

settlement in the fall. As I did not have the opportunity to return by that route, I could not call at Metlakahla as I intended, so Mr. Duncan very kindly sent me the following letter:

METLAKAHLA, ALASKA, October 15, 1895.

MY DEAR MR. MURRAY: Your letter dated Unalaska, September 11, only reached me the latter part of last week. It had been detained at Kitchikan over a week through the lack of courtesy of the postmaster there.

On my arrival home last May, after the pleasant trip in your company to Sitka, I called a meeting of our people and propounded to them the several knotty questions you had suggested for our consideration. Last night we held another meeting, to a late hour, on the same business, and I was much pleased with the sensible way the natives took part in the discussion.

Question 1. "How to secure possession of Annette Island to our people and to such other Indians as may join them from surrounding bands, whether by individual or community title."

Our answer to this question is a unanimous voice in favor of a community title, and the town council being empowered to grant allotments of land for legitimate purposes to individuals as circumstances may arise calling for such action.

By this plan the present unity and regulations in the community could be preserved, whereas if individual titles of 160 acres were granted by the Government, the holder of each allotment being thus independent of the community, conflicting interests might result in a rupture which would be very prejudicial to the character and progress of the settlement.

Question 2. "How can the rights of the natives to the salmon streams be best secured and maintained?"

Our answer is, that, pending the Indians arriving at full American citizenship and responsibility, the Government might proclaim all salmon streams Indian reservations or Government property, and only allow fishing in them to proper persons and under proper regulations.

Such a law would prevent canning companies from taking exclusive control of the salmon streams, and might be made an important factor for bettering the condition of the natives.

At present Alaska is in danger of losing one of its greatest food supplies, through cannery operations. The Indians are born fishermen, and being permanent residents of the country fishing should, to a great extent, be in their hands, not as employees only, but as vendors of the salmon to the canneries.

Question 3. "How best to preserve salmon life in Alaska?"

Our answer to question 2 partly applies as answer to this. I will, however, enumerate our views:

(1) Let the salmon streams be declared Government property, and the fishing in them be absolutely controlled under Government regulations and by Government agents.

(2) Only permit a certain number of salmon to be taken from each stream, the number being decided by the capacity of the stream.

(3) Allow no modern barricades to be used in the streams, and even the simple ones which have always been used by the natives ought to be removed on Saturdays in each week.

(4) A limit should be placed to the pack of each cannery. I think 20,000 cases should be the limit. If, however, canneries can keep on increasing their pack and extending their time each year, as at present, fewer salmon each season will be left for reproduction.

(5) No cannery should be allowed to work on Sunday, and if fishing was forbidden after noon on Saturday till midnight Sunday of each week Sunday labor would cease. We strictly keep to this rule at Metlakahla.

Question 4. "How best to suppress liquor traffic?"

(1) Our answer is, give the present liquor law a fair trial, and to that end every liquor saloon in Alaska should be suppressed and every drop of liquor now in it should be destroyed.

(2) Any person found smuggling or selling liquor in Alaska should be fined and imprisoned.

(3) Do away with the juries at the trial of liquor cases. Let the judges or commissioners appointed by the Government decide, upon certain given evidence, on the guilt of the persons arrested for offenses against the liquor law and an appeal allowed only to the supreme district court.

(4) Let every person found intoxicated be imprisoned, and in the case of natives the sentence to be commuted if the prisoner will give information leading to the conviction of the person or persons who supplied him with the liquors that intoxicated him.