

Juneau, Alaska.

July 14th. 1914.

To Mr. Arscott,
39 Somerset Rd.,
Bristol, Eng.

Dear Sir,

I am writing in answer to yours of Feby. 14th. which since Mar. 2nd. as postmark shows has been making the rounds of many small towns and camps in vicinity. As you see by the envelope that on Mar. 24th. it was in the A.G.M.Co's camps and states "not with the A.G.M.Co." (the Alaska Gastineau Mining Co). - I have been with them since 1st. of Jany. last !! You will see how hard it is to get mail sometimes in this country. The Juneau Office changes clerks often and I repeatedly ask to have my mail retained in Juneau for safety.

I wrote to Mr. Frazer of Atlin two weeks ago - or rather over three weeks ago as I now notice by a memo June 20th. and have no reply yet or acknowledgment of sum of money I sent.

J.A. Frazer,
Atlin B.C.

This is the Commissioner's address and it may be well for you to write him in Mrs. Cullinane's interests.

I left no sworn statement with Mr. Frazer when in Atlin; this could be arranged if necessary.

The 12th. of July 1913 is the date that Teddy Cullinane was last seen alive by me and by the desolate nature of the country, prohibits one from thinking that even the Indians saw him since.

Aug. 1st. 1913 was the date on which the four men passed his camp on the Teslin River. Aug. 2nd. the following day about 10 O'clock a.m. they (Copeland, Forbes Mc. Lean and another) miraculously found me many miles down river on same bank (right hand going down stream). I was sleeping and very weak and was aroused by the report of their shot guns when shooting 5 geese. They had passed (over 100 yds) my camp or resting place and fire (which had died down a little). I was fully 100 yds from water edge (to get dry ground and wood). I say "Miraculously" because had not a flock of geese being within the sound of my weak voice I should certainly have met the fate that I was expecting, as for years not even Indians had navigated this stream. The Teslin river (into which runs the Moose horn River) Teddy and I were following.

The trip to Atlin and thence into this Teslin country is too expensive a one for me to attempt this summer. The snow remains on the ground until the latter part of May and so any time in June is a good time to go.

When I left Teddy on the 12th. of July he was quite brave and cheerful although very ill and weak; I have told before that the reason I went was for provisions, - grub as it is called in the North: a raft accident had deprived us of food also axes - hatchet and axe., wherewith to make another raft. We should have gone on to find the camp (Cole's Camp) at Goose Lake together on the raft had it not been for a big log and brush jam, a mile ahead which would have necessitated the construction of another raft below jam.

I left what little grub we had - enough for short rations for one week and headed for Cole's Camp hoping to make it that night.

The boil on my right leg and severe sprain of left, no good the nature of the country - river - swamp and dense willow brush conspired to put me out of business and I was resigned to die; the night of the 13th. and the morning of the 14th. During many days of the first part of my 21 days sojourn on water diet alone my greatest suffering was thoughts of poor Teddy; except in wet weather when anxious about my fire I spent over 2/3 of my time in sleep and my great comfort was that Teddy was sleeping a great deal, the same as self, in fact all the Spring Teddy slept far too much - resting on the flat of the back was the easiest posture for him to endure his awful headaches and I must say he was extremely patient and uncomplaining.

I have written quite a long letter and then I have not perhaps covered everything you and Mrs. Cullinane would wish to know. Teddy was not communicative about his affairs but spoke of his insurance also of a suit case at a Skagway Hotel. On my way from Atlin last Fall I inquired without success at all (as I thought) the Skagway Hotels. I now find I omitted the Pullen House and you may do well to write Mrs. Pullen, Pullen House, Skagway, Alaska. It will be a great shame if Mrs. Cullinane fails to get the insurance. I presume the policy is in her favour and was also an endowment policy.

Shall be happy to be of service in establishing proof as I know these Cos demand strong proofs.

I have grave fears - especially after a year's lapse - of much success from a search, but even a genuine search that proves unsuccessful would perhaps help in establishing a claim. Commissioner Frazer should undertake the expense - 150\$ to 200\$ would visit the camp (on R. hand bank of the Teslin or Moose Horn River) perhaps 15 or 20 miles by the winding of the river from Goose Lake. More would be required for a more extensive search naturally.

Although I had far rather not if other arrangements can be made I would undertake the trip in later part of August and Sept. It is not an easy trip, (there are two or three routes to these parts) as there are only two boats per Summer from White Horse to Teslin Lake and it is a hard overland trail from Atlin to the Teslin Country. An Indian guide is a great help as he can "live on his gun" almost as well as before the arrival of the white man, if necessary.

My address will be in all likelihood Juneau during the next three months. I have already been almost 7 months with the A.G.M.Co and can be trusted to start immediately if expense money is forthcoming. This idea of searching you may remember held me in Atlin 6 weeks last Fall, during which time I was able to secure only about 20 days work. The little town of Atlin burned down in June last, I send the newspaper account which I saved.

I have been expecting to hear from Mrs. Cullinane and I fear as you mention in your letter that letters on both sides have miscarried.

I enclose envelope of your communication to me and should advise registration if again writing.

Give my kind wishes and sincere condolence to Mrs. Cullinane and believe me to remain,

Yours faithfully,

Reginald Naish.