

11-7-1916

Minthorn Letters

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H

Letter from Miles to Minthorn,

See — 11-7-16

Letter from brother-in-law of Dr. M. to
L. G. Miles.

H

(Brother-in-law of Dr. M.)
(To L.G.Miles, of
Lawrence, Kansas.)
(Atty. to Osage Indians)

Dr. H. J. MINTHORN
Metlakatla,
Alaska.

Nov. 7, 1916.

Dear Brother:

Mr. Wellcome's
proposed visit
to Washington

Yours rec'd today. I will answer Aggie's later. Mr. Wellcome will be going to Washington probably about Jan. 15. I have given him your address. He wants to employ two people there to help him in his case for Mr. Duncan, one a legal advisor of the first rank, and one who knows all the ins and outs of the Indian business in detail and its practical workings and policy, precedents, practices, and history; also some one that can tell him where & how to look for & find possible irregularities, such as authority exceeded, evasion of intent of laws, misuse of appropriations, &c, especially in regard to contracts with and dealings with unauthorized persons on reservations, --a person who would be a judge of a contract in reference to an ulterior purpose that it might contain without its being apparent to an inexperienced or perhaps unsuspecting person. In fact, a person who has had such experience with the Indian business that he would almost instinctively know where to look for anything that might have or allow of the attainment of an end that it was desirous for any reason to conceal or render obscure for a purpose

(Letter from L.G.Miles, of Lawrence, Kansas, brother-in-law of Dr.
H.J.Minthorn
(About 15 or 20 years Agent for Osage Indians,
(About 15 or 20 years Attorney for Osage Indians.
(Goes to Washington each winter, for Osage Indians.

(a) Lawrence, Kansas, Oct. 29, 1916.

Dr. H. J. Minthorn, Metlakahtla, Alaska.

Dear Brother:

Your very welcome letter just received. Glad to hear from you and of your work there. The Indian Department is being criticized all around. Cap. Pratt says that it is the rankest that he has known since

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If I were you I would write to Senator Charles Curtis about the Alaska matter. Make it plain just what has been done. He is on the Senate Ind. Committee and takes more interest in Indian matters than anyone in the Senate. There is a Democratic senator from Oregon that has been a thorn in the flesh of the Department, but he is quite erratic and Curtis has much more weight. Should I be in Washington this winter I will gladly go into the matter for you. Am not sure yet whether I will be there or not. Was there last year from April until July. Aggie and I have been here-----

(Copied from a typewritten document.--M.G.)

C O P Y

Metlakahtla, Alaska.

November 17, 1916.

STATEMENT OF DR. H. J. MINTHORN

H

Having been shown the statements of Adolphus Calvert, Ellen Hanbury, Alfred Baines, Catherine Marsden, Eli Tait, Jacob Scott and Edward Benson, in reference to their claim for undivided profits of the Metlakahtla Industrial Company, and having been asked to state any facts known to me in reference to the matter, I will say - that I was a resident of Metlakahtla, Alaska, during the years 1897 and 1898, and during 1904, and all of the above named people are known to me.

I notice in these claims it is said that Mr. Duncan used much persuasion to get these people to take shares; that they accepted a return of 15% annually on the amounts they invested; that they finally surrendered their stock and received back the amount they had paid for it, and it appears they were so well satisfied that for ten years no complaint was made by them to Mr. Duncan, Thos. H. Strong, or any of the other stockholders of the Company. Other stockholders, exclusive of Mr. Duncan, surrendered their shares to the amount of eleven thousand dollars, (\$11,000.00), receiving their face value, plus 7½%.

These facts, and the following facts about the people of Metlakahtla, generally lead me to the conclusion, which I state below:

The facts in reference to the people are -

1st It was, as they say, extremely difficult to get them to save any money, or to invest money. The idea of investing money,

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Any suggestions involving uncertainty, were viewed with suspicion. I believe if they had thought they would be liable in any way for losses they would not have consented to invest in the Company. This lead to the necessity of paying them a fixed sum annually in order to allay their suspicions and induce them to invest.

In this connection it must be remembered that Mr. Duncan never had any idea of making anything for himself or other people, as individuals. His undertakings were for the benefit of the community, and his sole intention was to help the Metlakahtlans as a people. That this was understood, by those who now complain, is disclosed in their statements, and also that they were in accord with the idea of being mutually helpful to the community, and not that they considered only themselves.

It must also be remembered that the total amount invested by the complainants was but an insignificant part of the capital invested in the cannery, and was in no wise essential to its operation. The object in getting the Metlakahtlans to invest was to get them interested in providing employment for their people at home, and to encourage them to save, to teach them that money properly invested makes money, and to develop in them an interest in the well-being of the community, as well as in their own personal well-being. This idea of helping the whole community was the one upon which the whole enterprise of the Metlakahtla Christian Mission and Community was established, and was well known to every

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it was a very simple matter to make money through combined capital. In imitation of Mr. Duncan's Company, various Companies were formed, among the people of Metlakahtla, all of which have come to grief, and broken up and gone out of business. Here are some of them -

Benson Trading Company,
Baines & Son,
Guthrie & Bolton,
Allen & Bates,
John Tait & Company,
Lang & Mason,
Verney Bros.,
Hamilton & Simpson.

Some of these Companies obtained considerable capital, from members of the Metlakahtla Christian Mission and Community, one of them claiming to have assets of \$50,000.00, and another one almost as much.

Naturally, strenuous efforts were made to get the investors in the Metlakahtla Industrial Company, and others of the Metlakahtla Christian Mission and Community, to withdraw from that Company, and take their savings and put their money into the new Companies, and the result was that Mr. Duncan never had to persuade any of the local people to give up their stock in the Metlakahtla Industrial Company. They did it very gladly, because there was a craze among the people over the new Companies, and they were eager to invest in them. Especially was this the case during the years 1897 to 1904, on account of the Klondike boom. When these enterprises failed, and the capital was lost, the promoters had to divert the attention of the losers, and also, if possible,

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Council
The Council of Metlakatla has, for years, been dominated by a clique, who were the promoters of the above named local companies, prominent among which were the leading movers in making these statements, and their acts have always been for their own benefit, and in direct opposition to the interests of the community.

Fish Traps
For instance, the council gave to one of their own number, a trap site in the Spring of 1915 for \$25.00, and allowed him to give his promissory note for that fee, and there were 200,000 salmon taken in that trap the first season, from which the community got absolutely no benefit, except the \$25.00.

A conservative estimate of the value of the fish from this trap would be \$6,000.00, and of this, at least, \$2,000.00 should have gone to the community. Other favored members of the council fared even better, but all the rest of the community were deprived of even an opportunity to fish, as the traps cut off the fish from the usual fishing locations.

Investment
2nd Conclusion: E. Benson and John Tait are quoted as saying that when they took their investment out of the Metlakatla Industrial Co., it was with the understanding that the Company go on, and Benson says explicitly that he said "All right, if the Company went on", and the same is said of John Tait in the statement made by his son.

So far as Mr. Duncan is concerned the Metlakatla Industrial Company is still in existence, just as it was at the time spoken of by Benson and Tait, viz: the business was continued whenever there was any prospect of any profit, until it was finally dis-

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Much of the property of the Metlakahtla Industrial Company was taken from Mr. Duncan's custody later on forcibly, in pursuance to the wishes of the Council and disposed of in opposition to the wishes of Mr. Duncan, and regardless of his protest, and with the knowledge, acquiescence and active approval of each and all of the signers of the statements in question, and also with the approval and active cooperation of the Government.

Any settlement as prayed for by these petitioners would have to take into consideration this property which, having been destroyed would necessarily have to be paid for by the petitioners, they being responsible for its loss, so that in equity, according to the expressed understanding of the case as stated by Benson and Tait, no one of the considerations upon which they claim to have surrendered their stock has been disregarded by Mr. Duncan, but on the contrary he did all he could to continue the operation of the Company and to preserve its assets, and still does, and he has no other intention than to use the assets for the benefit of the Metlakahtla Christian Mission and Community.

Referring to the statement made by me, in regard to fish trap sites and their disposition by the Metlakahtla Council, I will add to what I said the following, as I consider that it is pertinent to the case and helps to understand the object and intended effect of the statements first referred to and signed by Adolphus Calvert and others. A conservative estimate of the value of the fish from this trap, (the one near the village of Metlakahtla and pretended to

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The trap sites around Annette Island are very valuable. A trap constructed without having a native connected with it and which caused, therefore, an action for trespass against the owner, in the reply of the owner, supported by affidavit, or trespasser, he states that if prevented from using the trap during the season of 1915 he would suffer a loss of more than \$50,000.00.

Each of the trap sites disposed of by the Council are equally as valuable as the trap site of the Alaska Pacific Fishery Company, and yet they all produced, for the benefit of the Metlakahtla Community, no more than \$100.00 for that year. A low estimate, as I have shown, would have been \$2,000.00 for each trap leaving for the councilman, who intended to own it enough to have paid for the construction of the trap and \$1,000.00 to remunerate himself for delivering the fish to the cannery contracting for them.

But this loss, to the Metlakahtla Community, from the action of the Council, sworn to act in their interest, of \$8,000.00, at a very low estimate, is only a small part of the actual loss to the Community, caused by this action of the Council.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council for January 9, 1912 shows that Ridley and Mather, two members of the Metlakahtla Community, asked for and received, from the Council, a grant of a cannery site near the village of Metlakahtla on Annette Island, under the title of the Annette Island Packing Company. This cannery was never built, probably because the fishing sites had been disposed of, and Ridley and Mather both left the Community and are permanently

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~~fishermen~~ fill his contract, and only enough to put up about 250 cases, instead of 2500 cases, neither could he get fish from the trap, which was only about one mile from his cannery, because they claimed they were contracted to a cannery owned by white men many miles away.

Thus it will be seen that what might have been the solution of the Community industrial problem at Metlakahla was rejected by the Council in the interest of its individual members, but this is still only a small part of the damage done to the Metlakahla Community by the substitution of self interest for the common interest.

~~Fish traps~~ All of these traps are located on the routes taken by the salmon to reach the various streams emptying into the sea. From the shores of Annette Island the fishing near the mouths of these streams furnished the people of the Metlakahla Community with employment, and produced for them an income and food, especially did this apply to the old, the poor, the cripples and the women, who could not go far from their home for employment.

The acts of the Council in monopolizing the fishing sites for the sole benefit of individual members of the Council and no others, as no trap sites have been given to any one but members of the Council, has thus resulted in strangling the only attempts of individuals of the Community to initiate industrial enterprises that would have given employment to other members of the Community, and perhaps have also been creditable to the Community and to the United Government, the next friend to and guardian of the interests of the Metlakahla Community, but was unquestionably a direct and well nigh fatal blow

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those designated to act for it and in its interest, deliberately prostitute their official position to their individual and personal interest.

But there is still another, and even greater wrong perpetrated by the action of these Councilmen and complainants. The United States, in making the Annette Island Reservation and in afterwards adding many fold to its value by adding to it a portion of the surrounding waters, 3,000 feet in width, all of which, it is expressly stated, is under the regulation of the Secretary of the Interior for the United States, for the use of the Metlakahtlans, and in defending said Reservation, and the addition thereto, against encroachment by trespassers, has assumed and declared to the world that it assumes to protect the Metlakahtlans in the use and in the enjoyment of any and all benefits accruing from the right to use the same.

This being undisputable, then the Council, no matter how they came into possession of their office and authority, are in fact the representatives of the United States and their acts are the acts of the United States, and the United States by its own act being obliged to act for the benefit of the Community, and see that the Community enjoys the rights to use the reservation, and the very valuable addition made thereto by the President of the United States in a special executive order, when they (the Council) gave to themselves, as individuals, the exclusive right to use that which it was the right of the Community to use, although they pretended to compensate the Community by giving them a few dollars for that which

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Deals with white men
and cannery owners in the construction and operation of the fish traps, who, as is generally the case where white men deal with Indians, have received nearly all of the profits, and have thus, in a surreptitious manner, allowed themselves to be the tools of trespassers and exploiters of the rights and privileges of the Metlakahtla people, to their very great loss and damage, and have also compromised the United States and weakened its efforts to defend the Metlakahtla Community against other trespassers.

That the majority of these Councilmen and complainants understand the nature of their acts in reference to the charges of dishonesty, fraud, falsehood and deliberate dishonesty against Mr. Duncan, dating back many years and cover, in fact, his whole career as a Missionary, it is difficult for me to believe, having known the complainants and Mr. Duncan for twenty years and that Mr. Duncan is such a person, or was ever such a person, as he is represented to be in these complaints, I do not believe. On the contrary I consider it absolutely impossible in any kind of a fair investigation of his life and acts to show in the least degree that he was ever guilty of any of the charges made against him in these complaints.

His life, as I have known it intimately for many years by close and daily personal contact, much of the time eating at the same table with him, was and is of very rare unselfishness and wholly devoted to his work as a Christian Missionary, for the spiritual and material betterment of the Metlakahtla people, without

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When forcibly deprived of the custody of it, he has sought no redress in any resort to law, nor offered any resistance. He at first endeavored, I have been told, to ascertain the names of his accusers and the nature of the charges made against him, but he says that he failed in this. He has not, to my knowledge, undertaken any defense in the public press, or made any effort, so far as I know, to answer the charges in these statements of Calvert and others, probably on account of his extreme old age, being 85 years old, and still having his time very fully occupied in delivering three sermons each week and conducting a Sunday School and Teachers Meeting.

In consideration of the fact that Mr. Duncan has stood for all that Christians have prized most highly for more than half a century, and is now charged with, as stated by Calvert and others, deception, deliberate falsehood, dishonesty, fraud, breach of trust, robbing widows and orphans extending over most of the time in which he has been engaged as a Missinnary in Alaska, and these charges are couched in legal phraseology and addressed to a responsible United States officer, and apparently entertained and given credence by him. It seems to me the cause of Missions, and to some extent Christianity itself, as well as the United States Government, and Mr. Duncan are concerned in the truth or falsity of them, and there should be no delay in determining whether or not there is any truth in them.

As for myself, as I have stated, I do not believe there

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Metlakahtla Industrial Company, and the other fact that there seems to have been no legal action instituted, which would most certainly have been the case had there been any probability of substantiating the charges, leads me to the conclusion that no one else believes that there is any truth in them.

Then naturally comes the question of why they were made, and right here I must say that the whole question of the differences at Metlakahtla is involved in the answer, but I will not concern myself with these differences, which are of long standing, and most of them in themselves are of little importance, being only effects springing from certain causes. What then are the causes, there are here Indians, white men, Government employees and Missionaries and their several conflicting interests. Since the differences began before there were any Government employees here, and even before there were many white men in this country, it of course must have commenced between the Missionary and the Indians themselves.

That this is so there is no question, and the letters of certain Indians plainly disclose this fact, as they blame the religion, which Mr. Duncan introduced, and Mr. Duncan's rules, customs and methods, which so far as these particular Indians (and they were few in comparison with the whole number) were arbitrary and subversive of what they considered their rights, with being the cause of all their troubles. These Indians were the chiefs, or headmen, a kind of combination, so far as the rest of the people

that is more in Priest Craft Despotism.

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Kitlans (who was the only chief included in his colony) began ages ago, whenever it was that the general good was to be considered more important than individual aggrandizement.

During the years of Mr. Duncan's greater efficiency he managed to control this clique, and defend the people from their machinations, but during the past twenty years, age and the constant failure of his powers and the fact that some of the clique, naturally the most capable and self assured and conceited, had received some education of a kind, that in their environment could not be put to any practical use, but yet increased their pride and craftiness, has rendered the contest constantly more unequal, here is where the white man comes in, and his is also that of the chiefs, no exceptional condition.

Whenever in the United States there were Indians that had something of value to white men, there have also been cleverly concocted schemes or force or bribery, or whatever means that seemed necessary, used to get what the white man wanted.

For instance the Davis Trap Site and trap, during the season of, 1915 took 200,000 fish, which at a low estimate brought \$6,000.00. The Metliskahtla Community got \$25.00, there was still enough left to pay for building the trap and leave at least \$1,000.00, after paying operating expenses. Did Davis get that \$1,000.00? Well he never showed any signs of having even enough to pay his debts, or to give any other signs of affluence, which he would certainly have done

Davis Trap Site

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where the Government employees should come in to protect the Community against these exploiters, but up to this time they have not done so.

The only white person they have concerned themselves about was the Missionary and the Mission. I think they can certainly be credited with thoroughness in their efforts to leave him nothing to show for his sixty years work at Metlakatla, either in material or spiritual results.

Edmund Verney
Mayor

R. A. Holland
Secretary

Edmund B. Verney
Treasurer

Council Clerk
Council Committee
Matters of the Council
Minutes of the Council

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Meeting of Council Called to Order in upper room of Tail

Building by Mayor Verney at 8 PM, March 7-1916 The following
Councilmen were present: John Davis - Roden - James Mark Hamilton
Herbert - Fred Verney - Eli Tail - Andrew Jackson - Paul Mathis
and Chas. Brindley also were also Secretary Holland & Treasurer
The minutes of the meeting held Feb 27 1916 were read and approved.
Order of business suggested by Mayor - read - to wit call to order
reading of minutes - reports of committees - unfinished business
general orders of Council - presentation of ordinances - adjournment
Question of two constables not yet being sworn considered. Teacher
in charge advised they could come before the Mayor & be sworn
any time. Secretary reported the payment of \$20 for tickets for Capt.
election as ordered by Council at last meeting also \$25 paid for
Question of Councilman Mathis resigning considered but not taken up
Members succeeded in getting him to withdraw his resignation for
the time being. Committee to draft complaint against James
Opposit to Secretary of Interior upon his visit to this Island in
connection as follows: Adolphus Calvert John Davis R. A. Holland
and Edmund Verney. Council listened to short address on political
affairs by Rev Edw. Marsden. The following bills were introduced & the

Sept 20th 1915 Mr. J. H. Munthorn
to the Secretary of the Interior
Washington D.C.

Mr. J. H. Munthorn was given permission to set
stationary traps in compliance with the regulations
established by the Secretary of the Interior for the
Tribal Game Preserve subject to the Secretary's
approval.

Mr. J. H. Munthorn was given permission to set
traps at \$25⁰⁰ each around the Preserve subject to
the Secretary of the Interior's approval.

Mr. Frederick F. Davis was given permission to set
stationary Salmon traps around the Preserve
during the year 1915 by paying \$25⁰⁰ for each
trap. Also to cut poles on the Preserve upon the same
Feb-9-1915 by the Secretary of the Interior subject
to his approval.

(Attends to Statement of H. J. Munthorn 11/17/16)

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Wetlakatla, Alaska,
Dec. 12, 1912.

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Dr. Andrew J. Montgomery, Capt. Fore Wireless,
Presbyterian Church, Portland, Oregon.
Dear Sir:

I cannot think it an unimportant matter to forcibly destroy a Christian Mission and deal without consideration and treat with indignity a missionary who has given sixty years of his life without the least thought of himself to the work of this Mission; and since you seem to have an important part in dealing with the subject I am taking the time and think I shall continue from time to time to bring some important facts to your notice.

In order to give a better understanding of the case I will begin five years back and copy from the minutes of the Wetlakatla Council:

(Page 31. Jan. 9, 1912).

The seventh session of the Council of Wetlakatla was called to order by Councilman Campbell.

Councilman Drendible was elected Chairman. The subject of the meeting was to discuss the matter of Mr. Wm. Duncan's offer to transfer or place the business of the Wetlakatla Industrial Co., consisting of cannery, mercantile store and sawmill, into the hands of the Community of Wetlakatla. Such matter cannot be decided upon until a letter be written to the Department of the Interior at Washington, D.C.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M. to meet again at 7 P.M. Jan. 10, 1912. The following was the letter:

Wetlakatla, Alaska, Jan. 10, 1912.

Hon. Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

We, the Town Council of Wetlakatla, do hereby ask your pardon and kindness to notify us frankly and immediately the very same question mentioned lastly in our communication to you of Nov. 23, 1911, whether the U.S. Government has accepted the business of W.I.C., for we truly knew through your Special Agent, Major Logan, with some of the witnesses, that Mr. Wm. Duncan has placed the very industries in the hands of the said U.S. Govt.

Now we are so embarrassed at the present time that this same Mr. Duncan is now offering that same industries to place it now into the hands of our community if the Town Council agree upon. We realized that the U.S. Govt. have a right to say or do anything they please about the W.I.C. business after that Mr. Wm. Duncan has disposed of such industries. Because to whom a thing is given for safekeeping the same has a right to say or do something they please about it.

Now please kindly notify us what will become of this matter, for we are continually expect to have everything we petitioned for settled.

We beg to remain,

Your Humble Servants,
Town Council of Wetlakatla,
(signed) B.A. Haldane, Secretary."

The point I wish to notice in this is that although negotiations finally reached a point where the U.S. Government took formal possession of the property of the W.I.C. by posting notices thereon, and put it in the custody of Marsden as Secretary of the Council, nothing was ever said about the Church, Mr. Duncan's cottage, and the Dr. house, and no notices were ever posted thereon or the keys taken or any other

(Winthorn to Dr. A. J. Montgomery)

of Marsden in assuming the right to control them is entirely without any authority from the U.S. or any other source.

I do not wish to go into the general subject of what is called the differences here at Metlakatla. The only point I wish to call your attention to is that Mr. Duncan does not feel that the Lord has yet excused him from the work that He gave him to do here. He is still going on with his work. He preaches three times each week, conducts a S.S. personally, and another one is conducted by the people. His services are well attended. I think I am safe in saying that Mr. Duncan's congregations now average more than three times as many people as are to be found in any other congregation in Alaska, and I have heard it put at from five to ten times as many by people who should know better than I do. Mr. Duncan still visits the sick and looks after the poor. I estimate that he expends for the benefit of these classes of people more than fifteen hundred dollars per year.

Mr. Duncan's work is entirely self-supporting, including everything, - fuel, lights, janitor, repairs of buildings (which item alone I am sure amounted to more than nine hundred dollars the past year). Also Mr. Duncan is the only person at Metlakatla that pays the slightest attention to the sick and the poor. I was here during 1896 & 7 and 1904, 1915 and now. I knew Mr. Marsden and most all the people, I think I may truthfully say, very much better than many people who have furnished information to your board. I have had experience as Supt. of Forest Grove Indian School and Chilocco, Indian School, and as an Agency Physician and as a Special Agent allotting land to Indians. That I think at least ought to qualify me to judge of a situation like this. Also I wish to remind you that although I have been here the past two years during the acute stage of this trouble and I have not butted in as I considered that Mr. Duncan on account of his age could not long do the work here, and that others would necessarily have to undertake it, and I did not want to embarrass either the Govt. or the Christian people who might try to do something to continue the good that Mr. Duncan has been doing here for so many years. I have watched the bungling of the situation by Mr. Marsden, his voluminous correspondence in the public press mostly extremely exaggerated and some of it absolutely unfounded, his procedure in the field is still worse. So far as the work of a Christian minister is concerned, he has no conception of it. He is all for talk, crafty plans, threats, & misrepresentations. He had a golden opportunity here, but has failed in every particular and rendered the situation more difficult for others.

I think the situation of sufficient importance to justify a thorough investigation, allowing both sides to be heard, and I am sure that the Presbyterian Church upon which the responsibility rests for most of the religious work to be done in S.E. Alaska in the future as in the past should give this matter their careful attention, not so much to do justice to Mr. Duncan or any other person but for the sake of getting at the best way of doing an important work and of getting other results than have been gotten here for the past few years. But this will take time and trouble. Some unbiased judicious person with the welfare of the work of saving the lost should come to S.E. Alaska unheralded and unknown to any parties & give plenty of time to a genuine effort to see the situation as it is, for the sake of righteousness and not be in a hurry, and this should be repeated until the facts are ascertained and then without either trying to sustain or condemn any one in particular try to get things in such a shape as real valuable results would begin to appear.

(COPY)

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17
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Wetlakatla, Alaska, January 20, 1917.

Mr. Geo. T. Pratt,
Lawport, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Pratt:

Yours of January 10, 1917, received with enclosed copies of letters, for which I thank you very much, and also for your writing to Dr. Montgomery. I am returning the copies according to your request and have placed some numbers on the margin to indicate the portions of the letters that I wish to comment upon.

(1) I have been here most of the time since May 15, 1915, and, as Marsden says, I had taken no part in the differences here. I think I did not talk them over with you even when I was at home last summer. But when Marsden claimed the right to take possession of Mr. Duncan's church, and proceeded to interfere with the church and Sunday-school arrangements and give instructions as to the church I felt that I must at least inform such of the members of the Presbyterian Church (of which he was a representative) as I was personally acquainted with of the simple facts of the case which have come under my own personal observation and matters well within my personal knowledge.

(2) I have not written to the "Presbyterian Board" myself and I only wrote to Dr. Montgomery after he wrote to me.

(3) What Marsden in his letter of Dec. 6th adroitly refers to as the "Committee of the Board of Elders" means Atkinson and Hilton, both of whom are aggressive trouble-makers, and hostile to Mr. Duncan and have for a long time intrigued with Marsden and assisted him in his designs. The "Board of Elders" is a Board of eight persons not elected by the church members in the usual way, as had been the practice of the Mission for many years, but at a special meeting of the public called and controlled by the hostile faction. These "Elders" have never been acknowledged or sworn in by Mr. Duncan and are not and have never been recognized by the Wetlakatla Christian Mission as having any authority over it. They are not authorized by any law or any church. It has been Marsden's custom to use the title "Committee of the Board of Elders" or the names of Atkinson and the other man (both friendly to him but sworn enemies of Mr. Duncan) as being this "Committee" of this "Board of Elders" to give some support and prestige to his acts; but his acts of trying to take Mr. Duncan's church were not approved of by the congregation nor by this "Board of Elders" other than this "Committee". To prevent these two allies and supporters of Marsden from continuing to usurp the powers of the "Board of Elders", whatever those powers may be, and that no more such acts may be undertaken in the name of the "Board of Elders", or any other steps involving the responsibility of the "Board of Elders", without the knowledge or authorization of the majority of the members, this "Committee" of Atkinson and Hilton has recently been deposed by the majority of the members of the "Board of Elders" and other persons have been elected in their places. It is to be hoped that these steps will effectually prevent Marsden from mis-using the name of the "Committee" or of the "Board of Elders" in the future.

In this letter I am quoting passages from some pamphlets and reports that have a bearing on some of the other statements that I have marked.

(4) The statement I made in reference to the feeling of natives towards old people is from published statements by Dr. Sheldon Jackson and others, and my own observation, and is supported by Marsden's own

Church

Presbyterian
Board

Elders

Witnesses
Marsden

Rev. Geo. T. Pratt,

-2-

of his recent treatment of Father Duncan. I do not claim that this is universal among natives and certainly not among the real Christians who I think compare favorably with other people in that respect. What I say is that it was the attitude of the natives before they became Christians. Marsden's contention is that Christianity as introduced by this Mission did not benefit the natives but was here to "fatten on the rights of the Indians, considered them as its legal chattels to be subjugated and governed, and disposed of at will;" and declares that hereafter he "will give it wide publicity and fearlessly expose it." Compare this with Dr. Jackson's statements in his Report for 1896-7, pages 1626-7-8; also for the years 1891-2, page 876. One sentence reads: "Metlakatla is truly the full realization of the Missionaries' dream of aboriginal restoration."

(10) What Marsden refers to as the meddling of Ketchikan friends is, I presume, the protests against his acts by the leading citizens of Ketchikan who have many years of intimate knowledge of Mr. Duncan's mission and of Marsden's conduct and trouble-making interference.

Referring to Atkinson's letter which Marsden, judging by his practices in the past, probably composed wholly or in part, it will be seen that it contains the same sentiments of disloyalty, mistrust, and condemnation of the Metlakatla Christian Mission as does Marsden's letter. Also it likewise in comprehensive language includes in his reference the whole career of the Mission from its very beginning. Compare this with an expression from Dr. Jackson's Report for 1896-7: "The news of the remarkable success of the Mission had circulated wherever the English language was known." Similar language and expressions of approval have been used in reference to the work of the Metlakatla Christian Mission by many other responsible people, including eminent statesmen, ministers of the Gospel, etc., after personal visits to the Mission and from personal knowledge. Several quite important books have been written about the Mission, all favorable to it; and so far as I know, Marsden, Atkinson and Verney are the only persons who have ever published a line derogatory to it. Verney's statement is contained in pamphlet form, and he too seems to condemn it from beginning to end, by trying to show what the natives have lost through the work of this Christian Mission.

Marsden in his letter says: "In the experience and opinion of the Metlakatla Indians Father Duncan's retirement from the Metlakatla work saves what is left of the very work he himself commenced, and in this experience and opinion I concur." So far as I can see then, the stated opinions of Atkinson and Verney are accepted and endorsed by Marsden, they being his relatives and active allies and supporters, and all of them belonging to the Kitlan tribal clan.

Here are the statements of each:

Marsden speaks of the Mission as "the system that has been fattened on the expense of our Indian rights and one that considers us as its legal chattels only to be subjugated, governed and disposed of at will."

Atkinson says: "This Metlakatla work did not start right" in the beginning." "The work has been carried on against some of God's righteousness; that common justice was blindfolded; funds of the Church Missionary Society were misused, and the same deeds were done here; also the rights of the poor people were trampled upon, the Word of God was twisted to suit a purpose; and a business was started under the guise of religion that was untruthful to the core."

Verney says in his pamphlet, which refers to the condition of

growth they should at least be fifteen thousand", and closes by saying: "We wish to call special attention to the Kitlan tribe. It was the first to embrace the teachings of Christianity in 1857" (by Mr. Duncan). "and through all the history of missions on the North Pacific Coast to the present day the members of this tribe have taken a very prominent part. They are among the foremost natives of the Coast today in industry and education, merchants, boat-builders, printers, clergymen, licensed navigators, blacksmiths, teachers, machinists, artists, photographers, musicians, and many others are found among this particular race" - of which Atkinson claims that he should be a chief by hereditary tribal rights.

To sum up the foregoing and draw a conclusion from it I should say it means: "Turn out Duncan who with unparalleled sacrifices has devoted 60 of the 85 years of his life to the rescue of these races from savagery and brought them to a state of efficient Christian civilization, and hand the mission over to the Kitlans," or rather to Marsden and Atkinson, for only a few even of the Kitlans are really their supporters. This has been done so far as the industrial part of the Mission's work is concerned, as it has been for the past several years in charge of a native Council, Verney, through the intrigue of this faction, having been the first Mayor and Atkinson the second Mayor covering all of the time, and Marsden is now Secretary and Custodian of the Cannery, Sawmill, Pipe-line, Fisheries, Wharf, etc. Whether they have done better or worse in the management of the industries than when they were in possession of the Mission is not my concern, and I have Marsden for a witness that I have in no wise interfered with these affairs. Also whether a few persons belonging to one tribal clan will as successfully deal with this situation (where eight other tribes are represented) as would some one outside of them all, I leave those to judge who have to deal with the question. All I have done or am trying to do in this correspondence is to raise the question--Considering the lifelong attitude of Marsden, according to his own statements, of inveterate and implacable opposition to the Metlakatla Christian Mission, is he justified in attempting to take control of it and in dictating the manner in which it shall be conducted, with the alternative of either submitting to his dictation or of the venerable founder quitting the field?

The Mission after 60 years is still in successful operation. On Sunday last, January 14, 1917, there were over 150 persons in attendance at the morning service. There was a large choir, consisting of 28 persons who practice regularly every Friday evening, all of them, including the organist, being natives. There is an Adults' and Young People's Sunday school in the afternoon in the Church, managed entirely by natives. Mr. Duncan himself conducts a juvenile Sunday school in another building, in attendance at which there were 35 children on the Sunday mentioned, and this juvenile Sunday school has been in continuous operation for more than fifty years. There is a Sunday evening and Wednesday evening service, and a Sunday school Teachers' meeting on Saturday evening, all conducted by Mr. Duncan.

The Mission continues to supply a Physician and furnishes medicine and medical supplies free, as has been its custom for many years, and pays consultation fees, and pays for such x-ray work and surgery as are needed in addition to the services of the regular physician; also cares for the poor and old people and orphans, having expended several hundred dollars in that way during the past year. The Missionary visits the sick and the old people, conducts funeral services, christens children, and performs marriage ceremonies; advises people

estimation

Mission still functioning

Med. & Surg.

Presbyterian Church
charges

In view of all these facts, I feel that I was justified in bringing to the notice of the Presbyterian Church (which Marsden and also myself in a sense both represent) what he proposed to do, and giving that church an opportunity of knowing as well as I could what his action meant. I also made a trip to Ketchikan at my own expense and laid the subject before the only Presbyterian there that I knew, telling him that my only interest was in having the Mission left unmolested in its work, and there was still no other agency in sight to replace it; so that I deny the charge of being or doing anything underhanded. I even told Marsden himself after he had delivered his interfering address in the Church of the Metlakatla Christian Mission what I thought of his actions and that I should write to some parties about what he had done.

I am writing this long letter to you because you have interested yourself in the matter and I thought it was due you to give you to understand as well as I could what reasons I had for bringing the subject to your notice.

As long as I remain here it is only to look after the sick as well as I can and to be of what service I can to Mr. Duncan. I am aware that I am guilty of being old, but claim that I should not be dealt with too harshly for that; but I am not making any plea for myself or for Mr. Duncan either. I have only asked the Presbyterian Church through you and Mr. Irwin if it wants Marsden to do as he has been doing. I am not writing this letter to the Board of Missions and do not wish it brought to their notice, or to be drawn into arguments or controversies, as of course it would be at once sent to Marsden, thus making matters more difficult here and apparently it would do no good.

In reply to yours I will say that we also have had a very pleasant winter and I have had good health for the most part. I think Mary will return to Newport when her school is out and I may return about the same time or sooner, since matters are so unsettled; but I feel under obligations to stay here as long as I can; but as I have practically nothing to say about it and there are such diverse influences at work here, you can easily see that everything is very uncertain. But it is somewhat that way anywhere, and all the time it seems even a little uncertain what is going to become of the world itself at the present time, and in view of the awful events transpiring our own little personal affairs seem very small indeed.

I wrote last summer and offered my services to go to France in hospital service, but they, like Marsden, seem to favor younger men, but I have no doubt if the war lasts for one or two years more they will not be so particular. It was so in the last year of the Civil War.

I hope your work is prosperous and your family well.

I often think of the Bible Class in your church. I tried to have one here but through Marsden's activities it was broken up, but probably they did not lose much by it; but the white people here are absolutely without any kind of religious services in English as both Mr. Duncan's and Marsden's services are in the native language. Some of us attend Mr. Duncan's church but only get as far as the text.

Your Friend,

(signed) V.J. Winthorn.

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H

Metlakatla, Alaska, Jan. 21, 1917.

STATEMENT BY DR. W. J. MINTHORN.

On Sunday, January 7th, 1917, I was called to see Ernest Milton, who was suffering from asthma, and I visited him on January 8th and 9th. On the 10th of January I found his wife, Martha Milton, also sick in the same house with pneumonia. From January 10th until January 20th I saw both of these people twice a day and by that time they had considerably improved. Each had a normal temperature and normal pulse and seemed in a fair way to recovery.

On the morning of Sunday, January 21st, I was called in a hurry and told that Mrs. Milton was in a bad condition. When I went in the room she was sitting up in bed eating her breakfast, and I told her I would wait until she got through. Then she told me that she had had two hemorrhages in the night, the first one at one o'clock, from her bowels, with very much blood. I examined her and found her pulse and temperature normal and her general symptoms improved over the evening before, and there were no indications of her having had any hemorrhage in the way of weakened pulse or paleness, or any symptoms whatever of a hemorrhage. I questioned her as to whether she had had any pain or griping in her bowels, or whether anything else passed except blood,--any water or fecal matter, and she said no, nothing but blood. She said also that Ernest Milton had

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1 good. He also told me that he had had a hemorrhage from the
2 bowels, but that there was no griping or pain. Both Mr. and
3 Mrs. Milton claimed that they had never had a hemorrhage of that
4 kind before.

5 I also noticed that neither of them had during the night
6 taken the medicine that I had left for them. This was especially
7 noticeable with Mrs. Milton. The medicine was in a two ounce
8 vial, which was half-full when I last saw her on the night of
9 January 20th at eight o'clock, and by ten o'clock Sunday morn-
10 ing, January 21st, 14 hours later, she should have used the
11 medicine seven times and there should have been only one tea-
12 spoonful left in the bottle, but it was still half-full just
13 as it was the night before. I could not tell so accurately
14 about Ernest, for his medicine was in a cup, but from appear-
15 ances he had not taken any medicine either. On my first inquiry
16 as to whether Mrs. Milton had slept during the night I was
17 told that she had not slept any. When I asked why she hadn't
18 taken her medicine, I was told she was asleep.

19 Putting all these things together, my impression is
20 that there had been no hemorrhage and for some reason they were
21 trying to deceive me.

22 On leaving Milton's house I went to see Alex Guthrie,
23 and had him come to Milton's house, and I told him the question
24 I wanted him to ask them. Alex told me of an urgent call that
had been left at my office and I hurried away to answer it and

H

17
2-5

Metlakatla, Alaska, Feb. 5, 1917.

Dr. B. L. Myers,
Ketchikan, Alaska.

Dear Doctor:

Church

Enclosed find a letter addressed to Rev. Geo. T. Pratt, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Newport, Oregon, of which I was one of the Trustees. You will see from reading it that when Mr. Marsden assumed to take control of Mr. Duncan's Church I wrote to a trustee of the Presbyterian Church at Newport. He unexpectedly to me sent the letter to the Superintendent of Home Missions in Portland, who then wrote to me and also, it seems, sent my letter to the Board of Home Missions and finally it was sent to Marsden who answered it. A copy of his answer was sent to Mr. Pratt who sent it to me and which I am now answering. Mr. Wellcome thinks you should know of this and so I am sending it to you.

If I write anything more I will also send it to you to read, but I think considering all things it is best for me to have as little as possible to do with any correspondence or anything else between the factions here, and I hope I may not need to have anything more to do with it. My reason for taking the step I did was because it seemed to me to be a decisive step on Marsden's part in disposessing Mr. Duncan of the Mission property which the Government, as I understood, did not authorize.

Respectfully,

(signed) H.J. Winthorn

Document No. 3-12
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H

Metlakatla, Alaska, Feb, 12, 1917

Dear Dr, Myers, I am sending you the enclosed copies of letters at the request of Mr, Wellcome, with the understanding that you are to deal with whatever questions may come up during the adjustment of things here,

I do not think I will trouble to write much but will see you some time when I am over at Ketchikan, I think as Mr, Wellcome, that it is just as well for me not to have any more to do with the differences than I can help, In fact I do not want anything to do with them, There is one reservation that I feel like making which is that if Marsden attempts to disturb the Mission while Mr, Duncan, is here and is conducting the work of the Mission and I am here I shall try to do whatever I can to prevent it

Outside of any regard that I have for Mr, Duncan, or interest I feel in the mission personally I consider it an outrageous act for any one to attack a christian Mission in any country and especially in the U, S, and I am sure that the U, S, does not stand for any such thing neither does the Presbyterian church stand for it I mention Marsden, because I think he is the cause of all the trouble here, You have had cases many times where the Stomach, Kidneys, Liver, and Heart, were all giving trouble, and sometimes it is not easy to tell where the trouble began, but it is a matter of some importance to know which one was originally to blame, It is so here at the present time several influences are busy making trouble, but I am sure that from what you know of the case you will agree with me that, Marsden has been working persistently for twenty years to undermine Mr, Duncan, and that he never understood the nature of the work done here, and was never in sympathy with it, Marsden is an illustration of the effect of education without conversion he always saw results without understanding the cause, others have made the same mistake, and have attributed the success here to education and as the educational facilities here seemed meager nothing was more natural than to conclude that with better educational facilities there would be just so much more to show for it

(Sgd.) Your friend
H. J. Minthorn.

Metlakatla, Alaska, March 17, 1917.

Hon. Harry Lane,
United States Senator,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator:

Introducing Mr. Wellcome. This will introduce to you Mr. Henry E. Wellcome, of American birth, who must be well known to you as a leader in Chemical and Biological Research. He is also an archaeologist, pursuing very extensive investigations in Egypt. He is a Trustee and Governor of the Gordon Memorial College, A.E. Sudan, founded by Lord Kitchener. Mr. Wellcome is himself Founder of the Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories at Khartoum, the Bureau of Scientific Research, and the Historical Medicine Museum, at London, England. But it is as a friend and promoter of Missions that Mr. Wellcome comes to you at this time. He has been one of the principal contributors to and a lifelong friend of the Metlakatla Christian Mission, in Southeastern Alaska, and a close personal friend of Mr. William Duncan, the Missionary, at Metlakatla.

Mr. Wellcome is acting not as the agent of Mr. Duncan but entirely on account of his interest in this Mission and in missions in general. At the request of some of the oldest friends of this Mission Mr. Wellcome has made a considerable sacrifice of time, and at his own expense has spent several months at Metlakatla carefully studying the situation and conditions and obtaining data bearing on the case, and I have suggested that it will be desirable for him to consult you and ask your advice and good offices, and I feel sure you will be interested in the matter and facilitate Mr. Wellcome's purposes in any way in your power.

Respectfully yours,

H. J. Minthorn, M.D.

Dr. H. J. Minthorn
METLAKATLA ALASKA Mar 26, 1917

Folder No. 254

3-26

Mr. H. S. Wellcome, Ketchikan, Alaska

Dear Friend

I Recd the package And many many thanks for very nice Photo. The one to Tom, I will deliver to him, also the one to Mr. Duncan. I have moved down stairs, so as to be within hearing of callers, of which there are not many at present, very many of the people being away. The attendance at Church was quite small today probably partly on account of the stormy weather,

The Cannery Supt., (that is to be) was here yes terday and told some of the people that the contract was made and they would begin work soon. He said they would build, from three to five Traps. That the building would be 50 by 200 feet, but would not be operated this year, and that they would put up another building next summer and operate the Cannery next summer,

I have been so busy moving that I have not seen any one to talk with, Agnes Buxton, Annie Hewsons, sister is Mr. Duncans cook since the Phillipsons left. She seems to do well, and I think we are going to get along fine,

After Church evening service as it was extremely stormy I went to church, mostly to see how Mr. Duncan would manage. After church was out I waited at the corner of the church until he came and John Hudson, was with him and had the light so I came on. I could hear them talking and apparently Mr. Duncan, was enjoying the trip so I came on,

I think the Solomon Burton place would be even better for some one to live in that would be somewhat charged with looking after Mr. Duncan, than the Dundas place, and as no one has lived there for so long it could probably be gotten,

Its being so near to the back end of Mr. Duncans place would make it convenient for the occupant to look after the garden and five acres of cleared land set mostly to berries would be also an inducement. If it was desirable sometime to connect Mr. Duncans house by phone or electric bell with the house of his best friend, the Burton house would also be the most suitable of any house in town on that account.

Then the Burton house being already falling down, would not cut much figure in the purchase, and if John Hudson was going to undertake it he being a good carpenter could build a house to suit himself. Also John being a good boat builder could have a shop on the front where Solomon Burton once had a boat house,

John Hudson being indifferent to the concerns of the village makes him a more suitable person to look after Mr. Duncan. Altogether I think it would be a good arrangement if it could be brought about and one that would be very desirable. Perhaps just at this time when Johns married son is in need of a place to live it might possibly be accomplished. Provided Mr. INERTIA, does not have to much to say in the matter,

I am going to propose to Mr. Duncan that I sleep in the room that the Phillipsons, occupied for awhile until some other way appears. But I think it is very desirable that some one belonging here should be arrang-

(3-26-17)

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done did not suit him, I told him to get any one he wanted to and do it any way he wanted to and you had said you would pay for it, I would rather he did not know that you had left any money at the Bank, so when he gets through I will pay him whatever it comes to,

Your friend

H. J. Minthorn

(Signed in ink.)

(Copied from a typewritten letter signed by H.J.Minthorn.--M.G.)

17
3-28
METLAKATLA ALASKA 5-28-17.

Document No. 7

Folder No. 254

Dear Mr. Wellcome

Temperance Lecture
I did not write on Tuesday because Mr. Boren, was writing. And I still do not need to write, As he is here and will give you a better account of things than I can, When he is gone I will try to furnish the Metlakatla doings, We had a Temperance Lecture today at the School House, and I went, About 50 Children were there and about 10 grown people counting Marsden,

Prohibition
The Lady said that Prohibition would not have a fair opportunity until there was a new Generation of MEN, I wonder what had happened to make her so Pessimistic, Perhaps it was the 10 Saloons in Ketchikan,

Marsden took up about half of the time in talking, So perhaps it was that, Any way I am sure she approves of the WAR, as that is helping to get things ready for the Jubilee year, of Prohibition according to her idea,

Hand pointing
My way of looking at it is that the WOMEN missed their chance of fixing the thing when they were SPANKING the BOY BABIES, She taught us a song BEER is bad WHISKEY'S worse, We drink WATER, Safety first,

I Recd, the deposit slip and Bank Book, and Check Book, Many Thanks, I will try and do the best I can with it, Is 46 4 I think will have to be the ROAD that we will take, (Mr. Duncan and I) Also Is, 42 & 16 Also Is 41 & 10

Not that there will not be something for us to do Or that any one can sit down for every where is the LORDS word the message is like it was to Moses in, Ex, 14, & 15, to go forward no matter how it looks, when we get to the SEA it will divide, our business is to go forward, For any man having put his hand to the plough and looking BACK is not FIT for the KINGDOM.

Seizures of Property
As I see it the fellows in the TRENCHES have nothing on you Facing what you do, Also no one ever undertook anything where they could be any surer that they were RIGHT, And no one ever stood for any more important PRINCIPLE, Viz, Is it right for any one, (even a Govt) to take that which has been solemnly dedicated to God and put it to a secular use, Of course there are many other PRINCIPLES, involved in the case

May the LORD bless and help and prosper you and give you the VICTORY Is my daily prayer,

Your friend,

(Copied from an unsigned typewritten letter.--M.G.)

METLAKATLA ALASKA APRIL 4th 1917

MR. H. S. WELLCOME KETCHIKAN ALASKA

DEAR MR. WELLCOME

We have seen by the KETCHIKAN paper that you had gone to JUNEAU. I wrote to my brother-in-law in Salem asking him to send you a letter of introduction signed by some prominent person. I received a reply from him yesterday saying he had forwarded a letter to your address at the Hotel BENSON PORTLAND, which I presume you will find there when you arrive.

Canneries
There is nothing unusual transpiring here. As I wrote you the report is current that the contract has been closed for the construction of the cannery building, and Mr. Brendible is said to be allowed to furnish the lumber (196,000 feet) at Ketchikan prices.

But I was informed by a COUNCILMAN that the COUNCIL had not been convened and knew nothing about it except what they have been told.

News in General
There is not much sickness so that I do not see many of the people in fact very many of the people are away. Hanbury is working on a boat that he bought lately. Hudson is also working on his boat. James Lisk is building a new boat. John Buxton and wife are both working for Mr. Duncan Mrs. Buxton is the cook and does very well.

Mr. Duncan speaks of you very frequently and seems to be hoping very much that you will succeed. Yesterday was his Birthday at lunch he remarked that he had heard that SOLOMON had gone away somewhere to work in a mine.

Guest House
He was in the guest house a few days since and happened to notice those VENTILATOR openings over the STOVE PIPE hole and asked if we had had them made there, &c, &c. I showed him the card for the Bank giving my signature saying it would be better for me to attend to it when I went to KETCHIKAN myself. So I have paid what I had to with my own check on another bank.

Fisheries
The people returned with the Ollican. I think there were five boat loads and every one seems to be smoking fish. The attendance at the church is remarkably large considering the number of people that are here and Mr. Duncan had about 25, at the Juvenile S. S. The afternoon S. S. at the church is smaller Mr. Schell's class is discontinued altogether.

The day school will be out in three weeks, when all of the teachers are expected to leave except the Schells. The weather is cold and stormy, mostly rain. Benson is going to KETCHIKAN as soon as the weather is better and I think I will go with him as I have a deed to sign.

Your friend-

H. J. Minthorn (Signed in pencil)

Mr. Duncan has been arranging his books and papers and has asked me to look at how they were arranged, and said that when he passed away they would be found all in order &c, &c. He has also gone back to his writing and has read what he had written to me once or twice.

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Mr. Boren is going over in the morning so I will send this with him. The weather is Uncomfortable, has snowed every day for three days. The Phillipsons, are going in the morning, MARIA has been taking lessons of Mrs. Phillipson, today as she is to take Mrs. Phillipsons, Place, I have an idea she may feel crowded in spots if she gets into Mrs. Phillipsons place, Everything is quiet on the Potomac,

The Mass, People have not returned yet, A report from there says the Colicans, have not arrived yet, Ed, Verney, has returned and enquired about you, There are many enquiries about you and when you will come back, Mr. Duncan seems to be thinking about you most of the time, But he occasionally remembers the poor fellows in the trenches,

Also he is reading the Adventists, Spiel, about ARMAGEDON,

The Guest House, is pretty well cleaned, and seems to be satisfactory to Mr. Duncan, I have started some of my Flower seeds in some improvised Pots in the house so as to get them started before the weather is fit to put them outside, I am ordering a few more seeds, Red Clover, Alsike, Clover and a few more Nasturtiums, and a few Pea, Seed, Which I will try starting inside,

I gave Mr. Boren a check for the Typewriter and Moses acct and for a box of Apples that he is to send from Seattle, I thought perhaps I had best not say any-thing to Mr. Duncan about the money at Ketchikan, but wait until I went over there,

(Copied from a typewritten letter signed by H.J.Minthorn.--M.G.)

17
4-6
METLAKATLA ALASKA APRIL 6th, 1917

Document No. 9

Folder No. 254

Dear Mr. Wellcome

H I Arrived home safely but by the time I got a fire &c, it was nearly 9 oclock But I went over to Mr. Duncans, I saw that his light was in his bed room, but thinking that he might not have gone to bed I knocked on the door but he did not hear me, and then I heard him Praying, So I listened,

Religious He first prayed for himself, Acknowledging his weakness and need of help and guidance, and asked for grace and wisdom and went over his needs and the difficulties of his situation and very earnestly asked that the LORD would make known HIS will and bring it about,

He then mentioned some of the immediate perplexities and asked for guidance, He then prayed for several people, by name I did not catch all of the names but one was poor old Naomi, he mentioned her extreme age and weakness, and other trying things in her situation, and asked for Grace and strength to be given her,

at (At) the last he mentioned you by name and asked the LORD to give you GRACE and WISDOM and HELP, and more all of which I could not hear well enough to get all of the connection,

I do not know as it is good manners to listen to people PRAY but of course I could not help doing so when I lived in the same house as he always speaks so that I could not help hearing him, and I did not hear anything this time much different from what I had heard before,

But when I heard him commence this time I seemed to feel sure that he would mention you from the way he has seemed to be thinking about you, And I thought I would listen on that account, as I am especially interested in knowing what is going on about you in reference to this situation

Also I have Faith to believe that NOTHING else is quite so important about it or anything else as PRAYING, I have asked the little Quaker church that I belong to, to pray for your success in your undertaking, Without saying anything more about it than it was the MISSIONARY cause,

Also I asked them to, get the letter of introduction for you from the Governor of Oregon, TO the CONGRESSMEN of Oregon, which they have done and sent it to the Benson Hotel at Portland

(Copied from an unsigned typewritten letter.--M.G.)

METLAKATLA ALASKA APRIL 16, 1917

MR. H. S. WELLCOME PORTLAND OREGON

DEAR MR. WELLCOME

Enclosed please find statement of the Acct, except two trips to KETCHIKAN \$3.00 for both trips, I had to go over again to see DR. MYERS about the Report; I have the receipts for all except the \$3.00 I think I will expend the rest mostly on the garden as it is a time of food scarcity and I want to get the people interested in planting gardens. I sent for considerable Fertilizer in the order to the Portland seed Co, so as to make a good showing. I think I will put some of it on the berry bushes, also.

DR. MYERS, THOUGHT I had best not appear in the reply to MR. CONDITS Report, so I am just making some notes and he will use what he can of it. in his answer, I am sure you will know that I am very much interested in the report. It is certainly a very remarkable document, and it ought to make a good BOOMERANG, and I hope it will,

MR. DUNCAN is very busy and at night he is so tired he fairly groans, he had 37, youngsters at his S, S, yesterday

I am thinking of going to PRINCE ROBERT (RUPERT) to meet Mary when she comes. And I think I will try to make it suit to go to old METLAKATLA while I am there

A lot of boats are going now to The NASS to get OOLICAN GREASE now. I find that OOLICANS make more sickness. Too much oil, especially for the children. I had a letter from MR BOREN saying that he was going to LEWISTON IDAHO to take a place as COURT REPORTER. The weather is fine sunshiny and warm Tom Hanbury is working on his boat, also JOHN HUDSON, and JAMES LEESE is making a new boat 45 feet long and 9½ foot beam,

Most all of the people are away some Trolling some after Halibut, some are logging, and quite a number are working in KETCHIKAN. Aleck GUTHRIE has gone,

The mill is running steady and putting out quite a lot of Slabs but not much lumber. There are six men working about it. I think they are cutting on the Cannery building bill,

Several people are working at gardens, but it is mostly the women and children who are doing that,

Your Friend

H.J.Minthorn (signed in ink.)

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METLAKATLA ALASKA APRIL 16 1917 - STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT UP TO DATE

Mr. Boren - typewriter	\$25.00	Milk 15¢	butter 50¢	glass 80¢	catches - - - 40¢	
two boxes apples	\$3.15	total				\$30.00
Martha Guerra	400	seed pots for starting seed in				4.00
John Buxton	11	hours work cleaning Guest House				2.75
Portland seed (Seed) Co,		seeds and fertilizer				32.80
Aleck Guthrie		work				5.60
Sidney Campbell		Carving				85.00
Total deposited	\$285.00	balance	\$124.85			\$160.15

METLAKATLA ALASKA APRIL 22, 1917

MR. H. S. WELLCOME 18, E. 41st, STREET N. Y.

DEAR MR. WELLCOME

I think Moses is sending you the Ketchikan paper containing the Alaska Territorial Resolution, which seems to have for the time being put the Commercial Co. out of running.

Reservations
Canneries
I do not think the 3,000 foot addition to the Reserve should be abandoned in fact it is of value to all the canneries as giving the fish an opportunity to go to the interior streams nearer the canneries and equalizing the opportunity of all the canneries to get fish, but the way it was farmed out by Marsden and a FEW white men of course it was bound to cause dissatisfaction.

Fish Traps
And for the FOUR years that the Traps have been in operation the people have received no benefit whatever when ALL things are considered and the reason why this last contract was made without consulting the COUNCIL was that MARSDEN KNEW that it would not carry in the COUNCIL, as the people were not in favor of any more such FARMING out of the Franchises of the public for the exclusive benefit of white men and a few favored natives,

Criticisms of Marsden
EVENTUALLY the Govt will have to take a hand in controlling the location and number &c, of Fish Traps and this 3,000 strip had best be kept as a part of this reservation until some plan is more carefully worked out than anything that has been done yet, and PEOPLE that KNOW something about it will have to take it in hand, And not leave it to such a NUMB, SKULL as Marsden,

Praises Sen. Lane
I am enclosing you a clipping from the Review of Reviews on the subject of the FILIBUSTER. I am doing this because as Senator Lane was one I think you will see that the FACT that he was one may be a REASON why he might do some especial good for the situation here.

Whatever reputation Senator Lane has is due to the FACT that he has always stood firmly for what he thought was RIGHT regardless of consequences. I think the same is true of the others, and I know it is true of the IOWA Senators. This new development is additional evidence that matters here have been BUNELED, To say the Very LEAST

METLAKATLA ALASKA APRIL 30 1917

MR, H, S, WELLCOME 18, E, 41st, STREET NEW YORK CITY N, Y,

Dear Mr, Wellcome

Everything is very quiet here as usual at this time of the year, Mr, Duncan has heard that the contractor has signed the contract and work is to go on, and the mill has started to run again,

A man was drowned last week and the body could not be found, Mr, Duncan has had company today, the new Methodist Minister from Ketchikan and some other parties, He has been showing them around and I think has enjoyed himself, It has been a very fine day, Sunshiny and warm, and everything is growing,

We are still working at the garden, Mr, Duncan does not like it much and keeps bringing it up, I told him twice that I would quit if he said so but he did not exactly say QUIT but said about everything else,

Finally I told him that one of the things that you had to meet was that they said he had quit using the buildings and cleared land and Industrial plant &c, &c, and the only way it could be made to do the people any good was for the Govt, to take charge, And that was the reason you had did what you had to the Buildings &c, And it would be the same way about the cleared land if it was allowed to lay idle, But putting in the garden looked as though the mission was a live agency among the people here and an example of industry and progress &c, &c,

I might also have said that NOW when the GOVT was trying to incite the people to greater efforts to produce all the FOOD POSSIBLE in anticipation of a WORLD scarcity, Right here at a GOVT agency which is supposed to represent the Ideals of the GOVT, the only visible response was being put forth by this Mission, And I think all good loyal people will at least cultivate all the land they control that is susceptible of cultivation, and that is what we are undertaking to do at this mission and no matter whether we stay here to utilize the crop or not it will be here for some one and we will have done our part toward averting a FAMINE if it is so that one is possible, and it looks as though it MIGHT be so,

So if there should be a World scarcity you can feel as though you are entitled to enough to eat since you are a party to the Gardening operations here and we will try to have ENOUGH to replace what you EAT and to supply two people here,

Yesterday was Sunday and I went to the evening service in the old School House and the room was nearly full and every one seemed to give the closest attention, The Text was, Second Timothy, Chapter 2 and Verse 3, "Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of, JESUS CHRIST,"

I did not finish telling you about the Garden &c, and what Mr, Duncan said Which was Well Mr, Wellcome will have to have his way and I told him I thought you was (were) right and that I had not the least interest in the garden and that when I left I simply walked off and left it and had no more to do with it, He seemed satisfied with that and I hope he is,

He thinks I am too friendly with the Schells, although I have not been

METLAKATLA ALASKA MAY 7th, 1917

MR. H. S. WELLCOME 18, E, 41st, N. Y.

DEAR MR. WELLCOME

H

Nothing unusual is transpiring here most of the talk is about the high price of food, which is still going up. I am making (a) garden whenever the weather will admit of it, and we have made quite a good showing and your money is nearly all spent,

I do not suppose it will be a very profitable venture but it seemed to me that it would do the most GOOD of anything that I could do with it and I have enjoyed it very much and been awful tired, and had an immense appetite. The early peas are an inch high and other things are coming up. (The next five lines are crossed out.)

I am afraid he (Mr. Duncan) will never be very happy again, he seems to feel more pessimistic all the time,

The PATTERSON and the GEDNEY are both anchored in the bay, Capt, and MRS. QUILLION both inquired after you and seemed to regret very much that they would not see you. Mrs. QUILLION had a most beautiful snap shot of the PATTERSON in the bay and METLAKATLA in the distance. I think it would be very fine to enlarge,

CAPT. HARDY is not with the GEDNEY but I think CAPT. QUILLION said he was doing NAVAL duty. The crew of the PATTERSON is very much larger than it was last year I think they said there were twenty officers. I think a number of them are to work on shore Charting &c. Their headquarters for the summer will be JUNEAU. Their orders are to hold themselves ready for NAVAL duty I have not been on board but I understood that the ship was equipped with CANNON. Six of the boys were at the afternoon S. S.

The work is still going on at the mill, but nothing else yet. Tom Hanbury has his boat nearly ready to go in the water and she will be a very good boat. John Hudson has launched his and gone somewhere. I think Fishing for Spring Salmon,

As soon as I get through with the planting of the garden I will send you the Itemized account of the expenditure of the balance of the money. I expect to do the CULTIVATING of the garden myself and by that means I hope to make myself think it is WORTH WHILE for me to stay here through the summer. Although up to this time there has been quite a little sickness and of course if the Mill runs and the Cannery Building is put up there will be more people here than otherwise. I do not know as you will be interested in all this but there is nothing else to write about,

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that he thinks we ought not to Fraternize with them. I have not been in their house since you left but Mr. Schell sometimes comes over here and Moses and one or two others delight in making the most they can of it to Mr. Duncan,

Get

Mr. ~~Guild~~ is still here and I understand is to stay through the summer to keep the books of the Com. Co. They have moved into the new building. But I imagine as near as I can judge that trade is not very brisk. What little money the people have does not buy much now, at the present prices. Many of the poor people could not plant their small plots of ground on account of the high price of seed,

There is the most Colican grease this year there has been for several years and that will help some but too MUCH of it and not enough of other things has caused more sickness than there would have been otherwise. Of course these people will be the LAST people to come to a condition of STARVATION as they can fall back on Sea week and Dried Fish when they HAVE to, and they can make shift better about clothing than white people. As they trade baskets for old clothing and make it over &c. Then the price of spring Salmon and Halibut was never so high as now,

From your Friend

H. J. Minthorn (Signed in
pencil)

(Copied from a typewritten letter.--M.G.)