

3-11-1927

Minthorn Letters

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Document No. 7.
Folder No. 265-1.

1927
3-11
H

Metlakatla, Alaska.
March 11, 1927.

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

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

This town is truly stirred and passing through a time of suspense and wonder. It is not good for them to see such schemes and underhanded work being done by a man who is supposed to be a spiritual leader and whose name should be above reproach.

They come to me today with such reports as the following given out by members of the Council. I do not know the names of any of them, except that Moses Hewson obtained some of his information from Charles Brendible.

Sanborn went to the new Bank in Ketchikan of which Mr. Rasmussen is the president. He borrowed \$6,000 on a short time promissory note, with which to pay the expenses of himself and Murchison to the east. The lawyer, Zeigler, was dismissed by him and another retained in his stead. Rasmussen and Zeigler lost confidence in Sanborn. Zeigler is the lawyer of the bank. When they learned that Sanborn was expected here soon Zeigler was ready to arrest him on account of the note due and unpaid. Some friend or accomplice in Ketchikan wired the facts to Sanborn and warned him.

Sanborn caught a Sunny Point cannery tender at Seattle and boarded it with Rod Davis. He sent his secretary, Philip Elliot, up on the regular passenger boat. A boat containing Harvey Stackpole and some one who is in league with them, met Sanborn and Davis at Mary's Island. On board the boat out on the water, they had a meeting to arrange for some outlet for their safety. Part of them remained on board and one of them, R. Davis, walked over from Tamgass Harbor, and sent a native back to them to pilot the boat around by Point Davidson, the southern end of this island.

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Simon Reeve was said to be the man selected by Rod Davis to go to pilot the boat into Chester Bay, where they arrived after dark. A secret meeting was held in the Government cottage in which a paper for the Council to subscribe to was fixed up. It accused Herbert Murchison of having sent the unauthorized telegram to Secretary Work together with a letter and this was made to appear as though Herbert Murchison was pretending to report for and with

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It was after this letter of Murchison's reached Sec. Work that Sanborn was told to wait until he had the money ready and the vote of the people as to their desire for him to have the cannery and industries, that he left Washington. He succeeded, with the help of those in the secret meeting, including Marsden, in securing their assertions of confidence and a paper signed (so some say) avowing their desire for Sanborn to have the cannery and industries.

This was exceedingly necessary as the Skinner and Eddy firm refused to advance any money to him until he had the expressed desire of the people and the signed lease for the cannery. He seems to think that this paper from the Council will secure both of these for him. It looks like securing money under false pretense. He tells the people that he has secured the promise of the lease from the secretary. He tells Skinner and Eddy that he has the promise of the lease and the confidence of the people. He tells the people that he has practically the assurance of the money (reports today say that it will be \$7,000,000). By these representations to the Council he secured the paper that he desired. "Be sure your sin will find you out," is the text from which I have been preaching a few sermonettes today. All will come to light in due time.

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March, 17th, 1927.

It has not been possible to mail this letter yet, but will have an opportunity tomorrow, and have been waiting until after the mass meeting which was held yesterday afternoon, so that I might get some thing authentic to put down.

John Hudson was in this morning and tells me that in the mass meeting they listened to Rod Davis tell of the Washington business while he was there.

He was allowed to talk ten minutes to President Coolidge, and in that time told him of the condition of the natives relative to the fisheries. It was about how the traps are taking away the natives' opportunity for earning a livelihood, by multiplying in number recently until there is no room for the seiners and other fishermen to use their boats in catching fish where fish are to be caught. Also that in Metlakatla particularly, as well as elsewhere, the great need of the people was all the year round industries.

The President expressed his satisfaction in hearing from the people directly through one of them and said that he would give the matter due consideration.

He had an even shorter interview with Secretary Work and was told that the whole Metlakatla matter was being given consideration just now and that no paper or lease would be signed until after the matter was adjusted.

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When B.A. Haldane came in one evening, about two days ago, to tell me that he was going away Sunday and would have to have things arranged about the choir and his store so that they would go on well until his return, he found that I was not in sympathy with the affair. This made it difficult for him to ask me for the financial help that he possibly hoped to secure from me.

He and John Hudson both have complained that they have no man to advise them as to the business with Sanborn and feel it

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very deeply. Mr. Strong so heartily disapproves of Sanborn that they do not know how to talk with him about it for he has no advice to give about going on in the matter. And since I am a woman, it does not satisfy them that I should give them any advice about business affairs, and I have shown them, also, how Sanborn will lead them into a place where they will lose the people's money. And that is not what they really want to hear.

Haldane said to me, I thought as you do until I heard Sanborn talk, and now I see it differently. But there is some evidence that they think of what is said and it deters them from giving their minds wholly to what he promises. I asked John Hudson to tell these three men to remember that they represent about 600 natives here and that there are only three of them, while there six others in the company each of whom represents his own pocket only.

I have said to them that the manner of the conducting of his enterprise is against him in my mind, and asked them if they could think it possible that Mr. Duncan or Mr. Bardley or Mr. Strong or Dr. Myers or Mr. Wellcome, would be found coming here in the night holding secret meetings with some of the natives if they had any business to transact, or if they would have any confidence in them if they came in such a manner? They said they would not.

John Hudson says that in his talk Sanborn uses words that confuse the minds of the natives for they have no idea of the meaning of them. This leaves them without the knowledge that they would like to have of what he really has said. After the first time that he heard Sanborn speak, Haldane came and asked me the meaning of "intrigue" and "exploit". He says that they do not know what he is talking about.

Last week, while in Ketchikan, Mrs. Pruell told me that Sanborn was in their store and said that he had things all fixed and had the papers in his pocket that settled everything. Later, Mr. Bryant told me that Sanborn had been into Heckman's store and told them that he had the papers and everything was settled and he would have the lease. He may have meant that the paper he extorted from the Council saying that Herbert Murchison was deposed from office for sending the letter and telegram that he did, and he may have meant that it would settle something, but he left the impression with them that he had the lease signed in his pocket. They each remarked at first that Sanborn had secured the lease, and I thought

I have told John Hudson to consider the fact that he is anxious to control the industries before the settlement of the case so that he can the more easily take the church at the time of the announcement of the settlement of the case. He would have everything but the church secured before and then take that as soon as the word came that it was settled. I keep things before his mind so that he may think out the affair and not be led astray from the best interests of the people.

He is trying as hard as a man can to do the right thing for the people and to be true to the church and the case at the same time. It is wearing on his nerves and strength, and he is not well. But we have a God who looks after His own and keeps them able to do His work and to do His will. He will hear the very earnest petitions that go daily to the throne. Only a few evenings ago as John Hudson came with a new phase of the trouble and the burden of it, he said this is something to pray about more earnestly than before. And I know that many fervent prayers accompanied with tears go up from those two hearts.

B.A. Haldane is also anxious to do both those two things, to be true to the case and to Mr. Wellcome, and to be true to the people. He said that the people are crying for the work of the industries to be started and the opposition tells them that Mr. Wellcome will take them all away and will tear down the school building if he wins the case. But I assured him that every thing was being done for the good of the natives and for their betterment and would continue to be with much more success when the case was settled. He wished that the people knew it, for they were being led to lose confidence in the winning of the case, and were turning to Sanborn because they thought there was no other help.

Sometimes my indignation is difficult to restrain, but it has to be while we patiently repeat and repeat the encouragement that is to be trusted. The wild reports of the opposition and Sanborn, for he is in with the opposition, stirs up the people and then the demand that the Council do something immediately. At the secret meeting in the Teachers' cottage before Sanborn and the others had talked with the people, Martha Hewson, who works there, told Moses that they were all too much troubled to sit down but stood and walked about. And Marsden was in the midst talking as much as any one.

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The meeting of the Industrial Company which they failed to secure Davis for as proxy to Herbert Murchison, is to be held next week in Seattle and at another night's session here last week Sanborn called Everett Hudson over to Ketchikan to arrange for it. I rather think that the boat came in the night that brought the word, and there was no special session. The Sunny Point cannery tender seems to be at the disposal of Sanborn as it has made all the trips for his business so far. It is the Phoenix II.

Haldane said that they might go on to Washington to secure the lease. And I remarked that it would be very unkind to have

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He seemed troubled and said they ought to have told us this and we would have waited and not have taken this other man. And I reminded him that it would be wiser to trust the man who had been their friend for so many years than to take the word of an untried stranger. Then I pointed out to him the things that gave suspicion to the character of the stranger and declared my utter lack of trust in his word or works. Benjamin left soon after and I have not seen him since. Everett will not talk with me, seemingly having no opportunity, but really feeling that I have no sympathy with this trip to Seattle. I heard that Mr. Strong had warned him in a talk he had with him about trusting Sanborn.

Instead of bemoaning, What an awful enemy we have, it seems more to the point to be saying, What a mighty Lord we serve and trust. On that line we are working. May the same mighty Helper guide and use thee.

Very sincerely thy friend,

Matilda W. Minthorn.

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1927

3-19

Metlakahtla, Alaska.
March 19, 1927.

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

H

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

Mr. Haldane has just left the house and in another hour will be on his way, with others, to Ketchikan ready to take the boat to Seattle as a representative of the Council.

Unsolicited information from him informs me that yesterday they had a great row in Ketchikan, between the natives led by Herbert Murchison and Sanborn.

Then Sanborn came over to Metlakahtla in the evening, and they had a Council meeting. Sanborn told of Herbert's sending an eight page letter to Secretary Work. The Council was influenced to send Herbert a note enjoining him against saying anything pertaining to the Council to any other persons or in any other place than to them personally here in this place.

I can see the effect of the personality of Sanborn upon the people here each time after a visit of Sanborn. Haldane seems to think this morning that Sanborn has already done very great things and said that Sanborn reminded them last night that he had spent much time and money already trying to help them because he thinks so much of them.

I reminded him that he had not yet spent ten years nor used his own money in it, and that he loved the Metlakahtlans some, but he loved Sanborn a great deal more and was anxious to take 51% and give 600 of them 49%. Further, it was to be remembered that this is a test of the business ability of these representatives of Metlakahtla. Men may read dozens of books and have advice concerning business, but the test comes when they try to do the business. They will make their reputation good or bad by the way they handle this case.

He said that the Council instructed them to say to Mr. Skinner that they can do nothing except what the Secretary of the Interior approves. He is their lawyer. They must abide by his approval, and they will wait to know what that is.

There must be a good deal expected of the impress-

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ion that will be made upon these natives by the presence of a great business man and the way he can talk the natives into

April 1, 1927.

Upon receiving thy very much appreciated letter, Mr. Hudson and I made out all the answers by way of information that we could at the time, and he has been much occupied since then with municipal affairs. He certainly is making a good official for this town and the people in trouble come to him as to a father for help and to have something done about things. He does his best in it all.

Last evening he and Mrs. Hudson were in and he was on his way to an executive meeting of the Council with Mr. Caldwell to try and arrange for some relief for a class of natives who get no work at the cannery and but little during the year in fishing because of the numerous traps at all the advantageous places for the natives to fish. There are perhaps six traps at present where there was one before.

The Council voted for a new float which was a very great necessity. The building of it was let out mostly to these natives who get little help from any thing else, and they have tried to get an advance of the money that will necessarily be slow in reaching them by way of the five officials whose signatures are necessary to secure before the cash will be forthcoming. Simonds has refused it although always ready in other years. The Commercial store has refused them credit although they have done better in other years. Simonds and Brendible are under the influence of the stories and reports furnished for a year past by Moses Hewson as to the attitude of the people toward these men. He has written regularly to Simonds and reported daily to Brendible and they have given him gifts amounting to bait at least, if not a thing sometimes called by another term.

These workmen are really suffering from weakness from lack of food and their families also. It is a time when some one can get at their hearts and win their loyalty by helping them. Personally I would be glad to do it. Mr. Strong is in Seattle and I do not know how he will feel about it. As a loan it would be a failure with most of them for they never would be able to repay it without bringing on the same conditions soon again. And yet they have tried, some of

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them and have been unable because of the storms, to secure food as usual in fishing and hunting. Sanborn will be here in another day and will take advantage of the state of things by making them think through his talk, that when he has charge of affairs that no such thing can happen and will get them to commit themselves to his cause.

They do not think that the trustees can help them because they have not in the past, and get discouraged about the winning of the case because they do not hear what is going on.

Edward Benson is busy getting a scheme through to get the Episcopal church in here. He approached Marsden with an offer of Sanborn to use the Presbyterian church until an organization was made and then they would buy their building. Marsden agrees to things like that easily now. But Marsden's elders went after him roughly and he had to take back his promise to Benson. It is the Verneys, Edmond and Fred, and some of their friends that oppose Marsden in such things. Marsden is getting in bad with his elders and church frequently of late. Perhaps there is method in it and he is preparing to make it an excuse to leave them and go over to the Episcopal and get an easier berth.

Benson said then that there would have to be a house built for an Episcopal church, but these councilmen and the mayor, too, say that there are enough divisions now and they will not consent to have another church come in. The whole community would be glad, with a few exceptions perhaps, to come back to the Christian church as soon as the case is settled.

As usual when Benson's schemes become known, Moses Hewson is ready to take them in hand and improve upon them. He is working to get complete control of the church in every office and arrangement. Through the Church Workers (Army) organization he is holding it as an Episcopal asset. He declared that as soon as the case was settled he intended to kick, and from what he said before and after, he meant to oppose the Christian Church and the Trustees. This was at the first meeting of the elders after the election, in January. Since then he has not permitted the elders to be called together to a meeting, but does all their work

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personally. It appears to me that he is planning to control things at the time of the settlement of the case and be the one to turn it over to the bishop instead of Benson. The native love for the pre-eminence would lead him to do this. The way that he has told to Brendible every thing that has been done in the Christian church this year, and would tell all that he could learn from Washington, shows the character that he has become.

In prayermeeting last week he told the people that he had heard through me that the case was being settled now and that it would be over in a few weeks. Of course I did not know at the time that he was saying this although I sat before him as he spoke.

Immediately after Easter I am hoping to go south and have my face treated again. Even then I shall feel that an advantage will be taken of my absence to perpetrate some thing that will trouble the people. With Hewson and Benson and Sanborn all busy it could hardly be otherwise. I would not be surprised if the two men, Haldane and Everett Hudson had been much more under the influence of Sanborn and the church during their visit to Seattle than occupied with any business meeting with Mr. Skinner

Thy work and thy own personal condition are the subject of many prayers weekly by the mothers as they meet with me on Monday afternoon. Dr. Minthorn used to say that he would rather have them pray for him than some preachers that he knew.

May the Lord's answers be peace and prosperity to thee and to thy labors. Others may fail us in this cause, but He will never fail us.

Sincerely thy friend,

(Signed) Mrs. Matilda W. Minthorn.

Mrs. Matilda W. Minthorn.

MATILDA ATKINSON MINTHORN
METLAKATLA, ALASKA.

Document No. 8.
Folder No. 265-1.

March 25, 1927.

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

Dear Mr. Sheehan:

The letters with their enclosures were received by me this morning, Mr. Strench having been able to send them over by a cannery boat this week.

Thank thee for the type written copies and for the kind wishes sent for my health. Just now I am obliged to remain here to see the repairs on the church and the Hanbury house finished. The uncertainty of the weather and the frequent calls to these natives for other affairs, makes it slow work getting the last bits finished.

It seems necessary too, to wait until after Easter before leaving for Portland, as they would feel that it was necessary to call in some one from outside for that occasion. As soon as possible after that date, however, I expect to go south.

Kindly remember me to the workers in the office and say to them that the habit of going there for so many weeks, still claims my mind if I do not follow it up.

I shall make an endeavor, myself, to repair my old Pemington, it was doing fairly good work when I left it. This is an L.C. Smith, one furnished by the estate, or by Mrs. Pruett, maybe. She has been using it until it was sent to me here.

Spring is showing through the rain and weather and will be here after the first Chinook wind blows. It is a marvel to me how quickly the wintry feeling leaves when that wind comes. We watch for it and love to have it come.

Very sincerely thy friend,

Mrs. M. W. Minthorn

Mrs. M. W. Minthorn.

1927
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Document No. 9
Folder No. 265-1.

H

Metlakahtla, Alaska.
April, 4, 1927.

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

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

Having had an interview with John Hudson within a day or so, I will write while it is clear in my mind.

The money to finance the natives until they can get their pay through the Town Council, has been offered by Sanborn and has been accepted by the Council. He says that Skinner and Eddy put \$9,000 in his care to be used to organize the industries.

It is well known that the fishing sites around Annette Islands are the finest in southeastern Alaska. It is well worth their while to secure them by any means.

The visit of Sanborn and the natives, Roderick Davis, Benjamin Haldane and Everett Hudson was occupied entirely, they say, with the perfecting of the Company. As they now have it arranged, there are two parties to the contract. On the one side is the Town Council of Metlakahtla represented by these three natives called a Board of trustees for the industries, with Sanborn as a representative of Metlakahtla at large. On the other side is the Skinner and Eddy Company.

The Council and town furnish the cannery and the sites for the industries and the fish. The Skinner and Eddy Company furnish the money for financing the cannery and industries.

and
What the Town/Council will see in it, I do not know, but I told Mr. Hudson that it was not good for Sanborn to represent the town for he had too much personal interest in the business and had not the claim on them that another native would have. Hudson said that he did not like it.

Marsden is getting cross with the Government on account of the money being tied up so closely. He told the Agent at the Executive Council meeting Saturday night before Hudson and Brendible, that it was not like this when Mr. Duncan was living.

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Then every man received his pay every Saturday night and there was work for men when they needed it and they kept the Town looking better and the people were satisfied, and that it ought to be so now for they had the money with which to keep things up as they did then.

He goes about town looking plum and with his

and he offers it to them in the industries, will demand that they (the) Council vote Hudson out, which they can do by a two-thirds vote of the Council. He is in a close place and is doing the best he can for all concerned. But God can help a man to do better than his best, since man, unaided by God is considerable of a failure, but with God is a man of might in wisdom and influence and power, in the direction in which God wants him to work.

"These are the days that try men's souls" and especially here in this place just now. Moses Hewson is working the plan of reporting any thing that he hears against Simonds to Brendible, no matter against whom it works. For this he gets some favors still from the Simonds, and takes all that any one else gives him with the air of one who is simply receiving his due, which thee will recognize as an indian trait.

Hudson went to Simonds and asked him to finance the men who are working on the float and the sidewalks until the money could come in from the Government to the Council. Simonds agreed to do it, but next day called Hudson and retracted the promise. Some one told Hudson that Brendible talked "hard" to Simonds that night and he changed his mind. Hewson had heard some more gossip and had reported about the cannery work which has made the natives quite agitated this year.

They got the idea from something that was done last fall, perhaps through the kind things done for so many of them when the Simonds were leaving and gave many things to various people, that they would be given work this summer and have applied for it this spring and have been turned down as usual, Brendible carrying things with a high hand

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and refusing to have many of the Christian Church people and giving it to the Presbyterian folks. The censure is quite strong upon Simonds for retaining Brendible and allowing him to have all the advantages as usual. This throws all their hopes upon Sanborn, since he promises immediate help for them, and they think the trustees of the Duncan Estate have to wait for the case to be settled.

This is the situation at present, and "the plot thickens" continually. It has been very satisfactory for the estate to have been giving work to so many this winter in the repairs of the church and of this house and the grounds around it. For three months there have been from three to five men constantly receiving weekly wages. Others have desired to have it too, but we have done as much distributing of the work among several as we could.

April 9th. At the time of their last meeting in Seattle, it was arranged that Sanborn should represent the Town of Metlakahla in the contract for making the electric light plant. Mr. Hudson told me last evening that it troubled him to have it so. He does not think that Sanborn should represent Metlakahla on any thing. This delays the building of the plant for another year as

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Interior will send a man to represent the Government. Such is the report that is brought home by these natives from Seattle last week. Rod Davis has gone to Juneau but for what purpose does not appear as yet.

Hudson said last night that he would soon have more data with which to answer the questions in thy last letter. Edward Benson was reported to me last fall as being out of harmony with Sanborn, but when Ralph Smith returned from Ketchikan this week he said that he met Benson coming out of Sanborn's house and was asked what he had heard and if there were any news. Ralph said to him that he did not know of any news and added, "Why should I tell it to you? You never tell me anything."

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He tells of things being rather turbulent in Ketchikan. H.J. Murchison and Zeigler are making it interesting for Sanborn. It is reported that Sanborn ordered two suits of clothes at a tailors, one for himself and one for Murchison, before they left the first time for Washington and that the tailor is ready to sue them now for the pay. Murchison is holding meetings in houses among the natives and telling many things concerning the character of Sanborn. R. Davis has also told the natives of Ketchikan some things detrimental to the character of Sanborn concerning his manner of spending his time in Chicago on their way east from San Francisco. They are saying that they want the character of Sanborn investigated.

There is an opportunity to go over to Ketchikan this morning, and I will remain until tomorrow afternoon. Mr. Strong returns today from his visit to Seattle and I can have a conference with him. I will mail these over there today or tomorrow.

Mr. and Mrs. Simonds called on us last evening and spent some little time. It is the first time that he had ever been in the house when I have been here, although they told me that he came last year while I was away and the Hudsons were here. He asked me who was paying for the repairs on the house. I suppose that Brendible and Marsden wanted to know and he was getting the information for them. I told him that as I had to have a place to live while here and this being the only available location at present, the trustees were repairing it in accordance with an agreement made by Dr. Minthorn when we entered the house, that we would leave it in good repair.

He remarked that Hanbury would make a good thing out of it. I said that we had used it for six years and would for a few more, probably, and that it was not too much to do for the use of the house. He expressed the hope that seeing this might make the natives feel like repairing their own, and I assured him that it had already had a noticeable effect upon many homes.

May the Lord help thee and thy assistants and give wisdom and grace and strength and spiritual power, unto the
ultimate wisdom

will not suddenly surrender it all to His enemy. He will bring victory to His people for His own name's sake. Much more is involved in this case than appears upon a cursory glance at its situation.

Many are perplexed yet to know what it is all about. But it is one of the things that are being wrought out by the Lord in the age-old conflict of the Kingdom of God and the powers of darkness. We have a place and a work in it appointed of God and will find it hard to get away from it until we have done all the part of it that is assigned to us. And I feel sure that we shall be able as long as God wants us to work, to do our part. It will look larger and more important to us from the Other Country when we look back over it all and see then what we do not see now of its importance. These thoughts keep my courage up to the mark and make it easier to endure the opposition of those through whom Satan strikes at the heart of the Lord Jesus, though they do not know whose tools they are nor how he uses them.

"There are more things wrought by prayer than this world dreams of", and those great things are working now as the faithful friends keep on with their earnest prayer. I have known persons to do things and to say, "I do not know why I do them, but I feel impelled to it", when they were a very evident answer to importunate prayer. "Truly, the secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him."

Sincerely thy friend,

(Signed) Matilda W. Minthorn.

Matilda W. Minthorn.

(Copied from the original typewritten letter with penned signature--
LDP)

(Double checked by E.V. and L.D.P.)

Document No. 9
Folder No. 265-1.

C O P Y

TELEGRAM.

SW MV 116 NL VIA SEATTLE

Ketchikan, Alaska Mar. 20, 1927.

HON. J. H. EDWARDS

Ist ASST Secy of the Interior Sanborn
upon return to Metlakatla had counsel hold meeting re
cannery lease stop meeting was special one and no notice
given as provided by ordinance stop I was voted out as
trustee at meeting which was illegal account of dispensing
with notice to councilmen stop I was not given an opportunity
to be heard at meeting stop I know that five or twelve
Councilmen are definitely opposed to Sanborn lease stop
If lease ratified company and Sanborn will immediately
be involved in litigation stop I earnestly appeal to you
and request you have delegate Sutherland who is in Juneau
or some representative of your department make investigation
of facts including character of Sanborn stop latter follows

Herbert J. Murchison

March 21 1927 843A

C O P Y

Document No. 9
Folder No. 265-1

Ketchikan, Alaska, Feb. 17, 1927.

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

Dear Mr. Work:

Yesterday I wrote you a letter regarding the Lease for salmon canning at the Annette Island. I also wrote you something as to the character and general reputation of one of our associates, Mr. B.A. Rasmussen. It now occurs to me that you would be interested in knowing something more regarding the other associate, Mr. A.H. Zeigler, whom you met in Washington.

I have known Mr. Zeigler directly and indirectly for a number of years. He has been in this section of Alaska about twelve years and during that time has been engaged in the practice of law. As an attorney he has an extensive practice. He represents several of the large corporations, such as the Alaska Steamship Company, The First National Bank, etc. But though representing these and other large corporations he has many times taken up cases for my Indian Native People when other lawyers have refused. It has made no difference with him that my people have not had the money with which to pay for his service. Mr. Zeigler has taken the cases for us when he has seen we have been in the right for the sake of seeing justice done for us. The same class of service he gives his own people he has given mine.

As you will remember him, he is now in his most active period of life. He is married and he and his endearing wife make Ketchikan their home. Here they are active in civic as well

as in their professional life. His habits, his honesty and conscientious

friends and requested to be allowed to remain in private life.

It is a great pleasure to me Mr. Secretary to invoke upon your honor and power, as well as your worthy assistants Mr Edwards

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and Mr. Hunter, as well as others whom I had the pleasure to meet in the Interior Department to recommend to you and bring before you such men as Messrs Ziegler and Rasmuson; two men who I know would be of great help to us natives.

Mr. Secretary I have taken upon myself as Trustee for our people at Metlakatla, to write you regarding these two men whom we, the natives of Metlakatla have chosen as our associates that you may be fully informed why my people favor the granting of the lease to the Annette Island Industries, Inc., as same was planned when I saw you in Washington. When our people learned that these two gentlemen, whose character was so well known to us, were associated with Mr. Sanborn we could not help but feel our interests were in safe hands; that the Company had not only sufficient financial backing but real men on the Board of Directors.

We do not feel safe with the present line up and we don't want it. We want no changes in the original plan and to that end we ask your assistance.

Know that you will not refuse our request and thanking you,

I am,

Very respectfully yours,

Signed Herbert J. Murchison

Copies to
Messrs ? ?

Document No. 9
Folder No. 265-1

C O P Y

I am writing you herewith separately the personal record of Mr. E.A. Rasmuson as far as my knowledge allows:

To whom it may concern:

Mr. E.A. Rasmuson has long been known to me and my associates. He once served five years as teacher and principal in the U.S. Bureau of Education schools in Alaska, under the supervision of Chief of U.S. Bureau of Education at Seattle, Washington. He was also engaged five years in helping in missionary work which was controlled by supervision of the Presbytery of Alaska. He is a member of the Board of Ruling Elders of the Presbyterian church. At present Mr. Rasmuson is president and manager of five banks of Alaska, and he is now a middle aged man, of good family, steady habits and honest and conscientious in the performance of every duty.

I wish to refer you to the U.S. Commissioner, J.W. Kehoe, here at Ketchikan. I know he will agree with me when I say that Mr. Rasmuson sustains an excellent reputation among his associates and neighbors. He is highly respected by all.

I take much pleasure, Honorable Secretary of the Interior, and your worthy assistant, Hon. Edwards and to others whom I know in your Department in recommending to all of you the personal life of Mr. Rasmuson.

By this recommendation you will be better informed why my people favor the Sanborn lease. When we learned that a man of this character supports Mr. Sanborn any one cannot help but feel safe.

Very truly yours,

C O P Y

Ketchikan, Alaska.

February 13, 1927.

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

My dear sir:-

I am writing you with reference to the proposed lease from the Council of Metlakatla, Alaska, to the Annette Islands Industries, Inc., a corporation organized by Mr. Sanborn and others in connection with the proposed operation of the cannery situated in Metlakatla, Alaska.

Your department will recall the visit made by Mr. Sanborn, myself and Mr. Seigler during the latter part of November last year when the proposal was placed before the Department of the Interior. I beg to advise that at that time I sincerely felt that the proposal was a good one and to the interests of the inhabitants of Metlakatla and I had faith in Mr. Sanborn, whom I have known for only a short time. However, since that time events have transpired which lead me to doubt very much the honesty and integrity of Mr. Sanborn. I personally circulated the petition which was filed with the Department and obtained the signatures of both factions residing on the island to that petition which was in support of the supposed lease. It was entirely due to my efforts that the united support of the residents and Council of Metlakatla was obtained. Upon the return of ourselves from Washington the matter was laid before the Council and the lease was executed from the Council to the new corporation. The

was carried out and the above named corporation was formed. The following were elected as officers of the company: Henry Sanborn, President; Mrs. H. Sanborn, Vice-President; M. A. Rasmussen, Treasurer; A. H. Weigler, Secretary; and those people, together with myself, were made the Board of Directors. A meeting of the Board of Directors was thereupon held and Mr. Sanborn offered his stock to the Board of Directors to be used in order to obtain the necessary finances for the operation of the cannery and for the purchase of equipment and in order to carry out the entire agreement and at the same meeting, Mr. M. A. Rasmussen was duly authorized by the company to make necessary arrangements for the financing. Acting upon the authority so delegated to him, Mr. Rasmussen immediately proceeded to secure the necessary finances and completed the arrangements for the money decided at that time to be necessary for the purchase of the equipment, installation of sawmill, and operation of the cannery and, so I am informed, is now willing to carry out the agreement so made. However, Mr. Sanborn apparently did not recognize the action taken by the company and proceeded to make other financial arrangements and now has entered into an arrangement or agreement with the Skinner and Eddy ship building Company of Seattle, Washington, for financing the purchase and operation of the cannery. This has been done without consulting the Board of Directors or in any way recognizing them. No report whatsoever has been made to the company at the present time notwithstanding the fact that the company has already made arrangements through Mr. Rasmussen for adequate finances. Mr. Sanborn has ignored myself as the duly accredited representative of the entire people of Metlakatla, and his other associates, and has made many derogatory remarks about myself. He has been sending

information was secured by telegram about ten days or two weeks ago.

The reason for informing you of these facts is that owing to the conduct of Mr. Sanborn I feel that he is not dealing honestly, not only with the people that backed him and provided the money for his expenses to Washington, but is also withholding full facts from the people of Metlakatla, and I further feel that if his intentions were sincere and his actions honest, there would be no reason for withholding any facts from myself as the representative of the people of Metlakatla.

I do not want to be left in a position where my people in Metlakatla will feel or can say that I have neglected my trust to them. Therefore I am informing you of these facts with the earnest appeal that before the lease given by the Council to the company is approved and ratified by you Mr. Sanborn be directed to return here and report fully both to the company and to the people of Metlakatla all transactions and agreements he has made so that the Council and the people will be fully advised before the lease is finally approved because then it will be too late.

One of the reasons for my apprehension is that I have received reliable information that in the arrangement he has made for finances to Skinner and Eddy, he has obligated the Company and himself to certain conditions that would result in a great injustice to the people of Metlakatla in the event the lease is signed and they are carried out.

And by way of explanation will state that the Skinner and Eddy Company of Seattle has a big four line cannery in Ketchikan which heretofore has had considerable difficulty in

Skinner and Eddy Corporation.

If this is permitted to be done it will seriously tend to deplete the supply of fish on the island because there will be a great many fish caught going to their spawning streams on the island and will inevitably diminish the run of fish within the reservation. In addition to that possible depletion of fish there is a grave danger that the fish will be diverted by Skinner and Eddy through the Board of Directors which they will undoubtedly control, to the Ketchikan plant and in that manner my people at Metlakatla will not be afforded opportunity of employment in the cannery.

In other words, once the lease has been signed there will be nothing to prevent the practice above mentioned for the reason that the financial backers will naturally retain control of the affairs of the company and thereby by diverting the fish to its Ketchikan plant greatly deprive my people of needed employment.

I am naturally led to feel suspicious and that this is one of the conditions exacted by Skinner and Eddy inasmuch as Mr. Sanborn has conducted negotiations with them in a secret manner and has deliberately withheld information of his doings from me and I feel my responsibility to my people to protect their interests.

There are a great many other instances in which I feel satisfied that Mr. Sanborn has made many false statements concerning the matter and feel that he should be required to explain everything to the company and to the people of Metlakatla especially so that they will know that whatever he has done has been and will

to Washington in connection with the lease, I must naturally feel that unless he can satisfactorily explain his actions to the Council that he might also be dealing and continue further to act with reference to the natives and residents of Metlakatla.

In my official capacity as trustee for the people of Metlakatla I do not at this time wish to be understood as definitely opposing the ratification of the lease to Mr. Sanborn's company by the department, but in order to avoid any possible danger to my people and also in order to have all the actions of Mr. Sanborn satisfactorily explained, I now respectfully urge you to require Mr. Sanborn to render a full report of his actions as well as all agreements entered into, to the people of Metlakatla and the company before the lease is actually ratified.

It is entirely possible that every thing can be ^{and for} satisfactorily explained/that reason I feel that Mr. Sanborn should be given full opportunity to do so, but owing to the matter mentioned in this letter and many others, I regard it as my duty to my people to inform you of these facts and to appeal to you to withhold final action on the ratification of the lease until Mr. Sanborn's report is made as suggested.

There are four members on the Council and myself who have heard of the facts mentioned in this letter and are now definitely opposed to the ratification of the lease by your department until at least the actions of Mr. Sanborn have been satisfactorily explained to them, and possibly others would be of the same mind if they knew the facts mentioned.

Mr. Hanson who originally furnished the money to Mr.

reputation solely that Mr. Santora ever obtained any prestige with my people in the first instance.

Thanking you for the courtesies extended to me while in Washington and realizing your deep and sincere desire to protect the welfare of my people I respectfully ask that you give this matter your immediate attention. Inasmuch as Mr. Hunter and Mr. Edwards were the people before whom we appeared when in Washington I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to them so that they also will be fully informed of the situation.

Very sincerely yours,

Signed Herbert J. Murchison

Trustee

CC to Mr. Hunter and

Mr. Edwards.

Document No. 10.

Folder No. 265-1.

1927

4-13

Metlakahtla, Alaska.

April 13, 1927.

Mr. H.S. Wellcome,

Arlington Hotel,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

This afternoon John Hudson brought to me some copies of documents which he thought should be sent on to thee. I have copied them and am enclosing them herewith.

In copying them I ventured to consider sending with them brief comments upon their contents.

I. The matter of holding their first meeting in Metlakahtla is not so much the question as the manner of their coming to the place. It is said that when there was danger of Sanborn being approached by his many creditors and detained in Ketchikan on his arrival and, of course, being made to appear not quite up to the character that he wished to show before the natives in order to gain their confidence, his personal friends who are interested in this enterprise with him, among whom Harvey Stackpole was prominently mentioned, that they sent him a wireless on the way northward and arranged to meet him at Mary's Island with a small boat.

This was done and he sent his private secretary, Philip Elliot, on alone to Ketchikan. What is not very easy to understand is why they should have landed in Tangass Harbor and despatched Roderick Davis on foot across that rough and disagreeable trail to Metlakahtla and why he sent back the man, Simon Reeve, to pilot the boat around Point Davidson that evening late. It is a strange performance to view unless they had some good reason for arriving at a late hour and holding their meeting with the Council and at the Government cottage in the night. Roderick Davis could have piloted the boat around the point in the light of the afternoon. There was a meeting that night and also next forenoon at which they made some wonderful representations to the natives as to the favors shown them in Washington. They insisted that there was no question but that the lease would be given to them and hinted that in a very few weeks there would be great industries going here.

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These have not yet materialized but they keep the mind of the natives diverted from present failures by greater future promises. At this meeting Herbert Murchison's place on the Board of Trustees of the Industries was declared vacant and Benjamin Haldane elected in his stead. Immediately arrangements were made for a meeting in Seattle and Sanborn and the three natives went down

has been said confidently. The name of the donor or donors is not known. It certainly was not any disinterested party.

Such things, whether coming from the man Sanborn or from the Skinner and Eddy Corporation representatives, are very reprehensible in view of the fact that it is a sure start on the road to ruin of the character and the morals and the health of the native. If a white man, with his feeling that he is strong enough to indulge without harm to himself, chooses to do so, he is responsible for himself. But to the native, with his lack of power to deny himself of any indulgence, it is an act that shows the mind of the white man to be either lacking in judgment or inclined to inflict evil upon his weaker brother. Such things rob the work of the man Sanborn and the Skinner and Eddy Corporation of any claim to be working for the good of the natives.

Upon arriving in Ketchikan, Benjamin Haldane went to the hospital for treatment for the Flu. Since returning he has not attended the church, saying that his physician told him to take a rest for a few weeks. Everett Hudson was not at the first Sunday's services except as fireman of the heating plant, and has avoided meeting me except to come to the door for the key and to return it.

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On the following Sunday he took his place in the choir orchestra, and after the service came into the vestry to look at the new communion service of individual cups, which had been in use for the first time. The two church wardens were putting them away under my supervision, and he spoke a little to me then. But he has lost the happy cheerful and wide awake look and manner that he always had before.

If Paul could say, "Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil," I feel like saying that Sanborn has done like wise. With Edward Benson constantly manoueuering to get things into the hands of Sanborn in the church, and Haldane now forsaking the choir as we fear he will, there will be another division shortly unless God hears prayer and answers with unlooked for circumstances.

Such a thing is pending in the fact that the daughter of Daniel Reece lies in the hospital in a very precarious condition and the doctor has remarked that the man who is responsible for it should not be allowed his liberty any longer. This has been taken up by the mother's relatives and they have said that the man will be arrested if the girl does not live. The man is Oscar Haldane, the black sheep of Benjamin's family. This makes a very bad situation between two families of our church and is the third time that such a division has occurred within the past five years. And the older daughter of Daniel Reece died during my absence under the same conditions at the hands of the same man. The enemy is certainly wreaking his vengeance upon this Mission.

2. Of course, this "brief" was made by a lawyer. But when I note the wording of a phrase, on page 2, "formed by us", I think of how little the natives have had to do with it except to agree to whatever Sanborn and his colleagues have demanded and arranged.

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affair.

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After the salaries of the white men who run the Industries and especially the cannery, have been deducted, the natives' share of the net receipts will be less than half, 49%. This gives to the white men who are making the terms and reaping the gains no semblance of doing as they are now talking to the natives, working solely for their benefit and prosperity.

Sanborn has told the natives that they do not need any lawyer for the Secretary of the Interior is their lawyer and will see that every thing is right for them. In that case, I feel concerned as a friend of these natives, that Secretary Work should have some information and influence aside from that of the Bureau of Education and the white men up here who are interested in their own gains.

If the Secretary leaves it all to his subordinate officials, who are all in favor of Sanborn and his plan, and largely because it is hindering the case of William Duncan's side of the past years' dealings it would simply be a repetition of the injustice of other years when no redress or investigation was ever granted to the complaints made.

Feeling the security of having a friend who will see that they are fairly treated, the natives go on and make any arrangements that are proposed thinking that if it is not to their advantage the Secretary will not let them do it. Then in their brief they claim the right to an independent choice of what they want. And both the brief and the assurance are made by the white men who so confuse the minds of the natives that they cannot see the trap around them.

The recommendations to the Secretary by the committee may be so worded as to appear right to the Secretary while giving the advantage wholly to the white men. When I speak of these things to the natives here, they say to me that no one else has made any proposition to help them and they do not know how to go on any longer without help as they are getting lower in finances and supplies are getting more scarce every year. The fish and fur supplies are so greatly depleted now that it means a loss of every thing they have depended upon for a livelihood. They say that they would be very glad to agree to any proposition that the Trustees would make. This is an impossibility under the present circumstances, so they feel that they must take up

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with Sanborn's offer or lose every hope of help at present.

4. At the bottom of page 3 occurs the words, "And not to indicate in any way that we yield our rights of control of operation or participation to a foreign corporation." This undoubtedly refers to the Pacific American Fisheries, but having a minority of votes in their own corporation now and no capital leaves them

one of the directors of the bank of which E.A. Rasmuson is president, that they called a meeting of the Directors and requested both Sanborn and Rasmuson to attend and clear up the financial question as to how much money had been spent by them and to inquire if it had affected the bank in any way.

It developed in the course of the meeting that it was all a personal affair between these two men, Rasmuson having loaned \$1800 to Sanborn on the occasion of his first trip to Washington. Sanborn spoke of the Wellcome case as if it were a thing too slight to be considered and amounted to almost nothing. Evidently Sanborn dismissed Rasmuson on account of his not having enough money to see him through with his scheme or because he had some deal that he did not want Rasmuson to have any part in nor to know about. It is said by Murchison that Sanborn has made arrangements to let the Sunny Point Cannery in Ketchikan, which is owned by the Skinner and Eddy Corporation, have all the fish they need from the traps around Annette Island. Would that be any violation of the contract to conduct the Industries for the benefit of the Metlakatlans? If they were sold to them it might not, but the Skinner and Eddy Corporation is one of the stock holders in this Industries Corporation, and they might not think it necessary to pay for the fish.

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There is one thing which has been used by Sanborn to influence the natives against the present owners of the lease and in favor of his offer. It is that he took the statement that these men only paid the native peoples 1% for their share. The fact being that they were paid 1 cent per fish for all the fish taken from the traps around the island. In some way the words seem to have been confused until he was saying 1% instead of one cent per fish. This is a very different proposition looked at from that standpoint. He has said to them, "This company has paid you only one percent. I propose to give you 49%." In the end it will be seen that the royalty of 1 cent per fish can be much greater than 49% of the net income of the cannery season when all the white men have received their salaries.

Moses Hewson has taken the Church (Army) Workers and has gone to Kincolith up the Nass River to have a time of feasts and visits connected with Easter time. In speaking of it with him I asked him earnestly to do as William Duncan used to do, sending only two elders to hold meetings in a place. He promised to take only three at the most, and did not speak any further with me about it. Five boats left for that place this week, two of them going after Colican oil. And some fifteen or twenty persons went to attend the meetings and feasts. They took up a collection last Sunday for the trip saying that it was for a present for the people where they were going. I did not learn the amount of the collection.

These things I am writing so that when there is some future outcome of the affairs, thee may be informed as to the things that were preliminary to them.

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God and one are a majority, is an old saying. The thing to be certain of then, is to know that we are on the same side of the question with God and then be assured of victory! May He give thee much grace with "quietness and assurance" for thy strength.

Very sincerely thy friend,

(signed) Matilda W. Minthorn.

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(Copied from original typewritten letter with penned signature -ELV)

(Double checked-- ELV and GCD)

Document No. 10

Folder No. 265-1

C O P Y

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON, Mar 30, 1927.

Messrs Davis, Hudson & Haldane,
Trustees, Annette Island Industries Inc.,
Ketchikan, Alaska.

My dear Sirs:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of the brief which you filed relative to the fishing rights on Annette Islands Reserve to Annette Islands Industries Incorporated.

The Secretary has deferred his decision in this matter until his return from Hawaii. The committee appointed to consider matters pertaining to the Annette Islands Reserve has given the leasing question consideration, and its recommendation will be before the Secretary at that time so that a decision thereon, soon after his return, may reasonably be expected.

Certain of the matters stated in your brief, which will be brought to the Secretary's attention in connection with the committee's recommendation, prompts the suggestion that you forward to the Department copies of all ordinances or official acts of the council at Metlakatla to the end that the Department may be fully advised of what has transpired. If this is done, delay occasioned by request of such information will be prevented.

Very truly yours,

Signed E.C. Finney,

Acting Secretary.

(Enclosure in letter from Minthorn to Wellcome April 13, 1927. -ELV)
(Doubled checked by ELV & LDP)

C O P Y

Document No. 10

March 22, 1927

Folder No. 265-1.

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

Dear Dr. Work,

We, Roderick Davis, Everett Hudson, and Benjamin Haldane, having been elected by the Council of Annette Islands Reserve to be Trustees to hold in trust for the people of said Reserve, the stock of the ANNETTE ISLANDS INDUSTRIES, INC., do file herewith a brief covering our Ordinance # 10 series 1926, now before you for approval and entitled "Leasing of Cannery, Saw Mill etc."

1. TELEGRAMS AND LETTERS OF HERBERT MURCHISON.

We have been informed that certain telegrams and letters have been sent to you by one Herbert Murchison purporting to represent the people of Metlakatla as Trustee, and that he has opposed the plan offered by Mr. Sanborn. For your information we desire to state that no copies of these documents have ever been seen by the Council; that Mr. Murchison has not been near our Council or the town of Metlakatla since December 1926 and that although originally elected as Trustee of our corporation he has never consulted the Council or his co-trustees or the people regarding the situation. It is further pointed out to you that his statements in his telegrams and letters do not and have never represented the opinions of the people since his visit to Washington as our accredited agent.

We desire to state that Mr. Murchison is entirely under the influence of Mr. Rasmuson of Ketchikan, Alaska, and that we have certain knowledge of monies borrowed by him from Mr. Rasmuson on demand notes. Further we know that Mr. Sanborn has dropped Mr. Rasmuson as his financial agent for good and sufficient reasons and in the best interests of our people.

We understand that Mr. Murchison has made further representations to you in regards to Mr. Sanborn and Mr. Davis, charging that they returned directly to Metlakatla instead of returning to Ketchikan. We submit that this was entirely proper as Metlakatla

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is our principal place of business, the meeting place of our Council and the only place where facts relating to us should have been made known. We cannot connect the city of Ketchikan with anything relating to us.

and are convinced that he has always had uppermost our interest and its advancement. At no time has he been ordered by us to return home and contrary thereto we had hoped that he would remain in Washington until the lease had been granted to the corporation formed by us.

Mr. Sanborn has obtained better terms from the Skinner and Eddy Corporation than could be obtained from Mr. Rasmuson and from the same source he has obtained a working capital that is roughly four times as great as Mr. Rasmuson could supply. Further, the Skinner and Eddy Corporation has been successful in salmon cannery operation and is the one salmon canning corporation that is considered by our delegate to Congress, Mr. Sutherland, to be fair in its dealings, and attempts to meet the restrictions imposed by the Bureau of Fisheries.

3. AN ARGUMENT AGAINST COMPETITIVE BIDS

I. Our Citizenship.

Contrary to the status of Indians on reservations in the United States, the status of two-thirds of the Metlakatlans is that of a complete U.S. citizen resident in a Territory with the power to vote for Delegate. We have the same power as any other citizen to sue or to be sued; to act on a jury and to perform any individual or corporate act. We therefore hold that the guardianship of the United States is extended only to the physical Annette Islands Reserve and not to our bodies and persons.

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II. Our right to perform corporate acts.

We have formed the ANNETTE ISLAND INDUSTRIES, INC., as an incorporation under the Territory of Alaska, to perform in $\frac{1}{4}$ trust for all the people of Annette Islands Reserve, certain business for their mutual benefit. This right has been recognized by the Territory and our Articles of Incorporation have been accepted and filed. The right to conduct business implies the further right to borrow money and to sell articles of value.

III. Difference between Lease and right to sell.

We acknowledge that the cannery, sawmill and box factory are physical property and attached to the land and therefore come under the guardianship of the Department of the Interior.

The sale of a portion of the stock in our corporation or the granting of a certain portion of its earnings for a consideration has nothing to do with the leasing of the cannery, sawmill or box factory.

IV. Our right to operate our own industries.

The cannery, saw mill and box factory were originally

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We have requested the Secretary to grant the lease to the Annette Island Industries, Inc., which is in fact ourselves, our corporate entity. We have connected with Mr. Sanborn and the Skinner and Eddy Corporation with our proposal to show our financial strength and not to indicate in any way that we yield our rights of control of operation or participation to a foreign corporation.

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V. Annette Island Industries vs. Annette Island Packing Co.

So, far, this case has been between the above noted corporations. As far as we have been able to ascertain, no individual or corporation other than the above two has applied for the lease.

By our representatives sent to Washington and by telegram and letter we have made it clear to the Secretary that the Annette Island Packing Company has avoided the letter and spirit of its contract with us. It has hired an excessive number of white men; it has used our property as a base of operations for its parent Company, the Pacific * American Fisheries, bringing many white men into our community contrary to its explicit agreement. It has forced us to accept less than the going wages paid for the like services in the canneries in southeastern Alaska. Charles Brendible, native foreman for the Annette Island Packing Company, is also holder of the controlling interest of the Metlakatla Commercial Company and we have been forced to receive our wages through this Commercial Company. This has meant that we were forced to buy our necessities from that source at the company's price. Finally we beg to report that at this present moment there are thirty or more white men at Metlakatla, upsetting our community life, employed by the Pacific American Fisheries, and in direct violation of the existing agreement.

Instead of considering a re-lease to the Annette Island Packing Company we beg the Secretary to take the steps necessary to abrogate the existing lease because of its flagrant violation and to grant us the right to operate our cannery through our corporate body, the Annette Island Industries, Inc., Although we have made repeated representations regarding these probable violations, no action has been taken by the Department of the Interior to correct them. This we cannot understand.

VI. Our Basic right.

We hold that while the Secretary has the right to approve or disapprove a contract entered into by the people of Annette Islands Reserve for the use or operation of any of its physical assets, the people of said Reserve have the right to reject any offer made them.

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We believe that as our physical assets and their operation

That under no conditions, however attractive, will we voluntarily re-lease our properties to the Annette Island Packing Company;

That if said re-lease is made it will be in direct opposition to the wishes and desires of our people and cause a deplorable situation;

That we object to the principle of entertaining bids against ourselves for the operation of our own properties;

That there now exists the ANNETTE ISLAND INDUSTRIES, INC., our own corporation financially and physically able to operate our industries; and

That we respectfully urge the Secretary of the Interior to immediately approve our Ordinance #10 series of 1926 and allow us to take the next logical step forward in American citizenry.

Roderick Davis

Everett Hudson

Benjamin Haldane

Seal:

Annette Island Industries, Inc. TRUSTEES.
Corporate
Seal
1926
Territory of Alaska

(Enclosure in letter from Minthorn to Wellcome April 13, 1927. -ELV)
(Doubled checked by ELV & LDP)

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Document No. 11.
Folder No. 265-1.

1927
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H

Metlakatla, Alaska.

April 16, 1927.

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

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

Since this letter did not get mailed when I expected to do so, I will add a bit of interesting news.

Andrew Usher called on us Friday evening and among many other things he remarked that he had a talk with Benjamin Haldane on Sunday and Haldane said to him that he was sorry that he had ever gone into this thing.

Usher also said that it was very noticeable that Marsden and the rest of the Council were anxious to appoint the friends of Mr. Duncan on all the business that Sanborn was doing so that it would look as if Mr. Wellcome's friends were deserting him and they were tired of the case.

John Hudson was in last evening and as we spoke of affairs he said that Marsden was ready to oppose Sanborn in everything now because he felt sure that it was Sanborn's scheme to get hold of the church. Hudson had spoken of a second attempt being made by Sanborn to get the Council to hold a meeting and sign some ordinance that he was anxious to get passed. He had tried it before and they had put it off and he was trying it a new way now.

Hudson said that they had gone as far as was necessary with Sanborn about getting the lease and they would let him finish it if he could, and maybe the Secretary would not give it to him. He and Marsden have agreed not to sign any ordinance that might be passed by the Council which Sanborn wanted to have made.

I told Hudson what Usher said about getting the friends of Mr. Duncan on the committees and as trustees so that they would be helping to hinder Mr. Wellcome and he said, I know they have. Hudson had been in Ketchikan after lumber and said that he spoke to Mrs. James Leask of the separate church that Sanborn was to have built for the natives and she said that he would not do it now for the Bishop would not let him have the money for it. He was very good

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to them all now and was letting them scrub the church and help

meeting to be addressed by Mary Hudson. This will occur on Friday if every thing is possible to hold it by that time. Since Andrew is a man of varying moods it seemed best to take him in one of his good moods and make use of him.

Work on the house and in the yard will be finished in a week or ten days, I think, if the weather is such as to allow it. The paint is here and the painter is waiting for drying weather. The interior is not perfect in its appointments, but so very much of an improvement over the other condition that it is a marvel to the natives. We had the teachers in to dinner this week one evening in return for their invitation to me when I first came over here last winter and had few accommodations for cooking. This was before the house was furnished and my sister had not yet come over.

There was no mention by them during their stay of anything pertaining to affairs other than such as are going on in the school and the homes of the people. Mr. Caldwell is a native of the mountain district of eastern Tennessee and his wife comes from the Blue Grass District of Kentucky, she says. They did not make a good impression on the natives at their arrival and a few things about them have emphasized the prejudice so that their removal has been asked for by the powers that be.

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3

Monday, April, 18. 1927.

We had a very quiet Easter but it was a good time and the services were satisfactory. Haldane remained at home because of the trouble with his son, but the Hudson family were equal to the occasion and the choir had their rehearsals and the music was good. Laura is excellent help and Lillian can play anything necessary for church and is a member of the village orchestra.

Mr. Hudson told of an interview with Hawkesworth who was here yesterday on the Boxer, the Government boat. He asked Mr. Hudson what he had heard since they last met, as to affairs in Washington. Hudson had nothing to report. Hawkesworth then asserted that he did not believe that they were simply waiting for the return of Secretary work to sign the lease. He thought that there was some difficulty in the way in regard to Mr. Wellcome's case. He had seen the brief that Herbert Murchison brought up from Washington last fall and it was very strong. He made a gesture with clenched fists held out before him to show how strong.

Speaking of the refusal to have another meeting with Sanborn and the Council, he asked Hudson if Marsden was agreed to it, and when told that he was, he said to Hudson that they must not disagree about any thing in Council matters but always go together. This did not seem to be very agreeable to Hudson. I encouraged him to always stand firm for what was right when they disagreed.

They are looking about for some man to recommend in the place of the present agent, and are willing to recommend Purvance

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Document No. 12

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H

Metlakatla, Alaska.

April 19, 1927.

Mr. H.S. Wellcome,

Arlington Hotel,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

Everett Hudson has finally called on me at my house and we had some conversation concerning the affairs of the Council and Sanborn.

The Industrial Company is organized definitely and they feel that they can outline the policy for the Government and the village and the Mission with the authority that they have. This is partly stated and partly inferred from his talk.

The representative of the Department of the Interior in Seattle, Mr. Ommel or Aumel or whatever his name may be, told them that all the hearings with Mr. Wellcome are concluded and the case will be settled the first of May as soon as the Secretary of the Interior reaches Washington. The Committee which he appointed have it ready for the Secretary to sign as soon as he arrives and they will be able to begin at once on their work for the lease will surely go to Sanborn and the Company organized by him.

He thinks that the Committee will grant the return of the ground to the Mission and the Government will pay for the land on which the school house stands. The cannery owned by Mr. Duncan burned down and he had no cannery when he died. The new cannery being paid for by the use of the privileges of the lease belongs now to the village. The sawmill will go with the cannery and this Industrial Company will get the contract to put in the Hydro-

Mr. Sanborn made out a very strong statement and went before a notary and signed it to the effect that he would not speak even a word from the Word of God nor hold any meeting with the natives while he was conducting the cannery here, and brought it over to the Council. But they returned it and told him that they did not care to have him leave off the service of his church and would like to have him speak in the churches here whenever they should invite him. Everett reported this to me.

I intimated that Edward Benson would see that things would be arranged so that he could have the services in the church and would soon take it away from the present organization. He looked at me and said, Perhaps Benson has reasons for doing what he does. It occurred to my mind that Benson was no doubt working under Sanborn.

It was a good opportunity to canvas the mind of a man who was in league with Sanborn, and I did not antagonize any of his statements but rather allowed him to show some of the things that they are sure of doing. When the interview was over I had the impression that things were about as Sanborn desired them to be in the mind of Everett Hudson.

Over against that was the fact that Benjamin Haldane had said that he wished that he had not gone into this thing. Which shows that he sees in it some menace to the church and the victory in the outcome of the case. Everett spoke of the authority of the native trustees in the Company and said that they had the voting stock of the company, and could say what they should do, and that Sanborn was to tell them how to vote but could not vote on his stock. The man from the Department of the Interior was to have the natives under his authority and they were to vote according to his instructions. I begin to wonder where their liberty is in the matter. Either it is curtailed or he does not understand where they are.

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none of them had ever been invited to call. I told him that when I had friends in a place I never waited for their invitation to call but went because I valued their friendship. He had said that Sanborn was now in Seattle on his way to Washington to meet the Secretary of the Interior on his return the first of May.

I asked him if the lease could be signed before a certain time limit had expired, and he said that there was no time limit now because the Industrial Company had claimed the right to take the lease for the natives and there were no competitive bids to be allowed against them. Then he remarked later that it was necessary for the Company to secure the lease or else the cannery would automatically continue in the hands of the present lessees. That could not be allowed with the situation under the control of Brendible. I think that is why he asked if the cannery would be bid for by thee.

He seemed to be under some burden of confusion of ideas.

I think that it is one of the things that Sanborn does, to confuse their minds with contradictory statements and then say when the thing goes differently from what they hoped for, that he told them of it before. He said that Mr. Strong reminded him on one occasion that the natives were not able to do big business like this, and he resented it bitterly, but at the same time reminds me that they are to be guided by the representative of the Department and by Sanborn.

There is a promise of a possibility of Haldane and Hudson (Everett) going to Washington and that keeps them very closely watching to please Sanborn. If they are disappointed in anything at any time, they will turn against him as Murchison has done. Their love for him is attached to a greater love for themselves and a place higher than others have attained. Some day there will be something that God will use to show these people the difference between the

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facts which develop later. It is meant as a forewarning and we are supposed to profit by it. It comes more frequently to some than to others, and to me it is often a very valuable asset.

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April, 28, Today I leave Metlakahtla for the trip to Portland to see Dr. Kingery about my face, and to receive the radium treatment. The work about the house is practically done. The painter has about one more day's work which has been delayed by rains.

Mrs. Simonds remarked while making a call recently that they noticed the difference in Everett Hudson's attitude toward people and things generally, it being one of arrogance and importance. She said that he had been appointed General Manager of the Industrial Company with a salary of \$ 5,000 per year and he thought he could afford to be independent.

Moses Hewson was in last evening and in speaking of a conversation with B.A. Haldane he intimated that they had some talk similar to what Haldane says to me, and afterward he spoke of things that Haldane did not say to me with a hint that there might be something in his mind also concerning the plans of Sanborn which I feel has to do with the church.

Mr. and Mrs. Hudson seem to think that Haldane is not being quite true about his attitude at present. Others think that his wife is diverting his interests from the church. Where people are secretive and keep things hidden, it is difficult to ascertain the facts. They are much given to covering up what they are about to do, and when they have done some wrong thing they look offended at a reproof and say that they were never spoken to before they did it, and how could they know that we would not like it.

If there are any further developments of affairs that I discover in Ketchikan. I will note them here before mailing the letter.

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Metlakahtla, Alaska.

May 27, 1927.

H

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

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

One week ago today I arrived in Ketchikan and on the following day came over to Metlakahtla. My absence was three weeks instead of two as I had hoped it would be. That was because the physician wished to have me come to his office a week after the first application of the radium. I do not consider that he is as well acquainted with the use of it as Dr. Hazen. For although I spoke of the method of the former physician and he assured me that he understood and was glad to have the information, yet he gave such a very strong application and repeated it within six days, and my face has since been broken out in sores and pus has formed and the flesh has been raw and it has been a disappointment as well as a great concern to me since.

I brought home a few trees and seeds and plants from a wholesale house in Portland and have been obliged to hasten the planting of them since coming. It is dry weather here at present, but we are getting the lawn nearly finished. It will be done today. It is sown with blue grass and white clover and will be something of a success, I hope. The place is so much changed as to be scarcely recognizable and it is a great improvement to the village. The natives are quite proud of it and are making great improvements in their own lots as well as their houses. It is a fine illustration of the condition of the affairs of the Mission and the case in the hands of the trustees and thyself.

Mrs. George Hall is to be buried today. She was a great sufferer, having died of malignant cancer. For her funeral she refused the offer of the Salvation Army to bury her and desired to be taken to the old church where her heart has been all these years and where she has frequently attended the services. Both she and her sister, Eliza Bain, went with the Army largely on account of their brother, Edward Mather, I suppose, as he was the head of that organization for many years at first.

There are fruit trees, ornamental shrubbery and vegetables of several varieties planted with three kinds of berries. All the trees with the exception of two and all the bushes have been removed, an addition built on the back of the house for wood which takes away the tall and narrow look of the building and improves it.

It has been my custom always to let her do the talking about cannery affairs and to give noncommittal answers to her questions. She voices Mr. Simonds ideas, naturally, in her remarks. Moses Hewson, by some means known best to himself, procured a copy of the lease and of the report of the Committee appointed by the Secretary to consider Metlakatla affairs. This he carried to Mr. Simonds who spent last Sunday in reviewing it.

Mrs. S. spoke of the contrasts in this lease and the one signed by the P.A.F. Co. There is no protection of any kind in the Sanborn lease. According to the letter written for the native trustees of the Annette Islands Industries, Inc., it is the natives bidding for the cannery with their other industries and they state that they do not wish the Government to consider any competitive bids against themselves. This is my personal observation.

According to Simonds, there is no protection for the natives in this Sanborn lease. Of course, there would be no need of any protection of the natives against themselves. And yet, it might be wise to make some mention of protective restraints for the village as against the trustees and the Company.

At present, the Company pays rental for the buildings, a fish royalty, and a case tax. The Sanborn Company has none of these to pay. The rental pays for the upkeep of the houses and machinery, now. The lease secures the cannery for the native trustees, who in turn lease it to Sanborn and it passes out of their hands. He in turn leases it to Skinner and Eddy and it passes out of his hands. And as Mr. Skinner says that it is a cold blooded business proposition with him, we may expect him to use it as a money-making affair.

It is a great satisfaction to see John Hudson take such a bold stand for what he is convinced is right, and the boldness of it cannot be appreciated unless one is acquainted with the nature of the people and the tact and finesse that is needed in dealing with them even by one of their own number, or rather especially so. They are capable of annihilating one of their own when he does not do as they desire him to. The same satisfaction has been expressed to me by two of the men of the village, Moses Hewson and Andrew Usher and they each said that John Hudson acted very manly about it in acknowledging his mistake and doing what he could to correct it.

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I am sorry to say that the children are again playing in the building known as the Girls' Home. It is the Boy Scouts, I suppose, but boys of that age are proverbially destructive. Also the front door of the Guest House stands wide open again for the past month. I do not mention it to any one here lest they think I am interfering.

If this is done and the Bishop leaves the work here to Sanborn, will it release the Bishop from his promise to thee concerning the Metlakahtla Christian Church? Sanborn would make no such promise if his present course is any sign of his intentions. It is reported that Paul Mather will come here to live and organize an Episcopal church after his ordination. With the offers of help financially that are being made through Sanborn, but which will cease as soon as they have accomplished their object, they will be able to make some inroads upon the two churches here. Marsden is ready to fight it as his members are, but he can be won over by being given a position with a salary.

It was said that the Bishop told the people that he wanted several more men for positions in the church and that Edward Benson expects to be given a position similar to Paul Mather. He has been the prime mover in this whole affair and will have to be rewarded. At the time of the funeral of his son Fred, the people tell me that Edward Benson took Sanborn all over the town and showed him where and what the industries used to be and this is where Sanborn received the first incentive to the work that he has done since in Metlakahtla. This is also the reason why Edward Benson refused to be "sworn in" as an elder in January. He was looking for another job.

The enemy of God has attacked the work of God, but it is not to be supposed for one moment that God is helpless or is thwarted in His purpose for this people. Their redemption from the evils of the carnal mind as expressed in their heathen state, was His undertaking at the first. The same work of redemption from the same evils of the same carnal mind in their semi-civilized state, is the present undertaking. It is some satisfaction to me at present that instead of once in two or three months, as formerly, they now allow me to speak once each Sunday. It is my desire "to redeem the time because the days are evil" and to instruct them as fully as possible while my opportunities continue.

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A concerted movement to scatter the membership of the Christian Church is on in full force. The Episcopalians are bidding high for the older ones. Haldane and Everett Hudson are both under the influence of Sanborn and are baited with great promises of salaries and offices.

When the work of rebuilding the burned down cannery at Sunny Point in Ketchikan was proposed, Everett was told to bring over every available man for carpenter and carpenter's helper. He had them all there when the contractor arrived from Seattle. But the contractor had put up buildings in Ketchikan before, and turned away every Metlakahtlan. It was a sad blow to their hopes and I have not seen Everett in the village since. His pride is hurt and he has taken refuge in his boat and is out

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bring over his own freight, but can go when and where he likes, or rather where she likes, and it will have its effect on his business.

On Saturday I was in his store and he told me of his own accord that he was quite well now and was ready to take up his church work again. He has been to the church but once since he left for Seattle with Sanborn and others. Sunday afternoon I met him and his wife at their gate as I was passing and asked him if he were on his way to the church to assist in the choir practice. With a face that I never saw him wear before he told me that he was not going back to the choir until he had a talk with them and had things made over different. I reminded him that things were satisfactory and he was happy before he went away, and I could not see why they should not go on as before. His looks were perhaps for the benefit of his wife, but his words and looks were both met by mine with an effort at penetrating his mind and reading his spirit. It is the work of the enemy.

I am not meeting these things in my own strength, for that is literally "weakness" in these (these) days in the face of these bold moves of the enemy. But God is working and I am on His side. There is nothing that the Presbyterians are not doing to decoy all our

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young people away. While I was gone they began it, and so far it is not yet conquered. It is an epidemic among them. All of them have been affected by it. It is as hard to bear as a real loss of something highly valued. But it seemingly has to run its course. Some have come back and seem to be steady again. Others are ashamed to come back again and drop out of both churches.

Through their association in school as teachers, Marietta Marsden Benson acquired some influence over Laura Hudson that it seems impossible as yet to counteract. This is very unfortunate as the others all follow her and the rest of the family. Some have said to me here in my home, We all follow the Hudsons for we think that they know best how to do. Many of our young people joined the Presbyterian Christian Endeavor while I was absent. They went from that into the Presbyterian choir.

As a counter attraction, we have made much of our Monday evening young people's Bible class. And it has been well attended and greatly enjoyed, they have said. But with their fickle natures, they would come and enjoy the Bible class and go from it straight to the Christian Endeavor socials which were usually held on the same evening. We had a social evening every week and the others once a month. It has been strenuous work to keep hold of them and to keep things going in the church, but I have spared no expense or work to do

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We are just going on and doing our best and it seems necessary for the good of the cause to keep the line of information clear between this place and the center of activities with you, therefore I leave nothing covered but send it all along for the use of thyself and helpers.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear; the Lord is the strength of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?"

May He gird thee for the final battle with more than human wisdom and strength and give thee good success and victory in His own name. He does not forget, nor does He ever fail us.

Very sincerely thy friend,

(Signed) Mrs. Matilda W. Minthorn.

Mrs. Matilda W. Minthorn.

(Copied from the original typed letter -- OCH)

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1927
6-8

Metlakatla, Alaska.
June 8, 1927.

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

H

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

Tomorrow there will be another opportunity to go to Ketchikan, and to mail some letters. Mr. Simonds, for some reason, is unusually kind and ready to help us about getting to Ketchikan. But there are so few, and sometimes not any, to be had besides the cannery boat. The mail boat is of no service whatever now for passengers. It comes here on Monday morning and goes over to Chomley and then to Ketchikan around the north end of Gravina Island, leaving us to our own resources.

Everett Hudson stays away from town except for a brief call at his own house occasionally. He is not at church any more. Last week B. A. Haldane told John Hudson that his wife was making all the trouble for him about the church. He is staying away to please her but in a few weeks he will be ready to have his own way. And then if she carries out her threat to leave him, he will tell her to go and will help her to go. We have known always that she was of a very vindictive nature, and has frequently tried to get him to go to the Presbyterians. Any effort on the part of his friends to get him to come to our church again only seems to make it all worse. We are now making it a subject of special prayer and are watching for the Lord's guidance.

John Hudson has been having his hand treated and his boat repaired and is out of town except on Sundays. He comes home and gathers his family together and supports the church services faithfully. Moses Hewson is away trolling with his nephew, Robert, Martha's son. He comes in every few days. He and John Hayward are having a trial of their strength as leaders and managers of the church services. Moses Hewson holds to the fact that he is the regularly appointed General Secretary. John Hayward insists that his father was in line for the chieftainship, and that he is a great man himself. He is, in some respect but nothing to be elated over. He cannot go straight very long at a time.

Sanborn accosted John Hudson in Ketchikan and asked of him what man had said that Sanborn was going to start an Episcopal church over here. Hudson said that it was needless to ask such a question for there was only one man who had done that for years.

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The steamer, Dorothy Alexander, came yesterday with some excursionists of the Presbyterian church. I was at the church from 4 until 8 P.M. Answering questions and entertaining them in conversation. There were various ideas in their minds. One man

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Mr. Wellcome 6-8-27

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The new Native Episcopal church building in Ketchikan is to have a corner stone made from Yellow Hill rock. Paul Mather is here and they have set Ralph Smith and his son John to work getting out the stone and clearing the grounds over in Ketchikan. I see Paul Mather in close attendance upon Andrew Usher all the time out of working hours. Andrew is stationary engineer at the cannery.

Bensons are working hard to get all the Christian church members over to the Episcopal following. Marsdens are working very diligently yet to get all our young people and are after the Hudson girls. Mrs. Hudson told me yesterday that Laura had taken a stand for the church and was talking to our young people about being loyal too. But they must have some thing more in their hearts than (than) to please people. They must learn (learn) to do these things for Jesus' sake, or they will not hold out.

The work on the electric light plant under Manson and Son of Seattle has not yet materialized. The men who waited for it are again disappointed. The investigator has not arrived. Natives, both men and women visit this corner and look at and talk about this house and the grounds frequently each day. It is a place of striking contrast to the other houses and grounds. It is an ornament to the village now, where it was an eyesore in the past.

When the excursion arrived, the door of the Guest House was closed, for looks' sake, I think. The doors to the Girls' Home are always wide open. Mrs. Hudson says that another attempt has been made by some one to enter the cottage of Mr. Duncan, so that they felt that it was necessary to nail down all the windows. The attempt was made to enter by the windows.

It is good to know that our Great Helper is faithful and ready to help and that we are not alone in this work. It is for the best interests of the Kingdom of God, and He is leading in it. May He keep thee and give thee strength and wisdom for the rest of it.

Sincerely thy friend,

(Signed) Matilda W. Minthorn.

Matilda W. Minthorn.

(Copied from the original, typed letter -- OCH)

Metlakahtla, Alaska.

June 22, 1927.

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

Dear Mr. Wellcome:

A Mr. Waller has arrived from Seattle to begin the work of installing the Electric Plant on the mountain-side. In a conversation with Mr. Simonds on a boat en route to Ketchikan, he remarked that Mr. Waller had said that if it had not been for the interference of Sanborn the work would have been near completion by this time. As it is, the bad weather will begin when they are at the most important part of the enterprise.

It is the Hubbell Company that is to do the work after all the demurring by Sanborn and the natives. Mr. Simonds remarked also that Mr. Hubbell told him last winter that when he was in Washington, D. C. they said at the Department of the Interior that Metlakahtla gave them more trouble than all the rest of Alaska. I observed that it was trouble of their own making, for if they had begun aright at Metlakahtla there would not have been any trouble. Mr. Simonds assented to this, and also to the fact stated that the end of the trouble would only come when the settlement granted was fair and just and right. According to the saying of President Lincoln, that nothing is ever settled until it is settled right, this matter will continually keep returning for adjustment until a just settlement is given.

He had asked me how much longer I expected to remain and I had said until the settlement of the case, and he said that it could not be settled in the Department of the Interior because they would not grant any thing that showed them in the wrong. He said that it would have to be left to persons outside of that Department. He thought that every man of the Committee of Seven who had made that Report, was identified with the Department, and thought that the present investigator, Solicitor Gartland was also from the same Department.

Mr. Strong told me yesterday that Sanborn had gone down to Seattle, presumably to meet this man Gartland but had missed him enroute. Mr. Simonds had met and spoken to this man in

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Ketchikan, and he thought that it would yet be some six weeks or a month before his return from the north. Mr. Strong says that Mr. Shiels had wired Mr. Simonds as to the date of Mr. Gartland's leaving Seattle and Simonds had gone to Ketchikan to see him. By some means Herbert Murchison had also discovered the fact

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6-22-27

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Mrs. Simonds remarked at her last call at my house that if no one else obtained the lease it would automatically go to the same company again.

An executive meeting of the Town Council was held recently for the purpose of arranging for the program for July 4th, and while the treasurer, Brendible and the Mayor Hudson, waited for the Secretary Marsden, to appear, Brendible told Hudson of an interview with J. R. Heckman in Ketchikan. Heckman asked Brendible what he meant by signing the petition to the Secretary of the Interior not to let Sanborn have the lease. He asked, What did you want to do that for? Brendible told him that the natives were tired of giving away their fish to some white men and letting them get all the money for them. He said that the natives were feeling that they wanted the exclusive right to the use of the 3,000 foot strip for the natives only and to let some white man come and manage the cannery for them and buy the fish from the natives as Mr. Duncan used to do. Immediately Heckman agreed with Brendible that it was the wiser way and added that he himself, being the best friend that the natives had ever had, was just the man to take the cannery and run it for them.

In talking with both Mr. Strong and Mr. Simonds yesterday, without telling them why I asked for the information, I secured their estimate of the business qualifications of both Heckman and the Junior member of the Skinner family, Herbert Skinner. It is like this:

Heckman's cannery in Ketchikan had never seemed to me on as profitable a basis as the others, and both men admitted that Heckman was not a financial success. Mr. Strong admitting that he was not always quite dependable, but given to frequent changes of opinion and consequent changes of his word. I learned from some conversations last winter that Harvey Stackpole had been Heckman's foreman for some

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years and had become deeply indebted to Heckman and managed to keep the arrangement so as to necessitate being hired the following year in order to work out his indebtedness. And this is the man who was out hunting with Sanborn last fall when the present cannery scheme for Metlakahtla was formulated, and who was to be Sanborn's foreman. This was the trip on which Eddie Atkinson and Joshua Dobson and some other natives who had always been employed by Heckman at his cannery, reported to John Hudson the arrival of Sanborn and Stackpole in such a state of intoxication that Sanborn had to be hauled on the dock with ropes and left to come to his senses.

As to H. Skinner, while the natives are much impressed with the fact that he and his father are multi-millionaires, their

Mrs. Minthorn to
Mr. Wellcome

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According to the usual reports of canneries, a plant will pay for itself in its first year. And H. Skinner has said that he has already sunk 10,000 dollars in trying to get the lease of the Metlakahtla cannery, and when asked both Mr. Simonds and Mr. Strong admitted that H. Skinner was not much of a financier. The next thing is to get some of the facts as to this state of affairs into the minds of the natives of John Hudson's class as business men, without making any sweeping statements or accusations against these men. There will be a way. And it must be done if one is to serve the natives helpfully. They must be led to take facts and judge for themselves in business affairs.

Sometimes when I am showing John Hudson these things he tells me that I ought to get our people together and tell them these things. But it does not seem wise to do it that way and he must keep them in his mind and tell them to one here and there and I will do the same. He says that Brendible and Verney and others are all agreed that they must present the proposition to the investigator that the natives should be allowed the exclusive right to fish in the waters adjacent to this Island.

The natives are also much concerned over the fact that a committee of Ketchikan business men are at work on a report or presentation to this Solicitor, Mr. Gartland, to the effect that they advise that Annette Islands Reservation be opened up for mining operations and for mining prospectors. A notice of it appeared in the Ketchikan Chronicle of June 18, which I suppose has come to your office, as Mr. Strong spoke of having arranged for a subscription to it some time ago.

At a recent meeting of the Ketchikan Commercial Club, the subject of the appointment of this committee of business men to present their views as to the leasing of the cannery to Sanborn and other things pertaining to Metlakahtla, Mr. Strong declined to serve on that committee because of his close relations with its affairs, and Sanborn insisted upon being appointed on the Committee because of the same relations, there was some discussion among the members generally as to what they thought about Metlakahtla and the exclusive fishing rights.

In this discussion Mr. Strong stated that he thought that the rights ought to be given exclusively to the natives and not to any white man or company. And that if any company or man was to have any rights or advantages, then all men should have equal rights.

On the day following this meeting Sanborn and wife came over to Metlakahtla to talk with Marsden and Benson and give them points and information, I was told. Soon after Hudson was telling me that Andrew Usher was greatly discouraged for Benson had told him that Sanborn said that Mr. Strong was trying to throw the island open and that Sanborn opposed him in the meeting and now Sanborn was the only friend that the natives had to

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and asked if I meant to give him again the order for the help for the poor. I had been withholding it until he made some advances to me so that I might say a few things to him. He was much affected with the kindness and advice shown him, and says that his wife is at the bottom of it all and wishes that I might talk with her and help her. He wishes to continue his work, in the church.

John Hudson asked me to copy and send to thee this letter

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from Secretary Work. It is an acknowledgment of the one written a short time ago, of which he sent thee a copy also. He is happy because he is now sure that this one letter has reached the Secretary if others had not.

June 23rd.

Today I have had a talk with Mrs. B. A. Haldane and have reason to believe that her heart was reached and that she will come back to the church and will help Benjamin to come also. It was done for the Lord's sake and not for others and that is the kind of motive that keeps on working. It is the highest motive that any heart can have and is the one that these people need to accept for their life and work. I could not understand her prayer in her own language, but while she prayed I had an assurance in my heart that the Lord had touched her heart. This is all His great work and we are just the "workers together with God", but it is so well worth while.

So often my friends say to me, How can you stay away off up there when you might be doing so much down here? But the honor is all in working with Him, and the place is of His choosing, not mine. As I know the work of the Kingdom, there are mighty deeds being done in out of the way places that the world will hear about in the Great Day. Court is held where the King is and He is in the place where His service is going on even with the humblest worker. And I have no doubt but that He attends the hearings when thee and thy faithful workers go before the Secretary. We are praying much for the Secretary these days that he may be kept from mistakes.

The garden and the lawn are doing well and the shrubs and fruit trees are beginning to leaf out. It will soon be ready to photograph. To my surprise today as I passed Marsden's house I saw a picket fence on three sides of the lot and other improvements being finished. That is because he does not wish this place to make a better impression than his to visitors. It was not there the last time I passed by it. Mrs. Haldane has the most gorgeous display of flowers in her door yard of any one, and is correspondingly happy.

Every body in town is growing unusually kind to us. And

Mrs. Minthorn to
Mr. Wellcome, 6-22-27

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look after the business of their church, which is their real business, visited this place. Their stay was very brief, having to return by a certain hour to keep a dinner appointment. The party was made up of Bishop Shepherd, Dr. McQueen, and another gentleman whose name does not seem to have been impressed upon my mind. The pastor of Ketchikan M. E. church Mr. Sanders, and his wife, and Dr. Gertrude Minthorn were also of the party.

I recalled the name of Dr. McQueen as the one whose correspondence with the trustees about taking over this work, I had read while in the office, and was not surprised to find the inquiries of each of them all pointing towards the same interest. They were not just the same inquiries that a casual visitor makes. Among them was the query as to just how to get hold of a building site in the town. Also as to just how far Sanborn had gone in his attempt to get hold of the church. While in the church they all walked into the pulpit and sang two verses of a hymn and the bishop made a "memorial prayer" as they called it.

Of course, the thing that is a matter of much speculation and frequent conversation, Sanborn's attempt to monopolize Metlakatla, and his method of doing so, had made them curious about the place and its interests.

It is very quiet here as it is in Ketchikan at this time. And when Solicitor Gartland comes this way about the first of August, there will be, as usual, few of the residents in the village except those who work in the cannery. The natives will all be away to the fishing grounds and they do not come in except to bring their boat loads of fish. This is the usual time, however, for the Bureau of Education to arrange for an investigation or call from any one who wishes to know of the affairs of the village, for Marsden can then give his account of it and his people who are the ones who work in the cannery, can be the witnesses in a mass meeting.

This is the outlook from the human standpoint, but from the view point of faith, there is every reason to believe that God does not forget the prayers of those who ask that things here may be ordered and conducted by Him to His own glory and the good of these people to whom He sent His messenger years ago, and whom He still has on His heart. He will do His will and will restrain every hindrance using the very opposition of His enemy to further His own cause.

May He give thee wisdom and courage with the needed grace and peace and strength for thy service for Himself to these people.

Very sincerely thy friend,

(Signed) Mrs. Matilda W. Minthorn.

Mrs. Matilda W. Minthorn.

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Metlakahtla Alaska

June 29, 1927.

Harry Lang has told Moses Hewson that he heard that Skinner had withdrawn his support from Sanborn, and that Sanborn was expecting to come over this week and meet the Metlakahtla Town Council to get them to help bear the expenses of the trips to Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Hudson told me when I referred to her for information about it, that Skinner had already told John Hudson that he intended to withdraw from the cannery deal. John Hudson was in Ketchikan at the time we were talking it over. He returned before time for Sanborn to arrive. I have heard nothing since then.

Moses Hewson was intending to encourage John Hudson to take the stand that the Council should pay no bills which they did not authorize and that they never sent Sanborn to Washington and were not responsible for his bills.

(Signed) Matilda W. Minthorn.

Matilda W. Minthorn.

(Copied from the original typed letter - OCH)

1. Encl. (See. Work to John Hudson, June 6/27)

6-22-4.
6-29
C O P Y

Document No. 15
Order No. 265-1

SEAL

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

June 6, 1927.

Mr. John Hudson,
Mayor,
Metlakatla, Alaska.

My dear sir:

Your letter of May 26, copy of which
was sent me, has been forwarded to me by the
President for acknowledgement.

We are giving the subject on which
you write careful attention.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Hubert Work.

(Copied from a typed copy of letter -- OCH)