

May 9, 1917

15-1

Mrs. Ethel Combs Willard,
1532 Seventh Ave., West,
Seattle, Wash.

Dear Mrs. Willard:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 4, in which you ask for information concerning vacancies in the schools of Alaska which are to be filled this fall.

In reply I have to advise you that the appointment of teachers in the various schools of Alaska are made by the school boards of the different school districts. I am enclosing herewith a copy of a school circular containing the names of the school districts of the Territory, both in incorporated towns and in rural districts. I would suggest that you get in communication with some of the school boards in order to ascertain if teachers are needed.

I am also referring your letter to Commissioner of Education Henderson, whose address is Juneau. This office was recently created and hereafter he will have active charge of the schools of the Territory.

I may say that I remember you very well; in fact, I know you when you were only a small toddler, and this reminds me that time does fly.

I trust that you are in good health, and assuring you that I will do anything possible to assist you in securing a school in Alaska, I am,

Yours very truly,

Governor, ex officio Superintendent
of Public Instruction

May 9, 1917

14-2

Mr. R. H. Odell,

Naines, Alaska

Dear Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 5, in which you ask to be informed as to the amount appropriated by the legislature for schools which will be available this year.

In reply I have to advise you that for the support of schools in incorporated towns and incorporated school districts the sum of \$135,000 was appropriated for the present school year, or a total of \$270,000 for the biennium; for the support of schools outside of incorporated towns, or incorporated school districts, \$70,000 per year was appropriated, or \$140,000 for the ensuing two years, and \$5,000 was appropriated for the maintenance of citizenship night schools. In addition to these appropriations, the office of Commissioner of Education was created, as well as a Territorial Board of Education; the appropriation for the carrying out of the provisions of the school act, including the salary of the Commissioner of Education, was \$8,000 per annum

or \$16,000 for the biennium.

The law also provides that 75 per cent of the cost of maintaining schools within incorporated towns of the Territory shall be assumed by the Territory, but in no case will the amount appropriated for the support of such schools exceed \$15,000 for any town.

I am,

Yours very truly,

Governor, ex officio Superintendent
of Public Instruction

May 10, 1917

15-1

Mrs. D. Marie Balsor,
Albuquerque Indian School,
Albuquerque, N. M.

Dear Madam:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of April 25, in which you ask for information concerning the need of teachers in unincorporated towns of this Territory.

In reply I have to advise you that appointments to the schools outside of incorporated towns are made by the school boards of the respective districts and not by this office.

I am enclosing herewith a school circular, showing the names of the different districts, and it is suggested that you apply directly to the board of school directors of any of these districts in which you might desire to secure a school.

The credentials forwarded with your letter are being returned herewith.

Yours very truly,

Governor, Chairman of Territorial
Board of Education

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May 10, 1917

125

Mr. F. X. Karrer,
Teachers' College,
Columbia University,
New York City

Dear Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of April 21, in which you ask if it will be possible for you to secure a copy of the final draft of the school bill.

In reply I have to advise you that none of these bills have as yet been printed, but as soon as they are, one will be forwarded to your address.

I have further to advise you that at a meeting of the Territorial Board of Education on May 5, Mr. L. D. Henderson, superintendent of the Junco public schools, was elected Commissioner of Education.

I am,

Yours very truly,

Governor, Chairman Territorial
Board of Education

May 10, 1917

125

Dr. Frederick E. Bolton,
University of Washington,
Seattle, Wash.

Dear Sir:

I am transmitting herewith the credentials of Miss Floy Tracy, of Douglas, Alaska, forwarded to this office for examination. At that time Miss Tracy was a candidate for Commissioner of Education for Alaska,-- a new office created at the recent session of the Territorial legislature, and the only objection that the Board of Education had to urge against Miss Tracy was her youth. The Board recognized that she possesses, in an unusual degree, those qualifications which have made her work as a teacher in the public schools of Alaska an eminent success. Should she remain in the profession of teaching, I predict for her a splendid career.

I am,

Yours very truly,

Governor, Chairman of the Board
of Education

Copy to Miss Tracy

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May 11, 1917

14-1

Mr. F. C. French,
204 Utah Savings & Trust Bldg.,
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of April 18, with reference to school matters connected with the Latouche school district. I note you say that Mr. Stannard requested you to turn over to him, before you left Latouche, the remaining funds belonging to the school district and that you should also make a report and turn it over to the treasurer-elect of the school district for the next school year any unexpended balance in your hands.

In reply I have to advise you that you should forward a report to this office, and such expended balance as may remain in your hands should be promptly forwarded to the present treasurer of the Latouche school district.

I note your statements to the effect that the new school house is finished, except the painting and installation of steam, and I shall also take up the matter of securing a deed to the new school location from the Kennecott Corporation.

Yours very truly,

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Governor

May 11, 1917

14-1

Mr. Arthur Lang,

Clerk of the District Court,

Valdez, Alaska

Dear Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 1, with reference to the future organization of school districts in the third judicial division.

In reply I have to advise you that the Territory now has ample funds for the maintenance of all schools in districts that may be organized hereafter. You are also advised that the legislature, at its recent session, reduced the number of white children of school age, namely, 20, necessary to the organization of a school district, to ten. So far as the organization of a school district is concerned, this is the only important change that was made, and you may govern yourself accordingly.

Recently this office had a communication from Mr. Lickwald, of Matanuska, and he was advised to apply to you for the organization of a school district at Matanuska.

Yours very truly,

Governor, Chairman of the Territorial Board of Education

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TERRITORY OF ALASKA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
JUNEAU

CIRCULAR NO. 2

May 14, 1917

14-1

To all School Boards:

Referring to Circular No. 1, dated February 9, 1917, and particularly to the second paragraph of item No. 1 therein, you are advised that funds for the maintenance of the schools in the Territory have been guaranteed by appropriations made by the third session of the Alaska Territorial legislature which adjourned on the third instant.

All school boards are authorized to complete arrangements for the carrying on of schools during the school year 1917-18, the length of term to be nine months. Estimates should be made up and forwarded to the Governor's office, as heretofore, where they will be passed upon and the school boards will be promptly advised of any changes made therein.

Governor, ex officio Chairman of
Territorial Board of Education

Sent to all schools except Anchorage

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12

May 14, 1917

15-1

Mrs. Carrie Shaw Rice,
Spanish Fork, Utah

Dear Mrs. Rice:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 5, with reference to the development of educational conditions in Alaska.

In reply I have to advise you that on March 3 last, Congress passed a law which, in fact, transfers the control of the schools of Alaska to the Territory and, following this, the legislature, at its recent session, passed a number of school laws for the government of white schools in the Territory, among them being one providing for the creation of a Territorial Board of Education, consisting of the Governor and four other members and the election of a Commissioner of Education. The Board has already been organized and on May 5, the date of your letter, Mr. L. D. Henderson, superintendent of the Juneau public schools, was elected to that position. Mr. Henderson has already opened an office in Juneau and has assumed his duties and as he will be in active charge of the administration of the white schools hereafter, I suggest that you write him for further

information. It is needless for me to say that I shall highly recommend you to Mr. Henderson in the event that he can make use of your services.

I am also forwarding your letter and recommendations to Commissioner Henderson.

With very best wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

Governor, ex officio Chairman of
Territorial Board of Education

May 14, 1917

14-1

Mr. L. A. Meisner,
7004 East 14th St.,
Oakland, Cal.

Dear Sir:

By reference from Hon. Charles A. Sulzer, Delegate from Alaska, I am in receipt of your letter of April 25, with reference to schools in the Kuskekwim region.

In reply I have to advise you that in any community in Alaska, including the Kuskekwim district, where there are ten children (white) between the ages of six and twenty years, schools for their education may be established, and, if the people of any of the Kuskekwim communities have that number of children, by complying with the law, they may secure schools. Appointment of teachers in the white schools of Alaska are made by the board of school directors for the respective districts.

For further information, you are advised to address Mr. L. D. Henderson, Commissioner of Education, Juneau.

Yours very truly,

Governor, ex officio Chairman of
Territorial Board of Education

May 14, 1917

14-1

Mr. Alex Friedolin,

Afognak, Alaska

Dear Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of April 5, in which you state that in a number of instances school children in your district, instead of attending school, are absent for no other reason than to go to church; and you ask if it is a valid excuse for a parent or guardian to keep a child away from school when it is in session and send that child to church instead.

In reply I have to advise you that, in my opinion, neither the church nor the school should conflict with each other, and that the church services should be so arranged as not to preclude the children from attending school on every school day. We have in Alaska a compulsory school law, and, where the parents or guardians of children neglect to send the children to school, the law can be invoked and they can be compelled to educate their children. It seems to me, however, that parents or guardians who are interested in the education of their children, as all of them should be, can surely arrange the church services in such a way as not to

interfere with the education of their children. As you know, our schools are strictly nonsectarian; that is, they do not know any particular religious denomination, and, while it is quite proper that children should attend church, it is just as important, in my opinion, that they attend school. The American public school is designed, at least, to educate the children, to teach patriotism, to, in short, fit the rising generation for the duties of good citizenship, their religious instruction being confined to their parents and guardians; and if your school, or any other school in Alaska, falls short of doing these things, it is not fulfilling its duty to the community. I want to emphasize the fact that the first public duty they owe is to the government which protects them and gives them its support; their private duties entail allegiance to their parents and incidentally to the churches of which they are members, but these private duties should not, in any way, tend to abate their public service or their duty to the state. I also wish to emphasize the fact that the rights of the church and the school should never conflict, as nothing but evil can grow out of differences between the church and the state, and in the latter category is included the public school.

This matter of the observance of church holidays has arisen heretofore in Alaska, but was satisfactorily arranged,

the people of the community having seen to it that the observance of church holidays did not conflict with the attendance of the children at the public school, and I think this can and ought to be done in your district.

I am,

Yours very truly,

Governor, ex officio Chairman of
Territorial Board of Education

May 14, 1917

14-3

Mrs. Fanny C. Elsomere,
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear Madam:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 10, in which you ask for a copy of the school law passed at the recent session of the legislature.

In reply I have to advise you that these bills have not been printed, but as soon as they are, a copy of the school law will be forwarded to your address.

With reference to your request for a statement of the cost of maintenance of the schools of Alaska, I have to advise that for the school year 1916-17, the cost of maintaining the white schools outside of incorporated towns, exclusive of the town of Anchorage, was \$83,831.40. Figures showing the cost of maintenance of schools within the incorporated towns for the present school year are not yet available, but I may state that the cost will be approximately \$115,000.

Your letter was not received until yesterday (Sunday); therefore, I am availing myself of the first opportunity of replying thereto.

Yours very truly,

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May 14, 1917

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Prof. F. G. Davis, Supt.,
Valdez Public Schools,
Valdez, Alaska

Dear Sir:

I beg to advise you that at a meeting of the Territorial Board of Education recently, Mr. L. D. Henderson, of Juneau, was elected Commissioner of Education, under the law recently enacted by the legislature. Your name was duly presented, together with your credentials, but the Board being composed of five members, among them four Territorial senators, votes enough could not be mastered in your favor.

I am,

Yours very truly,

Governor, ex officio Chairman of the
Territorial Board of Education

May 14, 1917

14-3

Mr. Phil Abraham,

Skagway, Alaska

Dear Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 11, wherein you state that you had been directed by Mayor Howard Ashley of your city to write for information concerning House Bill No. 4, approved May 3, with reference to the appropriations by the Territorial legislature for the support of schools, in your case specifically as to schools within incorporated communities; and you ask what procedure is necessary for the purpose of obtaining this money.

The law provides that 75 per cent of the cost of maintaining schools in incorporated towns shall be borne by the Territory, payment to be made upon presentation to the Territorial Treasurer of properly executed vouchers. The vouchers should show the entire cost of maintaining the schools per month and be properly certified, of course, with subvouchers for all expenditures made by the school board, and if these are found satisfactory, the Territory then refunds or recoups the school board to the extent of 75 per cent of the expenses incurred in the maintenance of such schools.

As this law has not been printed, no copies as yet are
available for distribution.

With best wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

Governor, Chairman of the Terri-
terial Board of Education.

May 14, 1917

15-1

Mr. L. S. Hopkins^{ms}

Petersburg, Alaska

Dear Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the eighth instant, addressed to the Governor, in which you request information regarding positions in the United States public schools of the Territory, and as to bar examinations.

The employment of teachers in the United States public schools in the Territory (schools for Aleuts, Eskimos and Indians), is under the supervision of the United States Bureau of Education, with Mr. W. T. Lopp as Chief of the Alaska Division. His offices are in the L. C. Smith Building, Seattle, Wash., and I understand that his office arranges for teachers in these schools. Mr. C. W. Haskeworth, of Juneau, is the superintendent in charge of the southeastern Alaska division. This office is not definitely advised as to the requirements in the government school service and is unable to say just what consideration would be given to the permit which authorizes you to teach in the white schools of the Territory.

Bar examinations are usually held in Juneau. There is no particular time for holding these examinations. When an ap-

plication for examination is filed, the court appoints an examination committee of three members of the bar, who conduct an examination and report to the court. If the applicant has success in passing the examination, he is admitted and a certificate issued. Practicing attorneys from the States who make application for admission are admitted to practice in the courts of Alaska without examination upon presentation of their state certificates and proof that they have practiced in the states for at least five years.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

May 14, 1917

14-1

Mr. George E. Howard,
Clerk of the School Board,
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Sir:

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the tenth instant, asking if your school board may elect three teachers for the school year 1917-18, as per the budget recently sent in by the board.

Before the Governor passes upon this matter, he desires further information, and for this purpose I am returning the estimates submitted by your board, with the request that the blanks under the note on page 3 be filled in to show the maximum, minimum and average attendance during the 1916-17 school year up to the present time. The statement that there are about 75 children of school age now resident within the school district is of little value in determining how many teachers may be necessary. Permit me to call your attention to the fact that the director should have signed the estimates.

It is probable that some increase in teachers' salaries will be allowed, but it is somewhat doubtful if the Governor will allow the full amount asked for in the board's estimates.

However, you will be further advised as to this when the estimates have been received back from you with the additional information asked for.

Yours very truly,

Secretary to the Governor

May 16, 1917

15-9

Miss Alice R. James,
c/o F. A. Owen Publishing Co.,
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Madam:

Acknowledging receipt of your letter of March 13, I am enclosing herewith a school circular containing names of the different school districts in this Territory. Applications for positions as teachers should be addressed to the school boards of the respective districts.

I have to advise you that for any further information concerning the schools of Alaska, you should address Mr. L. D. Henderson, Commissioner of Education, Juneau.

Yours very truly,

Governor, ex officio Chairman of
Territorial Board of Education

Enc.

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/3/

May 16, 1917

14-1

Mr. Alex. Friedelin,
Clerk, Afognak School District,
Afognak, Alaska

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of the tenth ultimo, addressed to the Governor, in which you make inquiry regarding the matter of employment of teachers for the school year 1917-18. I beg to advise that Circular No. 2 was issued by this office on the 14th instant and mailed to the clerks of all school boards, in which the school boards were advised that it would be in order for them to proceed to make arrangements for conducting schools for a nine-months term during the school year 1917-18. You will no doubt receive the circular in the mail which takes this letter to you.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

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May 16, 1917

15-5

Messrs. Newson & Co., Publishers,
73 Fifth Ave. at 15th St.,
New York City

Dear Sirs:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 11th ultimo, requesting late issues of documents of interest to school book publishers.

Under separate cover we are sending you a copy of the Governor's annual report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916, in which will be found a brief reference to the white schools of the Territory. There are no separate publications issued by this Territory relating to the white schools.

The 1915 session of the legislature, which adjourned on the third instant, passed a number of laws relating to the schools of the Territory, among which was a general school law providing for the standardizing of courses of study, examination and certification of teachers, etc. Under this act Professor L. D. Henderson, of Juneau, has been appointed to the position of Commissioner of Education for Alaska, and assumed his duties on the tenth instant. He will be actively in charge of all white schools of the Territory.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

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May 16, 1917

15-2

Prof. W. A. Knox, Supt.,
Ketchikan Public Schools,
Ketchikan, Alaska

Dear Sir:

In further reference to the matter of examination as to the qualifications of Miss Mabel Winston, as a teacher in the white schools of this Territory, in which examination you kindly offer to assist, I beg to advise that the session of the legislature which closed on the third instant passed an act which provides for the establishment of a school system in the Territory of Alaska along lines similar to those in the States. A Territorial Board of Education, consisting of the Governor and the senior senators from the four judicial divisions, was created by the act and this Board was authorized to appoint a Commissioner of Education in the Territory. The Board met immediately following the adjournment of the legislature and appointed Prof. L. D. Henderson to the position of Commissioner.

The matter of Miss Winston's request for an examination as to her qualifications has been taken up with Commis-

siener Henderson, and he will arrange in the near future
for the examination. Should he wish you to assist in the
matter, he will no doubt communicate with you with that end
in view.

Thanking you for your offer to assist this office in the
matter, I am,

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

May 16, 1917

15-1

Miss Mabel Winston,

Ketchikan, Alaska

Dear Madam:

Referring again to the matter of examination as to your qualifications as a teacher in the white schools of Alaska, I beg to advise that the session of the legislature which adjourned on the third instant passed a general school law which created a Territorial Board of Education and provided for the appointment, by the Board, of a Commissioner of Education. The Territorial Board met immediately following the adjournment of the legislature and appointed Prof. L. D. Henderson, of Juneau, to the position of Commissioner of Education and he assumed his duties on the tenth instant.

The act of the legislature above mentioned contemplates the organization of a school system in Alaska along lines similar to those of various states, and this will include the examination and certification of teachers.

The matter of your examination has been taken up with Commissioner Henderson, and he advises that he will arrange

for the examination. He will write you regarding the matter
in the near future.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

May 16, 1917

15-1

Prof. L. D. Henderson,
Commissioner of Education,

Juneau

My dear Professor:

Enclosed herewith are copies of letters of this date addressed to Miss Mabel Winston and Professor W. A. Knox, of Ketchikan, in reference to the examination which was requested by Miss Winston some time ago. This matter, of course, is now under your jurisdiction.

Faithfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

Encs.

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May 18, 1917

Prof. L. D. Henderson,
Commissioner of Education,
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing herewith a letter from Miss Mayme Ever-
sole, of Anchorage, which is self-explanatory. Will you ad-
vise Miss Eversole in the matter which she discusses?

I am,

Yours very truly,

Governor, ex officio Chairman of
Territorial Board of Education

Enc.

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May 18, 1917

14-1

Miss Mayme Eversole,

Anchorage, Alaska

My dear Miss Eversole:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 5, with regard to the Anchorage school situation.

In reply I have to state that the legislature, at its recent session, relieved the Governor's office of most of the school work by creating the office of Commissioner of Education, with headquarters in Juneau. This new official is Mr. L. D. Henderson, formerly superintendent of the Juneau schools. I have transmitted your letter to him, with the suggestion that he take the action necessary in the premises.

I trust that you are in excellent health, and with very best wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

Governor, ex officio Chairman of
Territorial Board of Education

May 21, 1917

14-1

Mr. Arthur Lang,
Clerk of the Court,
Valdez, Alaska

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith you will find a letter addressed to the Territorial Treasurer at Juneau, by Isaac F. Bargin, of Seldevia, who was recently elected treasurer of the Seldevia school district, transmitting his bond in duplicate. The papers were referred to this office by the Territorial Treasurer and are being sent to you as they should, of course, have been mailed to you in the first instance.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

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Juneau, May 22, 1917. O. B.

14-1

Sam Kraft,

KODIAK,

**Replying yours nineteenth you are advised that teachers are
entitled to full pay for month under conditions mentioned in your message.**

STRONG, GOVERNOR.

I certify that this telegram is on official business, and
necessary for the public service, and will not bear the delay
incident to the mails.

Secretary to Governor.

May 23, 1917.

14-1

Mr. G. W. Palmer,
Treasurer Knik School District,
Knik, Alaska.

Dear Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your typewritten report for the school year 1916-17, also estimates of your board for the ensuing year.

With respect to your annual report you are advised that it should have been made out on the regular blank furnished by this office for that purpose, and which blank was sent to the Clerk of your board some time ago, with other blanks. Two of the report blanks are herewith enclosed, and you are requested to make out your report on these, forwarding one to this office and filing the other with the records of the school district.

You are also advised that, under the regulations issued by this office (copy enclosed) and which have heretofore been furnished to all school boards, the treasurer is required to submit with his annual report, receipts, receipted bills, etc., covering all expenditures made during the year. A mere list of expenditures, such as that contained in the report which has just been received from you, will not suffice, as it offers no means of auditing. You will therefore kindly forward, (with your

(G. W. Palmer, Treasurer, p. 2)

report on the regular form) receipts covering salary of teacher, services of janitor, and any other expenditures for personal service of any kind rendered the district, and receipted bills for all supplies, etc., purchased for the district, with proper detail shown on them.

Respectfully yours,

FOR THE GOVERNOR:

Encls.

Secretary to the Governor.

May 23, 1917

125

Prof. F. G. Davis,
c/o Frye Hotel,
Seattle, Wash.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing herewith credentials of yours filed with
this office some two years ago.

I am,

Yours very truly,

Governor

May 24, 1917

14-1

Mr. E. T. Stennard, Manager,
Kennecott Copper Corporation,
Kennecott, Alaska

Dear Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 11,
with reference to the schools at Kennecott and Latouche.

In reply I have to advise you that the circular let-
ters which you refer to, were sent out from this office
some months ago. Since that time ample funds have been
secured for the maintenance of all schools, both inside
and outside of incorporated towns, and you needn't have any
fear of not receiving sufficient funds for the maintenance
of the schools in the districts to which you refer. A cir-
cular to this effect has been issued from this office.

Yours very truly,

Governor, ex officio Chairman
Territorial Board of Education

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May 24, 1917

15-1

Miss Helena J. Kabe,

Nenana, Alaska

Dear Madam:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of April 24, with reference to your application for a position as a teacher, preferably in the school which will be established at Nenana.

In reply I have to advise you that the territorial legislature, at its recent session, passed a law making provision for the organization of school districts near railroad towns situated as is Nenana, and I have no doubt that the people of that town will take advantage of this law and duly organize a school district. In this event, a board of school directors will be elected and to this board will be committed the duty of employing such teachers as may be necessary. Appointments of teachers throughout Alaska are invariably made by the boards of school directors of the respective school districts, and not by this office. Therefore, you should take up this matter with any school board in any district in which you might desire to secure a school.

Another school law enacted by the legislature provides for a Territorial board of education and the appointment of a commissioner of education. The board has already organized

and appointed a commissioner of education, namely Mr. L. D. Henderson, whose address is Juneau. I am sure that Mr. Henderson, who was formerly superintendent of the Juneau public schools will be pleased to give you such further information as you may need, as I also shall myself.

I am returning herewith the enclosures accompanying your letter.

Yours very truly,

Governor, ex officio Chairman
Territorial Board of Education

May 26, 1917

15-1

Mr. C. E. Locke,
1032 Security Building,
Los Angeles, Cal.

My dear Mr. Locke:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 17, with enclosures, which I have transmitted to the President of the Juneseu school board.

Mr. Matthews, one of the faculty of the Juneseu school during the past year, has been appointed superintendent in place of Mr. Henderson, elected Commissioner of Education for the Territory. The vacancy created by Mr. Matthews, I understand, is still to be filled.

I am,

Cordially yours,

Governor, ex officio Chairman
Territorial Board of Education

May 26, 1917

15-1

Mr. Grover C. Winn,
President of the School Board,
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing herewith certain correspondence which is self-explanatory. I may add that I am not acquainted with Mr. Leck personally, but know him through mutual friends in Los Angeles, by whom he is highly recommended.

Yours very truly,

Governor, Chairman of the Territorial Board of Education

Enc.

May 29, 1917

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Honorable Charles E. Davidson,
Secretary of Alaska,
Juneau, Alaska

My dear Sir:

By direction of the Governor, I transmit herewith the
oath of office of L. D. Henderson, executed in connection with
his appointment as Commissioner of Education for the Territory
and who assumed his duties on the tenth instant.

Faithfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

May 29, 1917

14-1

Mr. George E. Howard, Clerk,
Sitka School Board,
Sitka, Alaska

My dear Sir:

Your letter of the 29th (?) reached this office yesterday afternoon, just a few minutes before the Governor left for the States. I took up with him very briefly the matter of employing an additional teacher in the Sitka school for the ensuing year and the increases in salaries. He did not wish to pass upon the matter finally, without giving it further consideration, but expressed the opinion that the showing made as to the attendance during the school year 1916-17 was hardly sufficient to justify the employment of an additional teacher. The Governor will give the matter further consideration either while absent from Juneau or upon his return some weeks hence.

I may add that the session of the legislature which adjourned recently passed several school laws, copies of which are not yet available for reference. These laws include provisions for a general school organization throughout the Territory, in charge of a Commissioner of Education, who assumed his duties on the tenth instant; the organization of Territorial

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school districts outside of incorporated towns on lines similar to the districts heretofore organized under the Nelson school law, provisions for aiding the Nelson schools in a financial way to supplement the federal fund, and provisions for furnishing financial aid to the incorporated town schools. Until copies of these laws are available, it is somewhat difficult to pass upon estimates for the ensuing school year.

Faithfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

June 1, 1917

14-3

Mr. Clyde A. Thompson, Treasurer,
Eagle School Board,
Eagle, Alaska

Dear Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 9th ultimo, addressed to the Governor, in which you make inquiry with regard to school funds under the act passed by the recent session of the Territorial legislature.

Chapter 28 of the 1917 session laws, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, is an act passed by the legislature "To provide for the maintenance of public schools and high schools in incorporated towns, cities and incorporated school districts in the Territory of Alaska." You will note that the act provides that 75 per cent of the total amount expended for the maintenance of public schools, including high schools within the limits of any incorporated town, etc., in each school year, shall be refunded to the school fund of said incorporated town from Territorial funds; certain limitations being contained in the act with respect to the amounts which may be included for repairs, etc.

Section 3 of the act outlines the method to be followed by the school board of each incorporated town in arranging for

securing funds from the Territory, under the terms of section 1 of the act. Section 4 provides for the examination and approval of the itemized quarterly statements of expenditures submitted by the school boards and the issuance of warrants to the amount of 75 per cent of such expenditures.

For your further information in connection with school matters, you will find enclosed one copy each of chapters 5 and 64 of the 1917 session laws.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

June 1, 1917

14-1

Mr. D. J. Argall, Treasurer,
The Perseverance School District,
Perseverance, via Junction

Dear Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 28th ultimo, addressed to the Governor, suggesting that on account of local conditions, the Perseverance school board would like to have the school year begin in July instead of September, the vacation period to be had during the months of January, February and March.

This matter has been taken up with Professor L. D. Henderson, the recently appointed Commissioner of Education for the Territory, and he agrees with this office that the plan suggested by you is a good one. Your board is therefore authorized to arrange the school term in your district in accordance with the suggestion contained in your letter.

Respectfully yours,

FOR THE GOVERNOR:

Secretary to the Governor

Juneau, June 2, 1917. O. B. Ans.

14-1

Clark, Clerk District Court,

FAIRBANKS.

Replying yours yesterday requisition for funds
for school district now on way to Washington, covering full amount asked for in
estimates of board.

Strong, Governor.


Secretary to Governor.

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June 4, 1917

14-1

Mr. E. Boutwell, Clerk,
Kenai School District,
Kenai, Alaska

Dear Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 8th ultimo, addressed to the Governor, enclosing a requisition for funds for your school district, for the school year 1917-18. These estimates arrived but a few hours before Governor Strong's departure for the States and he did not have time to give them consideration further than to say that the increase in the salary of the principal of your school, from \$150 to \$175 per month, would be authorized and that the salaries of the other two teachers would continue as heretofore, namely, \$150 per month, as specified in the estimates. The other items will be given consideration at a later date.

With reference to the matter of additional school room facilities, this also will be considered later.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

June 5, 1917

14-1

Mrs. Ellen Tascher,
Principal, Treadwell School,
Treadwell, Alaska

My dear Mrs. Tascher:

On behalf of the Governor, I wish to thank you for your letter of the fourth instant, giving us a report on the Treadwell school for the year just closed and some information in regard to conditions in the Treadwell school district, which will be of material assistance to this office when the time comes to pass upon the estimates for the next school year.

Faithfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

(14)

Juneau, June 11, 1917. G. B. Sas.

Christensen,

Anchorage.

Replying yours with amount available construction schoolhouse under Nelson act not changed by legislature. Law furnishing seventy five percent of cost of maintenance from Territorial school funds applies to incorporated towns and to incorporated school districts which may be organized under the law which is chapter twenty eight of nineteen seventeen session laws. Law provides quote no expense incurred for construction of new buildings, purchasing building sites, or other real estate, shall be considered expenses of maintenance within the meaning of this act, and not more than ten percent of the expense of maintenance shall consist of expenses incurred for repairs, alterations or other improvements, and provided that no town or incorporated district shall receive more than fifteen thousand dollars from the Territory under this act during any one school year unquote. Inadvisable organize any more districts under Nelson law. New districts should be organized under provisions chapter ~~twentyeight~~

~~thirtytwo~~ five of nineteen seventeen laws which provides for taxation within school district upon real and personal property, to assist in support of school. Believe proper procedure Anchorage district would be to ask district court to declare district vacated and then proceed to organize as an incorporated school district under chapter five. Difficulty might arise over taxation of lots purchased from government, but of this you are no doubt better able to judge. Copies of laws go to you first mail.

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90

144

Juneau, June 11, 1917. O. B.

Christensen,

Anchorage.

Further reference yours ninth. Chapter twenty-two session laws
nineteen seventeen practically re-enactment Nelson school law provides for school
district where ten resident white children between six and twenty years, and
allows from three hundred to eighteen hundred dollars for construction and equipment
school house. Otherwise law substantially identical with Nelson act. Probably few
more districts this class could be taken care of, but funds limited and the forty
district already established will require major portion. This chapter overlooked
when message this afternoon was sent you.

DAVIDSON, Acting Governor.


Secretary to Governor.

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1421

June 11, 1917. COLLECT PRESS.

Iditarod Pioneer,

IDITAROD.

Two children sufficient for school district under re-enactment Nelson school law by recent session legislature and eighteen hundred dollars allowed for construction and equipment schoolhouse.

DAVIDSON, Acting Governor.

June 12, 1917

15-3

Professor L. D. Henderson,
Commissioner of Education,
City

My dear Sir:

Herewith I beg to refer to you a letter of the fourth instant, received from Mr. Clarence D. Kingsley, Chairman of the Commission on the Reorganization of Secondary Education, United States Bureau of Education, whose address is State House, Boston, Mass. I have acknowledged receipt of the letter, advising Mr. Kingsley that it, with the enclosures, is being referred to you.

Faithfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

Enc.

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201

June 12, 1917

15-3

Mr. Clarence D. Kingeley, Chairman,
Commission on the Reorganization
of Secondary Education,
United States Bureau of Education,
State House,
Boston, Mass

Dear Sir:

In the absence of the Governor, I write to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the fourth instant, addressed to him as ex officio superintendent of education for this Territory, in which you refer to reports on social studies in secondary education and the teaching of community civics, which are available for purchase from the United States Bureau of Education.

Your letter, with its enclosures, is being referred to Professor L. D. Henderson, Commissioner of Education for the Territory of Alaska, who fills a position created by an act of the 1917 session of the Alaska territorial legislature and who entered upon his duties on the tenth of May last. One of his most important duties will be the establishment of a general school system throughout the Territory.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

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June 12, 1917

14-1

Honorable A. G. Sheup,

Sitka, Alaska

My dear Mr. Sheup:

I have your letter of the 7th instant, with regard to Sitka school matters, in which you say that the school board and others have become considerably exercised and worried over letters from this office regarding the allotment for the Sitka school for the ensuing year.

In reply I beg to say that I do not believe there is any reason for any one to be "considerably exercised and worried" with regard to Sitka school matters. The fact of the matter is, however, that the Sitka school, like many others in the Territory, has never yet made its attendance figures come up to the figures representing the children of school age resident within the district. The estimates for funds are, of course, always based upon the number of children of school age who live in the district, but it nearly always happens that not a few of these fail to attend school, so that the average daily attendance falls considerably below what might be expected. This office has, therefore, been inclined to figure the estimates on the basis of the average attendance rather than on the basis of the total number of children of school

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age resident within the district. There has never been any disposition on the part of this office, during the more than six years that I have been connected with it, to hamper the school boards or to place unreasonable restrictions upon them. On the contrary, it has always been the purpose of this office to lend every possible assistance, knowing full well that the problems which the school boards must meet will be difficult enough at best. There is one thing in connection with Nelson schools which must not be lost sight of, and that is that it is quite evident that the law was not intended to furnish instruction beyond the usual eight grades; that is to say, it was not the intention of the framers of the law to provide high schools or other advanced work in these rural districts, and this office has consistently refused to make provision for such advanced work, although in some cases there has, no doubt, been an actual need.

If the Sitka school district has reached the point where high school work is required, it would seem that the most satisfactory solution of the problem would be to have the school board apply to the district court for an order vacating the district as established under the Nelson law and to then proceed to organize under the provisions of chapter 5 of the 1917 Session Laws, which provides for the organization of incorporated school districts outside of incorporated towns and grants to the boards of these districts the power to levy and collect

taxes for the establishment and maintenance of the schools. These districts, as you are probably aware, are entitled to share with the incorporated towns in the benefits conferred by the provisions of chapter 28 of the 1917 Session Laws, which provides that 75 per cent of the total amount expended for the maintenance of public schools, including high schools within the limits of any incorporated town, city, or any school district shall be refunded to the school fund of the town or district from Territorial funds. The procedure suggested would, of course, require the citizens of Sitka to bear 25 per cent of the expense of maintenance of their school, but if they have reached the point where high school work is necessary, it would seem that they should be willing to contribute this much toward the education of the children of the town.

The 1917 session of the legislature re-enacted, substantially in its original form, the Nelson school law, but with two important changes, namely, one permitting the organization of a school district in a community where there are as many as ten white children of school age resident within the prescribed area of forty square miles, and allowing a maximum of \$1800 for the construction and equipment of a school building. Manifestly this law will benefit quite a number of small communities in the Territory which had heretofore been barred from school privileges because they have not had 20 white children of school age required under the Nelson act. It is expected that

there will be quite a number of these districts organized within the next year. The organization of these small districts will make all the more imperative the practice of economy in the granting of funds to the Nelson schools already existing, since both those now in existence (of which there are forty), and those which will be organized under the amended and re-enacted Nelson act will have to be supported from the school section of the Alaska fund, supplemented by such moneys as we may be able to obtain from the Territory to aid in their support. The legislature evidently took the view that quite a good many of the present Nelson schools would, in the course of time, change to "incorporated school districts," under chapter 22 of the 1917 session laws. There are already a number of these districts which it would seem might well take the action suggested and bear a part of the expense of maintenance of schools.

In any event, the Sitka school district will receive the same consideration as that given to all the other Nelson schools. It can ask no more than that and it will get no less.

I may say, with regard to the last letter written Mr. Howard, clerk of the board, that the letter was written after talking with the Governor about the Sitka school. The showing made by the board, in connection with these estimates, was that there are "about 75" children of school age resident within the district. Upon referring the matter back to the board and asking for a statement showing the maximum, minimum and average

daily attendance during the last school year, we received a report showing that the maximum attendance during the year was 49, the minimum 13 and the average daily attendance 41. It will be noted that even the maximum attendance is very much below the figure covering the total number of children of school age resident within the district. The average number of pupils per teacher in the Nelson schools is approximately 30, and the great majority of them have but one teacher, who, in many cases, must give instruction in all of the grades. The Governor therefore took the view that, with a maximum attendance of 49 and an average daily attendance of but 41, the Sitka school would be very well provided for if two teachers were allowed. However, as stated in the letter of May 29 to Mr. Howard, the Governor did not pass upon the matter finally before leaving for Washington. He simply "expressed the opinion" that the showing made as to the attendance during the school year 1916-17 was hardly sufficient to justify the expense of employing an additional teacher. The matter will be given further consideration and a decision will be arrived at upon the Governor's return to Juneau, which will no doubt be in ample time for the board to arrange for a third teacher, should the Governor conclude to approve the estimates in that regard as they have been submitted by the board.

I may add that it was possible to continue the Nelson schools for the full period of nine months during the school

year 1916-17 only by virtue of the fact that there was on hand, in the Territorial treasury, an accumulation of funds from forestry receipts. But for these Territorial funds, the schools would have been limited to a term of about five months.

Faithfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

June 12, 1917

15-1

Miss Etta L. Marshall,
1040 Bush Street,
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Madam:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the third instant, addressed to the Governor, in which you request information with regard to opportunities for teachers in this Territory, in the rural districts.

In reply I beg to advise that while the Governor exercises a certain amount of supervision over these schools, it does not extend to the matter of the employment of teachers, that being left entirely to the local school boards. We do not, at the present time, know of any vacancies in these schools. There is enclosed herewith a copy of a circular letter, containing information with regard to the white schools of Alaska, on the back of which will be found a complete list of the schools outside of incorporated towns. I may add that, as a rule, the school boards experience little difficulty in obtaining teachers, as the number of applicants usually far exceeds the number of positions available.

The photograph which accompanied your letter is being
returned.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

June 15, 1917

18-1

Professor L. D. Henderson,
Commissioner of Education,
Juneau, Alaska

My dear Commissioner:

Enclosed herewith you will find a list of the permits
issued by this office to teachers in the white schools of the
Territory during the last four years.

This for your information.

Faithfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

Enc.

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June 18, 1917

14-1

Mr. Steve Rogan,

Haines, Alaska

Dear Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of a copy of your letter of the 16th instant, addressed to Mr. J. W. Bell, clerk of the district court, at Juneau, in further reference to the matter of a school district adjacent to the incorporated town of Haines, in which letter you refer to the fact that the people who reside out of town are "still notified that they must pay a tuition to attend school, notwithstanding the fact that the Territory of Alaska is paying 75 per cent.

It is, of course, within the province of the city council and school board of the town of Haines to refuse privileges of the Haines public schools to children who do not actually live within the incorporated limits of the town, although such action is hardly in accord with the usual public spirit shown by Alaskan communities.

As you probably know, the 1917 session of the legislature reenacted the Nelson school law, making changes therein, the first of which makes it possible to organize a school district in a community where there are as many as ten children of

school age and raising the maximum allowance for construction and equipment of a school building to \$1800. Whether or not the conditions which exist immediately adjacent to the town of Haines are such as to warrant the establishment of such a school district, I cannot, of course, say.

It is noted you say that the town council has notified the school board of Haines that for the coming year only 75 per cent of the amount spent for the school during the last school year will be allowed them. It is not quite clear why the council should take such a position, for before an incorporated town can obtain any money from the Territory for school purposes, it must first expend the full amount required to maintain the school during a given quarter and submit a full and sworn statement covering such expenditures. These statements are subject to audit and the fullest examination, and it would certainly be a difficult matter for any incorporated town to carry out the purpose which you suggest in your letter as being the purpose of the Haines council. The Territory does not advance any funds; it simply reimburses each district to the extent of 75 per cent of the expenditures made during a given quarter, and this is only done after the school district has fully satisfied the Governor's office that the money has actually been expended.

The stock and fence laws to which you refer have not yet come from the printer, but are expected very soon. As soon as they have been received, copies will be mailed to you.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

June 18, 1917

14-5

Mr. Walter E. Cochran,

Anvik, Alaska

Dear Sir:

In the absence of the Governor, I write to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 29th of March last, with reference to conditions among the natives in your vicinity. The action of the natives in organizing local councils, is certainly most commendable, and will, no doubt, prove of much benefit to them.

With reference to the trader Turner, who is located at a village at the mouth of the Innoka, a few miles from Anvik, I beg to advise that this matter is being brought to the attention of Mr. Thomas Gaffney, special employe under this office, whose headquarters are at Nome, with the suggestion that should he have occasion to visit Anvik, he inquire into the matter referred to in your letter. This, of course, is not directly in line with his duties, but at the same time, should he visit your section, he might be able to accomplish something by investigating the matter and reporting it to the proper authorities. Mr. Gaffney has not been advised as to the source of our information, but we have advised Mr. Gaffney

that should be, or the fur warden for your district, find it possible to investigate this matter, valuable information can probably be had from the district superintendent, Mr. Johnson, the Reverend Mr. Chapman and yourself.

We are also calling this matter to the attention of the Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., without revealing the source of our information.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

June 18, 1917

14-5

Mr. Thomas Gaffney,
Special Employee,
Nome, Alaska

My dear Mr. Gaffney:

This office is in receipt of reliable information from Anvik that, at a village at the mouth of the Innok, a few miles distant from Anvik, there is a trader named Turner, who has had young natives poisoning animals during the past winter. It is also claimed that this man has offered to buy all beaver skins brought to him and that he has bought quite a number of them and stored them in the cache of a native in his village. It is also stated that several natives of the village claim that their dogs were killed by some of the poisoned bait and that Turner has offered, in one instance, to replace the dogs.

While an investigation of a matter of this kind is not in line with your regular duties, your attention is called to it so that if you should have occasion to visit Anvik, you will be in a position to make some inquiry in regard to the matter. Mr. Johnson, the district superintendent, and Rev. Mr. Chapman, the missionary at Anvik, or Mr. Cochran, who is,

I believe, a teacher at that place, can probably give you
some further information with regard to the above matter.
If there is a fur warden available to whom you can communi-
cate, you might call his attention to the matter.

Faithfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

June 20, 1917

14-1

Mr. H. A. Pinger, Treasurer,
Treadwell School District,
Treadwell, Alaska

Dear Sir:

I beg to return herewith your annual report and the receipts accompanying same, and to call your attention to the fact that under the head of school supplies there is a discrepancy of thirty cents between the figures shown in the report and those which appear in the accompanying receipts. There is also, under the head of incidentals, a discrepancy of twenty cents between the figures in the report and those shown in the accompanying receipts.

I shall be glad if you will kindly make an adjustment of the matter, after which please return the corrected report and all receipts.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

Enc.

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June 21, 1917

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Miss Laura J. Keiser,
837 Central Building,
Seattle, Wash.

Dear Madam:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 14th instant, addressed to the Governor, in reference to stenographic and clerical assistance in connection with the appointment of a Territorial Superintendent of Schools for Alaska.

In reply I beg to advise that on the tenth ultimo, Prof. L. D. Henderson, formerly superintendent of the Juneau schools, entered upon his duties as Commissioner of Education for the Territory of Alaska, under an act passed by the 1917 session of the Territorial legislature. The Commissioner has established an office in Juneau and has already employed a stenographer who will act as general office assistant.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

June 21, 1917

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Mrs. Carrie Shaw Rice,
3902 North 25th Street,
Tacoma, Wash.

Dear Madam:

Your letter of the 25th ultimo, addressed to the Governor, has been received in his absence, and I shall be pleased to place it before the Governor upon his return to Juneau some three or four weeks hence. I would say, with reference to the subject-matter of your letter that Commissioner Handerson expects to make quite an extended trip throughout the Territory during the next three months and it is not likely that any new positions will be created during that time. In fact, owing to the somewhat limited appropriation for the supervision of schools, it is rather doubtful whether the Commissioner will be able to appoint any assistants until after the next session of the legislature two years hence.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

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JUNEAU, JUNE 22, 1917. O. B.

14-1

R. G. Southworth,

HEHANA.

Replying yours yesterday believe provisions house bill thirty five substantially same as in law as enacted and contained in chapter five of the nineteen seventeen session laws. Advance sheets this act mailed clerk district court some time ago, also chapter twentytwo which is re-enactment Nelson school law and permits organization school district if ten resident children of school age. Suggest you ask clerk court send you copy chapter five.

DAVIDSON, Acting Governor.


Secretary to Governor.

June 22, 1917

14-1

Mr. Arthur Lang,
Clerk of the District Court,
Valdez, Alaska

Dear Sir:

This office is just in receipt of a letter from Mr. Adolph Osterhaus, of Dillingham, dated February 15, transmitting a copy of a petition (without signatures), addressed to you, asking for the establishment of a school district at Dillingham under the provisions of section 320, Compiled Laws of Alaska, 1913.

The petition in question is based upon the so-called "Nelson school law." Since the petition was forwarded from Dillingham, the 1917 session of the Territorial legislature passed an act (chapter 23), which is in substance a reenactment of the Nelson school law, with two important changes therein, namely, first, permitting the organization of a school district in a community where there are ten resident white children (instead of 20, as provided in the original Nelson school law), and increasing the allowance for the construction and equipment of a school building to a maximum of \$1800. There would seem to be no good reason why the petition of the Dillingham people should not be considered

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under chapter 22 of the 1917 session laws, although if there is any question in your mind as to that, you might act upon it under authority of the original Nelson law, since it is noted that the petition states there 28 resident white children between the ages of 6 and 20 within the limits of the proposed district. Chapter 22 of the 1917 session laws was approved May 1, 1917 and will become effective ninety days after that date. Should the petition be acted upon before the expiration of the ninety days, it would probably have to be considered under the old Nelson law, and possibly, in view of the remoteness of Dillingham, it would be as well to act upon it without waiting for chapter 22 of the 1917 laws to become effective.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

June 26, 1917

14-1

Mrs. Lillian W. Daniels,
Clerk of the School Board,
Treadwell, Alaska

Dear Madam:

I am directed by the Acting Governor to advise you that he has this day passed upon that portion of the Treadwell school board's estimates for the school year 1917-18 which covers salaries of teachers. The allowance for the school year 1916-17 covered the salary of one teacher at \$125 and one teacher at \$110, and the Acting Governor instructs me to say that the same allowance will be made for the school year 1917-18. Should the Treadwell school board wish to place both teachers on the same salary basis, this allowance will permit a monthly salary of \$117.50 each. I may add, in this connection, however, that it is believed conducive to better discipline in schools where two or more teachers are employed, that one of the teachers should be designated as principal and paid at least a small amount per month more than is paid to the other teacher or teachers.

As to the other items in the board's estimates, you are advised that the Acting Governor does not care to pass upon them and action on them will, therefore, await the Governor's return about a month hence. The matter of the

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salaries of teachers is passed upon at this time in order
that the board may arrange for teachers before it is too
late.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

June 29, 1917

15-6

Messrs. B. T. Gillam & Co.,

Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Sirs:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 19th instant, addressed to the Governor, requesting a list of the high schools in this Territory.

Enclosed herewith you will find a school circular, on the back of which will be found a complete list of the white schools of this Territory. Those which provide high school courses are indicated in the list. The information contained in the circular is the subject of some revision at this time, the 1917 session of the Territorial legislature having passed a law providing for a Territorial Board of Education, the appointment of a Commissioner of Education and the establishment of a general school system for the Territory. The Governor is President of the Territorial Board of Education, and Prof. L. D. Henderson, formerly superintendent of the Juneau public schools, is Commissioner of Education, with headquarters at Juneau. Upon him will devolve most of the work of planning and putting into effect a school system in the Territory.

Respectfully yours,

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Secretary to the Governor

June 29, 1917

15-1

Prof. L. D. Henderson,
Commissioner of Education,
Juneau, Alaska

My dear Mr. Henderson:

Herewith I beg to enclose a letter from Miss Alta
Saunders, of San Francisco, with accompanying enclosures,
together with a copy of the reply from this office. The
letter is referred to you so that you may advise Miss
Saunders on the subject of the qualification of teachers
in Alaska, which matter is now in your charge.

Faithfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

Enc.

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225

June 30, 1917

14-1

Mr. J. W. Bell,

Clerk of the United States District Court,

Juneau, Alaska

Dear Sir :

Herewith I beg to transmit ballots, register of voters, tally sheet and certificate of judges, covering the election held in the Craig school district in April last. These papers were sent to this office by the treasurer of the school district, but should, I believe, have gone to you.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

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June 30, 1917

14-1

Mr. L. K. Halverson, Treasurer,
Craig School District,
Craig, Alaska

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith you will find check of April 30, 1917, upon the Dexter Horton National Bank of Seattle, payable to your order, in the sum of \$270.62, signed by J. N. Coker, your predecessor in office. This check represents the unexpended balance of funds on hand in the treasury of your district on April 30 last, which, as I understand it, was the date on which Mr. Coker's resignation as treasurer became effective.

In addition to this unexpended cash balance, there is a credit balance due your district, from the firm of Lowman & Hanford Company, of Seattle, of 67 cents, making the total funds of your district \$271.29, available on the date your predecessor surrendered the office.

Your accounts as treasurer, for the unexpired term of the school year 1916-17, should show the two items above mentioned, under the head of "Receipts." You will find enclosed herewith duplicate treasurer's annual report blanks, which have been filled out to cover the above items. To complete this report

at the end of the school year, you should enter thereon such disbursements as may have been made by you and indicate the balance on hand at the end of the school year. The report should be dated and completed in all other respects, the original to be forwarded to this office and the duplicate to be kept on file with the records of your school district. In this connection, I beg to say that, when sending in your report, you should send with it receipts or receipted bills covering the disbursements made by you.

If you know the present post office address of Mr. Coker, it will be appreciated if you will kindly advise this office what it is so that we may communicate with him regarding his report and notify him of its approval.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

Enc.

June 30, 1917

14-1

Mr. E. V. Daveler, Clerk,
Thane School District,
Thane, Alaska

My dear Sir:

Confirming conversation of this date, relative to the employment of teachers for your school the ensuing term, I beg to advise that it is understood that two teachers will be allowed, one to receive a salary of \$125 a month and the other a salary of \$115 a month. The authority for the employment of two teachers is based upon your assurance that there will be approximately forty pupils in actual attendance upon the school during the school year. There are quite a number of other districts in the Territory, where the attendance averages thirty or more, but which schools are allowed only one teacher each. Should the attendance on your school, during the coming year, fall materially below your estimate, the employment of two teachers in the Thane school would be a manifest injustice to these other schools. It is highly important, therefore, that, before definite arrangements are made for two teachers, the board satisfy itself that its estimate of the attendance for the ensuing year is not too high.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

July 2, 1917

15-2

Mr. A. L. Whittenberg, Secretary,
Illinois State Examining Board
For Teachers' County Certificates,
Springfield, Illinois

Dear Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 20th ultimo, addressed to the Governor, as "State Superintendent of Public Instruction," advising the forwarding of your Circulars Nos. 108 and 121, which have also come to hand. The circulars are being transmitted to Prof. L. D. Henderson, the recently appointed Commissioner of Education for the Territory of Alaska, who is now actively in charge of the white schools of the Territory, upon whom will devolve the work of standardizing these schools and establishing a school system for the Territory. The position occupied by Prof. Henderson was created by an act of the 1917 session of the Alaska Territorial legislature, which recently adjourned.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

Juneau, July 3, 1917 O. B.

Clark, Clerk District Court,

Fairbanks

Election returns and treasurer's bond Otter school district,
school year nineteen sixteen seventeen not yet received. Please
notify officers district and also advise them that all election
and other papers for nineteen seventeen eighteen school year
must be received here before any funds will be provided for
school purposes. Officers this district do not seem to take
proper interest in seeing that election returns and reports
are promptly forwarded.

STRONG, Governor

Secretary

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July 3, 1917

14-1

Mr. Thomas G. White,
Clerk, Katalla School District,
Katalla, Alaska

Dear Sir:

Herewith I beg to transmit a copy of a letter this day addressed to Mr. B. H. Durkee, former treasurer of the Katalla school district, calling his attention to the fact that his report for the school year 1915-16 has not yet reached this office, and advising him that no further funds will be provided for the Katalla school district until that report has been audited and approved. The further statement contained in the letter to Mr. Durkee will explain the reason for this seemingly drastic action. Mr. Durkee has always been dilatory in submitting his reports and in replying to correspondences with respect to them, causing this office a great deal of needless work and trouble. The former clerk of the school board, Mr. Naughton, was advised, under dates of September 27 and November 15, 1916, that the treasurer's report for 1915-16 had not yet been received and he was requested to use his efforts to see that the report was sent in. However, the report has not yet come to hand, although more than a year has elapsed since the 1915-16 school year closed. Please show

this letter to the other members of the Katalla school board
so that they may thoroughly understand the situation, and
it is requested that the present board use its influence in
securing the prompt forwarding of Mr. Durkee's report for
1915-16.

Respectfully yours,

FOR THE GOVERNOR:

By

Secretary to the Governor

July 3, 1917

14-1

Mr. E. H. Durkee,

Katalla, Alaska

Dear Sir:

An Examination of the files of this office shows that your report as treasurer of the Katalla school district, for the school year 1915-16, has not yet come to hand. This matter has been the subject of correspondence at various times since the close of the 1915-16 school year, but thus far without results. I regret to say that ever since your election as treasurer of the Katalla school district, this office has experienced no end of difficulty in securing prompt action with regard to the treasurer's accounts and reports, and the failure to forward the 1915-16 report is but another illustration of that difficulty.

Owing to the peculiar conditions existing at Katalla, the infrequent mail service, etc., this office made requisition for funds for your district, for 1916-17, without waiting for your report for the previous year to be approved. It was expected, however, that you would forward the report without undue delay. Since, however, more than a year has elapsed since the close of the 1915-16 school year and the report has not yet come to

hand, it would appear that you have not been particularly concerned with regard to the matter.

No further funds will be provided for the Katalia school district for any purpose until your report for 1915-16 has been received at this office and has been audited and approved. This is absolutely final. This office has always been disposed to waive technicalities and be lenient in the enforcement of regulations where there were any extenuating circumstances. However, since it appears that the efforts of this office to assist the Katalia school district are unappreciated, at least by the treasurer of the district, we shall, in future, insist upon compliance with all of the regulations governing the matter of reports, etc., as a precedent to the issuance of requisitions for funds.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the clerk of the school board, with the request that he inform the other members of the board of its contents.

Plans for the report above referred to are herewith enclosed.

Respectfully yours,

FOR THE GOVERNOR:

By
Secretary to the Governor

Enc.

July 5, 1917

14-1

Mr. S. E. Ivey, Treasurer,
Chatanika School District,
Chatanika, Alaska

Dear Sir:

This office is just in receipt of your annual report for the school year 1916-17.

I am returning to you herewith the following warrants, together with all paid checks which accompanied your report:

Nos. 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 27.

None of these warrants contain sufficient information for the use of this office in checking your report, since they do not show necessary detail as to quantities, unit prices, etc. For supplies purchased for the use of the school district, you should have obtained itemized bills, properly receipted; for labor performed in and about the school building, such as varnishing, painting, sawing wood, etc., you should have submitted receipted bills containing necessary detail as to the kind of work performed, the number of hours and the rate per hour. With reference to warrant No. 21, covering water service from May 20, 1916, to May 25, 1917, an explanation is desired as to why you paid for water service for a period more than one year when the school was

in session only nine months during that time. This office cannot authorize the payment of water service for any period beyond that during which school was actually in session, and you should make the necessary correction in your accounts and submit an itemized bill covering water service during the school term of nine months.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

Encs.

July 5, 1917

15-2

Mrs. Lulu A. Fairburn,
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Madam:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 9th ultimo, addressed to the Governor, enclosing the permit issued to you on December 23, 1915, and requesting a renewal of the same.

As you are probably aware, the 1917 session of the Alaska legislature passed an act providing for the establishment of a uniform school system in the Territory and for the appointment of a Commissioner of Education, to have active charge of school matters in the Territory. The Territorial Board of Education met immediately following the adjournment of the legislature and appointed Prof. L. D. Henderson, of Juneau, to the position of Commissioner of Education, and he assumed his duties on the tenth of May last. Professor Henderson is now in the States and plans to sail for Nome early in August and thence up the Yukon River to Fairbanks, his purpose being to visit as many of the schools as possible before the close of navigation. The matter of the certification of teachers

has not yet been arranged by Professor Henderson, but it is probable that a decision will be reached by him in the near future. You will then be definitely advised with regard to the matter and a certificate will no doubt be issued either by the Commissioner of Education or by the Governor, as President of the Territorial Board.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

July 5, 1917

14-1

Mr. Christian B. Petersen, Treasurer,
Seldovia School District,
Seldovia, Alaska

Dear Sir:

This office has received your letter of the tenth of May last, advising that at a meeting of your school board, held on May fifth, an estimate for expenses for the ensuing year was made, the full amount being \$2500. You also state that a new school house is needed for Seldovia and that the board is making application for \$4,000 for this purpose.

I beg to advise that to date this office has not received the estimates of your board, which should have been forwarded on the regular blank furnished for that purpose. Two copies of this form were sent to the clerk of your district with other forms some months ago. In case these may have been lost or mislaid, I am enclosing two more copies of the form. The estimates should be filled out under the various headings called for on the blank and signed by all the members of the board. One copy should be mailed to this office and the other should be filed with the records of the school district.

In so far as the matter of a new school house is concerned, I beg to say that the law under which the Seldovia

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school district was organized authorizes a maximum of \$1,000 for the construction and equipment of a school building. This is manifestly inadequate, but the law makes no provision for a greater amount.

I note you say that the present school house is in bad condition; that it needs a new roof and other repairs, including painting inside and out. If this building is in such bad condition that a new building is regarded as necessary, it would seem rather useless expense to paint the building, at least on the outside.

All school districts will be allowed the usual term of nine months during the ensuing school year, as sufficient funds are in sight for that purpose. It will be necessary, however, to observe the strictest economy in the matter of expenditures, and your board should not obligate itself until it has been advised by this office as to the action taken upon its estimates. This does not apply to the employment of a teacher, however; the board is authorized to make the necessary arrangements for the employment of a teacher for the ensuing year upon the same salary basis as allowed for the last year.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

July 5, 1917

14-1

Mrs. Annetta La Zelle, Clerk,
Garden Island school district,
Gracel, Alaska

My dear Madam:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 16th ultimo, addressed to the Governor, in which you advise that the report of the Garden Island school district for the last school year, is being forwarded under separate cover, and refer to various matters relating to school conditions in your territory.

It is noted that in your district it is difficult to find persons who are willing to act as school election officers for the reason that the election comes at a time when all are busy and that the persons who are appointed to act as election officers do not feel like giving their time for that purpose and being put to the expense of paying for their lunch on election day. This is a situation which probably obtains in nearly all of the school districts.

However, there is no provision of law which authorizes payment for the services of school election officers nor the expense of providing meals for them on election day. The regulation of this office which provides that no school funds

shall be used for such purposes was based upon the absence of such authority, and was not a mere arbitrary ruling of this office.

With respect to the difficulty of obtaining persons to serve upon the school boards and the objection of the treasurer to paying for the execution of his bond, I beg to say that the members of the school board in each district in the territory are obliged to give a considerable amount of time to school matters, and it is no doubt true that this is often done at considerable personal sacrifice. It is to the credit of Alaskans that they are generally willing to assist in such matters without compensation, and it is doubtful if any better services can be obtained, even if the members of school boards received some compensation for their labors. In so far as the execution of oaths of office of members of the school board in your district is concerned, this office does not know of any reason why the clerk of the district court or one of his deputies should not execute these oaths without charge. The clerk of the court at Juneau performs this service each year gratis for two or three of the nearby school districts, the members of whose boards come to Juneau to fill out their papers and execute them. This office does not know of any public officer whose duty it is to execute such papers without charge, but it would seem that almost any federal

officer authorized to execute oaths would be willing to do so for a school board, knowing that the members receive no compensation for their services, but on the contrary must be to considerable personal sacrifice in serving.

It is unfortunate that the treasurer of a school district has to bear the expense of execution if his bond, but this again is a matter of law and not an arbitrary regulation of this office. The question of the allowance of expenses incident to the execution of a school treasurer's bond was submitted to the proper authorities at Washington several years ago by this office and it was urged that the expense be allowed. The officer, however, to whom the matter was referred, advised that under a decision of the United States Supreme Court all public officers are required to qualify themselves for the positions to which they are elected or appointed; and it was held by the officer that school treasurers come within the scope of this decision. Such being the case, this office, of course, would have no authority to authorize such an expenditure from school funds. This office regrets that anyone who is willing to serve upon the school board or to act as school election officer, should be put to any expense in connection therewith, but, as above stated, there is at the present time no way of relieving this situation.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

July 5, 1917

14-1

Mr. Carl A. Swanson,
Petersburg, Alaska

Dear Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 25th ultimo, addressed to the Governor, in which you state that you have applied for the position of teacher of the Seew Bay school and have been advised by the clerk of the school board that the board is not sure as to the length of the term for the ensuing year.

In this connection, I beg to say that all school districts will be allowed the usual term of nine months during the ensuing school year. You may show this letter to the clerk of the Seew Bay school district, for the information of himself and the other members of the board on the subject.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

July 6, 1917

14-1

Mr. George A. Learn, Treasurer,
Longwood School District,
Kodiak, Alaska

Dear Sir:

I am returning herewith your annual report for the last school year, together with all receipts and receipted bills which accompanied the same to this office.

In making up your report, you omitted to include therein the item of coal, but it appears that you included the cost of the total expenditures shown on page 2 of the report.

Under the head of school supplies, your report shows a total expenditure of \$28.19, whereas it should be \$28.00, according to the bills submitted. The total of the various items listed in your report, you will note, is \$2702.90. However, the total of the receipts and receipted bills submitted with your report is \$2690.13, being \$12.77 less than the total expenditures as shown in the report. The discrepancy appears to be in the items of wood, repairs, school supplies and incidentals, the total of these items, as shown in the report, being \$13.77 more than the total of the bills which appear to cover the items.

It may be that you overlooked some bill when forwarding your report and that this explains the difference. Please go over your accounts and make the necessary corrections in the report, after which kindly return to this office with all receipts and receipted bills.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

July 9, 1917

14-1

Professor L. D. Henderson,
Commissioner of Education,
Juneau, Alaska

My dear Professor Henderson:

Enclosed herewith you will find two copies of a statement which I have prepared, containing information relative to the white school districts in the Territory outside of incorporated towns in which school was maintained during the school year 1916-17. The information is incomplete as to some of the districts, but in general it will probably serve the purpose for which you desire it, and no doubt considerable of the missing information can be obtained by you on your present trip through the Territory, together with such other information as you may wish to obtain in regard to the schools visited by you.

Faithfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

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July 10, 1917

14-3

Mr. W. W. Casey, Clerk.
Juneau school Board,
Juneau, Alaska

My dear Sir:

I enclose herewith a form for report of teachers employed and would ask that when you have the necessary information at hand, you will kindly fill the same out and mail it to this office. The report is, of course, intended to cover the employment of teachers for the school year 1917-18.

The annual report of the Juneau schools for 1916-17 was handed to this office some time ago by former superintendent Henderson. There is one additional item of information, however, which we should like to have, and that is the number of pupils enrolled in the grade schools for the school year 1916-17.

It will be appreciated if you will kindly arrange to furnish this additional item.

Faithfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

July 10, 1917

14-1

Mr. J. G. Ellis, Treasurer

Hadley, Alaska

Dear Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 6th instant, addressed to the Governor, enclosing election papers and treasurer's bond for your district.

These papers are being forwarded to the clerk of the district court at Juneau, to whom they should have been sent by you.

All documents connected with school elections, including the treasurer's bond, are required to be filed in the office of the clerk of the district court and should be sent direct to him. The estimates and reports of the school board and officers, covering the maintenance of the school, should be sent to the Governor's office.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

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July 10, 1917

14-1

Mr. J. W. Bell,

Clerk of the District Court,

Juneau, Alaska

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith I beg to transmit the following papers received from the treasurer of the Hadley school board: Certificates of election of school director, treasurer and clerk, oath of school director, oath of school treasurer, oath of school clerk, oath of judges or supervisors of the school election, and treasurer's bond. These papers should, of course, have been sent direct to your office.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

Enc.

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July 10, 1917

15-2

Miss Vera J. Cade,
9 W. Garfield Street,
Seattle, Wash.

Dear Madam:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the second instant, addressed to the Governor, in which you inquire with regard to a license or permit to teach in the schools of Alaska.

In reply I beg to say that, under an act passed by the 1917 session of the Alaska legislature, provision is made for the establishment of a standard school system for the white schools of this Territory and for the appointment of a Commissioner of Education to have active charge of these schools. The Commissioner was appointed on May 10 last and immediately assumed his duties. He has not as yet announced what course will be followed with regard to the examination and certification of teachers for the school year 1917-18, but it is expected that his decision will be announced in the near future. It is probable that only a temporary arrangement will be effected, pending the establishment of the school system, perhaps a year hence, when it is expected that the examination and certification of teachers will be conducted along lines similar to those

followed by the various states.

I would suggest that you address a letter to Professor L. D. Henderson, Commissioner of Education, Juneau, Alaska, with regard to the matter of a certificate, and when his arrangements have been completed, you will no doubt be duly advised.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

July 10, 1917

14-1

Miss Viola G. S. Kelley,

Junction City, Oregon

Dear Madam:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the fifth instant, addressed to the Governor, relative to the school law and the opportunities for securing employment as a teacher in Alaska.

Enclosed herewith you will find one copy each of several acts passed by the 1917 session of the legislature, relating to school matters, including the act providing for the establishment of a school system for white schools of the Territory. Professor L. D. Henderson, formerly superintendent of the Juno schools, has been appointed to the position of Commissioner of Education and is actively in charge of the white schools.

The employment of teachers in these schools is left entirely to the various school boards. As a consequence, this office seldom knows of vacancies and does not know of any at this time.

The Commissioner of Education has not yet announced what will be done in the matter of the examination and certification

of teachers pending the introduction of a standard school system. Heretofore, the rule adopted by the Governor, as ex officio superintendent of public instruction, has been that permits to teach in the white schools of the Territory should be issued only to persons who had actually secured employment in the white schools. It is expected, however, that the Commissioner of Education will arrange the matter on a basis similar to that followed in the various states.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

July 10, 1917

15-2

Miss Mary B. Brady,

Sitka, Alaska

Dear Madam:

In the absence of the Governor, I write to acknowledge receipt of your letter with regard to a teacher's certificate.

On this subject I beg to say that the recently appointed Commissioner of Education for the Territory, Professor L. D. Henderson, of Juneau, has not yet announced what plan will be followed with regard to the examination and certification of teachers, pending the establishment of the standard school system authorized by an act of the 1917 legislature. It is expected, however, that some temporary arrangement will be made to take care of the matter for the school year 1917-18. Permit me to suggest that you address a letter to Commissioner Henderson at Juneau, advising him of your desire to obtain a certificate, so that when his plans have been arranged, you can be advised what action is necessary.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

July 12, 1917

14-1

The Clerk of the Ellamar School District,

Ellamar, Alaska

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith you will find a list of voters, names of candidates and ballots cast, which were received at this office some time ago. It is assumed that these cover the 1917 school election held in your district. They should have been retained by the school board and are returned for filing with the records of the district.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

July 16, 1917

14-1

Mr. G. W. Palmer, Treasurer,
Knik School District,
Knik, Alaska

Dear Sir:

I am returning herewith your report and all receipts, receipted bills, etc., which accompanied your letter to this office of the 29th ultimo. I have to request that you make out a new report and that you show thereon the various items of expenditure properly distributed in accordance with the items appearing on the report form under the head of expenditures. You will note that, in addition to the items covering the salaries of teacher and janitor, there are items of coal, wood, lights, repairs, school supplies and incidentals. You have grouped all expenditures except those of salaries in the report which is returned to you. It is desired that the report show a proper distribution of the charges.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

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July 18, 1917

14-1

Mr. Nicolai Sucherenkin, Treasurer,
Ouzinkie School District,
Ouzinkie (via Kodiak), Alaska

Dear Sir:

This office has received your report for the school year 1916-17, and upon an examination of it, it was found that there is a difference of 78 cents between the amount shown in the report as charged to school supplies and the total of the bills for school supplies which appear to be chargeable to that account. The report shows \$49.62 charged to school supplies, while the total of the bills which it would appear should be charged to that account, is \$48.46, the difference being 78 cents. The bills which appear to be chargeable to school supplies are as follows:

Louman & Hanford Co.,	August 1, 1916,	\$22.85
do	August 12, 1916,	4.30
do	Sept. 1, 1916,	8.50
O. L. Grimes	Sept. 6, 1916,	5.40
Dick & Fitzgerald	Aug. 12, 1916,	.60
Milton-Bradley Co.	Aug. 12, 1916,	7.19

A balance of 72 cents due on the last-mentioned bill appears to have been remitted by postal money order and the amount of the balance, together with the cost of the money order, charged to incidentals. The bill of Louman & Hanford Co., dated Sept. 20, 1916, for \$2.98, also appears to have been charged to in-

accidentals, although it was not listed by you with the other items under that heading.

You are requested to examine your accounts and to advise this office as to the deficit of 78 cents under the head of school supplies mentioned above.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

July 17, 1917

14-1

The Clerk of the School Board,

Unga, Alaska

Dear Sir:

Upon receipt of this letter, please advise what arrangements have heretofore been made by the Unga school board for living quarters and fuel for the teacher employed by the board. We have been unofficially informed that it has been the practice heretofore to furnish living quarters to the teacher in addition to the salary paid. This office has never authorized any school board to provide fuel for the teacher's personal use, and if your school board has followed this course heretofore, it should be discontinued at once.

So far as the living quarters are concerned, I would say that in a number of districts, it has been found possible, without much expense, to provide living quarters upstairs in the school building, and in such cases this office has offered no objection. The school law, however, does not contemplate, much less does it authorize, the furnishing of quarters for teachers employed in the Nelson schools.

Respectfully yours,

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Secretary to the Governor

July 18, 1917

14-1

Mr. H. O. Singer,
Treasurer Kenai School District,
Kenai, Alaska

Dear Sir:

This office has received your annual report for the school year 1916-17, and you are advised that we are unable to arrive at a satisfactory check thereof. The various bills submitted with your report appear to agree with the charges contained in the report, but the amounts paid to W. M. Dawson, H. S. Young and Lowman & Hanford on account of balances due them from the school year 1915-16 do not agree with the figures as shown in your 1915-16 annual report. Furthermore, there is enclosed with your 1916-17 report, the bill of Mc-Nally & Maitland, dated September 11, 1916, and made out against J. A. Herbert of Kenai, which covers lumber, freight and other charges, amounting in all to \$61.30. There is no explanation in your accounts with regard to this bill, nor does it appear to have been paid as part of the 1916-17 expenses of the school district.

In your 1915-16 report you showed a balance due W. M. Dawson of \$12.55, while the bill and receipt which accompany your report for 1916-17 shows the amount as \$12.45. Your

1915-16 accounts showed a balance due Lowman & Hanford Co. of \$30.84, whereas your 1916-17 accounts show the balance as \$30.55. Your 1915-16 accounts showed a balance due H. S. Young of \$31.94, while your 1916-17 accounts show that you have paid him \$33.16 on account of this balance from the previous year.

In all, there was a total deficit of \$115.14 in your 1915-16 accounts, which was taken care of in the requisition made to cover the school year 1916-17. Your accounts for the latter year should have shown clearly and definitely the various items making up this deficit and payment of the same to the parties to whom they were due. The report, however, does not show this.

I am, therefore, obliged to return the report and the various bills and receipts which were submitted with it and to request that you kindly take the time to examine both your 1915-16 and 1916-17 accounts and adjust the apparent discrepancies in the balances due to Dawson, Young and Lowman & Hanford; and that you also include in the 1916-17 report a statement showing exactly what items went to make up the deficit of \$115.14 from the previous year. It will also be necessary, before your accounts can be approved, to have a receipt covering the charge of \$75 for the painting of the

school building. This receipt should include an itemised statement of materials and labor furnished in connection with this work.

I am enclosing herewith the duplicate copy of the annual report of your school board which should have been retained for the files of the district. Kindly turn it over to the clerk of the board for filing.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

Enc.

July 21, 1917

14-1

Mr. D. J. Argall, Treasurer,
Perseverance School District,
Perseverance, Alaska

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith you will find memorandum copy of requisition of this date upon the school section of the Alaska fund, United States treasury, for funds for the maintenance of your school during the school year 1917-18, the net amount asked for being \$1769.63. When you receive the treasury warrant, covering the requisition, please advise this office in writing, giving the number and amount of the warrant and the date of its receipt by you.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

Enc.

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2/K

July 23, 1917

14-1

Mr. C. J. Malmquist, Treasurer,
St. Michael School District,
St. Michael, Alaska

Dear Sir:

Your annual report for the school year 1916-17 has been received this date, examined and found to be in order with the exception of a charge of 50 cents for revenue stamp on your bond. This is an item of expenditure which cannot properly be charged to the school district.

By reference to regulation 16 of the printed circular of information and regulations issued by this office under date of November 20, 1913, you will note that the Comptroller of the Treasury has held that school funds cannot be applied to the payment of notary fees in connection with oaths of office of school election boards, school officers or the execution of a treasurer's bond. The Comptroller, in his ruling, referred to a decision of the United States Supreme Court, in which it was stated in substance that government officers and quasi-public officials, elected or appointed to office, must bear any expense incident to their qualification for the positions that they may be elected or appointed to. This would,

of course, include the expense of a revenue stamp on a school treasurer's bond, since it is an expense incident to the qualification of an officer, being necessary in order that the bond itself may be valid.

For the reason stated, the expenditure of fifty cents for a revenue stamp for the official bond is hereby disallowed and you are directed to refund the amount to the school treasury, correcting your records for the school year 1916-17 to show an unexpended balance on hand of \$98.03 instead of \$98.53. The report is being similarly corrected in this office. The total of your expenditures under the head "Incidentals" should be changed to \$17.75, and your total expenditures should be changed to \$1803.97.

Upon receipt of this letter, kindly make the necessary refund and correct your records as indicated, and notify this office in writing.

Respectfully yours,

FOR THE GOVERNOR:

By

Secretary to the Governor

July 23, 1917

14-1

Mr. H. F. Mueller, Treasurer,
Teller School District,
Teller, Alaska

Dear Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your annual report for the school year 1916-17, which appears to be in order with the exception of a charge covered by order of May 28, in favor of H. F. Mueller, for \$1.25, for notary fees and stamp on bond, and 50 cents for postal stamps for the clerk.

It is not clear to this office from the information contained on the order mentioned just what items are covered by it. It is surmised, however, that the \$1.25 covers a charge of 75 cents for notary fee in connection with the execution of an affidavit of the posting of a notice of school election, and 50 cents for revenue stamps on the treasurer's bond. The 50 cents for postal stamps for the clerk should be explained by stating what these stamps were for. The only notary charges allowable in school treasurers' accounts, under the printed regulations issued by this office, is the charge of 75 cents for the execution of an affidavit of the posting of a notice of school election. No notary fees or other charges in connection with the execution of a treasurer's bond can be

allowed under the regulations which were issued in conformity with the laws applying in such cases.

It is requested that you furnish this office with an explanation as to the charges covered by the order of May 28 above mentioned, explaining specifically the items which the same cover. The explanation should be signed by all three members of the school board.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

July 26, 1917

15-1

Mrs. Lillian M. Daniels, Clerk,
Treadwell School District,
Treadwell, Alaska

My dear Mrs. Daniels:

I understand that Miss Francis F. Franse, of Marshfield, Oregon, has filed an application with your board for the position of primary teacher. The employment of teachers is, of course, entirely in the hands of the various school boards and this office never attempts to influence them in any way in their action. My only purpose in writing with regard to Miss Franse, whom I do not personally know, is to say that some time ago I received a letter from an old-time Alaskan friend, who now lives in Marshfield and who wrote in very high terms regarding Miss Franse. I have no doubt that if your board should conclude to employ Miss Franse, she will prove entirely satisfactory as a teacher.

Very truly yours,

Secretary to the Governor

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July 26, 1917

15-1

Miss Francis F. France,
Marshfield, Oregon

My dear Miss France:

I have just received your letter of the 20th, relative to the possibility of your obtaining a position as primary teacher in the Treadwell school. I shall address a letter to the clerk of the Treadwell school board in your behalf, but I may say that I have been informed by friends who live in Treadwell that arrangements have been made for a primary teacher, the board employing Miss McKinnon, who last year taught at Haines. However, this may be only a rumor.

Faithfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

July 26, 1917

15-2

Mr. Howard McGinley,
Kodiak, Alaska

My dear Sir:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of July 16, from Claypool, Indiana, addressed to the Governor, in which you recommend that the teacher's permit of Mrs. A. C. Erskine, of Kodiak, be renewed. The permit formerly issued to Mrs. Erskine expired on the first of June last and she has not as yet applied for a renewal.

The matter of the issuance of teachers' permits or certificates is being held in abeyance at present, pending the decision of the recently appointed Commissioner of Education as to the procedure to be followed in the matter of the examination and certification of teachers. As you probably know, the 1917 session of the legislature passed an act providing for the appointment of a Commissioner of Education to have active charge of the white schools of the Territory, and also making provision for the establishment of a standard school system for these schools. Among other duties imposed upon the Commissioner is that of prescribing rules and regulations for the examination and certification of teachers.

The Commissioner left Juneau the latter part of June on a trip to Washington and Oregon and thence to Reno, from which latter point he will begin a tour of inspection of the white schools of the Territory. Up to the time of his departure from Juneau, he had not determined just what course would be pursued in regard to the certification of teachers employed for the 1917-18 school year, but stated to the writer that he would make some temporary arrangement to cover the school year, as he did not expect to be prepared to introduce the standard school system until next year.

I enclose herewith a copy of the act above referred to, which you will no doubt be interested in reading.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary to the Governor

Enc.