

10-11-1915

Minthorn Letters

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Document No. 53-28
Folder No. 265

B. of E., Al. Div., 1913-1914.

TELEGRAM. FULL COPY.

October 11, 1913.

TO: Edward Parson, Ketchikan, Alaska.

FROM: Lopp, Seattle.

Cable school situation Metlakatla.

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B. of E., Al. Div., 1913-1914.

TELEGRAM. FULL COPY.

October 13, 1913.

TO: Lopp, Seattle.

FROM: Marsden, Ketchikan.

Collection of money (in) hands (of) Council.

Little headway. Majority say send teachers then money comes
sure and quick. Beattie wanted immediately.

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B. of E., Al. Div., 1913-1914.

TELEGRAM. FULL COPY.

October 18, 1913.

TO: Hamilton, Washington, D.C.

FROM: Lopp, Seattle.

Would Secretary approve Metlakatla hiring own
teacher until we can help them?

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B. of E., Al. Div., 1913-1914.

TELEGRAM. FULL COPY.

October 18, 1913.

TO: Mark Hamilton, Ketchikan.

FROM: Lopp, Seattle.

Inform Council have teacher and wife who will come if guaranteed one twenty five monthly house fuel light and transportation. Lang approves. If you desire same cable before twenty second. See Seattle Monday evening.

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B. of E., Al. Div., 1913-1914.

TELEGRAM. FULL COPY.

October 21, 1915.

TO: Governor Strong, Juneau.

FROM: Lopp, Seattle.

Haldane Secretary Metlakatla Council here.
is requesting Secretary's approval for people to employ
teacher until Government can assume cost same. If you
approve suggest you cable Secretary accordingly.

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TERRITORY OF ALASKA.
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
Juneau.

Oct. 21, 1913.

Mr. B. A. Haldano,
Secretary, Town Council of Metlakantla,
Metlakantla, Alaska.

Dear Sir:

I write to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of October 10th with reference to the establishment and maintenance of a school at Metlakantla.

In reply thereto I have to say that I have already taken up that matter with the Interior Department and I have given it as my opinion that you should have a government school and that the expense of maintaining it should not devolve upon your people. Of course, I cannot say what action will be taken in the matter, but trust it may be favorable. If you still desire to maintain a school at the expense of the people of Metlakantla, I would advise you to write to Mr. W. F. Lopp, 369 Colman Building, Seattle, Washington, from whom I obtained my first information as to your expressed willingness to support a school by private subscription.

I may also add that I have completed and forwarded to the Interior Department a report on conditions obtaining at Metlakantla as I found them during my visit to your interesting community. I have endeavored to make a fair statement for the information of the government, and I trust that some means may be found for the solution of the differences that now unhappily exist on Annette Island.

I wish to thank you and through you the people of Metlakantla for their courteous treatment of Mrs. Strong and myself while visiting your community.

Respectfully yours,
J.G.A. Strong, Governor.

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B. of B., Al. Div., 1913-1914.

TELEGRAM. FULL COPY.

October 22, 1913.

TO: Lopp, Seattle.

FROM: Governor Strong, Juneau.

Have written Secretary recommending that Metlakatla people should be provided with school by government or permitted to employ and pay for teacher's services themselves. Preferably former.

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SIGNAL CORPS, UNITED STATES ARMY
TELIGRAM.

RECEIVED AT Ketchikan, Alaska
11 P M DE S 21. O.S.

Oct 23 1913

Seattle, Oct. 23, 1913.

Mark Hamilton,
Ketchikan.

Inform Council teacher ready to accept proposition council made
Seattle. Secretary absent. Cannot secure approval before
Saturday

Lopp

542PM

Document No. 53-28
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B. of B., Al. Div., 1913-1914. Met. 7.

TELEGRAM. FULL COPY.

October 30, 1913.

TO: Seattle, Juneau.

FROM: Lopp, Seattle.

Hoonah shipped October 11th DOLPHIN. Cannot Kasaan
seats, etc., be used Metlakatla? Expect Secretary's
approval Saturday.

* * * * *

Document No. 53-28
Folder No. 265

B. of E., Al. Div., 1913-1914. Met. 7.

TELEGRAM. FULL COPY.

October 31, 1913.

TO: Lopp, Seattle.

FROM: Beattie, Juneau.

Kasaan asking for school. Claim fifteen school
age. If no funds for Kasaan equipment can be transferred
Metlakatla.

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Document No. 53-25
Folder No. 268

B. of E., Al. Div., 1913-1914. Met. 7.

TELEGRAM. FULL COPY.

November 1, 1913.

TO: Governor Strong, Juneau.

FROM: Lopp, Seattle.

Secretary's approval our plan for Metlakatla withhold
pending receipt your letter. Suggest you wire him. Cannot
hold teacher longer than Monday. People impatient.

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Document No. 53-25

Folder No. 268

B. of E., Al. Div., 1913-1914.

TELEGRAM, . FULL COPY.

November 10, 1913.

TO: Bonatto, Juneau.

FROM: Lopp, Seattle.

Cabled Varney teachers on ALKI or HUMBOLDT.
Will probably accompany and visit HYDABURG. When could
you reach Ketchikan?

* * * * *

Document No. 53-25
Folder No. 268

S. of E., Al. Div., 1913-1914.

TELEGRAM. FULL COPY.

November 10, 1913.

TO: Lopp, Seattle
FROM: Beattie, Junsau.

Verney writes two months money ready. People
anxiously awaiting teacher. What shall I reply?

* * * * *

Document No. 53-25

Folder No. 268

B. of E., Al. Div., 1913-1914.

TELEGRAM. FULL COPY.

November 10, 1913.

TO: Jones, Bellingham, Washington.

FROM: Lopp, Seattle.

Suggest you proceed Seattle. Will sail twelfth
or fourteenth.

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Ketchikan, Alaska.

Dec. 31, 1926.

Mr. H. S. Wellcome,
Arlington Hotel,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

Enclosed please find some more clippings that are interesting on account of what they may portend.

The "Annual Report" is being made within nine months of the beginning of the work of Mr. Sanborn (Sanborn) in this place, if I have been rightly informed as to the dates.

Mr. Corser was active last year while here to an extent that passed the bounds of christian courtesy in trying to take the Choir of the Metlakahtla Christian Church up to Wrangell for an exhibition of them, ostensibly, but in reality to clinch the hold they are trying to get upon the church.

Just what the combination of the visit of Hawkesworth here, Sanborn to Seattle, and Corser to Ketchikan, will develop, is unknown, but it will appear.

By this time next week I expect to be in my house in Metlakahtla. Although seemingly unavoidable, the delay has been difficult to endure with the apparent need of my presence in Metlakahtla.

I take the responsibility upon myself of being the one that delayed it, as my letter announcing my arrival or the approximate date of it, was not sent early enough to get things going, perhaps. Getting letters to thee from Metlakahtla will be much more slowly accomplished from there, and the Daily paper will not reach me for a week on the mail boat.

I met Alex Guthrie on the street this afternoon and he spoke of getting a wire from Port Simpson asking him to come over and preach to them there and at the other points, Old Metlakahtla and Port Essington. He was going alone except for a singer, and hoped to get Walter Calvert to accompany him. Walter is a son of Adolphus Calvert.

He said nothing of the matter, but at the moment it appealed to me as a move to hold those people for the Church, and I wondered if Sanborn had any thing to do with it.

The men of Metlakahtla are counting on having plenty of work in a few weeks at the saw mill that is to be put in operation first among the industries.

Sanborn has himself reported that he will buy off the lease from the present owners of it and run the cannery himself this year.

I see plainly the wisdom in repairing the Hanbury house. It has given the natives an idea of the prosperity of the case and has been a blow to the report that the money would be turned over to any one else. I am very desirous to learn what the effect has been of my talk to them about the trustees and of thee and thy work and things generally, which was given on Christmas Day.

The native young man, son of Philip Nelson, whom I met to-day was very free to talk with me of the work on the house. His father, who is a good carpenter, is working on the house, and he was at work clearing up the yard. He reported that part as accomplished and the house nearly done.

The Bensons have built a new boat, the Orion, and it has an excellent engine. They are doing much of the work of carrying passengers and freight. John Hudson is quite busy with his work on his house. Mary Hudson told me how she talked to John about building on the same spot where they were living until he began work on it.

It was the best thing for them, all things considered. Laura is doing well in her work and helps them much in the home in little ways, and especially in encouragement.

Moses Hewson will be without an occupation when the case is settled because he spends much time in trying to find a new reason frequently for reporting that something that the Hudsons have done will spoil the case and the work and the church.

My hope is in the expected answers to prayer that the dear Lord Himself will continue to keep His hand upon the leaders of the people and not (not) allow them to lead the people far astray. And I know that "He was not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." So I am asking earnestly that a great work of grace may yet be done among them. Perhaps their disappointment in some men may help them to turn more readily to the Lord who never disappoints.

We are daily asking for grace and wisdom and strength to be given to thee and that others concerned may be led to see the way that the Lord would have them take in this matter. And it is in the Lord's hand to give the right turn to the case to bring the victory for truth and righteousness.

We stand on the verge of the New Year, which will be a year of important events to all concerned in this affair. It will bring the release of the minds of those who have held steadily on for the outcome, endeavoring to keep things from disintegrating under the strain of endurance that has called for so much patient endurance and strength.

It seems marvellous that so great obstructions of various kinds have been put in thy way, but it is none the less beautiful to see how the Lord has turned aside every thing, even death itself, and has preserved thee and blessed thee and has so signally used thee to bring things about so far. Having come to the present time through all the hardly contested points, He will not forsake thee nor they work at any future point, but will go on as He has

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Document No. 54
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Clipping from Ketchikan Alaska Chronicle",
Ketchikan, Alaska, December 30, 1926.

SANBORN SOUTH TO
MAKE REPORT.

Rev. H. R. Sanborn, of St. John's church, will go south on the steamship Northwestern tonight to make his annual report to Bishop Peter T. Rowe, it was announced today. Rev. Sanborn will return here on the Northwestern, leaving January 8.

Rev. H. P. Corser, of Wrangell, who is aboard the Northwestern will fill Rev. Sanborn's pulpit during the New Year services.

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Clipping from "Ketchikan Alaska Chronicle",
Ketchikan, Alaska, December 31, 1926.

WHO-WHEN-WHERE-WHAT-IN KETCHIKAN.

Charles Hawksworth, connected with
the Territorial school system arrived here
from Juneau last night on the Northwestern.

Rev. H. P. Corser, who is scheduled to
preside at the St. John's church during the
absence of Rev. H. H. Sanborn, arrived from
Wrangell on the Northwestern last night.

Document No. 1.

Folder No. 265-1.

Ketchikan, Alaska.

Jan. 5, 1927.

Mr. H.S. Wellcome,
Arlington Hotel,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

Things are quiet here at present, like the stillness that precedes a storm, perhaps, although we hope it is the after calm rather.

The enclosed clippings will be of interest to thee, as signs of the trend of affairs. What is being concocted will come to light in time.

Work of many kinds in other places will interest some of the natives soon, and within four weeks some of them will be off with their families to the trolling grounds.

My arrival among them next week will bring some excitement and new interest, and they must have something to occupy their minds since they do not read or know of world affairs enough to keep them thinking of current events.

I shall send my list of subscriptions off soon and if they will not read them, I must tell them things so that they will get new ideas. I have been gratified to have several of the younger men say to me that they want to study with me, not only Bible subjects, but English in other books. I think there is a growing hunger among them. When some of the older natives get over their jealousy, there will be more opportunity among all the rest of them.

Their grievance against the P.A.F.Co., which holds the present lease, has crystalized into one great subject and the people do not much care how it is done, but are ready for any one or any form of interference that will put Charles Brendible out of the front where he has had all the advantages for these eight years. He will let none but his own family have any work with him in the logging or preparations for the spring work. And his conduct in the hiring of the native help in the cannery is about to result in some thing serious unless there is some change this year.

Mr. Sanborn is expected home this week and then things will be in motion again. The lawyer Holzheimer, who is associated with him in the Industries and is on the Board of Directors, is in Seattle yet. The lawyer, Zeigler, who went to Washington, D.C., with him is quiet at present. The consensus of opinion as displayed by current remarks about town is that

I am to go over for this week end to ordain the Elders, and would like to remain, but there is but one room in the house which will be habitable, and I will return on Monday's mail boat until later in the week when I hope to move over.

Here are the copies, at last, of the petition and of the election of Councilmen. All of these Councilmen who were elected this time are members of the Metlakantla Christian Church, except Rod Davis and Benjamin Dundas, and Rod Davis attends the Christian church regularly and has for some two years, ever since he and his father disagreed with Marsden.

In the signatures to the petition I only added the residence and the indication showing the church affiliation so far as I knew it. There are some names of persons who were only there during the canning season. Many of them live all the year in Ketchikan. Alex Guthrie has so long been associated with the Episcopal church in Ketchikan that I inadvertently marked him so.

There will be two boats going south tomorrow and this will go then. All thy friends here are well and have asked of thy welfare and expressed their confidence in thee and thy work. We remember thee daily at the throne where there is help that is mighty and where our affairs are known and are considered and dealt with after the manner that would make us very full of joy if we but knew all that has been provided for our good. He will never leave nor forsake those who do not leave Him.

May blessings be added daily to thy life until it becomes the "life more abundant".

Sincerely thy friend,

Matilda W. Minthorn.

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1927

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H

Metlakatla, Alaska
Jan. 25, 1927.

Mr. H. S. Wellcome,
Arlington Hotel,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

The old type writer has succumbed to rust and dust for the present. When I go south, as I really must next month, I shall look up another and bring it back with me.

A letter from Dr. Myers this morning recommends Dr. Lyle Kingery of Portland, Oregon, and as his name was also given me by Dr. Holden of the firm of Drs. Holden and Moran, who cared for Dr. Minthorn and was a valued personal friend of his, I feel very safe in applying to him.

Dr. Myers also writes that Dr. Hazen wishes us to accept his services to me as a contribution to the Mission, which is greatly appreciated by me.

On the 8th of Jan. I came over to stay three days and to conduct the ordination of the elders on the 9th at the morning service.

It had to be post poned because of fric-

(Page 2)

tion among the elders themselves. They were called in one by one and personally interviewed by me, excepting one or two who sent me word that they would be ready the next Sunday, and the ordination was duly carried out.

During the personal interviews I gleaned some interesting news and the general feeling was that Moses Hewson and Edward Benson were both causing bad feelings. Hewson seems to have sold out to Simonds who uses Brendible for his representative to pass to Moses gifts by way of checks as well as food.

I have supplied medicine and help in getting fire wood for Moses and have met every need so far as he has expressed any to me.

The gift was handed to John Hayward a few days ago and he seemed much pleased.

After the ordination an unusually amiable spirit seemed to pervade the church and Mrs. Hudson took advantage of it to have the reception. I brought my



The after dinner speeches by the natives were unique and pleasing to the audience. That given by Mr. Caldwell was certainly non committal as he mentioned only the dinner, his satisfaction in it, and our duty to keep smiling. On the two occasions when I have met him, I have seen no special recommendation about him, to my mind, as a worker or leader.

The accompanying photos of the Guest House and Girls Home indicate either slackness of carrying out Mr. Wagner's instructions or else a compliance with hints from Hawkesworth.

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I heard him tell a man in my hearing that he had the roof of the Guest House re-covered with roofing paper at a cost of \$200 and the first wind storm tore it off and he was now considering having the work done by the manual training class and their teacher. I think there is no appropriation for the repairs.

The carpenters opened the windows, removing the lower sash, and put the boards of the staging through inside. The work was done in November and the windows remain open and the staging is still up. The door in the front is now open. And the doors of the Girls Home also. All the storms of wind and rain sweep through the Guest House.

Caspar Mather visited Metlakahtla over Sunday, and Moses Hewson invited him to speak Sunday evening. He described his visit east and dwelt especially upon the glories of the great churches which he visited. Hudsons and others said that

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he told the audience that he had been ordained to go about preaching to the camps, and that they were going to ordain many men to do this work.

John Hayward conducted the meeting and introduced Caspar as the Reverend Mr. Mather. Next day Caspar called on me and asked me how I liked the meeting. I told him that I was greatly disappointed and my heart was much grieved because the Bishop had given his promise to Mr. Wellcome that no one should come here from his church to preach and here was a minister, Rev. Mather, and now the Bishop was put to shame by those who worked under him, and it grieved my heart.

He insisted that he was not ordained, was only a lay preacher as before, that John Hayward only said that for a compliment.

At the funeral of Adolphus Calvert, Moses Hewson announced that the church accepted Mrs. Minthorn as their

Document No. 2.

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H

publicly that no minister of any denomination could preach there, but that I should always do it.

John Hayward said, when introducing C. Mather, that any minister of any church can now come here and preach all they want to. And the people understood, from the way he said it that I had told him to do so for he said that he had authority to say it. He and Andrew Usher and Moses Hewson had decided to have it so in the morning.

Moses is very arbitrary. Some times it helps and more often it hinders. No good opportunity has yet come for me

H

(Page 7)

to have a session with Moses concerning his present course. He still goes to Brendible's with every bit of information that he obtains.

They asked me to talk at the reception about the case in Washington because all the people here want to know everything. And I said that I would talk the same as I would over a radio where all the world listened.

I spoke of the case being William Duncan's presentation of his own side of the matter which had never yet been brought before the officials, and that whoever was fighting against the case was fighting against Mr. Duncan himself.

For about three weeks I have been away from Ketchikan and know little of what is going on there. I learned over here that Sanborn took Rod Davis to Washington because H. Murchison talked too much and so lost his job.

Some of the Christian Church men are saying that one of them ought to see

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the Sec. (Secretary) and tell him the facts on the other side since the opposition had been saying so much to him and others. Tom Hanbury and Everett Hudson have especially spoken of it.

As Mayor, John Hudson is drawn into every public affair and has to lead in many enterprises that he would otherwise avoid. Just now the Athletic Club of the town, of which Everett is president, is building a new town hall. It is located exactly across the street from the presbyterian church and directly in front of the site of the old town hall. The men of the town are raising the money and doing the work. John and Everett are giving freely of their time and labor. John is building his own house between times, with Harold's assistance.

John Hudson is a good man for mayor, but it throws him constantly into association with the Sec. of the Council - whose tactics are well known.

When Herbert Murchison asked the Council to pass a resolution endorsing every thing that he had said in Washington, there were some stormy scenes. It was never passed.

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The repairs on the house are nearing completion and it is very comfortable. Another room up stairs was finished

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H

Harry Lang was elected as an elder but resigned on the grounds that he did not know English well enough to study the Bible so as to preach.

Edward Benson resigned. I know of no reason except that he would not work with Hewson, and Andrew Usher for the same reason and other reasons.

John Hayward resigned because he did not like the idea of working under any one and other reasons, but afterwards reconsidered and was ordained. He stipulated that he be appointed Supt. of the Sunday School and have a few other offices. Out of 12 elected, 9 were ordained as elders. Others told me of Hewson's scheming to get up a quarrel

(Page 10)

between the Hudsons and others, but John left the meeting and Harold never quarrels. So he failed in that. He still is obsessed with a desire to drive the Hudsons from the church.

But here is where the grace of God can make a shining display and faith wrest a victory from utter defeat. "With man it is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Let us therefore look unto Him for the help that never comes too late, and that never fails to come on time.

May He who called thee to this work grant to thee His enabling grace and unfailing strength and wisdom that cometh down from above.

Later: have just had a talk with Joseph Hayward and Moses Hewson. Benson reports Caspar Mather as saying that I opposed his speaking in the church. The explanation was given them that

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I was not opposed to Caspar but to any minister of any denomination coming to the church until the case is settled.

Moses argued that Mr. Strong had given them to understand last fall that there was no harm in that any more, and also that Caspar & Paul and all the Episcopal members in Ketchikan were "full members" of this Christian Church and only attended the other church for convenience.

But he was reminded that the elders here are being trusted by thee and are being watched by many people and must prove themselves to be honorable men. Also that this is a time to be more careful than ever before. If these people were not so fickle minded one could rest a little on their word. But the Lord is able to see us through.

Document No. 2.

Folder No. 265-1.

Note attached to letter from Mrs. M. W. Minthorn, Metlakatla, Alaska, to Mr. H. S. Wellcome, Washington, D. C., January 25, 1927.

In the press of business concerning the church and Mission affairs, it has not been possible for me to give the details about matters here, but as soon as a typewriter is available I will give them fully. At present pen writing or with pencil and carbon, no ink being available until now, has been very slow and there have been many interruptions. Full descriptions and details will follow later.

My time has also been required to direct the workmen who are finishing house repairs since the foreman from Ketchikan was called away.

The natives have been coming quite freely, about fifteen of them in one afternoon, and I have been able to direct some of the repairs of the outside of the church and the boiler room. Things are going smoothly now - but a sharp lookout for breakers ahead is necessary when Benson and others are scheming. The plain object of all who attack us is to destroy this church and Mission.

(Copied from original copy in handwriting of Mrs. M. W. Minthorn--GCD)

Document No. 3.

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1927
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Metlakatla, Alaska.
February 3, 1927.

H

Mr. H.S. Wellcome,
Arlington Hotel,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

Happenings seem to crowd upon each other daily here. Conditions are much unsettled and there is some regret in my mind, so far as the people and place is concerned that I had to go away, but none so far as the results of it personally are concerned.

It seems to me impossible to get away at present, and yet the condition of my face demands it quite seriously. So I will be under obligations to my own health and work to go, but the schemers, Benson and Marsden, with Hewson not far behind them in point of trouble making, will do many things that will confuse the people and influence them.

There is just one thing that I can do, and that is to commit them all unto the Lord and trust that He can work out the problem just as well one way as another since "there is no restraint with the Lord to save by many or by few." Oftentimes there are things that I must get over to their minds and just how to do so without offending their sensitive natures does not appear, and then I tell the Lord that it can best be done by His speaking to them within their own hearts, and have seen the results of His complying with my request. He is the great Captain indeed of this whole affair, and has chosen thee to represent Him in it. May all thy helpers be willing to be used by Him also.

Our present status is that they are testing or trying out every possible thing to see whether they are to get what they wish. They desired all the knowledge that I had from my visit to Washington, and told me that the people demanded it and I must tell it all. I said some things to show up the case from a standpoint that was new to them and so led them into a different channel of thought about it. To the effect that thee was presenting for the first time since the affair began, Mr. Duncan's side of the case in Washington. I enlarged upon all sides of that until they saw it, and told them that Mr. Wellcome was fighting no one, but working for the good of all the people, but that whoever was fighting thee was fighting Mr. Duncan, for it was his case from the beginning and is yet.

They have had to do many things to satisfy the people that are being harassed by Benson and his clique as to their becoming an Episcopal church. They have asked for the Lord's Supper, and we have celebrated that, last Sunday morning. In the evening there were five baptisms. I was asked to preach both morning and evening. Benson looked rather black over the evening ceremony as he had once said that they must not let me baptize any one for then they would have no excuse for calling in an outside minister.

then they will all be one church again.

Document No. 3

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Folder No. 265-1

They are quite jealous about the repairing and renovating of this house and are asking about the expense of it and thinking that if it comes from the estate that they ought to possess it, so they make themselves much more free to come and inspect it than they ever did with any former affair. I have been careful not to refuse them any reasonable requests, and have been helping all who come to me for help, and have been as benevolent as possible in every circumstance.

They have asked for repairs and accesories to the church and services and for the music for the next anniversary of the coming of Mr. Duncan, the 70th, in October, 1927. All these things I have granted very freely and kindly and they can find no fault with things on that score. Mr. Strong and Dr. Myers, with Mrs. Pruell, have all been so kind to help and to agree with every thing that is for the good of the case and I appreciate it in this crisis very much indeed.

Thomas Hanbury came here yesterday. Hawkesworth asked him to bring him over here as there was no other boat available. He did not talk with Hanbury on the way over, but was busy with Josiah Booth all the time. After they arrived, Josiah Booth told Hanbury that Hawkesworth said that he had about sixteen pounds of letters to mail to Washington to help work against Mr. Wellcome. Such a statement would greatly impress the natives.

The boat used by the officials of the Bureau of Education in Alaska, The Boxer, is on its way here with the material for the electric light plant, it is said. One person says they are only awaiting the signature of the Secretary of the Interior to begin the work. Another says that the Council agreed to give the extra \$7,000 asked above the contract bid, and now the work can go on. It is reported that Mr. Wagner is on the boat and they will have mass meetings and Council meetings when he comes.

Sanborn is said to have failed to raise the money necessary to run the cannery and to have started back here, but took Rod Davis and went back to New York to see a man who gave him money to go through school and told him that whenever he needed any money for his work to come to him. They are expected here at any time now. Also that the Secretary of the Interior told him that he could have no contract until he had the money with which to carry on the work. No lease, I should say. These are the reports that I hear in this village.

Mr. and Mrs. Caldwell do not attend any church, but the nurse and the young man who teaches, both of whom are studying and preparing to go to the foreign mission field as medical missionaries, attend the Presbyterian church and sing in the choir. Marsden preaches in English at every service and also in the native language; They go there because when they arrived in the fall all the services in the Metlakahtla Christian church were conducted in the native tongue.

The work here is going on well, but the finishing is tedious and it was not until this week that my goods were brought down from the cottage, so that I have been short of room and furnishings until now. The place shows great improvement and adds to the air of well being of the town. The natives are beginning to improve their own homes and are encouraged by examining this. I have thought that the better we keep up the church and this home, the more it will affect them as a permanent work.

The Basket Ball Team went to Wrangell and Petersburg and won all the games played, four of them, and still hold the championship for Alaska. Everett Hudson was their coach and manager and went with them and made the

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speech at the farewell banquet. He says that an account of it is in the Petersburg paper and will send me a copy of it. I look upon this, and especially the praise of their clean sportsmanship, as an indirect tribute to the influence of the life and teaching of William Duncan with his interest in their games and his example as a man of spirit and virility.

The photos taken by B.A. Haldane are in a separate enclosure and he has indicated on each one what it is. While he was taking them, Mr. Caldwell came to him and asked what he was doing and he said he was asked to make them. Caldwell inquired as to what they were wanted for, and his reply impressed me as rather brusque. He said, I don't know what they want of them. I only know that I was asked to make them. I notice that the front door of the Guest House has been closed since then. The windows remain open.

The women and some of the men of the Christian church demand that I have no more dealings with the Presbyterian women in yarn and baskets, because they are being much troubled by the bad talk of the Presbyterian women who threaten to take all the basket trade away from them. It has been necessary to do very little in that line until the atmosphere clears and that little has been to supply the women of the Christian church.

Document No. 3

Friday, Feb. 4, 1927.

Folder No. 265-1

Ralph Smith has been calling on us this forenoon. He has said some interesting things. Among others he told me that after the reception he went into a store where the Presbyterians congregate and they said, Here is Ralph. He will tell us the news from the reception. He says that he talked a while to them of the gathering and what Mr. Wellcome was doing for all the Metlakahtlans and then said to them, Boys, you will all be Mr. Wellcome's best friends when he is through and wins the case. You will all be thankful to him then.

He told how the Metlakahtlans are watching for the renewing of the industries here and are ready to come back to stay. Some will sell their houses in Ketchikan and buy new lots and build here in the spring. They seem to have two hopes, one that Sanborn will start the saw Mill and the other that Mr. Wellcome will win the case and they can run the Cannery with one white man for Overseer.

The conditions under which some of them are living in Ketchikan are very bad. George Williams, brother-in-law to Ralph, lives in a one room house and has a family of seven children. Riding with Herbert Murchison and Charles Brendible on a boat one day they were talking of conditions here and Herbert said, Ralph, you have good nerve to stay in Metlakahtla with your family all these years during these hard times. I lost my job as janitor in the school and had to move to Ketchikan. Ralph said that he had a good offer in the Treadwell mines, but thought it better for his children to live in Metlakahtla, so he staid on through hard times and did his best. Brendible said that when he went below and they asked him if the Metlakahtlans were still leaving the village, he told them that they were and soon they would all be gone and there would be no village left.

Then Ralph told him that he was to blame for it himself. He helped to make the division and stopped the work for all the people so it became necessary for them to go away to get work to live. But now he hoped this was the last year before they would be able to stay in Metlakahtla at their own homes once more.

Ralph says that George Williams and Alex Guthrie are coming back as soon as there is work, and he thinks Thomas Hanbury will come soon also. He was talking with Andrew Usher and they remembered when every man had a chance at something. They recalled how the men gathered, 75 of them, every morning in the spring, in front of the store and each was sent to some work, some to the logging, some to the saw mill, some to the carpenter shop and others elsewhere. They long for such days again.

Ralph is to take charge of the ground around this house as soon as the rains will permit, and will dig out the roots and seed down the ground to grass and plant the gardens. He has been unable to use one

more this year and to do this work for me. It is fortunate for me to have a man that knows how instead of one that had to be told everything.

He says that every body is looking to this place for a model for their own and will soon be repairing and making their homes like new. While we were speaking, a man came in to examine a certain part of the plumbing to see how to get his own right. It is working like the leaven in the meal.

Feb. 5, Saturday evening. Mrs. Hudson tells me that Thomas Hayward, who is really Thomas Webster, relative of Haywards and lives with them, was on the boat when Hawkesworth came over and that Josiah Booth asked Hawkesworth if the Government would give Mr. Wellcome the property and money that he asks for damages, and that Hawkesworth said, Yes. For Mr. Wellcome is working for the good of you people. That sounds like "Band Wagon Music", to me. Booth remarked that Mr. Wellcome would tear down the school building and make another school. Hawkesworth said that if Wellcome could make a better one that would be all right and it would all be for the good of the natives anyway.

Thomas Hanbury came into our house again this evening, having towed over a boat for Robert Ridley to have repaired here. He reports the news that Sanborn and Rod Davis are in Seattle and have obtained the needed sum of money to run the cannery and the other industries from Skinner and Eddy, the owners of the Sunny Point Packing Company of Ketchikan. That they have purchased the needed machinery and will soon be here.

He says that Benson is diligently laboring to bring over here all the Ridleys and Mathers and his relatives generally. He is busy with Marsden constantly. Tom says that he told Hudson that the best thing for the church is to let Benson go and join any thing he likes so that he is on the outside. Mrs. Hudson told me tonight that all the Presbyterian elders are going over to Nass River to preach soon and John Davis and Benson will go with them.

Moses Hewson came to me tonight to borrow money for food at home. I was glad of an opportunity to show him that we could and would help him and hope to draw him away from the other source of trouble. He is showing evidences of tuberculosis and coughs and grows weak. His mother is bed ridden from the effects of a fall some weeks ago and I have put her on the list of our benevolences for regular food supplies. Martha is getting Twenty dollars a month for work, but has five little children to support, so they are needy.

Benson has gone below, to Seattle, to buy another engine for a new boat which he will build this spring, so his wife says. There is another reason for his going, of course. He is not content to wait until things are settled but will get the church into the hands of the Episcopal people before summer if he can. Robert Ridley is here but is either afraid or is incensed by what I said to Caspar Mathers for he refused to lead the testi-

Document No. 3

Folder No. 265-1

Feb. 8.

Today I had an opportunity to talk with Mrs. Hudson about our young people going to the presbyterian Christian Endeavor. During my absence, the Marsdens, through Marietta, drew into that society many of the Christian Church young people by saying that it was not a part of their church but was for all the town. The things that I wished to say to the parents I had to say to her today and send her to them with the message.

As she said, they are used to talking about her if she tells them not to go to that church, but will make trouble if they know that I went about and told it. Rebecca Guthrie, Josiah's widow, had been in Ketchikan a few days, and upon returning home had come to Harold's house where his father and mother stay, and had told of the plans of Paul and Emma Mather, Edward Benson's daughter.

A goodly selection of clothing has been sent to them to give out to the members of the Episcopal church in Ketchikan. She sent word to many of the Metlakahtlans and invited them to come and get clothing. When they came she told them that they must first write their names as members of the Episcopal church and then they could have clothing. If they would not do it, they could not have any.

Now they are planning to come to Metlakahtla and build a house on a lot which they have purchased and they will make Episcopal members of all the Christian Church people. Harold heard it and told his mother to send word at once to Bishop Rowe through Mr. Wellcome that they were troubling the Christian Church contrary to his promise.

It would take a small fortune to keep ahead of the schemers on all sides in trying to counteract their ways to get a hold upon the people. I will not resort to that method, but will pray for a spiritual hunger that will send them to the place where they may get the blessing for their souls. The enemy seems to be bidding for them through material things, but God would have them won by the spiritual.

Reports are still multiplying among them as to the outcome of thy work and the next move of Sanborn. Things will begin to materialize in a few weeks on some line and they will forget their own reports soon. The Salvation Army have the prominence for two days now, having staff captain Carothers from Wrangell here for meetings. Many will turn to them for a space of time, and then come back to the old church.

Document No. 3

Folder no. 265-1

He talks much about the "adherences" and says that it does not take away their membership from the Christian church to belong to the others. We wish that he might have some authoritative (authoritative) information on the subject of adherents to a faith or church. He speaks of me and of all who disagree with him as persons who do not know the status of this church and says that it is different from any other. He referred to the reorganization of this church by the elders after Mr. Duncan's death as though that church ceased to exist then and has been reorganized under himself especially and the elders generally and no one has any authority but himself. If we can hold on until he is convinced or disabled, we may weather the squalls and find clearer sailing. But the people are becoming demoralized under so many conflicting teachings.

Because God is able for this situation, we go on with our work when it looks impossible and as though there was nothing ahead. Faith is one of the great things in this life, truly. Without it it is impossible to please God. May ours be increased and strengthened. And it takes tests to improve our faith. "Have the faith of God", comes often with much force to my mind. That is indeed a great faith. But we are commanded to have it.

M. W. M.

(Pages 6 & 7 are a supplement to typed letter of Mrs. Minthorn's, with penned signature, dated Feb. 3, 1927. Copied by LDP, EV, & GCD.)

Document No. 4.
Folder No. 265-1.

1927
2-16

Metlakatla, Alaska.

Feb. 16, 1927.

H

Mr. H.S. Wellcome,
Arlington Hotel,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

Alaska seems to be hard on typewriters, and none of them remain usable very long that I have been able to secure. But a pen is a good stand by.

In recent conversations with Mr. and Mrs. Hudson I have learned Rod Davis' political or official standing. He was appointed Acting Mayor by the Council after he went to Seattle. The proposal came from the Marsden faction but was voted down or talked down the first time.

At a later time they carried the question to a vote and won. Upon my inquiry as to how the Acting Mayor was elected, I was

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informed that it was by election in the Council after the Councilmen and Mayor are elected in December.

How long is his term of office? Two years, the same as the Mayor whose Vice he is.

Who was elected Acting Mayor at the time of the present Mayor? Silas Booth.

Has he resigned or been dismissed by the Council? No.

Then he is still the legal Acting Mayor? Yes. And he took the oath of office and Rod Davis did not.

Is Rod Davis appointment, then, an illegal sham? We think it is (this from the Mayor, John Hudson) and we wish you would write and so inform Dr. Work, the Secretary of the Interior.

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Why not have the Council, through its Secretary write to him? Because it is the secretary of this Council who does all these things. He thinks he is the whole Council.

Does he know that this was, at least, irregular if not an illegal proceeding? He knows but he does not care when he wants to do it that way.

Company which Shiels represents, to have it again. It was reported that out of the season's wages, \$40,000 were paid to 15 white men employed by the cannery and

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some thing like \$30,000 to the one hundred, more or less, of the natives. That may be only an approximation of numbers, but it shows what is being brought to bear on their minds to influence them to ask that Sanborn be given what he asks.

He was told of the talk of white men in Ketchikan and how one man said that he was approached by Sanborn and offered two-thirds of the cannery's earnings if he would take it and run it, and that Sanborn would divide the remaining third between himself and the natives.

Hudson shook his head and said, No, we have a written contract and it cannot be that way.

He told me that it is said that Skinner & Eddy, the firm which purchased the Sunny Point cannery in Ketchikan, are furnishing the money to Sanborn for all this preliminary

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expense. In Washington some weeks ago, the Sec. of Int. told Sanborn and his men to go and get their business arrangements completed and return by Feb. 28.

They came to Seattle - Sanborn having dismissed Herbert Murchison as a native helper, took Rod Davis. A meeting of the committee to take up the Industries in Metlakahtla, was called in Seattle. Sanborn wired H. Murchison to send a letter giving R. Davis the privilege of voting as his proxy. Herbert complied, but later, before the meeting was held, lawyer Zeigler induced Herbert Murchison to recall the consent of R. Davis being his proxy.

Sanborn had called Holzheimer to the meeting in Seattle, but it could not be held. Holzheimer returned to Ketchikan and Sanborn and Davis went to San Francisco to study the workings of a small pulp mill with a

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view to installing one in Metlakahtla. They were to travel leisurely toward Washington, reaching there by the 28th inst.

Sanborn is preparing to ask of the people larger concessions for the industries, but Mayor Hudson objects and says that the electrical plant had to have more money, and the white man only wants to use all that the town has accrued from cannery royalties.

Feb. 17.

Mr. Hudson was in this evening to talk over matters and says he is worried about two things. One being the report circulated here that Skinner and Eddy are furnishing the money for Sanborn and R. Davis' expenses, and that it is to be paid out of the money belonging to the town. That does not seem right because they have no official connection with the town and their expenses have not been authorized by the Council.

But because the Secretary of the

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Council has a way of arranging matters to suit himself and of coercing the members to give the authority for it, the Mayor, John Hudson fears some trick or scheme will be brought up to accomplish it.

We suggested that he watch closely every move and have the Councilmen who are honest watch also and stand together against any such move. Also to get a copy of all the minutes, keep a record of all facts as things occur and be ready to write a true statement of it at any time to be used as information for the Secretary of the Interior.

The other matter that worried him was the fact that all these things are being done solely to hinder Mr. Wellcome. E. Benson has returned from Seattle and called Hudson and Marsden into his house two evenings ago to tell what he knew of affairs.

The only news told in the presence of Hudson was that Skinner and Eddy had furnished the money for the expenses of Sanborn and Davis and that when Shiels and Sanborn were in con-

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sultation with the Second Assistant of the Sec. of the Int., whose business it is to hear all such discussions, that Shiels said he was ready to do all that Sanborn had promised for the natives and would also give 49% of the profits to them.

Then R. Davis spoke and said (before Shiels) that Mr. Shiels had promised to raise the wages and forgot to do it, and he might forget to do this. Also, that when asked by the town to give a 2 cent royalty on "humpies" instead of 1 cent, he had said that it would leave them without enough money to pay for running the cannery. Davis thought it might bankrupt the Company for them to keep the promise made by Shiels.

While Hudson stepped into another room for his coat when leaving, Benson began talking in a low tone to Marsden, and Hudson suspects some scheme between the two that means some evil work. He also has changed his mind about Sanborn. Matlakahla men who belong to the Salvation Army work at the

Hudson says that Rod Davis drinks too, and he is worried over having such a pair to represent Metlakantla in Washington as he does not trust either of them.

We encouraged him to help to keep the church and Mission true and going on as well as possible, and to remember that all the evil doers had much to worry about but that honest men could trust their cause with God. He fears that Shields might get a seven year lease and hinder the case for a long time, or the Industries be tied up by a contract so that no settlement could be made.

We are glad to see him so deeply interested and taking the right view of the men and matters. And we gave him every possible encouragement and urged him to watch closely and to stand fast. These days are showing up characters like Hudson and Hanbury and Benson and Marsden.

The battle is very real to us up here and the confidence of our hearts is in our Great Captain, the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose I am

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and whom I serve." He is able to give us the victory. May He grant the aid of His wisdom and strength to thee and to thy workers.

Very sincerely thy friend

Matilda W. Minthorn.

Mr. Hudson also said last evening that he had been to call on Mr. Caldwell and had told him of his concern as to the money of the town going to pay the expenses of Sanborn and Davis and Mr. Caldwell told him that it could not be done unless the bill were approved by Hudson and Caldwell and the Bureau officials and the Secretary of the Interior, and that he, Caldwell, would help in seeing that it was done right. I have never seen John Hudson any more troubled than he was last evening and I think it is due to his fears about Benson and Marsden as well as about Sanborn and Davis.

He is also indignant over their treatment of Silas Booth as Acting Mayor.

M. W. M.

Document No. 5.
Folder No. 265-1.

1927
2-18

Metlakahla - Alaska.

Feb. 18, 1927.

Mr. E. L. Shuchow,
808 Colorado Building,
Washington - D. C.

H

Dear Mr. Shuchow:

Just as I was longing
very much to see some Washington
daily papers, Everett Hudson came bringing
an armful from Mr. Stenck.

Accept my thanks for the favor. I am
very grateful for them. I do not see much
from the outside world this winter, and have
not yet renewed my subscriptions to the
usual list of periodicals.

Will you kindly have the papers sent
directly to Metlakahla. I think it will be
safe. And let me trouble you again
with the request to send me a carbon
copy of all the letters I receive from you.

in securing a workable typewriter. I am trying various makes, one suits as well as another, but all get out of commission in a day or so. They are such as are kept for rent only and see hard usage.

Our near zero weather has passed and we are enjoying the copious rains again. One workman is busy yet at the odd jobs about the house. It is very comfortable now as compared with former years, and better looking also.

Mr. Haldane has identified the photographs which I brought for that purpose with the exception of two or three which he took to his store in order to get help from some older native in identifying a very ancient group of policemen.

May you all be assured of the daily help of Our Father in all the work of your hands and in your lives. He who lives well lives long.

Document No. 6
Folder No. 265-1.

H

808 Colorado Bldg.,
Washington, D. C.
March 3, 1927.

Mrs. M. W. Minthorn,
c/o Mrs. Wm. G. Strench,
Ketchikan, Alaska.

Dear Mrs. Minthorn:

I am glad to comply with your
request to send carbon copies of your letters to
Mr. Wellcome which were handwritten, and am en-
closing the same.

They are dated as follows:-

December 26, 1926, January 25, 1927, and February
16, 1927.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

E. L. Sheehan.

3 enc.
LDP

Document No. 6 - 4
Folder No. 265 - 1

1927
3-4

Metlakatla, Alaska.
March 4th, 1927.

Mr. H. S. Wellcome,
Arlington Hotel,
Washington, D. C.

H

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

It is time to inform thee of the trend of affairs here at this time. It is comparatively quiet for some good reasons. One of them is that they are about convinced that Sanborn is not able to perform all that he promised. They had built very strongly on every word that he had said, and as is their nature, they are shy about speaking of their failure to judge the man and their consequent shame in being duped by him. Much that is said against him is said very quietly.

John Hudson has spoken of the character that he now shows, and is not inclined to trust him any, but Marsden and his men in the Council are ready to back Sanborn in any thing. Ralph Smith has repeatedly quoted to me the words of Mr. Ela, the civil engineer, a long time resident of Ketchikan, who told Ralph that they might have been working on the grounds for the electric light plant a month or so ago, but that Sanborn had held it up trying to get that in with his other enterprises, and so there is nothing done about any thing where so much had been promised of work and wages.

Simonds is expected here by the 15th inst. and one of his men was here this week to look after the large boats that are on the ways in winter storage and have to be over hauled and made ready for the season's work. The men who have spoken strongest against Simonds are wanting to get work from him now. They are a people sadly in need of some wise good man to look after their interests, and if such an one can be furnished by the Mission, he will be approved by all good people, whether white or native. They have been exploited and disappointed and taught graft and much of evil in business methods and will doubtless be trying it themselves at every opportunity, so that a leader here must take that into account and enforce not only safe business methods but the golden rule and the rule of righteousness which was so strongly insisted upon by Mr. Duncan.

While things have been happening this winter and the people have come in to tell me things and to discuss them with me, I have sounded them on their knowledge of right and wrong by simply asking them what Mr. Duncan would say of such a thing. Without any hesitation they can tell as strictly as though he had spoken of the affair we were discussing. What an influence he has left with them!

Mr. Hudson says that he is not satisfied to have the Town Council represented by Roderick Davis, who is not a man of good morals. When R. Davis met me in Ketchikan a day or so before Christmas, he was waiting for a boat to take him to Seattle where he had some business to attend to regarding his outfit for a trap of his own, and was full of enthusiasm about his future prospects with his private affairs. To have come under the influence of a man like Sanborn means that he has lost his opportunity and will perhaps miss the best of the season's preparations by his two or more months sojourn with Sanborn.

The Town Council have succeeded in getting money from their fund for the building of a wharf and float, on a small scale, but sufficient to land their freight and to accommodate their boats. They are using a small pile driver that belongs to the town. Simonds sent word to them to wait until he came and he would use his large pile driver for the piling, but they are not very happy over his method of giving to Charles Brendible each year, the contract for all the logging and securing of piles for his traps. They have apportioned out the logging and other work among the men who have had little to do in Metlakahtla for some years. John Hudson makes a very good Mayor, and if there is any thing done that is not right, it should be credited to them that oppose him, for he sometimes is overruled by the majority and Marsden.

There are times when Marsden does something especially and flagrantly wrong, that his past record is brought up and aired and his character denounced. Just now there is an epidemic of divorces and loose morals among the young people of the Presbyterian church, and people say to me that Marsden cannot say anything to them to stop it lest he get a reminder of his own past. These people seem to remember things at a very inconvenient time for him. There is all the more need of preaching very clearly and forcefully in our church the teaching of a clean heart and a good life. It is a time, also, to show the end of life and the following awards after the Judge has examined our records.

The feeling has been quite tense since my return as to what is to become of things when the case is settled. They fully expected me to tell all about it at the Reception. When I rose to speak after being called upon by the one who presided at the feast, the silence was very marked. I have mentioned in a former letter that I spoke of Mr. Duncan's side of the case being presented now for the first time in Washington to the higher officials, and of the fact that Mr. Wellcome was working for all Metlakahtlans and was fighting no one, but was representing Mr. Duncan and whoever was fighting Mr. Wellcome was fighting Mr. Duncan.

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Ralph Smith went to the Simpson store after the speeches were over as I have also mentioned before, and was interviewed by the boys there and asked to tell what Mrs. Minthorn said. He could not hear and of course could not tell. Then the boys said to him, We will tell you what she said, and they told him the substance of my remarks. He

On the 11th of February the Presbyterian church bell rang for some little time. No one came to see what was the matter, so the janitor and bell ringer, Edmond Verney, went down street and met Fred Gilson and asked him if he heard the bell. Fred replied that he had. Edmond Verney asked him if he knew why it was ringing and Fred replied that he did not. Well, said Verney, it was ringing because we won. What did you win, Fred asked. But Verney said that he did not know just what we won but Mr. Wellcome had lost everything even all his own money and was gone back to England. Well, said Fred, if we won any thing we would know what we won. And if you do not know what you won I do not think that you won any thing. This is a sample of the efforts of Verney to bring depression and disappointment to the people who are true to Mr. Duncan.

Last week at the Wednesday evening prayermeeting, Robert Ridley was present and was asked by Moses Hewson to come to the platform and read a telegram which he had received from Fort Simpson. He was very earnest in informing them that it had been received at two o'clock that day. It was an invitation to come over there and assist in the opening of a new Epworth League Hall. The wording of the telegram aroused my suspicions that it had been suggested or dictated from this side for it said that John Davis and the Christian Church elders with Mr. Marsden and the Presbyterian elders, were invited to come.

I had seen Hewson and some of the church elders walking about and noticed that they watched me furtively as though they had something to hide from me. It seems, however, that some one else in Fort Simpson had sent a wire to some one here that there was an epidemic of sickness prevailing there and that all the schools and churches were closed. This set the people here to raising strenuous objections against any one going over. A few of the elders, yielded to the urgent efforts of Moses Hewson to say that they would go, but in each case the home folks held them back and they decided against going. Marsden went to Ketchikan on Friday saying that he was going alone or get some one over there to go. But Saturday was too stormy for any one to venture on the water and he did not go.

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In my own mind I have felt convinced that this was a scheme of Marsden's and Benson's to get some union of the elders of these two ~~66666666~~ churches in some kind of service, since we have vetoed every effort for such a thing in this place. The people of Fort Simpson have always sent for the elders of Mr. Duncan's church when ever they have felt that they wanted any help. They are too well acquainted with the record of Marsden to value his services much.

Just why Moses Hewson took the attitude that he did is not yet clear to me but it will come to light sooner or later. He seems to be failing steadily in health, but has times of reviving. He has kept taking every thing of the activities of the church services into his own hands until now he does not even allow any one else to select the hymns, no matter who preaches. Always before this each man made his

well, and we have nearly one hundred in the winter when they are all in their homes but less when they are out logging and fishing. Several families went after logs, all camping out together and seeming to consider it a great treat even in February.

Over two years ago a man from B. C., Joseph Auriol, came to live with his brother Sam Auriol. The Immigration Officer asked me at the time what kind of men Marsden and S. Auriol were and if they were to be trusted. I did not then know Auriol, but was sure of my own views as to trusting Marsden. He said that they had promised him to see that this blind man was supported, and he had allowed him to come under that condition. If at any time they failed to look after him, he would have to be returned to the British authorities.

Less than a year after he came his friends began to come to me to secure aid for him from the Estate. I always felt that it was one of Marsden's efforts to get hold of some of the money of the will for a Presbyterian church member, for they had written Joseph Auriol's name on their membership list and he attended that church. It was the Bensons who began to urge me to help the man.

Then they began to neglect the man until he turned to the members of the Christian church for help. They helped him and he attended the Christian church quite regularly, but said that he did not dare to join it lest he lose his home. I still insisted that he look to those men who had promised to care for him, and the people were beginning to take up the matter and to talk much about it.

During my absence he became quite a charge to some of his distant relatives, Haldanes, and also enlisted the sympathies of the Hudsons and these all came to me after my return and urged me to give him help. I still left it to the men who had promised to do it. At last the man himself grew desperate after he had failed to persuade me by two personal visits and many deputized friends to get me to put him on the benevolent list.

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Last week he sent for Benjamin Haldane and made a statement before him that was to be delivered to me concerning his right to live in Metlakatla. He was brought here by his father as a boy and his father had married a sister of B. A. Haldane's father for his second wife, hence his claim on Haldane. His father had been for some time the chairman of the Town Council, the same office as the / mayor of today. This man had married and lived here until his wife died and she was buried here.

After the death of his wife he had become a roving, dissolute character and a bad man. He finally landed in old Metlakatla where blindness over took him and he was sent to the government hospital, where he remained until he decided to come here and end his days. The officials at the government hospital had sent a note to the Chief of Immigration concerning him, and for that reason the officer has kept an eye on the case.

Then he decided that he could not get any share in the help from the estate while he was a member of the Presbyterian church, so he asked Benjamin Haldane to go out and bring him the book of the membership of the Christian Church and let him write his name as a member. Haldane went and with the book came Moses Hewson and Philip Nelson, two elders, as witnesses. The man wrote his name and then they prayed.

In his prayer, with many tears he confessed his life of sin and asked the forgiveness of the Lord and the church. Then he promised allegiance to the Christian church, and with great feeling cried out, I will belong to this church no matter what they do to me. Even if they turn me out of my house, for I want to be one of Mr. Duncan's people. Mr. Haldane remarked that it was a very affecting scene and they all wept with him.

I told Mr. Haldane that I could now give him help from the Benevolent Fund if he were a member of the Christian Church, and that I would explain to the Immigration Officer and see what he said. I would not yet put his name on the list with the others who receive help but would give it in my own name until this was settled. And I informed him that we must obey the law even when we wanted to do differently, for the law was our protection. I did not say to him, however, as I now say to thee, that it was another test as to whether the natives should compel me to do as they desired, or whether I would do as I thought right, but that was one of the things to be considered. There would be no limit to their orders if I did all that they urged me to do.

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The work on this house is about finished and Ralph Smith is doing fine work in reducing the ground about the house to a good condition for planting grass, flowers and vegetables. He has Fred Gibson for his helper and they work so steadily compared with some of these younger men who seem to be spoiled for good honest labor and intelligent work. The church is being made secure from intruders and repaired so that it will not leak in any place. Things were quite in need of care this winter although the people had done very well with both the building and the services. Some who could do excellent work are kept from it by the jealousy of others. But it does no good to be jealous of nor to find fault with the Missionary Pastor since it makes no difference to the work done. It goes on just as though they all liked it.

Captain Watters of Wrangell paid us a visit on Tuesday of this week and took every basket we had and left an order for more. There were many that seemed not even good enough to give away but he took them and gave wholesale prices for them all. This was a great help to us all and now we can begin with an entirely new stock. He will visit us again in June and gather what have come in.

Mr. Haldane is still faithful and is prospering in his store more than he ever has done. It was most timely help that he received a few years ago. All that can afford it among the natives are repairing and renewing their homes and nining the water into their

closed, but it seems not. The Boy Scouts have appropriated it for their place of rendezvous, and have torn out the fireplace, Laura Hudson told me, when I asked her what was going on there on account of the noise of pounding that I heard.

I spoke to John Hudson about it and he said that he would speak to Mr. Caldwell about it. Tonight, however, the boys were still going there for their meetings. The Bureau of Education has in some way failed to get the status of things clear before the mind of their employees, at least so far. If they wished to do so I am morally certain that they could accomplish it. Judging by myself for I know that I could.

It is like the expressed caution not to call in any outside minister. The elders do not wish to heed the caution and have to be reminded of it regularly every few months. I have heard that a new minister is coming to preach here, one that admires Mr. Duncan very much, a Lutheran man from Ketchikan, who wishes to preach here. I asked Laura where he would preach and she hesitated and then said In the Presbyterian church, I guess.

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Tuesday, Mar. 8th, 1927.

No opportunity has as yet offered to send this to the Post Office in Ketchikan, but the Welcome will go over tomorrow if the weather permit. If the weather is fine I will go, but if not will send by John Hudson.

Ralph Smith returned from spending the week end in Ketchikan and came in to tell me that Herbert Murchison had come over on the same boat tonight to give some information to the Council. Alex Guthrie and Herbert had been telling Ralph about what is on Herbert's mind. Some of it was what we have heard before about Sanborn leaving Herbert to obtain the money for his own expenses as best he could.

Some of it was that after the first meetings with the Council here, Sanborn said that the Metlakahtla natives were

Ralph said to Herbert, The first thing to do is to find the Mayor, Jonah Hudson, and tell him about it and have him call a meeting and let the rest of the Councilmen hear it, then they will know what to do to save themselves. Ralph says that it is reported that Sanborn is on his way home and there is no time to lose to get things ready to meet his further advances and work to deceive the people.

When they have reported this meeting I will write again. We are trusting that the God of Battles leads on to victory in this case and will give the needed strength and wisdom. He (Page 8) loves to help His people win the victory over evil and to honor them that honor Him. God has heard many prayers for this work and is still on the throne to hear and grant all the rest.

Word from some of the good friends who are praying for us comes in today's mail, and it is surely very good to read. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." And surely the Lord built William Duncan's house in this work.

Prayerfully and sincerely,

Thy friend,

(Signed) Mrs. Matilda W. Minthorn.
Mrs. Matilda W. Minthorn.

Document No. 6-9

Folder No. 265-1

Metlakahtla, Alaska.

March 9, 1927.

1927
3-9

Mr. H. S. Wellcome,
Arlington Hotel,
Washington, D. C.

H

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

The beginning of the crisis seems to have come. Sanborn and Davis arrived last evening. Here are the rumors of the manner of their arrival.

Hearing that a faction in Ketchikan, including lawyer Zeigler and H. Murchison and others were lying in wait for them in Ketchikan to intercept them before they could go to Metlakahtla and influence the natives there, Sanborn and Davis came north on a boat belonging to Skinner and Eddy, a cannery tender, and Davis landed on the east side of Annette Island, at Tongass Harbor, and walked over to Metlakahtla, arriving in the evening.

Sanborn came in the boat but did not go first to Ketchikan. Moses Hewson says that it looks like a secret meeting that did not mean fair dealing with the Metlakahtlans. The Council meeting was to be held last evening and these men were present at it. Another session was held today to hear Sanborn tell about the outlook for the Corporation of Sanborn & Metlakahtlans.

I gathered several things from Moses Hewson who called to tell me what he had heard, and from Mrs. Hudson who came here to wait for the boat going over as she had a serious trouble with her teeth and needed to get to the dentist. Also from John Hudson who came from the Council Meeting to take his wife to the boat.

One reason for haste on the part of Sanborn and Davis was the fact that H. Murchison has turned against Sanborn and is telling things detrimental to him and was coming with others to Metlakahtla in order to tell them before the Council and Sanborn. In forestalling that, Sanborn told things against Murchison, and

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this together with the fact that Murchison sent an unauthorized telegram to the Sec. of the Interior, purporting to be from the Council here, caused them last night to vote Murchison out of the Council as a member. Rod Davis sent a letter with a copy of the telegram to the Council which reached Metlakahtla on the same boat as the men arrived on last night. A seeming coincidence and a suspicious one to an outside observer.

A member of Sanborn's party. Mr. Roberts. told the

Sanborn spoke of Mr. Wellcome being a friend to the Metlakahtlans and of the good work he was doing for them, and that when the people in Washington wanted to discuss Mr. Wellcome with him, he refused, saying that John Hudson had told him not to talk about the man because he was a friend to Bishop Rowe and there must be nothing done to trouble him. He said further that the Sec. of the Interior said that he could not sign the lease until after the hearing of Feb. 24th, had been considered for the ground of the Mission might be given to Mr. Wellcome in the settling of the case. Then the cannery building would belong to the people for their money built it, but the ground would belong to the Mission. So he would sign no lease until that was settled, but would promise it to him.

All these things are in the power of the Assistant Sec. of the Interior to discuss and settle with the approval of the Secretary later. The building of the electric light plant is given to Sanborn because he will use the people to build it, while the other parties will not use the natives and are not to get the contract.

A large pulp mill is to be built that will give work to the people the year round. It is to be financed by Skinner & Eddy. Caldwell had applied to the Interior Department for an appropriation of \$10,000 with which to clear Hemlock Island for gardens for the

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people, and Sanborn reported that it had been granted by the Secretary. They continually tell what the Secretary did and said when they mean the Assistant Secretary, and it is confusing to many.

Murchison was to tell what Sanborn said about the Metlakahtlans after his first meetings with them last fall. He said that they were like deer or like the hair seal, and could be easily managed and he would get his money out of them and let them take what was left.

B. A. Haldane called this evening on some errand and was so puffed up that it was difficult to approach him on any ordinary subject. When I spoke of giving him one of the church keys on account of opening the church for choir practice, for we had a new lock put in the church door today, he said that he would keep it until he went away to Seattle or Washington or some city like that, and then he would give it back to me.

I forbore to ask the reason for such flights of imagination, but he was ready to tell how it might be. He is now an important man in the community. There are three trustees in the new corporation for the industries: Haldane, Everett Hudson, and Rod Davis. The Sec. of the Interior has been waiting for some great man to come and take the works for the Metlakahtlans and is glad to have found such a one.

would be right to grant it to him. He knew that some of the Council, the Verneys and others would vote and fight for it, but it might not be the right thing to do before the case was settled.

I rather discouraged the idea of the Council giving away the property that is not theirs to give on account of its giving them serious trouble a little later on for there is a law that protects a man's property the same as his life and the Government and Council will soon have to come to judgment before the law for the deeds of

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a few years past and it might be hard on them to add any more to their record in that line. Maldane thought it might not be best at present. It was extremely evident that Sanborn had given every man some bait that was in the meeting and had them all on his line.

They are expecting to have work and money and good times without any hindrances as long as Sanborn is at the helm. He promises to leave to them the house that he will build when he leaves it at the end of his seven year's term in the cannery. The effrontery of such a proposition is out of all proportion to the character of the work he is doing. I have an intuition that it means, on his part, and is seconded by his superior officer in the church; to prepare to occupy the church soon.

Moses Hewson was today recounting his first meeting with Sanborn in Ketchikan at the time when Bishop Rowe was there. When Sanborn made his proposition to make vestrymen of all the elders and to put a man there to preach and to visit them once a month, Hewson objected and went to ask the Bishop if he agreed to it as Sanborn said that he did. The Bishop said to Hewson that he did agree and thought that if the elders wanted it he would let Sanborn go on with it. But since the elders did not want it, he would tell Sanborn that he must not do it. Hewson thinks that he himself lost some of his confidence in the Bishop at that time.

People in Ketchikan tell me that when I meet Sanborn I will not wonder at his power over people for he has a very pleasing address. He seems to be able to come here and to praise and recommend himself and to win all of them to do any thing that he desires of them. I think even John Hudson is much impressed with what he says and is ready to subscribe to all that the people want to do.

All the callers today agree in saying that Marsden and his men are feeling very uneasy over the news that the case is likely to be settled in favor of the Mission, or as they say, it will all be given to Mr. Wellcome. So our days of quiet are at an end for a time. I had not felt at liberty to leave here for the visit to Newport and to Portland although my

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Sanborn told the Council that the crisis of Mr. Wellcome's work came on the 24th of February when the final hearing was to be held. He was invited to stay to the hearing but did not want to be present to make any trouble for Mr. Wellcome, so he left Washington on the 23rd. John Hudson said when I asked about what the Council voted on today, That there was no voting but they listened to Sanborn tell about things at Washington. He also said that the lease had not yet been given him by the Secretary but it was promised to him on the 23rd. It could not be signed until after the hearing.

Whether any thing can be brought to bear upon these native minds to counteract what Sanborn has said and done, is a question. He comes to them from Washington with statements that are facts so far as the natives know, and we who are here do not know how to contradict them nor how to clear their minds of them, so they are going under the influence of Sanborn until something develops to change it.

I suppose that the next thing will be a feast and Rod Davis will tell things about his trip that they all want to know. They all know that it is important to get the Hudsons interested and to have Everett on the Board of Trustees of the Industries for the Town has made him secure. He has a consuming ambition to go to Washington and this promises a way. John Hudson is so constantly badgered by the men of the town in his official capacity that he is tempted, perhaps, to get some peace and to please the people in some way and this does not look to him like any thing but good for the people. If any thing does not suit them they blame him as mayor for not making it the way they want it.

When I asked him to speak to Mr. Caldwell and ask him if he knew about the telegram not to keep the Girls Home open or to use it, I did not think to caution him not to use my name, and he must have done it, for Jack Hudson, one of the boy scouts, told his folks that Mr. Caldwell had said to them that Mrs. Minthorn did not want them to use the building but that he guessed they could use it all they wanted to.

I have to fall back upon the prayer of the old monk, "O Lord God, this affair goes badly. I leave it to thee." And so I rest in His

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willingness and ability to carry out His own great plan in it through us who are ready to work with Him to the end. It is His affair and He is committed by His own Word to answer the prayers of William Duncan and others who have brought it to Him in other days. "We are workers together with God", in this matter as in other matters pertaining to His kingdom in the hearts of men, and He has the great responsibility of the outcome, while we have the responsibility of obedience to His plain di-

Very sincerely and with prayerful faith,

Thy friend,

(Signed) Matilda W. Minthorn.

Matilda W. Minthorn.