

5-26-1923

Minthorn Letters

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Document No. 32

Folder No. 264

DIOCESE OF NEWARK
Twenty-One Washington Street
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

REV. GUY H. MADARA
CANON FOR MISSIONS

Oct. 15th, 1923.

Mrs. Minthorn,
Metlakatla, Alaska.

My dear Mrs. Minthorn:

Church
Publication
Testimony
I have just learned that you are devoting your talents to the work among the Indians at Metlakatla, and I am writing to say that it is the desire of Bishop Rowe that we should stress the work as much as we possibly can. If, from time to time, you can spare a few minutes from your busy life to jot down happenings which will be of interest to the general Church, I feel sure I can secure publication for them in the "New York Churchman" which will help to keep alive the interest of the Church in its work in Alaska. Personally, I have always had a deep interest in Father Duncan's work, which seemed to have carried his Indians so far beyond anything we were able to accomplish. I do hope that you can send notes of such things as you think would help Metlakatla to publication.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

Guy H. Madara
(Signed in in.)

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

Document No. 1
Folder No. 265

808 Colorado Building.

Washington, D. C.

January 5, 1924.

Mrs. Matilda Minthorn,
c/o Mr. H. C. Strong,
Ketchikan, Alaska.

Dear Mrs. Minthorn:

Although I have not written you for some time, it has not ^{been} because of a lack of interest in the events transpiring at Metlakantla, but rather because I had access to a good many communications from there and have been able to keep in touch with the latest developments.

We would like to have you advise us by return mail:

1. The names of the new church elders elected for 1924, and an account of anything unusual that took place in connection with the election; and,
2. The names of the officers and councilmen of the Town Council who were recently elected, and of course the names of those who are continuing in office--in other words, all of the names of the councilmen and officers at present serving in the Town Council of Metlakantla.
3. Any information concerning events which have transpired at Metlakantla.

I am sending you under separate cover a copy of The Washington Post, which I believe you will find of interest. I will try to mail you one or two copies of Washington papers each week, as I recall that you stated they were of considerable interest to you and that you enjoyed reading them very much.

Since my last letter to you the special office devoted to the consideration of the Metlakantla case has been removed from the Federal-American National Bank Building to Room 808, Colorado Building, which is adjacent to the principal suite of offices of Penfield & Penfield, the law firm having charge of the case. In the future you will, of course, address us at the new address, although if it happens that through inadvertence mail is sent to the old address or there is already on the way communications addressed to the Federal-American National Bank Building, we of course will get these because of the fact we have duly notified the Post Office Department of our change in address.

Mrs. Matilda Minthorn -2-

Letters
from
Natives

Letters from the natives giving accounts of events as they transpire are always interesting and very much welcomed, and you might impress upon Moses Hewson, B. A. Haldane, John Hudson, Thomas Hanbury, Harry Lang, Alex Guthrie, Fred Benson, and any of the other natives that we would be glad to have each of them write us a weekly letter telling us all the news of Metlakatla.

With best wishes from all, I am

Yours very truly,

W. J. Sheehan

P.S.
Election
of
Trustees

Will you also furnish an account of the election of trustees to control use of the Metlakatla Christian Church building, stating who were elected, and whether or not the voters of the town in general, irrespective of their religious affiliation, took part in the election. Also indicate the religious affiliation of the different trustees elected.

I assume you understand I am referring to the election that is to be held in accordance with telegram of Secretary of the Interior Payne to Mayor Usher dated Dec. 21, 1920, which states "You are directed to hold election of three trustees to control church building, they to make equitable arrangements for its use by all religious organizations of Metlakatla. Trustees to serve one two and three years beginning January one. One to be elected each year thereafter."

ELS

Document No. 2

Folder No. 265

1-24

Metlakantla, Alaska.
January, 24th, 1924.

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

Funds
Enclosed you will please find a statement of the use of the funds that have been entrusted to me by you, from time to time. This year I shall make an attempt to secure receipts. Heretofore the check returned has been my only one, except in the case of the Money Orders, and they have not been preserved, the receipts attached to them, I mean.

Sunday School Supplies
At first I sent for the Sunday School supplies to the branch office in Portland, Oregon, but they were sent on to Philadelphia so frequently that I discontinued that, and send now directly to Philadelphia. That will account for the two checks being written on the same date, Feb. 28th, 1923. The first was for the quarter previous and had gone from Portland to Philadelphia, and the second came from Portland.

Natives given Flour & Sugar
I am enclosing a list of the names of those remembered at Christmas time with a sack of Flour and \$1.00 worth of Sugar. There is some flour still on hand and some sugar, which I will give out to the most needy and helpless later on.

Magazines
The Choir Leader is the name of the monthly magazine from which the anthems are sung. They generally sing one new anthem every Sunday morning. It is pleasant to see the look of enjoyment on the faces of both old and young when the special music is rendered. It certainly pays to provide it and it serves as a great attraction for the congregation.

Salvation Army
THE SALVATION ARMY from Old Metlakantla, B.C., came to Ketchikan to visit the Army in Ketchikan, but arrived in the evening of the day that the Ketchikan corps had started for Nass River, Port Simpson, I suppose. Having missed them, and intending to await their return, they decided to visit here. At first, Moses Hewson told me that he thought best for all the meetings to be held in the church, but not in the ~~W.H.S. Hall~~. Church, except on Sundays. *W.H.S. Hall*

Church
Marsden saw an opportunity to do things to attract attention, and announced that they might come to his church and beat their drum and do all the things they wanted to in the meetings. Hewson thought we must keep pace with Marsden and offered our church to them also. They brought in the drum but I requested the Band Master not to beat it for Mr. Duncan's sake. They did not use it after that. I never go to any thing in the Presbyterian church, because I feel led to do as nearly as Mr. Duncan himself would do as I know, and tell the people so. But I attended all the meetings held in our church.

When the first Sabbath in the New Year came, they asked the old father at the head of the visitors to preach in the morning, and insisted on having the communion. I conducted it. Of the twelve

(1-26-24)

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Each choir gave a concert, to which most of the people went. Marsden made out the program for the farewell meeting and ordered the Christian choir to come to his church and sing with them. The Hudsons saw an opportunity to show their colors, and refused to go. They said, we have come our part in our own church and we do not feel like being controlled by Marsden. That made a breach and the old relations between the two churches seemed to remain since then. It was the intention of Marsden and Benson to have carried on the union meetings of the two congregations, *after the visitors have gone.*

Bas Ket Ball
Diseases Measles
THE BASKET BALL TEAMS of Port Simpson came to visit Metlakahla a few days after the visitors went back to Old Metlakahla. This made another occasion for union work. It was as a town that they met however. After the teams had played and been worsted by Metlakahla, they announced the date of their return, but Marsden and Murchison decided that they must remain a few days longer and be further entertained. Next day two of the boys were taken sick with what seems to be the measles. Two homes were quarantined (quarantined) and the people were near having a panic. They were afraid it might be something else than measles. Consequently Marsden and Murchison lost out in their newly acquired popularity.

Canneries
MR. SIMONDS'S VISIT came immediately after this. Roderick Davis and Herbert Murchison had been down to Bellingham to try to induce the Company that runs the cannery, to let the natives have full control with only a white man for overseer as Mr. Duncan did. It would have been well enough to make the request, if they had not added such severe criticisms of Mr. Simonds and Purvance and all the white men. It appears that the company have no idea of letting the natives have anything requested.

Mr. Simonds told them that they were not dependable enough to be trusted to work so as to save the fish and get the pack up. When they saw that they had lost out, they began to come to him privately and tell him of their own innocence and lay the blame on others. Before he left most of them begged to borrow money from him. So far as I can learn things are just as they were before the visit of the two natives to Bellingham.

Lopp's Visit
MR. LOPP with the boat, Boxer, and the instructors on board, has been here for some weeks. Part of the time the boat has been in Ketchikan for repairs and it made a trip to the west coast of Prince of Wales Island with some school supplies. (Mr. Hudson inquired one day of me if Lopp was the chief of the Beaureau (Bureau) in Alaska, and I replied that I thought he never was, but that Mr. Waggener now held that office. He asked just what Lopp's office was, and I told him it was to superintend the northwestern division of Alaska, I thought. He said, Well, Mr. Lopp does not like his work nor the place of his headquarters now. The dentist that was aboard the Boxer is still here. The physician did some operating upon children's tonsils.

Visit of Miss LeRoy
Wills
MISS LEROY, former nurse here, and now the District nurse with headquarters in Ketchikan, for the Red Cross, is over here very often. Ralph Smith came in one day to tell me that he heard her say to the Benson boys in their store that morning that they had better get to work and look after the money of Mr. Duncan's will. The Trustees would have it all spent soon and then were nothing left.

(1-24-34)

3

Industries
Clams

AN INDUSTRY for canning clams has been opened in Ketchikan and the people here are getting busy digging them. Mr. Simonas has arranged to return and begin work about the first of March. Meanwhile the people will be going out trapping some and getting fire wood and hunting.

Baskets

MR. HOWARD of Ketchikan, who was buying so many baskets (baskets) for two months, has stopped on account of not finding a market for them in the states. He will have to sell to the tourists in the summer the stock he has acquired. This is a disappointment to the women here.

Sunday
School

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL is well attended and the interest is good. There are some fine workers that would make it a still greater success, but the elders are jealous of every suggestion that does not come from among themselves, and as they control the school as well as church services, we can only watch for some opportunity to influence one of them to make the suggestions.

Benson not
on Board of
Elders

Benson feels badly to be left off from the elders board and is busy going about from house to house the last few days. He has some scheme brewing, which will develop later. He had rather see Marsden take the church than to see it prosper without himself on the Board of Elders.

It is still my hope and comfort that this people are on the Lord's heart more deeply than ours and therefore He will hear prayer for them. He will watch over this vine of His planting as He does over all others.

Furnace

Church

THE FURNACE at the church has been cleaned and repaired by Everett Hudson. He is quite an efficient machinist and has some of the executive ability of his father and mother. I have found that when I am desiring to have something done it is more likely to be accomplished when left with him. (He is more dependable than Fred Benson in doing) any thing.

Radio

Fred has the building of the chimney in the vestry to do, but is not much enthused over doing it. He finds more interesting things about home. He has installed a radio in his home and is interested in that at present. After waiting three months on various men to repair my roof here, Everett took it in hand and had it done and the electric lights installed for me within a week. Mr. Simonas has again engaged him to clean and repair the engines in the two large gas boats belonging to the cannery that are now up on the ways.

Wedding
of
C. Brendible
A. Guthrie

THE WEDDING of young Charles Brendible with Annette Guthrie, Alex Guthrie's daughter, brought some things to light that are not very satisfactory to one who desires to see the people progress. Alex himself explained that a certain Swede, son of a merchant in Ketchikan, was anxious to have his daughter, and she came over here to get rid of his attentions. She was attending the school and staying with her aunt. She came home on a visit and told her parents that it was worse over here for the Brendible's gave her no peace, wanting her to marry Charlie.

Then he said, I did not want her to, but when the Brendible's came and begged with tears, what could I do? The eldest daughter of the Brendible's

Ralph Smith's wife is a sister to Alex's wife. Ralph told me that Alex gave Charles Brendible a check for \$125 for the expenses of the wedding dinner. Then Charles gave Alex a gift of \$250. Next, Alex's wife made Mrs. Brendible a present of a coat that cost \$90. Mrs. Brendible called on the entire clan, as they call it, to which she belongs, to give a gift to Annette. He said that in one room there was a pile of presents about five feet high. His wife remonstrated with Mrs. Guthrie for doing this. Her reply was that they would laugh at her if she did not.

Mrs. Smith reminded her that when Bertha Smith was married to Ed-
die Leask about three years ago, it cost Smith's just ten dollars for the wedding, and they were as respected and happy as any people in town. It is the revival of the old pot latch system. There are some who are anxious to revive the order of chiefs again. John Hayward is uneasy about it and talks of how he could live if he were in B.C. Sometimes I wish he would go there and be a chief. He is a veritable thorn in the flesh over here. He had been influenced by Benson not to be "sworn in" as an elder by a woman, (Mrs. ~~Smith~~)

Moses Hewson spent Saturday night until about three A.M. in persuading him and his brother to fall in line. Among other things he appealed to John's idea of being a prince, the son of a chief. His father abandoned the idea under the teaching of Mr. Duncan, as did most others, the Kitlan's being the exception. John is of another tribe. So Moses said to him that a prince was a man who never changed his mind after he had once made a statement. And John had said he would serve as an elder. You will no longer be fit for a prince if you go back on your word now, Moses told him. It held John to the eldership but encouraged the wrong idea as to his station in his tribe.

Marsden and his people are determined to go back to as much of the old ways as they wish to follow, and they are determined to take the other congregation with them. For that reason, I some times think it would be well to have a separation. It was what decided Mr. Duncan in the first place to take the christians away from the tribal influences and the heathen practices. It has come into this place and finds a lodgment in the minds and hearts of those who are not willing to deny themselves and follow Christ in His humility and lowliness of spirit. It is time for a mighty work of grace to begin if they are to be saved as a people. But the hardest persons to reach are those who profess to have what they have not and are too proud to seek and confess.

Surely the arch-enemy is busy both in Alaska and in Washington. But we have a Captain that never was beaten by His foe. We will go on to see Him win where we cannot do it. Faith is a mighty thing, I know. I want to see this people come back to Christ and belong to Him.

May the Lord, who has so graciously restored thy health so many times and has used thee so largely to carry out His wonderful plans, still make thee able and fill thee with His own wisdom and spirit, until thy services are completed in this world. The activities of the Other Land will be greatly to thy liking and will be a source of unending joy and pleasure to thee as His service is even now.

Document No. 2

Folder No 265

January 28th.

Health of
Josiah
Guthrie

Thy friend, Josiah Guthrie, has been enjoying a time of more strength. He sits up in bed and eats with a moderately good appetite, some solid foods. We furnish him with fresh eggs and milk and meat for broth, and fruits.

There are times when he fills up with the poison from his malady, and he suffers again until he is relieved, when he has another week or two of fairly comfortable days.

He enjoys talking and praying and seeing his friends.

His heart overflows at every mention of thy name and his eye kindles with brightness when we speak of thy concern for him and of thy interest in him. He surely is a loyal friend to the memory of dear Mr. Duncan and to thee.

John Hudson has been having trouble with a boil that threatened blood poisoning. It is not yet entirely controlled. There are some cases of Quinsy sore throat. The government doctor operated on Lewis Sumner for a growth on the back of his neck on the (eve) of his departure for the west coast of Prince of Wales Island. It has not done very well, and the man is in a very weak state. The relatives are a little indignant at the treatment, thinking it was serious enough to have demanded some closer attention than it has received. He is one of the staunch supporters of Mr. Duncan's cause, and a brother to Mrs. Josiah Guthrie.

It will surely be a great relief to these faithful ones when the Mission is again in operation and medical aid is at hand for emergencies. Nurses are good, but they can not do the required surgical work, nor diagnosing sickness.

Sincerely,

(Sgt.) M. W. Minthorn

(Copied from a typewritten letter.---MoD.)

Document No. 2

Folder No. 265

Dec. 17th 1923.

Bought of Hogan cello bow

\$7.70

John Hudson

Received payment.
Jan 14, 1924.

Mary Hudson

Document No. 2

Folder No. 265

ENCLOSURE TO
Muthorn to Melbourne
DATED *1-24-24*

LIST OF THOSE RECEIVING

GIFTS OF FLOUR AND SUGAR CHRISTMAS.

Betsy Jurie	Mary Allen
Hannah Gibson	Archie Manson
Josiah Guthrie	Susan Reece
Charles Gibson	Katie Faber
Amos Milne	Cecilia Hall
Helena Howard	Isabella Eaton
Eli Tait	Robert Alford
Johanna Marsden	Ellen Fawcett
Martha Hewson, Sr.	Cecilia Fawcett
Maria Booth	Amanda Guthrie
Eliza Baines	Alice Buxton

(Copied from a typewritten list.---McD.)

Document No. 2

Folder No. 265

Account of Fund for Metlakatla disbursed for H.S. Wellcome by Matilda W. Winthorn. 1923.

Feb.	19	To check from H.S. Wellcome	100.00	
"	20	By check <u>no. 238</u> , to Lorenz Pub. Co.		
		for 35 subs. to Choir Leader		35.00
"	28	By check, <u>no. 103</u> , to Am.S.S. Union		12.25
		for supplies		
"	28	By check <u>no. 105</u> , " " " "		
		for supplies		12.07
May	15	By check, <u>no. 131</u> , " " " "		
		for supplies		17.29
Aug.	14	By cash, P.O. Money Order, to Am.S.S. Union for supplies		20.84
Oct.	16	To check from H.S. Wellcome	100.00	
"	31	By check, <u>no. 200</u> , to Lorenz Pub. Co. for Christmas music		33.40
Nov.	20	By cash, P.O. Money Order, to Am.S.S. Union for supplies		16.44
Dec.	17	By check <u>no. 259</u> , to Carl Fischer, Inc. for music for Orchestra		5.55
"	19	To check from H.S. Wellcome	100.00	
"	21	By " No. 264, to Mrs. J.G. Pruett, for Sugar & Flour		69.00
	21	By check <u>no. 268</u> , to Moses Hewson, Loan		50.00
1924				
Jan.	14	" " <u>no. 302</u> , " John Hudson, for orchestra cello bow.		7.70
				<hr/> 278.54
				31.46
"	24	" Balance,		<hr/> 300.00

(Copied from a document in handwriting. ---McD.)

Document No. 3
Folder No. 265

24
2-8

808 Colorado Building
Washington, D. C.
Feb. 8th, 1924.

H

Dear Mrs. Minthorn:

At Mr. Wellcome's request I am writing you to ask that you get in touch with Moses Hewson and remind him of his promise to furnish Mr. Wellcome with a complete revised list of members of the Metlakatla Christian Church, and to urge that he forward this at the earliest possible date. Please keep after him until he has forwarded this.

Christian
Church
Members

Thanking you very kindly for your attention to this matter, and with best personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Copy

E. L. Sheehan

Mrs. Matilda A. Minthorn,
c/o H. C. Strong,
Ketchikan, Alaska.

Document No. 4
Folder No. 265

24
2-26

Metlakatla, Alaska.
February, 26th, 1924.

Mr. E. L. Sheehan,
808 Colorado Building,
Washington, D.C.

H

Dear Mr. Sheehan:

Pardon the long delay in sending the reply to the two letters dated Jan. 5th, and Feb. 8th, respectively. But the matter stands this way:

The two letters both came to me on the same date, Feb. 19th. For three weeks storms prevented my going to Ketchikan. Our mail boats are often thirteen days or two weeks apart. I have endeavored to get this off by return mail, as this is the first mail out from here since I received the letters.

I have secured everything except the names of the Trustees of the church building, and have learned that the election is held each year. The candidates name appears on the same ballot with the Councilmen. Everett Hudson was elected this year.

Concerning the state of the people socially and spiritually I hope to write to Mr. Wellcome quite fully in another letter in a day or so. My typewriter has given out, partially, and the only other available one is partially broken, so I am working under difficulties with this letter. I wanted to get this information to you by the earliest possible conveyance. This goes in a package by the mail boat captain to Mr. Strench, who opens the package in Ketchikan and mails the letter.

I thank thee for the copy of The Post. We all enjoy it..

John and Mary Hudson will also write some of the affairs of which they know more particularly than I do.

We keep all this matter before the Great Helper, Who is never too busy to hear, and Who is concerned to bring all things out in the way that will best further the interests of His own people and His Kingdom. We trust Him, and commend you all to His wisdom and His grace.

Most sincerely,

Thy friend,

Matilda W. Minthorn,

(Signed) Matilda W. Minthorn.

Document No. 4

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The attached copy of the Election Report is given to show the custom of announcing the results.

The election was held in the same manner as at other times. The church wardens take the ballots to the homes and after they have been filled out, these wardens gather them and bring them to the house of the Judge. The two clerks count them and make a record of each voters name and the persons voted for by them.

The General Secretary of the Church and of the Outside Committee, Moses Hewson, announced in the Elder's meeting at the usual time, that the election would be held as usual. Edward Benson objected, saying that the Bishop said that they had better not have it this year. Mr. Hewson asked to see the paper on which the Bishop wrote the instructions. Mr. Benson said it was not written but was arranged in a meeting with the Bishop and Robert Ridley and himself in Ketchikan. Mr. Hewson said that only written instructions would be followed.

On election day Mr. Benson went among his friends and asked them not to vote and that they would stop it by saying that it was not legally held. I referred the matter to Mr. H. C. Strong and he decided that it was legally held and said it must stand.

If Mr. Benson had kept quiet he would have been elected. His number of votes needed but the few more of the friends that he restrained from voting.

Mr. John Hudson was inclined to resign from serving, but the choice of the people was evidently sincere and Mr. Hewson urged him to accept, which he did before the returns had been handed in to the General Secretary, Mr. Hewson. He had the third highest number of votes.

(The above portion of this document is in typewriting; the remainder is in Mrs. Minthorn's handwriting)

Sam Eaton is the uncle of Henry Benson's wife. On election Day, Mr. Benson sent her over to my house to invite him to supper at Bensons. He went. We were to finish the count after supper but he did not appear and John Buxton went after him. The final summing up and signing of the returns was delayed two days in order to give some who were absent an opportunity to come home and vote. When we were finally ready to sign Mr. Buxton came in alone. I inquired for Mr. Eaton and Mr. Buxton said he had hard work to prevail on him to return the other evening. I said, go after Mr. Eaton and tell him that he must come here and sign this paper or give me a good reason for not doing so. Mr. Buxton went very promptly, and they both returned quite short of breath from haste. Mr. Eaton was also quite anxious to do anything that I required.

(Signed) H. W. Minthorn

Document No. 4
Folder No. 265

TO THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF METLAKATLA.

The following are the names of the persons receiving the highest number of votes in the election held on the last Thursday in December, being the 27th day of the month in the year 1923.

These twelve men are therefore declared to be elected to be the Elders of the Metlakantla Christian Church for the ensuing year, 1924.

Names:

Frederick Benson
George C. Williams
John Hudson
Daniel Reece
Walter Calvert
Andrew Usher
Frank Williams
James Mason
Moses Hewson
Joseph Hayward
Philip Nelson
John Hayward

Respectfully submitted,

Signed:

<u>Mrs. Matilda W. Minthorn</u>	,	Judge of Election.
<u>John Buxton</u>	,	Clerk.
<u>Sam Eaton</u>	,	Clerk.

(Copied from the original, typewritten document -- CRS)

Document No. 4
Folder No. 265

THE COUNCIL OF ANNETTE ISLAND RESERVE.
Council Office (temporary): Secretary's House.
Metlakatla, Alaska.

Council Men

I	Mayor -----	Josiah W. Booth	1924-25
II	Acting Mayor-----	Herbert J. Murchison	do
III	Secretary-----	Edward Marsden	do
IV	Assistant Secretary-	Solomon Dundas	1924
V	Treasurer-----	Charles Brendible, Sr.	1924-25
VI	Councilmen---1	John Davis	1924
	2	Harry Lang	do
	3	Joseph Verney	do
	4	Roderick F. Davis	do
	5.	Elijah Fawcett	do
	6	Solomon Dundas	do
	7	Fred H. Verney	1924-25
	8	Daniel Reece	do
	9	Herbert J. Murchison	do
	10	John Hudson	do
	11	Frank M. Williams	do
	12	Ralph Smith	do
VII	Government Representative and Municipal Magistrate -----William F. Parrish		
VIII	Chief of Police----- Moses Bolton		
IX	Committees ---		
	1 Auditing Committee - -	Solomon Dundas, J. Hudson, R.F. Davis	
	2 Health do - -	D. Reece, H. Lang, F.M. Williams.	
	3 Street Committee - -	J. Verney, H. Lang, F.H. Verney	
	4 School Committee - -	F.H. Verney, J. Hudson, R. Smith.	
X	Executive Committee - - Mayor or Acting Mayor, Secretary, Treasurer, Government Representative.		
XI	Regular Monthly Meetings, - Last Saturday: 7 P.M.		
XII	Special Meetings - Any time except Sundays and Holidays.		
XIII	Executive Committee Meetings - Any time once a month.		
XIV	Town Mass Meetings - Any time at least once a year.		
XV	Annual Election - Tuesday before Christmas.		

Of the above given names of Councilmen, Harry Lang, Daniel Reece, John Hudson, Frank Williams; and Ralph Smith are members of the Christian Church. Ralph Smith has resigned on account of ill health and deafness coming on. Edmund Verney was elected in his place. That will leave Joseph Verney, Roderick Davis, Elijah Fawcett, Solomon Dundas, Fred Verney, and Edmond Verney as Presbyterians on the Council.

Document No. 4
Folder No. 265

Letter
read by
Marsden
Re Mr. Wellcome
interference

The attached letter was read by the Secretary, Edward Marsden, to the Council at their last meeting, and was used to stir up the feelings of the Councilmen against Mr. Wellcome, who is credited by Marsden and the Government Representative as being the person directly responsible for the passing of such laws.

Not by name but by description is Mr. Wellcome mentioned in most of the speeches in their meetings. The Government Representative is quoted as saying that the interference of this person is shown in two things. First in removing Mr. Lopp from the Seattle Office, and second in this Regulation as to the method of securing the money.

The native complaint is that they are not free to use their own money but must be under so much red tape that they are now the very "lowest" of all the native peoples in Alaska, which means that they have been humbled by having someone over them to check their enterprises and expenditures.

The warning was to look for more such treatment from this person, as no one knows what he will do next.

This was reported

Document No. 4

(Copy)

Folder No. 265

Department of the Interior
(Beaureau) Bureau of Education
Washington.

Feb. 5th, 1924.

The Honorable
The Secretary of the Interior.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

ENCLOSURE TO
M. L. H. to S. H. H.
DATED 2-26-24

Leases
Canneries

Statements submitted to me by the Chief of the Alaska Division of the Beaureau (Bureau) of Education, Seattle, Washington, show that under the lease of cannery and fish-trap rights within Annette Island Reserve, Alaska, entered into April 30, 1917, between the Secretary of the Interior, for and on the behalf of the people of Annette Island Reserve, and the Annette Island Packing Company, of Seattle, Washington, there is due from the Annette Island Packing Company the sum of \$5,355.58; also that, under the similar lease entered into March 26th, 1923 there is due from the Annette Island Packing Company the sum of \$17,491.09. The chief of the Alaska Division requests to be advised as to whom and how this money should be paid.

With regard to the above, I respectfully make the following recommendations:

Receipts.

Leases

1. That all checks covering moneys accruing from the operation of the two leases entered into between the Secretary of the Interior and The Annette Island Packing Company be drawn in favor of the Chief of the Alaska Division of the Beaureau (Bureau) of Education, as the Representative of the Secretary of the Interior.

Funds

2. That the Chief of the Alaska Division shall deposit in the Alaska Trust Fund all funds placed in his hands accruing from the operation of the two leases described above.

3. That all moneys deposited in the Alaska Trust Fund resulting from the operation of the two leases with the Annette Island Packing Company shall, in every respect, so far as applicable, be subject to the provisions in regard to the Alaska Trust Fund which are contained in sections 13 to 88 of the Rules and Regulations governing the Seattle Office of the Bureau of Education, approved by the Assistant Sec of the Interior, November 10th, 1923. A separate account shall be kept of all moneys received under the two leases with the Annette Island Packing Company.

Expenditures.

1. That every request of the Council of Annette Island

(2-5-24.)

-2-

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3. That approval of each of such ordinances by the Industrial Director at Metlakatla, the Superintendent of the Southeastern District, and the Chief of the Alaska Division shall be required before the ordinance is transmitted to the Commissioner of Education.

4. That upon notification by the Commissioner of Education of Departmental approval of such request, the Trustees of the Alaska Fund shall draw his official check in favor of the Treasurer of Annette Island Reserve for the amount specified therein, which check shall be mailed by the Chief of the Alaska Division to the Industrial Director representing the Commissioner of Education in the administration of affairs at Metlakatla for the transmission to the Treasurer of the Annette Island Reserve, and the amount specified shall be expended by the Council, under the supervision of such Industrial Director.

Respectfully,

L. A. Kalbach,

Acting Commissioner.

Department of the Interior.
Feb. 5th, 1924.

Approved:

F.M. Goodwin, Assistant Secretary.

Document No. 5
Folder No. 265

24
3-6

808 Colorado Bldg
Washington D C
March 6, 1924

H

Henry S. Wellcome, Esq.,

Post Office Box 213,
Miami Beach, Florida.

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of
Mrs. Minthorn's letter of February 26th, 1924, and its
enclosures. In addition, the envelope contained a long,
typewritten list of the membership of the Christian
Church, prepared by Moses Hewson. Mr. Shearer says you
have a similar list, although the one enclosed is probably
revised a little.

Enclosing

Mrs. Minthorn's
Letter

I trust your health is much improved.

Very truly yours,

Copy E. Sheehan

Document No. 6

Folder No. 265 24

3-6

808 Colorado Bldg.

Washington D C
March 6, 1924.

H

Mrs. Matilda W. Minthorn,
c/o Mr. H. C. Strong,
Ketchikan, Alaska.

Dear Mrs. Minthorn:

Your letter of February 26th, with
enclosures, was received and proved very interesting and
helpful to us.

Storms I regret that the storms in Alaska have more or less
temporarily isolated you on Annette Island, but I hope with
the approach of the summer season everything will be much
more pleasant there.

Newspapers I am sending you, under separate cover, some Washington
newspapers, which I trust will prove interesting to you.

We are all greatly interested in events transpiring
at Metlakantla, and would appreciate your writing us often
and keeping us posted on the latest developments there.

With best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

W. E. Heenan

1924
3-27

Ketchikan, Alaska.
March 27th, 1924.

Mr. H. S. Wellcome,
In care of The Hon. Walter S. Penfield,
806 Colorado Building,
Washington, D. C.

H

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

Musical
Instruments

Thy letter to Mr. H. C. Strong concerning the musical instruments was handed me today on my arrival here. This was according to his instructions received by wireless when informed by his secretary of the receipt of the letter.

I am enclosing a copy of my letter to him that thee may know what arrangements have been made in the matter. We hope to make it satisfactory and profitable.

Church

The same persons are doing the same kind of work as always. Making an effort to win over all that is possible of the members of the Christian Mission to the other church. The Benson faction have been making much of the Episcopal propaganda recently, taking occasion upon the visit of Adolphus Calvert to argue that the case in Washington will continue for several years to come and they need some outside help at once, and so on.

Ordinances

Adolphus Calvert told me that he was coming over to Metlakantla to look after his land. John Hudson explained that he meant his lot where his former home stood. The Council were discussing passing an ordinance providing for the removing of all unused houses and giving the lots to others. To my mind this looks like a scheme to keep away the members of the Duncan Mission who have been obliged to seek employment elsewhere not only in summer but also in winter. Can the Council do this without the consent of the Secretary of the Interior?

Canneries

I advised Mrs. Lucy Howard to obtain work in Metlakantla this summer, if possible, as we need her in the church and Sunday School. She says that when she applied last year she was told by Charles Brendible that he had his list of those who had been working each year and was to hire them again unless they could not work. In that case there would be a vacancy and she might apply for that work.

Canneries

Since the trouble of last fall with Murchison and others, he has been feeling that the Tshimpsheans had not much further use for him. The effort to put all natives in the cannery except a white foreman, also widened the breach in their feelings as they said very freely that Brendible was as bad as Simonds and the others in keeping the natives from what they consider their just rights in running the cannery. It is reported that he has said that he will refuse work to the Tshimpsheans and hire the Thlingets from Saxman instead.

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Mrs. H.J. Minthorn to Mr. Wellcome, 3-27-24

-page 2-

Her husband informed her that the money was intrusted to the Trustees and was not included in the affair in Washington. Turning to me, he asked, Just what is Mr. Wellcome trying to get in Washington, any how? I ventured to speak of the matter of the deed for the homes, since the natives all speak of it at times. A caller at the door took him away to the cannery and the matter was not press- (pressed) any further at the time.

Re case

Last summer after the visit of the president's party, he was much concerned as to what was going on in Washington. I suppose he has some inkling that it has to do with the rights of the Mission and he feels that the claim to the cannery might put his business in jeopardy (jeopardy) if the case was won by the Mission. I avoid all reference to any feature of the case in Washington as far as possible. To every inquiry as to how it is getting on I simply say that everything is looking favorable.

Sabbath
Observance

On the first Sunday in March I offered small cards as rewards for attendance giving out a large one at the end of the month, and at the end of the Quarter a Bible would be given to all who had the three large cards. It has increased the attendance from 65 to 91 in three Sundays. I shall have to have about 75 or more copies of Bibles and Testaments. Every body wants one. It is very gratifying to see the large number in attendance. And with all their efforts to steal our congregation it is still the larger of the two.

Bibles

Arrests
Intoxicants

John Hudson has gone out logging and there is now no one to report on the Council meetings to me. Moses Hewson is staying in Ketchikan to get his boat engine repaired. His sister Martha has been arrested for drunkenness recently, and he is ashamed to return to Metlakatla while the talk about her is going on. Ralph Smith has gone to work on the road being built out from Ketchikan.

J. Guthrie's
Health

Josiah Guthrie has been having a bad time with his heart. He was more comfortable yesterday. His faith holds firm. I do all that I can for him.

May the Lord very graciously bless thee in health and strength and continue to work out the "expected end" as He has promised.

Most sincerely thy friend and coworker,

Mrs. H.J. Minthorn.

(Signed) Mrs. H.J. Minthorn.

Ketchikan, Alaska.
March 27th, 1924.

Document No. 7
Folder No. 265

Mr. H. C. Strong,
Seattle, Washington.

Mrs. Munthorn Mr. Wellcome
3-27-24

Dear sir:

On my arrival here today, this letter of Mr. Wellcome's was handed to me. And after considering it, I felt that I should send it on to you together with my conclusions as to what can be done to carry out the wish of Mr. Wellcome.

Musical Instruments of the instruments, but will, I think, be very ready to concede to any request from, or arrangements by Mr. Wellcome. During a talk with him in my home last Sunday I found him in a very good frame of mind and anxious to do what he can to further all the interests of the church.

Easter Sunday occurs on the 20th of April, which is three weeks from next Sunday, the 30th of March. If the instruments arrive this week it will not give much time for practice with them before Easter, especially since the men are busy every day now and some of the time away from home. They ought to be delivered as soon as they arrive and can be transferred to Metlakantla.

Presentation of Instruments here at the time in order to carry out Mr. Wellcome's very excellent suggestion as to the presentation of them. In your absence, I can only see one other thing to do and that is to receive them from the express office instead of from you and to proceed to carry out the other part of the suggestions.

Rules & Regulations The rules and regulations must await the actions and announcement of the Trustees. This can be explained at the meeting for the presentation of them to the church and choir. I can read a paper which I will prepare for the occasion conveying Mr. Wellcome's greetings and wishes to the people. The officials of the choir and church elders will respond with speeches accepting the gift. It will be reported to you and to Mr. Wellcome afterward.

The occasion will lack much without your presence, but we will do as well as we can under the circumstances. The rules and regulations will need to be as clear as possible in order to insure the protection of the use of the instruments. The members of the orchestra of the church have all been members of the community orchestra, and have used their instruments in both places. The "adversaries" will be anxious to secure the use of them for the same purpose. The envy of the choir of the other church will provoke them to continue their advances to the choir of our church for union meetings whenever they want to make a show on any special occasion. Mr. Haldane is as anxious for that as the other church because he wants the name of leading a large choir. The rules therefore need to be specific and should include the judgment and consent of the missionaries as well as the choir and elders.

Metlakatla, Alaska.
April 21st, 1924.

Mr. H. S. Wellcome,
In care of The Honorable Walter S. Penfield,
806 Colorado Building,
Washington, D. C.

H

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

It seemed best to wait until after Easter to report the condition of things here and to tell thee of the church services.

Musical
Instruments here I was telling Mrs. Mary Hudson in Ketchikan of their arrival and of thy letter. She was much moved and spoke very feelingly of the evident answer to prayer in relieving the minds of the older people what this would mean. I found that Calvert and Benson had circulated a report that it would be about ten years now before the case were finished and that no one could do anything for them until it is. For all the false propaganda that Benson originates from time to time, these credulous old folks will still believe anything that comes from him. He and his colleagues Adolphus Calvert, Caspar Mather and Robert Ridley, usually credit the reports to letters from the bishop with the information.

Presentation
of
Instruments It was a company of very pleased and satisfied people that listened to the presentation speeches that Sunday evening. Andrew Usher interpreted what I said and acknowledged the gift for the church and the elders. He still has the good spirit of cooperation and helpfulness, and one wishes most earnestly that it might continue indefinitely. Indeed, I keep praying that it may. Mrs. Hudson told me that it completely changed the feeling of the people and they are all encouraged and happy now. Their childlikeness is rather touching at times. I am enclosing a copy of the statements made in my speech, which Andrew Usher interpreted. A copy of this was sent to Josiah Guthrie and one given to each of the elders so far as they can be reached. Many of them are absent from this place.

This presentation was made on March 30th as Mr. Haldane wished to get the players familiar with their instruments before Easter. Everett Hudson was very modest and ready to do any way that was suggested. As there was no bow accompanying the bass viol, I sent to a friend of mine in Seattle, a returned missionary, who obtained one there with a book of instructions for the bass viol, for which Everett asked. They arrived very promptly and the music that Everett makes sounds as though his whole heart was in it. It is a pleasure to hear them all play. It sounds as if they were trying to talk with the instrument. And it is a great attraction to the people. They come out well to hear the music. It is a rare thing, I know, to have such exceptionally fine music in an out-of-the-way place like Metlakatla. I thought of the large company of people that would come out in almost any city to hear it.

orchestrization (orchestration) of The Holy City. It was a fine beginning and calculated to lead hearts into a most devotional attitude. I think many of the people of Ketchikan would have been glad to have enjoyed it. But this people enjoy it better than any other for they are not critical.

The audience was smaller than usual on account of the sickness caused by an epidemic of "Flu" colds. There have been about sixty cases and more are taking it daily. Those who have it are very ill for about three days. If no complications set in, they recover enough to be out within a week. A few have had complications and were shut in for three weeks. There have been no fatalities yet, and we hope there will be none. It leaves them very thin and weak. It has so changed the countenance of some of them that it seemed like another person. That depleted the attendance of the church and Sunday School the past month. And yet we had an audience of about sixty-five or seventy last night.

A receipt for the instruments will be signed by those who take them to use, and one by Mr. Haldane as Leader of the Orchestra. John Hudson will play the cornet whenever Fred Benson is in the pulpit. But John Hudson is too important as tenor leader to keep the place in the orchestra. It is wonderful to me to see how versatile these natives are. The older ones who were trained under Mr. Duncan are unusual in their capacity for doing various things. Frank Williams or Ronald Fawcett play the clarionets. There was a seven piece orchestra playing Easter.

Mrs. Hudson has been absent for about three weeks from her accustomed place in the meetings. She has had this epidemic and took cold. We are hoping to have her with us soon again. There are a few things that Benson and the Hayward brothers do when she is absent that they do not attempt when she is present. One of them was the removing of the hymn books that have been used in the services, and which Dr. Minthorn secured, I think at thy request, about five or six years ago. They put in the place of them yesterday an episcopal hymnal that Benson had secured about three years ago when he hoped to have turned the church over to the bishop.

It may have been done simply because those who had no part in the orchestra felt that they must do something on their own initiative. John Hayward is becoming very heady since the time of the visit of Mrs. McGar and the effort to revive the chieftainship, which he claims in his own tribe. He was also promised the office of lay preacher in the episcopal organization and at once began to officiate. They let him have his way rather than have him make a demonstration of temper, which he often does.

Mr. Haldane has been talking to me of his affairs. He attempted to work in the cannery but is nervous, having just recovered from this sickness that is prevalent, and smashed his finger and could not officiate at the organ. He told me of his

"Flu"
Epidemic

Orchestra

Episcopal
Hymnals in
Place of
Regular ones

chieftainship

Haldane's
Troubles

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out money on government bonds or some of the same kind that are backed by a corporation instead of individuals. He thinks that a loan of \$500 would enable him to secure enough stock to pay the half of it back within a year. He is certainly in need of aid, but how to apply it to the best advantage is a question. Without it he will not be able to continue his work in the church, he thinks, for he will try to secure work away. His wife is a burden to him and his older sons are no help. The care of the family is still heavy upon him. The work in the church is his heart's delight and rests him from the cares. What his services mean to the church can hardly be estimated. Whenever he is away the choir loft is empty. He has not requested me to speak of this to thee, but it seemed as though I wanted to find a solution for his case somewhere and will simply leave it to thee to suggest what might be done. If the Mission were now operating in its own rights with employment for the resident natives, it would not take long to solve many of our problems.

J. Guthrie's Health
John Hudson has been away from home for more than a month, but has returned for the Sunday services with the exception of once. He leaves again today. We thought that Josiah Guthrie would only last a day or so two weeks ago, but he rallied and is now comfortable under a change of medicine for his heart. The occasion of his bad attack was the accident to his wife. She slipped and dislocated her ankle and the nurse had to give an anaesthetic in order to reset it. She can not yet walk about. It frightened him and we thought his heart would fail utterly for a time. I am going to Ketchikan today and will report his case again to Dr. Ellis.

Purvance Bookkeeper in Cannery
Break between Davis Marsden
After the arrival of Mr. Purvance as book keeper at the cannery there seemed to be again a tension of feeling that was not noticeable in his absence. When John Davis was very ill last week, Marsden made some advances toward a reconciliation between them, but Davis refused. He and Marsden disagreed very violently in a church meeting late this winter. The son, Roderick, also accused Marsden of using the cannery funds through the council, for his own personal benefit as there could be no satisfactory accounting given of what the expenditures were made for. So they left Marsden's church. The older children have been attending our church and Sunday School. Some kind of overtures have evidently been made to C. Brendible for he is again favoring the same faction in his work as foreman in the cannery. That remark is made because he has given work to a young married woman whose father and brother both have work. Other applicants are told to wait. That makes them feel discouraged.

The sickness of his son called Mr. Purvance home last week. Some of the natives complain that he takes more upon himself than his position of bookkeeper warrants. They are extremely sensitive to any one usurpating (usurping) authority.

Sunday School's
The Sunday School yesterday numbered about seventy-five. As soon as the school closes there will be a general exodus to camps and fishing grounds. Things will be more quiet in May and

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efforts to do things for the good of the community. I think he is trying to influence the agent, which will not be difficult, perhaps, as he is a man who thinks that Mr. Lopp is all right.

Metlakatla
dregular
volcano

It is like living on the crust of a crater of a volcano. One never knows when an eruption may occur. But there is only one thing to do and that is to stand four square for righteousness and to trust in God. And while standing it is best to smile and say little.

We are praying that nothing may hinder the out working of the will of God in this matter and that we with thee may be kept in grace and strength according to the day's demands.

"The Lord is mindful of His own", is encouraging.

We trust that thy strength and health may be renewed and that rest and comfort may come to thee.

Most sincerely thy friend,

Mrs. H. J. Minthorn.

(Signed) Mrs. H. J. Minthorn.

(Copied from the original typed letter, signed by Mrs. Minthorn--CRS)

NOTE:

Attached to the original of the foregoing letter is the envelope in which it was received, bearing postmark of "Ketchikan, Alaska, Apr. 21, 1924, 11 P.M.

Document No. 8

Folder No. 265

Metlakantla, Alaska. April, 1924.

Received of Mrs. H. J. Minthorn, through B. A. Haldane, leader of the Orchestra, one Cornet to be used only in the orchestra and in the services of the Metlakantla Christian Church.

Musical
Instruments

The instrument is to be returned to Mrs. H. J. Minthorn or to Mr. B. A. Haldane whenever I am away or when I cease to play in the Orchestra. I also accept the responsibility for the good care and preservation of the instrument.

Signed _____

Metlakantla, Alaska. April, 1924.

Received of Mrs. H. J. Minthorn, through B. A. Haldane, leader of the Orchestra, Two Clarionets, A and B flat, to be used only in the services of the Metlakantla Christian Church.

The instrument will be returned to Mrs. Minthorn or to Mr. B. A. Haldane whenever I am away or when I cease to play in the Orchestra. I also accept the responsibility for the good care and preservation of the instrument.

Signed _____

Metlakantla, Alaska. April, 1924.

Received of Mrs. H. J. Minthorn, through B. A. Haldane, leader of the Orchestra, One Bass Viol to be used only in the services of the Metlakantla Christian Church.

I will return the instrument to Mrs. Minthorn or to Mr. B. A. Haldane whenever I am away or when I cease to play in the Orchestra. I also accept the responsibility for the good care and preservation of the instrument.

Signed _____

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Presentation
of
Instruments

TO THE METLAKAHTLA CHRISTIAN CHURCH, its choir and orchestra,
and its Elders, Greetings.

Mr. Wellcome presents these instruments to the William Duncan
Trust Fund provided under Mr. Duncan's Will.

They are in the care of the Trustees the same as the Will is
in their care.

They are for the use of the choir and orchestra of the
Metlakahtla Christian Church, under such rules and regulations
as the Trustees may decide upon or authorize the missionary in
charge of the Metlakahtla Christian Church and Mission to decide
upon.

Mrs. Minthorn as the missionary in charge, and as personally
representing Mr. Wellcome and the Trustees, is requested to present
the instruments at this meeting to the Choir and Orchestra for
their use in the services of the Metlakahtla Christian Church.

Mr. Wellcome hopes that the Elders will find the Choir and
the Orchestra with its added equipment, a great help in their work
of building up the church and adding to the interest of its
services.

He also wishes to state that it was through the thoughtful
suggestion of the Choir Manager, Mr. Everett Hudson, that these
instruments were presented, in order to meet the needs of the
Orchestra in doing better work in the services:

To all the membership of the church Mr. Wellcome sends this
message: "I would like to convey to all my most cordial greetings
and best wishes, and to assure them that I constantly pray for
God's blessings upon them, and trust that they will ever be
faithful to God and true in following the teachings of their
noble benefactor, Father Duncan."

Mrs. Minthorn: Shall we not accept these gifts for our
use and endeavor to make them what they were intended to be, a
help in praising the Lord our God and in making His house more
attractive to all who love to worship here? And shall we not
dedicate them, as this house and its furnishings has been
dedicated to the service of glorifying God in worship and
praise?

1924

5-2

Metlakatla, Alaska.
May 2nd, 1924.

Mr. H. S. Wellcome,
808 Colorado Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

Intimacy
between
Benson
Marsden
Family

The most noticeable thing in our condition here at present is the growing intimacy between the families of Edward Benson and Edward Marsden.

Since the quarrel between the men of the Davis family both the father, John Davis, and the son, Roderick Davis, there has been no attempt to make a reconciliation until the recent illness of John Davis.

"Flu"
Epidemic

A sort of epidemic which is called Flu, has been sweeping over the village. There seems to have been about sixty cases. A very few were seriously ill and among those was John Davis. Mrs. Benson related to me that Marsden and others had endeavored to prevail upon the sick man to shake hands and be friends with Marsden again. He refused to do this. Mrs. Benson exclaimed, "Every body makes things very hard for Mr. Marsden. Poor man."

Commencement
Exercises

At their invitation, I attended the commencement exercises of the Eighth Grade and the banquet following. During the after dinner speeches Mr. Marsden spoke of the effort of some people to have the school removed. Herbert Murchison also spoke of the little smattering of education that the older people received and contrasted it with the greater advantages of the present school. He also remarked that even if the school was to be removed later on, they must get what good they could of it while it was allowed to remain.

Reports

The reports that the settlement of the case in Washington meant the uprooting of the school and cannery has been persistently circulated. It stirs the people with indignation. Many have come to ask me of (if) it is true. I reply that I do not expect any such proceedings (proceedings).

It is reported that the native lawyer Willie Paul, whose slogan is, "Equal Rights for the Indians with the Whites in everything in the Territory and the government", has been taken up by Mr. Hawkesworth, who is becoming quite intimate with him.

This lawyer Paul is said to be an unprincipled man and full of daring effrontery in carrying out whatever schemes he espouses, and that if ever Mr. Hawkesworth succeeded in getting him into the Metlakatla case, he might stir up much unpleasantness and some delay. It might be well to keep on the out look for things from that quarter.

There is no question in my own mind but that it was the recommendation of Marsden to the school superintendent which

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Folder No. 265

Mrs. Minthorn to Mr. Wellcome

5-2-24

-page 2-

One of the first things that was uttered in his speech was this: Well, I did get over to Metlakantla after all.

The exodus from here is not yet as great as it would be if the weather were warmer and more dry. John Hudson is busy logging. Mrs. Hudson is some better and able to be out and about her duties again. She was sick with the Flu.

J. Guthrie is growing perceptibly weaker and is very thin in flesh. We keep him supplied with all the fresh food and soothing remedies that the markets and the doctor can supply.

We constantly pray that thy helath (health) may be restored and thy strength renewed to a much greater degree. Not only enough to work, but enough to enjoy life until the day of entering into the life more abundant.

Sincerely and respectfully

Thy friend and fellow laborer for victory

Mrs. H. J. Minthorn,

(Signed) Matilda W. Minthorn.

(Copied from the original, typed letter, signed by Mrs. Minthorn--CRS)

NOTE:

Attached to the original of the foregoing letter is the envelope in which it was mailed, bearing the postmark "Ketchikan Alaska, May 8, 1924, 8 A.M."

Metlakatla, Alaska.
May 30, 1924.

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

H

This is still the quiet time here on account of the absence of about half of the population. On Monday, June second, Mr. Parrish, the Gov't agent is to go to Anchorage, which is his home. He has a married son living there and a little grand daughter of whom he seems very fond.

Electric
lighting
system

John Hudson remarked to me that he was going to see about getting the money that the Council has voted to put into an electric light plant for the village. Anchorage is headquarters for Mr. Lopp, Industrial Superintendent for Alaska. He is one whose signature to the recommendation is necessary in order to draw the money from the Seattle Bank.

Mrs. Johnson, wife of the Cook of the cannery boarding house says that Mr. Parish will be absent about a month.

Music

Benjamin Haldane has gone to British Columbia with his wife on a visit to her father. He intended to return within a week. He left word that Lillian Hudson was to officiate at the organ in his absence. She is able to play on the pipe organ and can play for the orchestra when Mr. Haldane takes one of the instruments in the absence of Frank Williams, which he sometimes does. I would like to see her have some musical training both with her voice and her instrumental work.

Parrish
played
organ

Mr. Parrish asked Laura Hudson on Saturday who was to play for the choir, and she invited him to do it. He was very willing to accept for he is unusually fond of music. It was a rainy day and we had the smallest congregation Sunday night that I have ever seen in the church on any occasion, only twenty-five being present.

John Hudson is the last victim of the Flu and was in Belle Isle Hot Springs vicinity when it overtook him. He came to Ketchikan and saw a doctor and then came home. It settled in his head and an abscess formed in his ear. It had to be lanced. He suffered greatly with it. After three weeks he improved some. Last Monday he went with the men who were logging with him, to secure the unfinished raft and his wife went with him for a rest and to look after his health. Their devotion to each other is very unusual among this people. In her absence, Mrs. Hudson left the key to the cottage in my care.

Health

Josiah Guthrie has improved some since the change of medicine. He has an appetite and sleeps better and seems to be putting on some flesh. It is such a marvel to us all how he does

We all went over on the cannery tender, Little Jack, the same day. Edward Marsden and wife, Mrs. Hudson and myself, with three strangers that had been visiting at the cottage of the Gov't employees. Next morning the boat took home a few pilings and left early, about five A. M. The Hudsons were ready to go. Mr. Hudson walked down to the water front and found the boat about to start. He and Everett asked if they would wait about fifteen minutes while John Hudson called his wife up at her brother's. She was waiting with her wraps on. But to the request of both Everett and his father Mr. Simonds said No. The Marsdens were both on board. It hurt Everett somewhat, and I think he will not let another occasion pass without throwing up his job. He is quite hot headed.

Hudson's
Peaslee
at Cannery

Peter
Usher's
trouble
at
Cannery

Move to
Ketchikan

Andrew Usher was one of those who suffered longest with the Flu. It was very serious for a day or so and he was longer in recovering than others. After his return to the cannery where he is stationary engineer and cooks the salmon, there was some trouble with his boy, Peter Usher, and the foreman in the place where he works. The foreman evidently is not acquainted with natives and certainly not with Tshimpsheans. Andrew told me that a shovel handle broke that Peter was using and he took it to Mr. Purvance to leave it to be mended. Purvance gave him another. When the foreman came along a little later he seemed to say some thing not very pleasant to Peter, who retaliated. In the altercation Peter says that the foreman raised the broken handle threateningly and quite close to his face. Now these natives will "fight" with their tongues but not with their hands. It is too dangerous for them. It would start a feud that would never die out. As might be expected, Peter quit work that day. There being no one to keep house for Andrew as all his children are away and their mother not living, he was unwilling to remain alone in his home. He told me that Peter and his wife Sarah, Agnes Buxton's daughter, are the ones who care for him, and he feared another sickness and being left alone in the house. On that account he quit his job also and they went to Ketchikan the next day.

Simonds
changing

This removes two of our choir, Peter and Sarah, and one of our elders, Andrew Usher. Since last October he has seemed to be in quite a good spirit and has been very helpful in the church. Mr. Hudson says that they all notice a change in Mr. Simonds this year. He seems less kind and helpful to the people. For some time I had noticed the change growing. It has come since he became the employee of this P. A. F. Company. It is a large company and they require a large profit in order to make satisfactory dividends. In order to do this there must be little expenditure, which necessitates as little spent as possible. Harold Hudson has been working on the pile driver as boom boss. He is quite expert and reliable. On account of his health he was compelled to quit. He tells me that all their tools are inferior and too few to do good work.

Sorry to
lose

Mrs. Johnson, on whom I make an occasional call, was speaking of various things voluntarily, and spoke of the affair with Peter Usher, and said that the foreman was a very quick tempered man and that Mr. Simonds was very sorry to lose the Ushers. He has no one who can fill Andrew Usher's place satisfactorily.

Mrs. Hudson told me of a conversation she had with her cousin Mrs. Peebles, the day that they were detained to find a boat. Mrs. Peebles informed her that a number of them were planning to come over on the following Sunday and bring Mr. Bush with them to spend the day. They wanted her to find some suitable building where they might eat their basket dinner, and said that Mr. Bush was willing to preach for them anywhere if they would invite him.

Mrs. Hudson said she could not do anything about it because they had to walk very carefully just now about the Episcopal church for the Presbyterians had said that the Episcopalians had no right to the church building for they did not help to put it up and the members of the Presbyterian church did. And at whatever time the Episcopalians came to take possession of it the Presbyterians were going to fight for it. So we must not do anything to stir them up just now.

As time goes on the feeling about the church deepens in their hearts. The elders of the Christian church are now saying that they will never let any white man come in as their minister and take the charge of the services. They are the ones to succeed Mr. Duncan and will not allow any man to say what they must do.

However, any man who can win their hearts and get a little influence over them for good, can easily work with them. He would need to be tactful and make them think that they were in authority as much as ever, but he could influence them to do what they should. They can be led now, but not commanded.

They often speak of the new doctor in Ketchikan, Dr. Carothers, who seems to understand their sicknesses better than any other. They have told of his kindness to them, and that he is a christian and prays for his patients. They also report that he has said that he came to Alaska to help the natives and is looking for a field in which to do Missionary work.

The Lord will hear and answer the many prayers that have been sent up to Him. May the answers bring help from our adversary and victory to the kingdom of God in men's hearts.

And may He give thee the needed strength to work and to enjoy Himself as well as His gracious blessings.

Very sincerely thy friend,

Mrs. H. J. Minthorn.

(Signed) Matilda Atkinson Minthorn.

NOTE: The foregoing letter received in envelope postmarked, "Ketchikan, Ala, June 4, 1924".

Metlakatla, Alaska.
June 19th, 1924.

Mr. H. S. Wellcome,
c/o Penfield & Penfield,
806 Colorado Building,
Washington, D. C.

H

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

The present status of affairs (affairs) here is like this: Andrew Usher being too much disturbed in his mind and feelings to return to his work of stationary engineer, although they have sent him word to come back and take it again; they looked about to see what move would most affect the Christian Church and B.A. Haldane picked on Benjamin Haldane for the engineer. He has in former times, as an engineer, cooked the salmon in the retort, but has never run the engine. But they are urging him to take the place.

This will keep him away from the church practically for the scheme of three months. They find extra work for Sundays whenever possible, and the engine is seldom quiet on that day. It is quite a master stroke, and worthy of the combined schemers minds, for both Hawkesworth and Purvance are here. Hawkesworth presumably for his annual summer visit, and Purvance as book keeper for the company. As the winning of the case means to them the passing of the land on which the cannery stands into the Mission property, it is to the interest of the P. A. F. Company to keep it from succeeding. No doubt they have enlisted every person in their employ to work against the case.

Mr. Haldane's absence from the church on Sundays means so much that I can hardly comprehend the amount of harm that it will work. These people are not quite like white folks in their make up, and in their ball games, if they begin to lose a few scores, their courage drops and they lose their spirit. Dr. Minthorn pointed it out to me once as we watched them play here. Where white boys would have redoubled their efforts to win, these just wilted down and lost after a few reverses. It would be so now in the church. And the other faction would begin to jeer at them for losing their congregation and it would nearly break up the attendance.

As it is, the elders do not give them anything in their talks in the pulpit to feed their minds or souls, and they depend so much upon the singing to cheer and encourage them. The jealousy of the other elders has kept Fred Benson from taking much part. He has also accepted an offer from Bishop Rowe to attend some school in New York, after which he will be ordained. This has stirred up all the others to the point where they are ready to do anything to get a like position or some favor from the Bishop.

They are now planning on going to Port Essington for Sunday, the 29th, to hold an evangelistic service, and to stop in Prince Rupert for Dominion Day, July 2nd. They held a meeting in the house

Loans

Will

We applied to Mr. Strong for a loan for Benjamin Haldane to use in stocking up his store, but it is not practicable to let one native have something unless every other applicant can get a like helping. It seems to them that it is an inequality coming from the Will or the Trustees, to favor one and not another. For a time, they demurred much against Josiah Guthrie receiving more help than some others, in the matter of having a doctor come to visit him. However, I told them that it was thy arrangement and they must let thee choose the object of thy gifts to suit thyself, and they have ceased to find fault to me.

Church

Mr. Haldane has asked for a loan of \$500 and made the terms of payment \$50 per month, beginning with September when the people come home with their wages and freely patronize his store. He would take July and August to stock his store and get it ready for the fall trade. I do not know about the advisability of loaning him the money. I only know of the fact that he will begin work by July 1st unless he gets it, and that it means much discouragement to the congregation of the Christian Church to have him go under the influence of the Government faction, which is their plan and scheme. The other church make a strong pull each year to get him to come over to them. Charles Brendible seems to be working for their interest more assiduously than ever, from which I infer that some consideration has been brought to bear upon him that has won him over too.

Prayer
Meetings
Ball Games

Last night was prayer meeting night, but the bell did not ring. I went to the church but it was locked and no one came. I walked around to the ball ground where I found most of the people watching a practice game. Fred Benson, who has charge of the church and services during the summer, had been called by Mr. Bush to come over to Ketchikan and had gone in the late afternoon. The only remaining elder, John Hayward, was said to be at the ball game. The attendance at the prayer meeting is mostly elderly people who would have come if the bell had rung. It was too late to do so when I discovered the situation.

Illness

John Hudson
John Hudson
John Hudson

John Hudson has had a very serious time with the abscess in his ear. The doctors were afraid of mastoid trouble and made a second incision Sunday. He was in the hospital a few days. If that were not successful in relieving him, they were planning to send him to a specialist in Seattle. It keeps Mrs. Hudson away from the home and church. She is taking very good care of him, and we know that much depends on her in his recovery. If he is better, they will be at home by tomorrow. Josiah Guthrie is about the same, sometimes more comfortable than at others. He sits up some but does not leave his bed.

John Hudson

This case would look too discouraging to have any hopes for if I looked to man only to bring it out successfully. But I know that God can win it with one man or without any if He choose to do it so. My trust and confidence in Him are unshaken. I do the best I can to help Him as He shows me the way.

May His care and help be all sufficient for thee in these trying days. We pray for thy health to be restored and thy heart to be kept full of hope and of wisdom. And He hears us pray.