

The Thlinget.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE NATIVE PEOPLE OF ALASKA

VOL. I

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FOREWORD

Our Paper bears the name of The Thlinget not because this is the name of the largest tribe of Alaskan natives but because it means "the people" Although primarily a school paper The Thlinget will be constantly devoted to the welfare of all native people of Alaska. With this introduction we are glad to make your acquaintance and earnestly hope that our acquaintance may develop into warm friendship.

On Monday the seventh of September the Sitka Industrial School opens its doors for the twenty ninth year, which is to be the most profitable of its history. There are enough pupils in the school now to make the year's work valuable, a sufficient number have declared their intention to return to make it intensely interesting and with the large enrolment of new scholars hoped for, a grand success is assured for the year of '08 and '09. The corps of workers has never been better, the equipment is being enlarged for more and practical work. The Superintendent Mr. W. G. Beattie has complete supervision of the institution and is principal of the schoolrooms. The office work, discipline and

general oversight make him one of the busiest of men, yet visitors and prospective students will find him at the office ready to attend to their wants. The Assistant Superintendent Mr. Geo. J. Beck who needs no introduction to the people of Alaska, has charge of the Industrial Department. Just at present he is very busy as he has to take the place of the Instructor in Engineering; a vacancy which we hope is to be filled shortly.

Mr Beck's entire time will be taken up in planning and drafting new work and machinery; overseeing the construction work and he will conduct a class in bench carpentry this winter. The Instructor in Engineering will oversee the laundry with its engine and boiler and other machinery, the forty horse hoisting engine, the saw mill and the water system with its two wheels pumps and tanks.

The Instructor in carpentry Mr. D. C. McTavish has charge of all construction work about the school. The present winter is to be taken up with repair work preparatory to new buildings next year. The Instructor in Shoemaking is Mr. George McKay, who learned his trade at the school eighteen years ago. Repairing the school shoes occupies most of the time but some outside and new work is done.

Mr. McKay is also an experienced band master, and is leader and instructor in Band Music. Semi weekly practice is to be held and music furnished for all special occasions. A new baritone has

just been ordered and we hope to add one or two trombones in the near future. The outlook for the band was never better.

The Commandant of the training school Mr. Geo. J. Beck holds semi-weekly drill and the Company is one of the attractive features of the school.

Our print shop with Mr. H. B. Parks as foreman has become a regular part of the school. Through The Thlinget which is a sample of our shop work our readers will be led into an acquaintanceship with all departments of our school.

Mr. Parks also has charge of the general work force and the black smithing and plumbing for the school. Mrs. M. F. Schuknecht

is the matron of the girls home. Her time is taken up in being a mother to the fifty or sixty girls that are here each year. She has general oversight not only of the girls building but of the sewing and laundry work as well.

Miss Susan Davis matron of the Boys Home is kept constantly busy supervising the boys' building caring for their clothing and looking after their general welfare.

The Hospital is rendered over by Miss Esther Gibbon, whose work as a trained nurse has long been appreciated by the native people.

The Hospital is at present only open to pupils, but much dispensary work is done among the people of the native village.