

8-3-1917

### Minthorn Letters

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Personal and  
private

Document No. 1

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WETLAKATLA ALASKA AUG, 3rd, 1917

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

DEAR MR, WELLCOME

Yours of July 21st Recd, I am pleased to hear that you have gotten away from Washington during the summer months, and hope you will be benefitted by the change,

Mr. Duncan is well and seems more like he was gradually adapting himself to the situation than he ever has before, He frequently speaks of getting his affairs in order so that others can understand and manage them, but I suppose that is but natural,

The eruption on his limbs has disappeared, The swelling I spoke of is I think the first symptom of a failing circulation, but does not signify any immediate danger,

He speaks of you very often and seems very pleased with the prospects, but so far as I can see has not been unduly elated over the prospects as was sometimes the case, I have never spent so satisfactory a time with him during the last two years as the past three months has been, I think his preaching has been very free from the depressed feeling that used sometimes to permeate it, But all the surrounding influences are of a nature to make the people careless and indifferent to a religious life,

There are now many more white people here than there ever were at one time before, and I think they are of a better class so that perhaps they have more influence, But all of their influence is inclined to make the impression that RELIGION is a matter of no importance,

Still the attendance is remarkably good at the church services, One reason why I feel like urging the sending of the new man is that if he was here he might hold an English speaking service while he was learning the language and I think the white people would attend THAT, also probably some of the natives, and the example would be good for the Natives,

The cannery is not operated on Sunday and for this reason I think the people would attend the service I think some thought should be given to this condition, and something done to try to meet it, If there was nothing more than some earnest person to come here during the three summer months and hold an English service it would be a great help, What would you think of inviting some real first class minister to spend his vacation here next summer, and see what he could do to interest the English speaking people,

John Hudson has spoken once or twice about living near Mr, Duncan, I think he would like to build a house near the Carpenter Shop and put up a Boat House on the beach there, But I think it is doubtful whether the Council would grant a permit,

Tom, Hanbury offered to take \$450,00 for his house and then he would build where his mother lives and he would then have a privilege on the beach, I am afraid nothing can be done just now about it, But I will have it in mind and if I see any way to bring about some satisfactory arrangement I will let you know

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The painting is finished on the front of the house and the Cupule is painted again with three coats and more of the Yellow buff and less of the brown so that it matches the painting on the rest of the house better. Everything looks good, especially in contrast with the other premises.

As to Hanbury and others they are all away now but they come in when they are at home for a day. I think the way things are working it is for the good, at least for the present, for they are doing better than those who have little jobs here, and are learning Independence, and self reliance, and getting business experience, which I hope some time enable them to do something of importance for their people.

In this connection I will refer to your kind offer of more money to use on the garden to which I have referred. Also to what you say about the MEDICINE.

I would like to try to do more with the OFFICE than last year. I told MARY TO SHIP MY OFFICE CHAIR AND SOME OTHER THINGS and I want to make a private office of what was the pantry and a hallway on the south of the room I now use for an office. There is a large window, and the walls are all ceiled so that they can be painted white. I would like to have Linoleum on the floor and also on the floor of the other room, and have the ceiling of the other room papered, and the walls covered with maps and Channel Charts of the Channels of Alaska, and have a daily paper and the best of the Journals, so that it would be attractive to some of the more intelligent.

If you want to help do this instead of the offer you made I think it would be a good move. It would increase the respect of the people for the mission, and perhaps I might reach some of the proper ones better.

I Note what you say about the coming annual ELECTION. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT EVERY MOVE MADE BY MARSDEN Et. Al. this summer is sure to tell against them in the election. Unless as you intimate the new man uses the strong arm. Not one man of any influence has been allowed to have a job at home, except Charley Brendible and Atkinson.

I think STATING THE CASE AND CALLING ATTENTION TO IT will have a good effect. I am making out a bill of what I will need in the way of supplies for the office.

About ADOLPHUS there is no doubt, he is I feel sure Genuinely in EARN-EST and will take an ACTIVE part for the Mission.

Benj. Haldane was arrested in B. C. for smuggling and fined \$400.00 and his boat taken and he had to get the money before he could get his boat. I do not know what the FACTS were, as to the case against him.

As to MOSES HEWSON and ANNA, they are both in poor health especially ANNA she is loosing weight, but they are both working. Moses made a good haul across the bay this morning and is over there again tonight, but it is hard for him. He is Mr. Duncans main dependence. He made a payment to Mr. D. today, some of the goods he will return. His time is out in the P.O. I think in Nov. I think it is doubtful that he will get it again.

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wrote his Uncle, I think it is important that he stay in Ketchikan for the present,

As to Silas Booth, He is the son of Maria Booth and I think it was her who told Mr. Duncan, Mrs. Hall has been discharged to give a place for some one else. Mr. Duncan says she was one of the BEST workers he had in the Cannery. Mr. Duncan is having NOTHING to say to the U.S. Bureau people or the Cannery people,

You have referred to some of my correspondence by date &c. This does not mean anything to me. I have kept no copies, It is all PRIVATE and CONFIDENTIAL, and to be burned up and forgotten as soon as read,

But if anything should occur by which some of it fell into wrong hands inadvertently. The worst things that would probably happen to me would be to be kicked out of here, which probably would be also the BEST thing that could happen to me. Like the Saloon keeper whose name was August, and under the dry laws he had to go out of business on the first of July he said, "That in that year the first of July would be the last of August"

I am writing what I have written in the hope that some of it may be of use to you in some way, and with this idea in view I will take a little space here to try to give a General View of the SITUATION as it now seems to me,

THE GENERAL SITUATION so far as the MISSION is concerned is very greatly IMPROVED compared with one year ago. The effect of your being here has been good and the IMPRESSION left upon the people (except perhaps Marsden) very favorably to you and to the mission. And the best and most reliable among the people are ENCOURAGED and HOPEFUL,

MR. DUNCAN'S ATTITUDE is changed and he is much more inclined to see something favorably in the situation, or at least to HOPE that there MAY be something favorably although he may not be able to SEE it NOW. MR. DUNCAN also is now free from many responsibilities that his former relation to the people rendered inevitable, and also inevitably led to criticism,

HIS ATTITUDE now is almost purely that of Friend, a helper, and adviser. Not having to exercise AUTHORITY he is not called upon to do things that must in the nature of the case seem HARD to some one. Mr. Duncan has been SLOW to assume this ROLE but is gradually adapting himself to it, and I think he is going to get much more satisfaction out of it than he ever got out of his former relation of great responsibility without very much REAL LEGAL AUTHORITY. This was of course a very difficult situation to sustain for so many years, and it is one of the admirable things about MR. DUNCAN that he filled such a situation for so many years with such EMINENT SUCCESS.

AS TO THE NEW ADMINISTRATION, all that I have said about Mr. Duncan is exactly reversed in their case. They now have the place of RESPONSIBILITY. It is up to them SOME time to begin to hand out some kind of DECREES, the very best any one can do in such a situation some one is going to be dissatisfied, up to this time they have gotten along by letting things take their own course, and of course everything has been going to the bad,

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Alaska Legislature, (on account of the special privilege they enjoy in the 5000 foot strip reserved fishing ground)

Mr. Duncan in his contract with white people could always point to the fact that the BENEFITS went to the NATIVES but not so now as all the BENEFIT the NATIVES get out of their activities is NEGLIGABLE,

RIGHT here I will venture the prediction that from this time ON whoever carries the RESPONSIBILITY here will have TROUBLES OF HIS OWN, and some to spare. Here are two good likely sources for some of it to come from FIRST divided responsibility,

Mr. Supt is RESPONSIBLE for the RESULTS and POLICY of the cannery management and yet he has no authority in the case, SECOND it is the same in the school he is RESPONSIBLE for results yet he is not allowed to select or discharge his employees,

I have heard that MARSDEN is to be one of the employees in the school on those terms. He is known to be officious, meddlesome, and full of conceit, without the smallest record of ACHIEVEMENT. He is over 50 years of age and has never had any experience in school work. His only recommendation is his being an INDIAN, and needing a job and having some claim on account of some dirty work he has done all of which turned out Bad for all the parties concerned,

All of the other employees are hired without consulting the Supt. I think all of them have been here before and not one of them has the least record of special fitness,

Now as to the people up to this time the management could PROMISE something in the way of taking things from Mr. Duncan and giving them to them, but there is nothing more to take and what they did take they never gave to the people, so that so far as I can see they are in bad with the people, with probably the exception of Marsden and Atkinson,

Viewing these things as I do is why I think now is a GOOD TIME TO INSTALL THE NEW MISSIONARY, or at least in the near future. I think he should not only learn the Chinsean language but the Thlinget also and try to do some work among them and especially to organize and use the material that Mr. Duncan's work has made available,

It is sometimes difficult to know what to pray for but we have not been left in doubt about one thing. Christ told his disciples "Pray ye therefore the LORD of the harvest to send MORE LABORERS into his harvest" So I am praying for some one to be sent here to take up this work where Mr. Duncan is soon going to leave it,

YOUR FRIEND

H J Minthorn (signed in pencil)

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

(COPY)

Metlakatla, Alaska,  
Aug. 6, 1917.

Mr. H. S. Wellcome,  
18 East 41st St.,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

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Another week is past and no new developments. I think B. is away some place as I have not seen him or Mrs. B. for 3 or 4 days. M. seems to be gone also as his boat is not here, and the Genl. (Pratt) I have not seen since Monday. I see the young son of B. I think he works in the cannery as I see him coming from that way about 12 o'clock.

I think the run of fish still continues good, but I have not been in the cannery this week.

Mary came home on the mail boat on Tuesday and we have been busy putting up some fruit.

Moses is still fishing and has fairly good success. Both he and his wife are looking some better.

I think A. is trying to please him a little as both his sister and mother are working in the cannery. Mr. Duncan is still working in the store arranging the goods. He says he has found 71 garments that are destroyed by the moths.

I was in the store today and he has helped the looks of things very much. It seems hard for an old man to be working so much, but he seems to be enjoying it and it seems to have a good effect on him.

There is nothing being done about the U. S. Hotel, not even the garden cultivated. Several people have been over from Ketchikan.

Mrs. Schell is coming over on the Mail boat next Tuesday and stay through the day and return on the Mail boat. I do not think they wanted to say here but hoped to have a transfer.

I think the two lady teachers and G. made it very disagreeable for them. It is only natural that they should when they hold on from year to year and the Supt. is changed each year.

It will be a wonder if they do not try to make B. feel the superiority of their relation to the work.

The hands in the cannery here struck yesterday, but I have not heard about the result yet. I see that the cannery is running.

Mr. Duncan comes in every night.

The Genl. was also in one evening but did not give any intimation of what his business was, but seemed to be quite proud of M., judging from a remark.

Monday Aug. 13th: The cannery was operated yesterday (Sunday).

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Mrs. Hall attended church but I think she was the only one that was employed in the cannery that attended (she had been reinstated.)

I think it is unfortunate that they thought it necessary to operate it.

It has been said that the purpose of governments is to make it as easy as possible for people to do right and as difficult as possible to do wrong.

Critique  
Governments  
Certainly anything that causes people to go contrary to the teaching of the bible will have a tendency to weaken the influence of the whole bible on their lives.

X  
If these people have in some respects been in advance of the other Alaska natives it was due to the influence of the bible on their lives. And now to have the Govt., which is taking the place of all previous influences, set an example of Disregard for all that has influenced them before, I can not help thinking is not only making trouble for these people, but will also make trouble for the Govt. in its future efforts to influence them in a profitable way.

It is easy to tear down, but the ruins of people's convictions makes a poor foundation for character building.

Yesterday was probably the most urgent occasion the cannery will have during the whole season, as from now on the run of fish will probably decrease, so that it is quite likely that there will be less to do on all succeeding Sundays and whatever sacrifice would have had to be made would have been only for one Sunday.

X  
There is no question but that things could have been managed with very little or no loss for One Sunday. A few dollars for ice or a late run on Saturday night and an early start on Monday morning would have done as well as to have run on Sunday. Even so far as the business was concerned.

X  
But even if it is not so and there would have been a loss it would have been a small thing in comparison to disregarding a Divine Command.

Yours friend,

Print H. J. Winthorn.



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Alleghany Inn,  
Goshen, Virginia,  
August 6, 1917.

My permanent address is  
18 East Forty First St.,  
New York City.

Dr. E. J. Minthorn,

Metlakantia, Alaska.

My dear Doctor Minthorn:

I have just received your letters of July 14th and 24th, both arriving by the same post. In yours of the 14th you refer to the rumor that Marsden has tendered his resignation to the Mission Board and is to take up an appointment in the school. I hope you will keep in touch with Doctors Myers and let me know any information you get from them or elsewhere in confirmation of this. We must take these rumors with reserve until they are fully confirmed, because so many unfounded rumors get circulation, even in Seattle, in respect to these matters, that are based on previous incidents and ancient history, but it is desirable for us to keep well informed on all these points, and always to get the fullest possible verification.

Your daughter Mary: I note that your daughter Mary has gone to Newport for a brief visit. I hope you have arranged with her to try to find the Metlakantis negatives. If she does I shall be glad if she will address them to me and leave them with Fischer Brothers at Seattle to be shipped to me with some other things of mine which they have in their care.

Mr. Durant: I am delighted to learn that he is so cheerful and interested in the industrial matters. I note that he is falling the effects of the wear and tear of all this worry and that his memory is now visibly failing, which is not strange after sixty years of strenuous life and these recent harassing worries.

Gardening and Farming: I note with pleasure your success with garden products and the farming, especially the clover; also of your success with the flower gardens.

Willie Bains at Rooming house at Ketchikan: I would like very especially to know in respect to this case, or any other case, whether the incidents take place in the Mark Hamilton rooming house. Doctor Myers was to follow up quietly through the police certain information in regard to this establishment, but he may have overlooked it in the course of his high pressure of work. Also



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Atkinson: There is probably some significance in the position given to him, not only for the moment, but for his usefulness in the future. I think your estimate of the meaning of his procedure is probably quite right.

Mr. Schell: I am glad to learn that Mr. Schell has got a good job with Mr. Strong, and I hope you will use your influence with him, directly or through Doctor Myers, to encourage them in giving him, or influencing for him, permanent employment at something he is suited for, and perhaps later on they may be able to secure for him a good position in Ketchikan school if he so desires it. I wish you would make a special effort to obtain from Mr. Schell a copy of Mr. Lopp's letter to him, in which you say he used discourteous language. It will be very interesting also for you to keep well informed as to whether Mr. Gill or Mr. Atkinson continue to warn the Ustlakathians that they must not fish within the reserve limit unless they sell the fish to the cannery; also if they take any steps to enforce this warning. With any information of this kind it is desirable for you to get names and circumstances so that in case it is necessary to use it we could get verification. Is the place where Moses usually fishes when he supplies fish to the cold storage within the Annette reserve? Your comments on the Ustlakathia industries, of which I am sending you a copy typed in double space, to which I would request you to add any further information and ideas which you may have on the subject, as your exposition is a very sound one and one that will be extremely useful to me, so much so that I want to use this and all that you can add to it in this or in any other direction. I made up this plan from time to time in sending you abstracts from your letter and asking you to develop and add to them. *adopt*

Captain Pratt: I note that Captain Pratt is to visit Ketchikan for three weeks with Mr. Marden. This is interesting, and if Captain Pratt has the opportunity of meeting the best people in Ketchikan and learning the inside history of Mr. Marden, it may be beneficial to the Government; that is, if Captain Pratt has an open mind. I do not quite understand what entertainment is likely to hold him there for so long a visit. It may be that the rumor is not correct.

Legacy left Mr. Strong: Thank you for informing me of the large legacy which has been left to Mr. Thomas E. Strong. I am very gratified to hear this, as through no fault of his own he has, I understand, lost considerable of his property, and this will add to his and Mrs. Strong's comfort in their old age. He is thoroughly worthy of this good fortune.

With warmest regards, I remain, always,

My permanent address is  
18 East Forty First St.,  
New York City.

Alleghany Inn,  
Goshen, Va.,  
August 21, 1917.

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Dr. H. J. Minthorn,  
Kotlikatla, Alaska.

H

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Dear Doctor Minthorn:

I have received your letters of July 30th and August 1, 3 and 4th, all of which bear post mark August 7th. Also I received your statement of account, which is in order and quite satisfactory.

The splendid work which you have done in connection with the improvement of the grounds, the flower and vegetable gardens and other crops, is most gratifying to me. The expenses incurred and the labor of love which you have put into it are all well worth while. I believe the moral effect of it as well as the practical benefits will be considerable, although such things do not become entirely apparent at the moment. The example before the people must be helpful. You have certainly given this matter a very great deal of close thought and attention. Your summer has been well spent in this work, together with the good influence which your presence and good counsel for harmony always carries amongst the people.

War News: The war news continues to be very satisfactory and the bogus peace proposals continue to flow in under various guises, but always with the German flavor, including the Pope's extraordinary message.

New House Near Mr. Duncan's Store: The new house being erected in front of Mr. Duncan's store, 24 by 30 feet, two stories—I should like to have an idea exactly where this is located and I shall be glad if you will make a little rough sketch or plan to show its position; also to let me know approximately the distance it is away from the Duncan store; also what follows the survey which Mr. B. and another man were carrying out between the Guest House and the old store, that is, the old Co-op. store. I shall be glad if you will keep a careful record, with numbers and dates, of the whites and other staff and workmen employed in the canning and fisheries, etc.

Atkinson and Mrs. Hall: Please try to obtain quite definite evidence, if possible, in regard to Atkinson's dismissal of Mrs. Hall. It would be best to get Mrs. Hall to tell you precisely what occurred and for you to have some good reliable interpreter present so as to get the particulars quite accurately. Also, if possible, obtain through somebody a statement by the "white boss" confirming his denial that he gave any such instructions to Atkinson, and get the name of the white boss.

Painting, Etc.: I am very glad that you have had the painting of the Guest House completed, and I hope you will also have another

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18. want rains, which rendered it impossible for us to get the

Specimens of Wheat, Oats, Etc.: The specimens you stated in letter of August 1st that you were sending--one stalk of wheat, and barley, a specimen of the plant that the people say makes arrow, and the specimen of fiber from a plant that the natives call Indian Celery--were not enclosed in your letter, nor have they been received in any other parcel. I should be glad to receive specimens of all of these and in the case of the plants I should like specimens of leaves, flowers, fruit, stems and roots, which would enable me to have them identified botanically.

Book Re. Botany of S. E. Alaska: I think there is a book published at Seattle or Victoria, B. C., regarding many of the plants of the Northwest Pacific Coast. I suggest that you might ask one of the book dealers at Ketchikan or Seattle to procure it for you. I am under the impression that it is published locally. If I can learn of any other publication in the East I shall certainly get it and send it to you.

Fiber, Etc.: The fiber and other things you refer to are certainly of interest and are worth considering and the experiments you are carrying out.

Date of Mr. Duncan's Arrival at Ft. Simpson: I am under the impression that it was the first of October (1887) when Mr. Duncan arrived to start his mission, but I shall feel obliged if you will by return post confirm this date, as I want to fix the date immediately for a special purpose.

Mr. Duncan's Health: I am glad to learn that Mr. Duncan is in such good health and so cheerful in the face of all his difficulties.

Your Letters: Your letters are all very interesting and full of the right kind of information, and are very helpful to me, so that I constantly look forward to receiving them.

Consulting Room: Regarding your medical consulting room, etc., I entirely agree with your ideas, and I consider it very necessary that these should be done up and made attractive; and the idea of having the daily paper and best journals for the people in the waiting room will also be a good thing. I have no doubt Mr. Duncan will be agreeable to assisting you in this, but in order to make it quite easy for you to do this, as well as to insure your having adequate medical supplies and other necessities, I will send you a check for \$200.00 very shortly. I suggest that as far as practicable you get this work done so that the rooms will be ready when the people return from their fishing.

Improvement of Adolphus: I am glad to learn of his improved condition and I hope you will keep in touch with him and let me know

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W. H.

Thomas Newson, Postmaster: It will be very unfortunate if the  
things should go to the other parties who are seeking it, for  
and reasons besides the moral effect, and it would be regarded as  
distinct victory for the trouble makers. I have written to some  
friends in Ketchikan and Seattle asking them to use their influence  
in favor of Moses, and I hope you will as far as possible follow  
the matter, although I know it has been a matter of considerable  
inconvenience to you, and like most natives he has not shown due  
appreciation, yet the general good of the cause is involved, so I  
trust you will stand by him.

Mr. Sahell: I am glad to learn that he has a good position  
and fair prospects and am sorry that I neglected to write him before  
this, but I shall do so very soon.

Mr. Duncan and the White Men at the Cannery: I am glad to  
learn that there has been no friction or controversy of any kind,  
and I hope that nothing will arise that will precipitate any troubles,  
as anything of that sort would not assist what I am trying to do for  
the mission.

General Situation at Metlakantla: It is gratifying to learn that  
the situation is so greatly improved compared with it before my arriv-  
al. I am glad if my presence has proved beneficial, and I am sure  
that your presence has had a very great influence in promoting har-  
mony and in leading the people to the better life in accordance with  
Mr. Duncan's principles.

With warmest regards and best wishes, I remain

Always sincerely your friend,



P. S. At last, I am glad to say, Hoover has been given the free hand  
and his first steps are admirable, and I am sure the country is  
fortunate in getting the benefit of his services.



(COPY)

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PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

Metlakatla, Alaska, Aug. 31, 1917.

Mr. H. S. Wellcome,  
New York City.

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Dear Mr. Wellcome:

We are having very fine weather after the long storm so it is not a good time to write letters. As we begin to look ahead to the long stormy winter with its short days and long nights we want to be out of doors whenever the weather is good, and soak up all the sunshine we can.

Canneries  
The cannery is not doing much and I suppose will not do much more this year. The business of this year can not hardly be considered a success.

Religion  
The worst thing I see about it is the example of twenty white men (what I consider good average people) all against the observances of religion. Natives are more imitative than white people, so that it is easy to see that they have caught the indifference. What conclusion is to be drawn from this is a matter for difference of opinion.

Christianity  
Mr. Duncan feels that nothing can be done under such circumstances, yet those are the circumstances that God has provided, for the trial of ~~this~~ Christianity, everywhere in the world, and if a selection was to be made from among these people and they were to be taken to a location where all the circumstances could be controlled, it would not be long until there would be some of them that would want to have and introduce the ways of the world, and in the course of time something like what is now seen here would develop.

But it would certainly help some if those people who are supposed to be here to help the natives would observe the ordinary

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#2--E. S. W.

*Fish traps* The traps are not doing anything now and a thorough and persistent use of the seines in all of the usual locations yesterday gave only about 1,000 fish.

*Beath's Cottage* Mr. *Smith* has commenced work on his cottage. It is to be 36-42, 1-1/2 stories and full basement 7 feet high and using 142 sacks of cement in its construction.

Mr. Duncan comes over and watches them at work on it from the window. They have a modern stump puller for the smaller stumps and used explosives on the larger ones.

This is mail day and I am enclosing a letter that was returned. It will be ancient history. I gave the invoice of the supplies that were needed for the office to Mr. Duncan, ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~.

*Carelessness* He seems very much discouraged by the increased carelessness of the people about attending the services since the cannery has been in operation.

*Canneries* He said he might not be here more than a few months and then all he had on hands would be a loss. I am puzzled to know what to think.

I can see that the effect of the cannery crew has been bad on the people that were here.

And that Atkinson has been to blame for much of it. But as I have explained about the failure to score a success in the operation of the cannery will I think when the people have time to think it over very much if not entirely cause a strong reaction, and like all failures have a tendency to bring a certain amount of contempt.

*Sabbath* I consider that the afterthought will be about like this: Mr. *Observance* Duncan and the people here observed the Sabbath and made success. Mr. Government disregarded the Sabbath and made failure.



. S. W.

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Jim Williams came home from Charcoal Point. They had packed more than twice as much there according to their capacity, and he and all of the people that I have heard from so far have had much better wages and so have made more money than the people who have been here.

So taking it all into consideration and especially that they have been treated better away from home and shown more consideration.

The general impression made by this venture is unfavorable. In addition to this the business so far as the Metlakatla Community is concerned must be badly in the hole.

As I understand it if the 1 cent per fish did not pay for the outlay here this year then the Community is to carry it until it is paid for there has been used in the construction of the cannery ~~196~~ 196,000 feet of lumber, also nails, roofing, labor piling, etc. Then the cost of material and labor used in the construction of the Bunk House.

To pay this there will be 1 cent each on about 300,000 fish or \$3,000, which will not pay the lumber bill on the cannery alone.

It is claimed that plans are made for a larger expense next year and the year following, making a high finance scheme of it so far as the community is concerned.

Mary went over to Ketchikan to begin her school one day last week.

I had a letter from her today in which she says Mr. Schell said you could have copies of whatever you wished that he had. Also that Mr. Lopp had been telegraphing to Schell about going to the Yukon to take a school.

Also that Mr. Beattie is to have ~~\$25,000~~ \$2,500.00 per year or more than twice as much as Jones and Schell had. And is to have the

Document No. 5

Document No. 5

Document No. 5

Folder No. 255

#4--H. S. W.

supervise Mr. Beattie.

I also heard that Mr. Hawksworth was in Ketchikan last Sunday, and so far he has not shown up here.

Industrial Teacher Mr. Beattie also insisted upon choosing his Industrial Teacher, and he is here now.

What is the unknown quantity? I feel sure there is one.

I will do what I can to help Moses to be reappointed P. M., possibly his excuses are to make it seem a matter of accommodation, etc.

I will also do what I can to get an interview from Mrs. Hall.

Beattie does sphinx act But Mr. Beattie is doing the sphinx act now with smiles added and I think it may be a good time to use the periscope.

I am of the opinion that a little capital would come good in their business and some inadvertent move might be cashed in with good results to them, but be a boomerang for us.

I think as the game stands now the trumps are all with us.

Testimony Mr. Duncan is, I think, unconsciously doing the very thing that is best, viz., saying nothing and sawing wood.

He is also an unwilling captive to his stock of goods in the store and could not if he wished get loose from it in any short time.

The enemy, if only just let alone, is sure to go on making more trouble for themselves beside their accumulated stock of such goods.

So far as I can see there is no plan or thought of doing anything for the people, but only for themselves.

I want to far as I can to do just the opposite, viz., do all I can for the people with as little fuss and talk as possible.

I think the cause is good and as it stands well worth while and I am praying with all my heart for grace sufficient for the needs of the situation. and I am not going to spare myself or consider my-

My permanent address is  
18 East Forty-first St.,  
New York City.

Alleghany Inn,  
Goshen, Va.,  
August 31, 1917.

17  
8-31

Dr. E. J. Minthorn,

Metlakatla, Alaska.

Document No. 6  
Folder No. 255

H

Dear Dr. Minthorn:

I have received your letter of July 8th, which was delayed, as you explain, through an oversight and posted on the 6th of August. I note the many interesting items which you refer to in your letter of July 8th, and which will be useful to me. There is nothing that I need comment on in regard to these matters except that the points you have given me are useful.

In this letter you state that you are sending me a sample of Alaska cotton, of which you say there is an abundance; but I am afraid you forget to enclose it, as I have not received it.

In regard to your letter of August 6th, I note what you say of General Pratt's presence, and I shall be very glad to learn from you all the information you can give me in regard to his visit, and of the comments, if any are made by the people. When you saw General Pratt, did he make any comments in regard to Warden?

I note that your daughter Mary has returned, and I should be interested to know if she found the photographic negatives in connection with Metlakatla which you kindly promised to have looked up for me.

Cannery: It is very regrettable that the cannery should have been operated on Sunday when there was evidently no real necessity, as the example of disregard of Mr. Duncan's teachings is certainly not to the good.

Photographs: I am much obliged to you for the photographs showing the garden and the new cannery building. Both of these photographs are very excellent.

New Cottage: Your letter of August 21st is just received, enclosing the plan indicating the location of the new cottage.

Fish: I note what you say about the decline in the run of the fish. I should like as full information as you can give me as to what the catch of fish has been in the various traps and as to about how the canning has progressed. You mention a pile of boxes and say that there are less than 15,000 cases. I do not understand

METLAKATLA ALASKA Sept 1 1917

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

Document No. 7

DEAR MR. WELLCOME

Folder No. 255

I am enclosing a table that I commenced last winter. Various inferences can be deduced from it, that have a bearing on the various questions that arise in reference to the welfare of the natives of S. E. Alaska.

Nothing of importance has occurred since I wrote last. Misfortunes seem to have fallen to the lot of the cannery since a week ago last Sunday. As I think I mentioned in my last letter the fish stopped running, and the Boiler leaked, and the Engineer fired it up without any water in it and made it worse,

All of this caused a loss of 4,000 fish. Then one of the traps blew down and was a total loss so that they must have lost as much as \$5,000 altogether. Mr. Duncan attributes it to their operating the cannery on Sunday. And I have the same BELIEF. The Bible says OFFENSES must needs come but WOE' unto them by WHOM they come,

Mr. B. has commenced work on his house. The Industrial Teacher is expected tomorrow, they are also to get a cow on the same boat, and they are also expecting to get a horse soon,

Mrs. Schell came over on the last mail boat, she says she gets \$3.00 a day in the cannery, so that they are doing much better than they were here. She said they had a letter from the Lady who was here last winter in the interests of the W. C. T. U. and she said she had known Beatties for a long time and was very much surprised to hear that they were coming back here as she had heard that he had left the Govt. employ on account of Nervous Strain due to the Metlakatla situation. I think it is not the first JOKE that has been made at their expense.

Mr. B. went to see Dr. Myers before he came over here. But I have not heard yet what result. I think I will go to Ketchikan one week from today when Mary goes over to get located before the commencement of her school. She has a room at Dr. Myers.

I have heard that John Hudson, Tom Hanbury and Joel Bains are doing extra well. None of them have come home yet.

Solomon is here but is going back tonight, he has a steady job at \$4.00 a day. Aleck gets \$6.25 and has a steady job. So that Atkinson who has had only three weeks work here at wages is not in it with them.

Marsden seems to be employed in carrying passengers but that is also a short time job. I have not heard from any of the others but as none of them have come home I infer that they are doing well.

I have heard that some of the people here have been throwing it up to the Supt. here and Atkinson that it was because they run the cannery on Aug. 12th, that they had such a lot of bad luck the week following.

I have also heard that Mr. B. is very much disappointed in the results of the cannery while the week before the 12th. He was very

(9-1-17)

Document No. 7

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The way of the \*\*\*\*\* is HARD, Mr. Duncan comes in almost every night and seems unusually well. He is getting plenty of Berries and Potatoes now so that the cost of living does not seem so great.

Mary has put up all the Berries that were not needed for daily use and we have picked a large amount of wild Berries, which are very plentiful this year.

The Flowers in front of Mr. Duncan's house are perfectly gorgeous and he seems to enjoy them.

We have not had much company this year. I think it is due to scarcity of labor and high wages.

The school here does not begin until late in Sep, due I think to the pupils being employed in various ways.

I have heard that another residence is to be put up between Mr. B's house and the school house for the teachers, and then the U. S. Hotel is to be torn down.

So far it has been a good year for PLANS, I see I have forgotten and written on both sides of the paper again.

YOUR FRIEND

H J Minthorn

(signed in pencil)

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

Private &  
Confidential

METLAKATLA ALASKA Sept 10-12-1917

9-10#10

Mr. H. S. WELLCOME  
18, EAST 41st, STREET  
NEW YORK CITY N.Y.

H

Document No. 8  
Folder No. 255

DEAR Mr. WELLCOME

I am sending some of the things of which I spoke by this mail. The good weather continues. I have gotten 5 ricks of wood thinking it would be well to have some in anticipation of bad weather

Fisheries

Several of the people have come home today. As near as I can tell all have done well, and much better than the people who have been employed here. Even Moses by just doing a little occasionally has (he told me) made \$340.00 I have heard that John Hudson had done extra well, \$900.00 in one week. He and his two sons, George Hall and Simon Keith were fishing together and have done well. So far as I have heard I think Tom Hanbury has done better than any one else.

A steamer was in today and took some of the canned salmon away so I suppose they will be leaving soon.

Reports

I saw Mr. Schell and got from him 10 letters which I am copying and will send to you as soon as completed. I do not know whether they will be of any use to you but I am SURE they will be of INTEREST to you I also got a copy of his annual report which I will send you also. Whatever you may think of these documents I am sure they show -  
FIRST -----That your Visit was not in any way a disturbing element but rather that while you was (were) there the divergant elements were somewhat harmonized.

Testimonies

SECOND -----That Mr. Duncan was NOT a disturbing factor and did not cause any trouble.

Education

THIRD -----The school was united for the first time and apparently permanently.

FOURTH -----During Mr. Schells administration the FIRST CONSTRUCTIVE work was done since the Govt. had been in charge.

Other things of lesser importance are shown, but ALL of these things go to show more harmonious action and progress,

Your friend.

H.J.Minthorn (signed in ink.

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



Private &  
Confidential

Document No. 9  
Folder No. 255

H

NETLAKE ALASKA 9-11-17.

TUESDAY SEP 11th, 1917

DEAR MR. WELLCOME

I am sorry not to be able to send you the copies at this time but it will take quite a long time with my slow kind of work to copy them, but I will have part of them anyway next week

I came home today. Mr. Duncan seems all right, so far as I can see. I think I will go ahead as I had planned but perhaps not so extensively and use some of the money that you send to buy such medicine &c, such as I will have to have and see what develops.

But although it is a long ways off I will make my plans to go home May 24th, when Mary's school is out.

I had considerable conversation with the Schells, and the Drs. Myers I heard much about Mr. Beatties talks with various people as he seems to have made somewhat of a canvass of Ketchikan and I think has shown his hand somewhat.

I heard also some of the expressions made by some of the people from here that are in Ketchikan, in reference to which I will write next time

Your friend

H. J. Minthorn (signed in ink.)

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

Personal &  
Confidential

Document No. 10

Folder No. 255

METLAKATLA ALASKA Sept 18 1917

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

DEAR MR. WELLCOME

I have copied the letters I Recd, from Mr. Schell and am enclosing them with a copy of his Annual report that Dr. Myers gave me. Mr. Duncan's mind seems to be made up to leave here as soon as he hears something definite from you. That is he says if it is decided that this is to be regarded as an Indian Reservation he will not stay here.

I do not see any other way than for you to come back here about Christmas. I am sure everyone (without it is Marsden) would be glad to see you, and I think Mr. Schells report and these letters show that your visit has not been considered in any way hurtful but quite the contrary.

I even believe that the Authorities here would be glad to have you come. As you see from Mr. Schells Report and the letters the failure of the mill to be operated has added to THEIR complications. Also the operation of the cannery instead of helping them has only added to the difficulties of the situation for THEM.

because (Because) it is not under the present MANAGEMENT going to appeal to the people. It holds out no inducement to any but a few women and a VERY few men that CANNOT leave the place for special reasons during the canning season. Any one who can leave will not take employment here. As I think I explained to you in another letter the people who worked here were employed about 300 hours, the highest wages paid was 40¢ an hour giving the MEN about \$120.00 and the women about \$100.00. Compared with this any one almost working away from here has done much better.

Take EVANS for instance (who would naturally be supposed to work here since he is manager of the store he went to Roe Point and fished 18 days and made \$325.00 or nearly twice as much as he would have made here. Such people as I have frequently mentioned viz. Tom, John, Aleck, Solomon, Joel Bains, Benjamin, and many others have done very much better, and some of them as Benson, Aleck and others have been placed OVER white men and Japs, and Chinamen, &c, which gives them much more satisfaction than to be put below even the Japs as they were here.

So you will see that when it comes to Election time the wishes of the Govt, do not stand much show to be considered because it looks to any man with any self esteem as though the Govt, had come in here and actually destroyed any hope of their ever MANAGING their own affairs or even having an EQUAL showing in their OWN COMMUNITY.

As a matter of fact the only dissatisfaction these people ever had with Mr. Duncan was that he was slow in giving them the MANAGEMENT of the INDUSTRIES which they had always expected, and which Mr. Duncan also always expected them to have. This appealed to their self esteem and made them feel SUPERIOR to other natives who had no such prospects.

It was for this that Mr. Duncan had tried to prepare them, and it is

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I heard that the Principal was giving Aleck (COUNCILMAN) some advice (advice) as to how the councilmen would be expected to deport themselves in the future accompanied with some remarks about what had been the case in the past &c, &c. And when he got through Aleck told him "when you have anything worth doing you give it to a white man and when you have some digging or something like that you give that to the natives, and said there were several natives who could take blue prints and put up a house as well as any white man and used to do it but they had no chance now.

There (their) last hope was the Sawmill and they very much NEEDED it as they use quite a lot of lumber in a town of this size when they can get it and it costs a lot when they have to buy it in Ketchikan and is a lot of trouble and expense to get it from there, and if the Govt, had given them that in a good order as it was when the Govt took it they would have over looked all the other things, but when they see the Govt, agents expend \$7,000.00 on it and still have nothing they are completely discouraged, and as Mr. Schell says in his report are moving away from the place. And of course it is the best able to take care of themselves that go and the very ones that are needed to help the rest.

All of this I am saying in connection with what I said about you coming back as I am SURE that the only chance of this system of helping the natives which was inaugurated by Mr. Duncan being saved and continued is for YOU to do it. Your knowledge of the work for long years and your experience especially fits you to deal with such a situation and select and install in some way a successor to Mr. Duncan. I am sure you will find a WAY to deal with that,

The most difficult thing will be to get Mr. Duncan to let you take the thing in hand and install the man and wife) but really the particular part of that difficulty would be the RELATION the mission would have to the Govt. So far as the man is concerned he could put in a year or two learning the language or what would be still better learning both Chimsean and Thlinget, and just let Mr. Duncan keep on awhile as he is,

While I am on the subject of Mr. Duncan going on with the work for awhile I will say I was at Mr. Kelly's service last Sunday (the 11 o'clock service) and there were only 15 people there, while here today at the 10 o'clock service there were 60, including ALL of the teachers that are here and Mrs. Beattie. I have OFTEN thought supposing Mr. Duncan would suddenly drop out there is no one in all of the world to make the first pass at taking his place. I do very sincerely hope it will not happen that way. THERE CERTAINLY IS SOME ONE THAT COULD NOT DO ANY BETTER WITH THEIR LIFE THAN TO TAKE UP THIS WORK. And I hope they come while I am here I want to try to make them see it that way,

While I was in Ketchikan I noticed some of the effects of your efforts here, (perhaps I should say INDIRECT effects) First as to Mr. Schell I think he was influenced to take a more fair view of the situation although he might very consistently have gone much farther. But even his avoiding Abusing Mr. Duncan was not palatable to Mr. Lopp and I think cost him his place. But he has stated MANY things in his Report and in his letters that will have much weight coming from a Govt, Official, very much more with SOME people than as though they came from other sources.

Then as you will see there is nothing of any importance alleged against

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and that of the Dr's Myers and Mr. Strong and Mr. Kelly and very many others has been & is being ACTIVELY exerted against what has been done here. As I have shown there is good grounds for this attitude on account of the FAILURE of the people in charge to make good here.

Mr. Beattie has apparently made something of a canvass of the people in Ketchikan to try to counteract this. But it seems that the people seem to think he was paid a large salary (stated to me when I was there to be \$3000.00 a year) as an inducement to him to counteract the unfavorable sentiments rather than to make good and some of them rather resent his activities on that account,

Then Mr. Duncan has kept still and seems to them to be somewhat of a martyr. But above all Mr. Duncan's work was and is still regarded with approval and undisguised admiration, and he never told what he was GOING to do but simply delivered the GOODS, while they have made Alaska echo with the promises of what they were going to do and have (outside of the school) done nothing but BLUNDER.

I think it has come from things that Marsden has said that they were trying to make out that Mr. Duncan was INSANE and people are somewhat HORRIFIED at the idea of a lot of would be SUCCESSORS to an old man situated as Mr. Duncan was all alone so far as any one of his own people or even his own race were concerned with a little property apparently trying to rush him off to the asylum in order to get what little he had.

I have now written more than twice my allowance so, again repeating my hope that you will find some one soon (a \$10,000.00) man for 1-10 of that amt. to take charge of this work I am,

AS EVER YOUR FRIEND

H J Minthorn

(Signed in ink.)

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

its contents. I hope that it will be done.

Many gardens are being put in now. There are still many uncultivated lots. I wish that every one could be made productive. I tested the soil with Litmus paper and found that much of it is very acid. They are plenty of shells (shells) near here that can be ground or burned to mix with the soil and remedy the condition.

I have been doing considerable grubbing around the house here. I should like to raise a good garden for some one. I set out the Raspberry, Gooseberry and Currant bushes received from the Sitka station. I also scattered some grass seed.

Dr. Minthorn is still here. He is putting in a garden. Mr. Simonds was over yesterday. He says that he will bring Mr. Smith his carpenter over on the ninth. Mr. Smith will board with us.

There is a dispute about the ownership of a garden that is causing considerable trouble. The mayor (mayor) seemed undecided about it and went off fishing without settling the matter.

Hoping that you will favorably consider my request for a transfer I am sincerely yours

(signed) C. D. Schell

.NO. 2 ((4))

Offices of chief of Alaska division- suite 1223- L.C. Smith building  
supply agt, disbursing agt, Telephone main 851

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

BUREAU of EDUCATION ALASKA DIVISION

ALASKA NATIVE SCHOOL MEDICAL and REINDEER SERVICE

Personal

SEATTLE WASH, MAY 19. 1917

MR. C. D. SCHELL

METLAKATLA ALASKA

DEAR MR. SCHELL

I have your letter of May 2nd, in which you seem to think that Mr. Geil has failed to show you all the telegrams and letters received

Looking through the files I find that the only telegram I sent Mr. Geil was one to keep the mill going and that the lease would be signed in a few days. I have written Mr. Geil a little note regarding this, and I am sure he will keep you posted. It probably did not occur to him that it was of any importance to show you correspondence which referred more particularly to his part of the work.

To date we have made no arrangements with regard to the Metlakatla faculty for next year. I am of the opinion that you and Mrs. Schell would do better work and be happier if at a place where the two of you could handle the situation, and I hope it will be possible to find you such a place.

(5-19-17.)

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Document No. 10

showing before you leave Metlakatla. Folder No. 253

If there are many garden plots in the town which are not being put out for lack of seed I hope that you and Mr. Hawksworth can make some arrangements with the natives to furnish them seed at Government expense, with the understanding that they replace in potatoes the cost of the seed purchased when they harvest their crop. By (By) this means the expenditure of \$75.00 or \$100.00 may result in the production of several extra tons of potatoes and be the means of furnishing the Government with seed for the following years planting.

When I see you I shall discuss in detail a number of things which I prefer not to write about.

VERY SINCERELY YOURS

SIGNED-William T. Lopp

CHIEF OF ALASKA DIVISION

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(no.2) (no,2) Ans. to no (1) Heading same as no, 4

Dear Mr. Schell

May 11-1917

Yours of May 2nd, just received will answer tomorrow. Hope you can put in quite a garden and encourage the natives to put in more than ever before they will be needed. -hastily-

(signed) W. T. Lopp

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(no,3) heading same as (no,1)

May 14-1917

Dear Mr. Lopp-

Agriculture: I am enclosing a notice that I have posted in town. I have been urging the necessity for gardening and saving native foods for some time. I think that the Metlakatlans have put in twice as much garden as last year.

The Commercial store sold 20 sacks of seed potatoes. Moses 15 and Benson and others got their seed from the Skeena (Skeena) river.

Mr. Smith is here and moving lumber to the site of the canning factory. Our early vegetables are beginning to peep through the ground. I bought a Rooster this morning. It had a hooked bill and was nearly starved. I pruned the bill and it ate ravenously as soon as I was through.

There is a big demand for men now and all of the Metlakatlans are engaged for the summer. I have not yet been able to get a job for Simon. But I have been looking out for a chance for him. He and Marietta do some school work every morning.

SINCERELY YOURS

(SIGNED) C. D. SCHELL

---

NO, 19-17-17 (5) heading same as no, (1)

Dear Mr. Lopp

When Mr. Smiley was here he raised the question of power for the



CREASE THE POWER. I (I) BELIEVE THAT A BAND SAW WOULD DO MORE WORK THAN THE SAW THAT WE NOW HAVE which makes a very wide cut.

MOVING THE SAWMILL TO THE FOOT OF THE HILL WOULD SAVE POWER THAT IS NOW LOST ENROUTE.

IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT ANOTHER PIPE LINE BE LAID FROM A SMALL DAM PART WAY UP THE HILL TO SERVE THE SAWMILL, THEN THE SAWMILL WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE TOWN SUPPLY AS IT DOES NOW, AT PRESENT THE WATER IS SHUT OFF FROM THE TOWN ALL DAY EXCEPT AT NOON, THIS MIGHT PROVE DISASTROUS IN CASE OF A FIRE. A gate should be put into the upper dam and opened when more water was required for the lower dam.

The other day I went up to the tank and it occurred to me that an electric power house might be located near the present location of the tank, Then we could use all of the water from above without interfering with the town supply

I think enough power could be generated to run the sawmill the cannery and shops in the town besides furnishing light and heat for the school and town. The five hundred heat and light bill for the school would pay much of the interest on such an investment.

Mr. Smiley asked me to introduce him to Mr. Duncan. When I did so he shook hands and talked pleasantly but did not invite us in. He was pleased to have Mr. Smiley call upon him and is interested in the cannery.

I wish the school building could be finished for the next term of school. Nothing is being done at present and the vacation is passing. Mr. Smiley wants to do all the work possible in cannery building this summer.

YOURS SINCERELY

§ SIGNED- C. C. Schell

No. (6) Heading same as No. (4)

Seattle June 11 1917

My Dear Mr. Schell

Some time ago I informed you in a letter that you would not be retained at Metlakatla the coming year. Three days ago Mr. W. G. Beattie consented to return to Alaska as Principal of the Metlakatla school. His appointment will probably take effect July 1st.

When I last wrote you I suggested that you put in all the garden possible and that I thought it might be possible to retain you there part of the summer and then transfer you to some other place in the district.

Superintendent Hawksworth writes me that you have put in little or no garden and that he does not think there will be any suitable vacancy for you in his district.

After you come to Seattle I may be able to send you to western or north-western Alaska. However just at the present time I have no suitable vacancy for you.

appointment to this school for next year.

I do not wish a station in South Eastern Alaska for another year, but if you have work for me further up especially near the Cook Inlet country I should be pleased to consider an offer.

I shall remain in South East Alaska for a time if you have nothing further to offer me. Please return the letters of recommendation that I filed with you at the time of my appointment.

I think that Mr. Hawksworth does not realize the amount of work to put a garden into ground that has not been cultivated for several years. We have five times as much garden this year as last.

I was anxious to start the garden work last fall but Mr. Hawksworth discouraged it in every way. I am not ashamed of my work here, and I should be pleased to have the past years work compared with any previous year.

It would be an injustice to drop me from the service another chance under another Superintendent. When I came up here you said "I will tell you frankly Mr. Schell if you do not prove to be the man for the place I shall transfer you to some other station at the end of the year. I think it no more than justice for me to claim that promise at this time.

(Signed) C. D. Schell

(No. 8)

Department of the Interior - Bureau of Education  
Alaska School Service - School Metlakatla  
June 18, 1917

Mr. W. T. Lopp Chief Alaska Division

Dear Mr. Lopp

I am mailing today Marietta's map of Metlakatla. The experience gained in map making this year will make possible better maps another year. Better material would help. Simon Marietta and Cora are keeping up their interest in book-keeping.

So far here this year vegetables are growing very slowly. When Mr. Hawksworth was here we considered plans for encouraging more planting, but as every body was so busy and the season late we did not accomplish anything.

Some time ago Mr. Geil and I tried to get some one to use some of the land around the school house. Since it was out of cultivation no one seemed to think it would pay this year.

I loaned money to one woman so that she might get a sack of seed potatoes. The potatoes in most of the gardens are looking fine. Ours are late as we did not get the ground spaded until school was out.

We are all well and looking for further word from you. Margaret will start for St. Joseph Mo, about the middle of July. She will stay with an Aunt and attend college there.

or not you would consider favorably or accept appointment at Mountain Village on the lower Yukon if still open.

As indicated in my last telegram I was trying to get in touch with Superintendent Johnson to make sure he had not filled the vacancy locally.

The offer I made you of a definite Salary, Term, Place, and time for Sailing conditioned on hearing that the vacancy still existed was as definite as any one in my position could make as indicated by the following telegramsthat have passed between us.

## TELEGRAM

Aug. 22nd, possible vacancy Mt. village lower Yukon would you consider combined salary Twelve hundred ten months.

(signed) Lopp

Reply Telegram - Aug. 23. Telegram just received desire further information.

(signed) Schell

## TELEGRAM NO. 2

AUG. 25- AUG, 28 -Population 150. Eskimos, 50 miles from Marshall - mining town, Minnesota Temperature, Gardens possible, Wild berries abundant, should sail from Seattle Se, 2-Lopp

Reply Telegram to No 2 -

Aug 28- Your telegram came too late for me to reach Seattle on date named, (signed) Schell,

## TELEGRAM-NO. 3

AUG. 29 Victoria sails 7th, will you accept if still open, - wiring Supt. Johnson.-----Signed--Lopp

Reply telegram- to No. 3 -----Aug, 29. You have made me no definite offer cannot leave certain employment for uncertainty.---

Signed-Schell

Yours very sincerely

(Signed) William T Lopp

Chief of Alaska Division

No, 10

Sunny Point Packing Company

Packers of choice Alaska Salmon

Ketchikan Alaska Sep. 5th, 1917

Mr. W. T. Lopp - Chief Alaska Division  
Seattle Washington

Dear Mr. Lopp-

Your phrasing - possible vacancy -and - if the position is still open induced me to think there was no offer for me to accept and equally none to decline. I reasoned that if I left my present position and went to Seattle I risked finding no position when I got there.

As I feel in no hurry to leave Alaska I decided not to run the risk and expressed that decision in my last telegram. You have made no definite offer -I cannot exchange certain employment for an uncertainty. I should not care to have Mrs. Schell take work without reason-

Private &  
Confidential.

METLAKATLA ALASKA Sept 28 1917

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

DEAR MR. WELLCOME

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I think you will see that some of the things I told you in my letters were not exactly correct as for instance the terms of the Smiley contract, which you will see from Mr. Schells report were not the same as I thought they were, but what I gave was the nearest I could get at the time I do not think it signifies much,

THE CANNERY HAS CLOSED and I understand the whole pack was 18,000 cases It is estimated that it cost \$4.00 a case to put it up this year, and I have heard that the best (the reds) are selling at \$9.00 a case,

Reds are the best of any that are packed and sold this year at King -or Chinook Salmon are the BEST quality of Salmon but not being so plentiful and coming early in the season before canning operations have been commenced they are sold to the Cold Storage plants this year at

There are 5 other varieties of Salmon packed here Viz, (that is beside the (the) Reds spoken of above which are called SOCKEYE here)

FIRST and most plentiful of all here is the HUMPBACK or HUMPIES as they are called here (weighing from 5 to 6 or 7 pounds) which sold this year at -

SECOND -Silver Salmon -weighing from 15 to 20 pounds - and not very plentiful - selling this year at

Third the Dog Salmon -weighing from 12 to 15 pounds - and next in numbers to the Humpies - and least valuable of any of the five varieties and sold this year at-

I have gone over all this because I told you that in packing an average would be 10 fish to a case -of 48 pound cans, I got this from Mr. Duncan, but when he was in the business there were many more (more) reds than now and they also canned some King Salmon in those days and very few of the Humpies and not any of the Dog Salmon, thus you will see that not so many fish were required to fill a case, I think the average here this year was about 14 to the case, owing to canning mostly small fish,

I think Mr. Duncan used to sell his packed Salmon at -

The difference in price accounts for the difference in wages to some extent but did not help much here this year, For instance Mr. Duncans largest pack was 19,000 cases in That year the women got each and the men from to each while here this year the women received each and what few native men there were from to each And as you will see the seasons pack was about the same in each case,

I am trying to give you a few facts bearing on the question of who is trying to benefit the Natives, From the above figures it will be seen that not only is there a large profit on Salmon this year but there has been relatively a large amount paid out for WAGES, BUT the wages of the NATIVES were actually less than years ago when the profit on canned Salmon was VERY VERY small,

The only inference I can see from this is that this cannery is here not to help the NATIVES but to EXPLOIT them, Not only is this true of those