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Educating Alaskans

The young people of Alaska are awakening to the need of more knowledge. In past years many have gone to the Government industrial schools at Carlisle, Pa., and Chemawa, Ore. Many more are anxious to go. A large number have received a few years' training at Sitka. Each year brings us new pupils, but the average age of our pupils is decreasing in years. Pupils returning from the Government Schools bring back glowing reports of the excellent equipment of those institutions and their facilities for teaching the trades. As a consequence almost every boy from thirteen years up has visions of getting into some of these great schools. He knows that a skilled carpenter, engineer, machinist or sawmill man commands good wages in Alaska.

Last summer, as I was making a hurried trip to Oregon, one of our most successful native workers in another Southeastern Alaska town said to me: "If you have a chance to speak to the Christian people down there tell them the Government is very kind to let our young people go to their schools. They teach them many good things. When our boys and girls come back they speak

English very well. Tell the people in the States that at our Sitka school the boys and girls learn how to live—how to meet the temptations of life and overcome them in the name of our Saviour.

Tell them, too, that we want our school at Sitka to teach them how to do things with their hands just as well as do the Government industrial schools." This thorough Christian man, after watching these native young people come and go for a number of years, knew that these people--so weak morally and so bound by heathenish traditions of many generations--must have Christianity if they would succeed as men and women of strong lives. Education without Christianity avails little or nothing in this day of temptations.

The Industrial Training School at Sitka is the only one of its kind in Alaska. Our Boys' Home and girls' Home are old buildings, somewhat dilapidated and, of course, make the work, especially for our matrons, trying and difficult. However, in spite of difficulties, the work has moved steadily along. The girls have done well in the sewing-room and have been, on the whole, careful and

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