came in last Sunday and took charge without saying anything to any one, and did the same at the after church singing meeting held in the H. B. Hall, where I was told he ignored the program that had been prepared and took up the time himself, using as a text Ecclesiastes 10:8 -- "He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and who so breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him."

"I was told that he said that this place was going to ruin and the Government came in here and built a school and cannery, etc., like a hedge around the place, and now some one was trying to break this hedge down, and a serpent would bite him,

1913. Letter to Mr. H. S. Wellcome. From Metlakatla.

June 11.

"I think the office of the Commissioner of Education rather gave you a wrong impression about the Church when they informed you that no petition had been received from the Council in reference to the custody of the building.

"It is true that no petition from the Council was sent in reference to the Church. — But as I tried to state in my letters, the Board of Elders tried to get possession of the Church when Mr. Duncan was sick. And Mr. Beattie says that the Board of Elders is the only authorized agency here that can deal with religious matters; that there is no such a thing here as a mission, that what Mr. Duncan and his followers or friends or advocates say about a mission here is all boah, and much more in that line, very much more uncomplimentary to Mr. Duncan.

"The point about the message sent about the Church to the Secretary of the Interior (not from the Council and I do not know who signed it) was, according to Harry Lang (Mayor), that they wished to know whose right it was to control the Church. As I understand it, they never got any reply, which of course discouraged them, and they seem inclined now to leave it alone. Beattie took occasion to tell me what I have stated above about the elders, etc., and much more, which makes me think that he had something to do with the sending of the telegram."

1913. Letter to Mr. H. S. Wellcome. From Metlakatla.

July 4.

"There have not been any very especial happenings since I wrote, after Marsden and the Board failed to get possession of the Church. Marsden took possession of the Metlakatla Benevolent Society's Hall on the occasion of an appointment of the society for the rendering of a Musical Program. Marsden paid no attention to their

"I do not think it has made any difference with Mr. Duncan's attendance.

"Mr. Duncan has not attended Sunday School since he was sick but the attendance is good. I am keeping a record of it and of the attendance at the church.

"Mr. and Mrs. Beattie have both quit attending the Sunday School. The attendance at their classes steadily declined until they had only one or two each. Mrs. Winthorn had 13 in her class last Sunday. The attendance at the Juvenile Sunday School last Sunday was over 40. Many of the people are away now. Mr. Duncan seems to interest the people as well as ever. * * *.

"Mr. Thompson was here and stayed for a week with the Government people. He did not disclose his object. I understand he is in Ketchikan yet.

"The cannery is in full blast and is getting a few fish from 5 traps. It is well equipped for doing a good business.

* * * * *

"The saw-mill is shut down and has quite a stock of lumber on hand.

"The Government employees are doing very little, have torn down the low building first used as a School House and seem to be planning to build something with the lumber. I have heard that the Town Hall, Mr. Duncan's School House and the building where the teachers lived are all to be torn down. I have also heard that the council passed a resolution permitting Mr. Duncan to sell his goods in the store. I also heard a report that both Mr. Duncan and us were to be asked to vacate the houses we live in, but I could not find that it had any reliable source. I almost wished it was so, as Mr. Duncan seems so feeble I thought it might mean a few peaceful comfortable days for him at the last. The cannery boss remarked to me a few days ago that he should think he would want to leave here.

"I inferred that he might have been helped to that conclusion by hearing the sentiments of Beattie & Company, as it is very evident that it is what they wish
----- but I do not think that from now on there will be any attempt to

mission here because there was NO ORGANIZATION, etc.

* * * * *

"I do not think I could ever look upon the Government people here any other way than as pirates and some of the people as accessories. * * *.

"* * * One is the habitual practice of Marsden of taking the young men to questionable places, where they are exposed to great temptation just because he can make a few dollars by it. ^[Marsden] He should at least be exposed to the Board as, in a sense, he is compromising them, as he is employed by them and uses the boat called the Good Tidings, most of the cost of which and his salary, are the funds contributed by people who are deceived by thinking that their money is used to help people, where ^{as} it really goes to aid in demoralizing them."

1918. Letter to Mr. H. S. Wellcome. From Metlakantla.

July 12.

"* * * But some of the strictures (as he calls them) that he makes on the Government for their acts remind me of one that I have also been reminded of from another source recently. It is in reference to the provision in the Act of '91, which places the Admetta Island Reserve under the control of the Secretary of the Interior for the benefit of the people here.

"It seems from the statement made upon this subject in the Act that everything done here depended upon whether it was really done for the benefit of the people for its legality, and it would seem especially important from the fact that the trap men through their lawyer (Mr. Burkhart), are now seeking to have the Act annulled on various grounds, and the Territory of Alaska is setting up a claim for the royalty on Smiley's traps, which royalty has been promised to the people, as well as the royalty on the fish taken in the traps. But none of which, so far as