

28. June, 1929.

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Dear Dr. Bowman,

Hearty thanks for your very kind letter of June 14th, which I have just received. I cannot thank you enough for your kindness to be willing to help us in all our difficulties as much as your precious time permits.

As I see the situation now, it is this, that all difficulties are really overcome except the expenses and difficulties connected with the establishment of our station in Alaska, and all our efforts ought therefore now to be concentrated on this. It turns out that according to the regular freight rates the cost of the transport of our steel cylinders for gas from Seattle to Fairbanks and back again would amount to something like \$ 85,000 - eightyfive thousand dollars - which would, of course, in itself be almost prohibitive. In addition to this, however, we would have the transport of the cylinders to the West-Coast and the filling with gas, which will also amount to a great sum, even if we get the cylinders from the Army Stores as a loan. We have therefore considered the possibility of establishing plants for development of gas in Fairbanks, as that would probably be cheaper and cost less in transport. But I feel rather nervous about the whole thing as it is naturally of importance to come to some definite decision as soon as possible, and we are losing much precious time, and the foundations for the mast ought to be laid in the summer or autumn before the frost sets in, and the summer is already far gone now. I have asked Fleming and Von Meister, and the people in Berlin, who really have all this in hand, to try to hurry up and to be able to give definite figures as to the total cost as soon as possible. I have also written to the Secretary of the Interior asking whether it would be possible to reduce substantially the freight rates to Fairbanks. It seems to me that it would be very sad indeed, if the whole expedition should have to be given up simply because we cannot pay the transport from the West-Coast to Alaska, when we have the ship and the scientific equipment ready and all other difficulties have been overcome.

Fridtjof Nansen.