

ALASKA RESOURCES LIBRARY
U.S. DEPT. OF INTERIOR

The Pribilof Report

Living Conditions Among the Natives of the
Pribilof Islands and Other Communities of the
Bering Sea Area

Report of a Special Group Designated by the Secretary,
Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Dillon S. Myer, Commissioner
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Albert M. Day, Director

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, Oscar L. Chapman, Secretary

ache or for the birth of a child, is automatically X-rayed. He said that the TB rate varies from 15 percent to 33 percent from one village to another throughout the Bethel area, which has a total population of 9,000, over three-quarters of whom are native. He estimates that there are approximately 1,200 active TB cases in the Bethel area. At the present time, the Alaska Native Service is constructing a quonset hut attached to the hospital, which is to be an isolation ward for TB patients, and this will provide 26 extra TB beds. It is expected that the hut will be available for occupancy next year if the necessary nurses are available. At the present time, there are only three nurses for the entire hospital, whereas there should be a staff of at least six or seven. In connection with TB, the doctor said that they were giving BCG injections to all newborn babies. He also mentioned that all native women prefer to have their babies in the hospital, and do so if at all possible. He concluded by saying that the main medical problems for this area are (1) pulmonary tuberculosis, (2) tuberculosis of the bone, and (3) an eye disease known as phlyctenular conjunctivitis.

MR. DAY. That is good information, but the thing that impressed me was the bald statement that he made that in this whole area of 72 communities, an area the size of Pennsylvania, where 9,000 human beings live, the TB rate runs from 16 to 33 persons per hundred. This probably means that an average of one out of every four people in this whole area has TB. That is one of the worst tragedies that I have ever heard of in any place I have ever visited.

(The meeting adjourned.)

MEETING AT ST. PAUL PRIBILOF ISLANDS

October 3, 1948

MR. DAY. The Group left Bethel by Northern Consolidated in a DC-3 airplane at 9 a.m., on Sunday, October 2, arriving at the St. Paul airstrip about noon. On the way across the mainland, many thousands of ptarmigans and snow geese were seen, and a few small fishing villages were noted along the meandering waterways beneath us. Prior to our arrival at St. Paul, we circled the island of St. George, noting the clean attractive villages there-with a grazing herd of cattle nearby-and caught our first glimpse of the masses of milling fur seals along the coastal breeding grounds.

On the afternoon of the second, a meeting was held

with leaders of the native community, and in the evening an open meeting was attended by practically every male citizen of St. Paul. The discussion was led by Dr. Dawber, and free discussion on any subject was invited.

On the third, the hospital, commissary, school, and recreation hall were inspected, and conferences held with the Fish and Wildlife Service administrative officers. Incidentally, every spare moment has been spent among the fur-seal herds. There are still one and one-half million animals on the island, and they fascinate all of us. Much film will be used here during the few days we have until the vessel FS 244 arrives from Dutch Harbor to pick us up and take us northward to King, St. Lawrence, the Diomedes, and Nome. Plans now are that we will take the commercial air facilities from Nome to Anchorage when we complete the visits to the other islands.

THE CHAIRMAN. This is Monday, October 3, and we will now interview Dr. Edward Wilde, the doctor on the island. This is his fifth year here, and we are very much interested in getting some of the facts regarding the housing situation and conditions generally.

DR. WILDE. I have been on St. Paul Island since May 13, 1945, and during this time I have been outside to the States twice. On one of these journeys to the States, I spent 1 month at Unalaska Village where I had the opportunity of observing the natives very closely. I have also been to the villages of Biorka, Akutan, and Nikolski. I have seen the homes, and I know these people because the men from these villages work at St. Paul during the summer. The health on St. Paul Island is, in my opinion, very good.

I am going to give you a short resume on the birth rate and the death rate since the return of these people from Funter Bay on May 13, 1944. At that time, they returned from a forced evacuation during the war. During the first year following their return, the birth rate on St. Paul was 55.12 per thousand of population, and the death rate was 3.93 per thousand of population. During the second year, from May 13, 1945, to May 12, 1946, the birth rate was 35 per thousand of population, and the death rate was 19.4 per thousand of population. During the third year, from May 13, 1946, to May 12, 1947, the birth rate was 35.09 per thousand of population and the death rate was 6.37 per thousand of population. Then during the fourth year, from May 13, 1947, to May 12, 1948, the birth rate was 48.6 per thousand of population and the death rate was 12.15 per thousand of population. During the fifth year, the death rate was 5.94 per thousand of population and the birth rate was 43.75 per thousand of population. Averaging the death rate, it gives us 9.55 per thousand of population over a 5-year period. This is approximately

0.5 lower than the average death rate for the entire United States during that period of time.

DR. NICHOLS. That's what we are interested in.

DR. WILDE. That is the situation for a 5-year period on St. Paul Island.

MR. STEVENS. How does the health condition here compare with that of other Aleuts in Alaska?

DR. WILDE. I believe that this compares very favorably with the other Aleuts, due to the fact that the population on St. Paul is increasing, whereas on all of the communities along the Aleutian chain, the population is decreasing. We no longer have an Aleut population west of Atka. The people who at one time lived on Kiska and Attu are now in the village of Atka. The village of Nikol-ski is lessening in population. The village of Unalaska is dwindling. The village of Biorka, near Unalaska Island, is at times deserted, and the people at Akutan are now moving out because of the fact that the whaling station has closed down. All of these are having high death rates.

MR. STEVENS. Do you feel that liquor plays a part in this marked difference.

DR. WILDE. I feel that the inability to get liquor does help in improving the health of St. Paul Island. I know from my own experience, and from the conditions I have seen in Unalaska, that liquor is bad for the Aleut. He is unable to take liquor and maintain an equilibrium. He can be cheated very easily-not only can be, but is cheated when he is under the influence of liquor.

DR. NICHOLS. Do you feel that the present food issue to the people of the Pribilofs is a balanced diet?

DR. WILDE. It is not a completely balanced diet. In my opinion, it is too high in carbohydrates and too low in proteins, but on the other hand, as far as caloric value is concerned, it is a sufficient amount of food. However, the native does have his aboriginal hunting and fishing rights, and he does supplement the food which is issued to him with food that he obtains by hunting and fishing, and during the sealing season with seal meat, seal liver, and seal tongues which he obtains from the killing field. He may have any amount of these that he wants. Some of the older natives salt away some of this seal meat for use during the winter. The natives who came up here temporarily from the chain this year took a bargeload of salted meat back with them. The seal meat is palatable, but from my own experience, the fur-seal fat has an obnoxious odor when it is cooked.

MR. STEVENS. I am also interested in your opinion as to what effect there would be on the diet of the natives if there were a shift over to a complete cash economy and elimination of the present food issue?

DR. WILDE. I am afraid that if a shift to a cash econ-

omy were made, the majority of these natives would purchase an overabundance of carbohydrates and an overabundance of meat. The vegetable diet would suffer. I am sure they would not purchase as many vegetables as are issued to them, such as potatoes, onions, cabbage, rutabagas, turnips, and carrots.

MR. STEVENS. But you do feel that a gradual change over to the cash economy would be desirable?

DR. WILDE. I am in doubt of it; it should not be too rapid. It must be gradual. I would be entirely opposed to a sudden change to a cash economy. I do not believe that the native is ready for it. I feel this way about it. These people have only been in touch with the white man's habits for 200 years. At that time they were in the stone age, and I don't believe that you can change a race of people from the stone age to the atomic age in only 200 years.

THE CHAIRMAN. This question of food is also then a matter of training, bringing in some domestic salesmanship, isn't it?

DR. WILDE. I have stated and restated the fact that they must be taught. Education is a big factor, and by education, I do not mean the three R's. I mean teaching them how to use modern cooking utensils, how to cook modern food, how to put food on the table in a nourishing manner, and in the proper amounts. I am going to mention something that is rather startling. We have in the past taken checks on the school children as to what they had for breakfast, and we have come up with these figures made on spot checks. Approximately one-third of our children come to school without breakfast; approximately one-third prepare for themselves milk-that is, canned milk-and bread; and approximately one-third receive some sort of a warm breakfast-that is, either something cooked, such as a hot cake, mush, or oatmeal. That indicates the parents must be educated to the responsibility of taking care of their children.

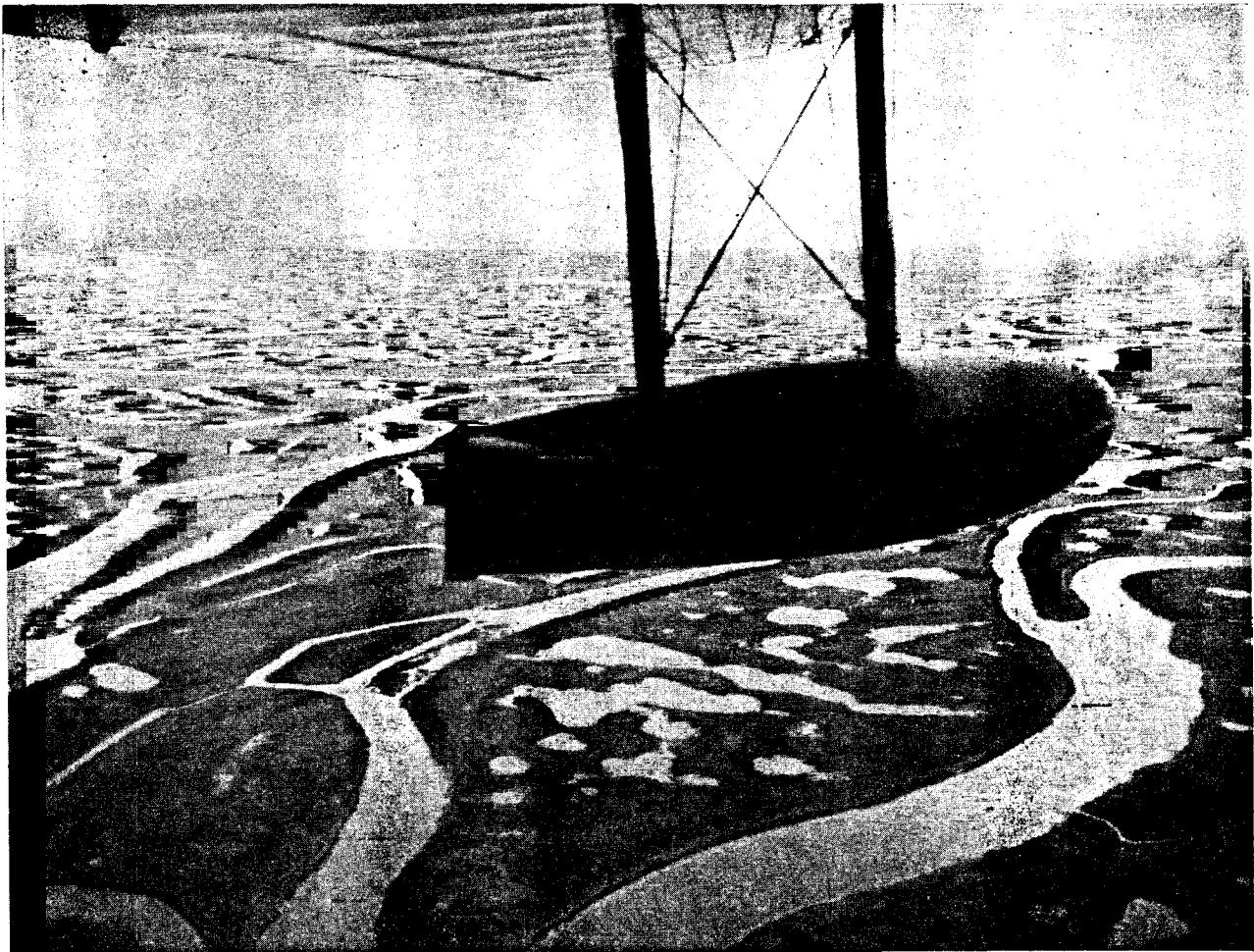
DR. NICHOLS. Do you think that TB and venereal disease are as bad here as they are on the Aleutian chain?

DR. WILDE. By no means. This island is remarkably free of TB. I do not mean that it is absolutely free, but that the percentage or the morbidity rate is much lower than anywhere else. On our venereal disease, we do not have any acute or active gonorrhea, and we know of only five old latent syphilitics who have had some treatment, but who still have positive blood.

DR. NICHOLS. Are the persons you do find to have TB sent away from the island?

DR. WILDE. Until we can obtain a bed we isolate them in their own homes. We have set up isolation units in the homes. We provide them with extra food; in other words,

as
L
use
to
I
for
is 0



Mile upon mile upon endless mile of tundra in the lower Yukon-Kuskokwim delta surround Bethel.

besides the regular food issue those people were given canned soup; they were given oranges and apples, grapefruit, and eggs. All these above their regular rations, so as to enable them to live on a high caloric basis.

DR. NICHOLS. Fresh milk?

DR. WILDE. No, but their canned-milk ration was increased also.

DR. NICHOLS. What do they do with the fresh milk?

DR. WILDE. The fresh milk here is distributed for the use of the steward at the company house; some is given to the white families as wanted-the families of the employees-and the balance is available to such natives as will come and get it.

MR. STEVENS. Would you comment briefly on the adequacy of the hospital facilities.

DR. WILDE. The hospital is adequate. A 10-bed hospital for a village of 300 is adequate. We could probably use here and there some minor improvements. The building is old. It is not well-planned, but as I said, it is adequate.

Our one crying need is for a refrigerator for the storing of our biologicals. That is the one thing that we really need here and we have been unable to get.

MR. STEVENS. Do you have an X-ray?

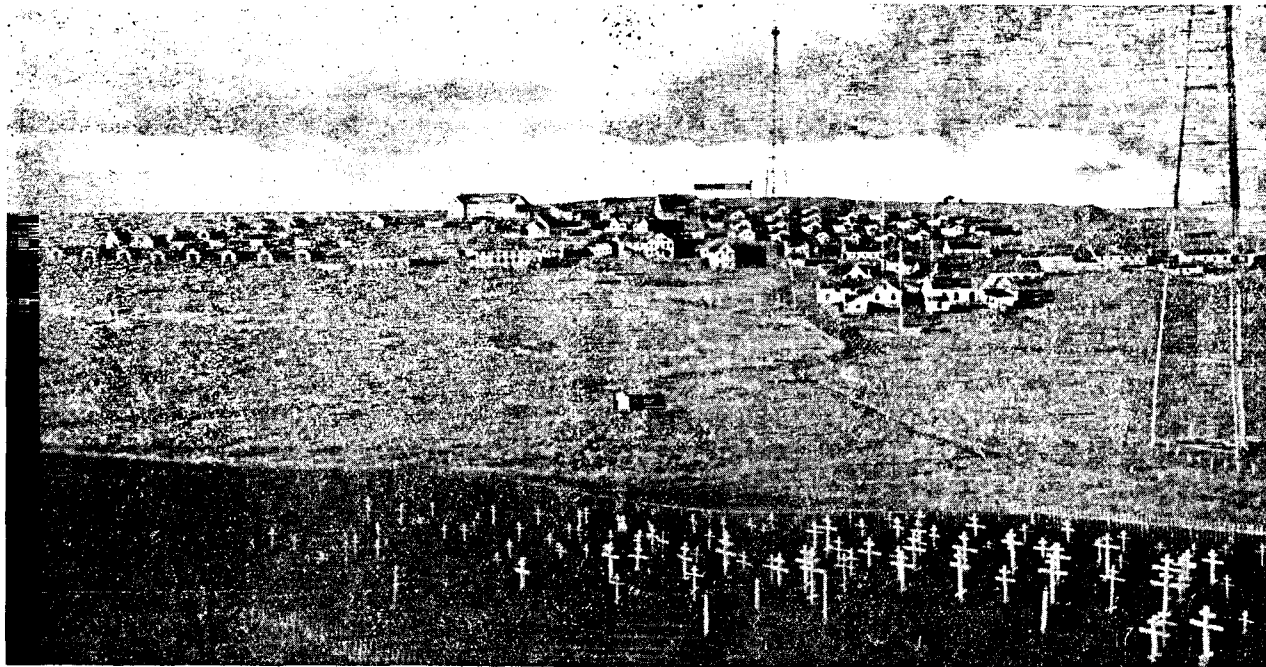
DR. WILDE. We have X-ray equipment. We are going to need a new X-ray in another year.

MR. STEVENS. What use are you making of BCG vaccine?

DR. WILDE. I myself haven't personally used any except to help the Public Health Service team that worked here last November. I have written a letter and asked for some to be sent in. Every person on this island above the age of three months has been vaccinated against smallpox within the past 2 years. Every school child from 18 years down to 6 months has been immunized against diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus.

THE CHAIRMAN. I understand that a survey is made every week of the homes of this community.

DR. WILDE. The procedure is that each week on Thurs-



St. Paul on the Pribilof Islands, its wholesome appearance a striking contrast to many villages on the mainland.

day afternoons the agent and a doctor or nurse make the inspection of these homes. It does help in that it makes some of the more indolent women bring their places up to snuff and clean them up.

THE CHAIRMAN. Do they resent this inspection?

DR. WILDE. Some of the people resent this inspection, but the ones that resent it the most are the ones that have the poorest-kept homes.

DR. NICHOLS. How do you get them to keep them cleaner?

DR. WILDE. We sometimes upbraid them verbally a bit.

MR. STEVENS. What is the general feeling of the natives here to working in the hospital?

DR. WILDE. They are not very favorably impressed with the job in the hospital; probably one reason among the young girls is that their fathers would buy their clothes anyway, and the \$25 a month is not enough of an inducement.

DR. NICHOLS. I certainly appreciate this, doctor. We have had a nice session this morning and this afternoon, and we got some fine material from you. Thanks ever so much. The only thing I am thinking about in this connection is that I am not convinced that the population of Aleuts on the Aleutian chain is decreasing markedly

compared to the population here. I know that Dr. Wilde knows it is increasing here and he has fine figures—almost 50 percent in a decade. That is fine, and we are all glad that he has done such a fine job. However, I think it would take a further population study to prove that the loss of Aleuts on the Aleutian chain was due to deaths, and not leave it to transfers or intermarriage or something else.

THE CHAIRMAN. May I ask this: Doesn't Dr. Albrecht (Dr. C. Earl Albrecht, Commissioner of Health for Alaska) support what Dr. Wilde has said?

DR. NICHOLS. I think so, go ahead.

DR. WILDE. In my conversation with Dr. Albrecht 2 years ago, he seemed to feel that it was the high mortality rate.

DR. NICHOLS. I see.

DR. WILDE. Now I will give you an example. The best figure I can get on Indian mortality from the Bureau of Indian Affairs covers Aleuts, Eskimos, and Indians. Their average is 25 per thousand of population per year. That is the only figure I have been able to get, and compared to our 9.55 per thousand of population per year, that is a difference of 14 per thousand. To my mind, that is an accounting of it.

(The meeting adjourned.)

MEETING AT ST. PAUL PRIBILOF ISLANDS

October 5, 1949

MR. DAY. This is the beginning of the conference on the morning of the fifth at St. Paul Island. More weather trouble. The vessel FS 244, after being repaired, left Dutch Harbor but encountered a severe equinoctial storm. It arrived off shore this morning with decks awash, and with water in all of the staterooms. Captain Dell is standing off shore to take us on our trip to King, St. Lawrence, and the Diomedes, and then drop us at Nome in time to complete our schedule. We are awaiting a calming of the Bering Sea before boarding the vessel FS 244. Dr. Dawber, would you like to take over?

THE CHAIRMAN. Well, the meeting this morning being the last day of our presence here on St. Paul, let us try to get on the record our observations and judgments regarding the conditions here on St. Paul, just as we have done in regard to the other places we visited. Each member of the Group is free to make his statements as he desires. I shall first of all say that I think on the whole we have been well impressed with what we have seen. We shall bring out certain specifics, but on the whole, I think we would reveal our satisfaction with the progress that is being made, and the things that are anticipated for the future. We also hope to get down at the close of this morning's hour the answers to some of the specific charges that have been made, and which we trust will satisfy some of the critics who are still concerned as to what is happening here. I wonder whether you, Mr. Oldroyd, will first of all give your impressions of some of the agricultural possibilities and things of that kind?

MR. OLDROYD. I have been very much interested in the possibility of livestock on St. Paul. From the information that I have received, there is very good pasture here for 4 or 5 months out of the year, and at the present time the cattle here are in fine condition. In fact, some of them are almost ready for beef just from the grass that they have had to eat during the summer. I have observed that there are some 30 or more cattle; some of them are very good milk cows, and the sire looks to me like a very fine animal. I have gone through the barn and with very little expense I believe it could be put into fine condition, so that at least 20 head of milk cows could be kept. If this could be done, then I think there would be an ample supply of good, fresh, wholesome milk for the entire community. In order to do that I believe it would be necessary to have someone well trained in dairying, who

could head up the work and then teach some of the native people how to handle dairying. Possibly after a time they would be able to take it over and run the entire dairy. However, I do feel that it would have to be someone who knows dairying and who would know how to manage a herd on the island in order to make it successful.

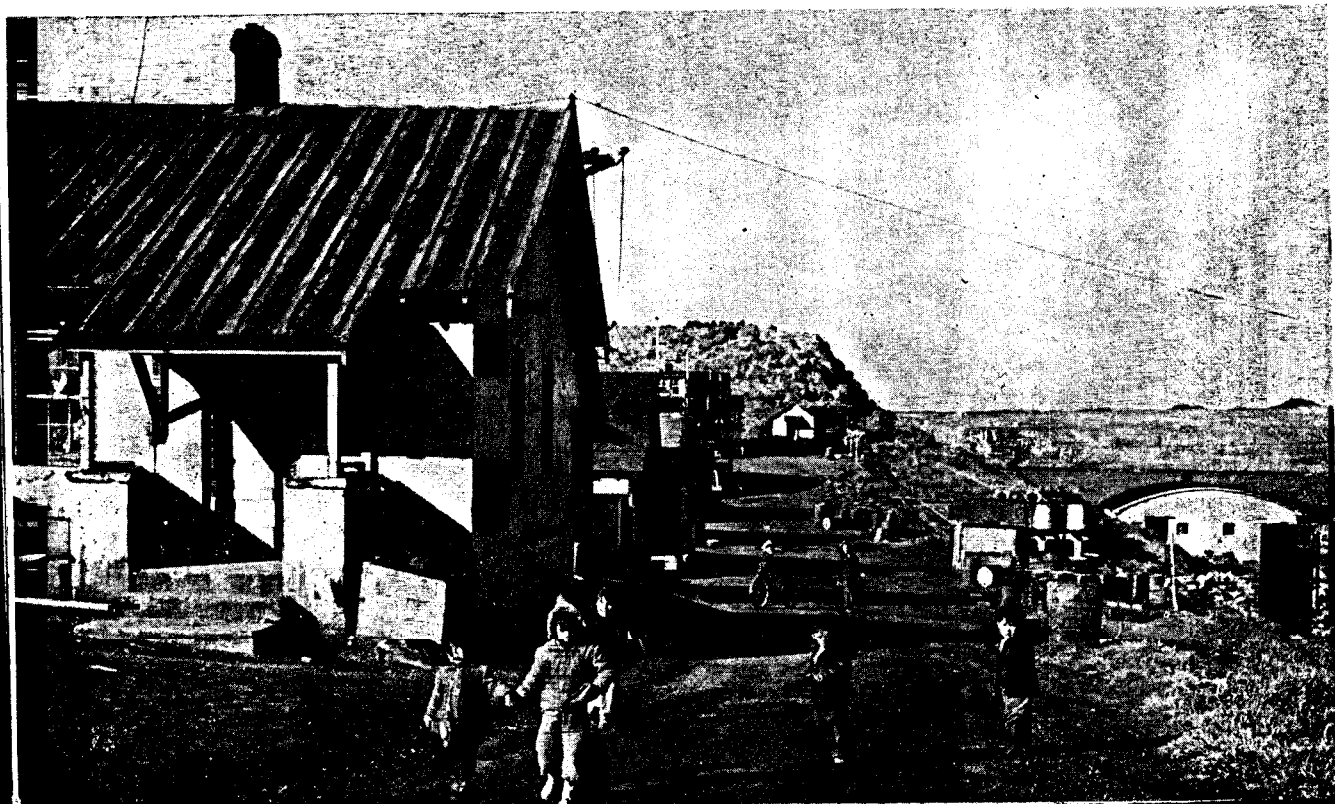
Then I went down to the greenhouse; there is a very fine greenhouse down here, and from the looks of what is going on there at the present time, it could be made very successful. I believe that perhaps without much expense a thousand dollars or more worth of produce could be grown in that greenhouse. This again would take someone who knows how to do the work, and who would be able to teach some of the natives how to carry on. It seems to me that there is a possibility for dairying here, and there is a possibility for some gardening, and I am quite certain that if the people who are living here would keep a few chickens, possibly only six or a dozen, that they could have fresh eggs without a great deal of expense and without too much labor or difficulty. I believe that baby chicks could be shipped in from Seattle by plane without too much expense. They would be able to raise them and have 3 supply of poultry and eggs for their tables.

THE CHAIRMAN. While we are on this matter of the dairy, I wonder, Mr. Day, whether you could answer one of the charges, which has been made regarding the matter of milk, which goes on to say that this dairy is here for the white people and the natives have no chance to get milk. What would you say to that?

MR. DAY. My impression after discussing it with the staff here is that the situation so far as the dairy herd is concerned hasn't been too satisfactory. It appears that the native boys here, who have an ancestral background of hunting and fishing 3rd killing fur seals, are not too enthusiastic about sitting down and milking cows. The fellows tell me that they are afraid of the cattle. When they sit down to milk the old bossy, if she switches her tail or lifts her hind leg, perhaps because of an insect biting her, they fear that she is going to kick them off the stool, so they immediately push her up against the stanchion and rope her so she won't kick. That makes the cow nervous and she doesn't let down her milk. In some instances, that has suited the boys very well because if she doesn't let down her milk, they won't have to worry about milking her. Some of the staff here who understand cattle have been able, by taking over a little while, to restore the cows that were being dried up by mishandling and mistreatment-restore them to production. I think perhaps that Mr. Oldroyd has hit the nail squarely on the head-that we need somebody full-time to care for the herd of cattle.



St. Paul, Pribilof Islands. Clean, well-drained, surfaced streets and neat houses are the rule. The tuberculosis rate is very low.



That is
find a her
believe m

I
Federal
unable to
not
funds
the
the milk.
tives are
prefer to
have som

of
basis tha
those wh
It was ju
station
If they
the bene
that if
other
anything
number
sonnel t!
the
there is
alone,
winter
beef fro
keep th
just the

With

natives
'The
the
and the
would
out,
not
on han
many

when
contain
frequer
along.

M.R.
this

That is an expensive herd, and it is an unusual thing to find a herd of cattle on islands this far north, and I don't believe myself that we are taking advantage of it.

I should say that we have attempted to secure Federal funds for a dairyman here, but so far have been unable to do so. I believe with Mr. Oldroyd that we are not making the best use of an investment of considerable funds and perhaps even greater possibilities right here on the island. Now as to how much the natives would use the milk, I cannot say. The people here say that the natives are not particularly fond of fresh milk. They would prefer to get it out of the can. Perhaps Mr. Olson will have some further observations on that.

MR. OLSON. It is true that throughout these many years of attempting to maintain a dairy herd on a production basis that would be satisfactory, we have had to rely on those who took very little interest in the actual production. It was just another job to them. Some felt it beneath their station in life to be assigned the job of caring for the cattle. If they were, they probably felt that they should receive the benefits thereof. They have not come to understand that if they are assigned a job in a dairy in place of some other assignment, they should do as well at that job as anything else. However, it has been brought out with the number of changes that have been made in our barn personnel that the same thing usually occurs; that there is the tendency to let the work go and slide over it unless there is very close supervision. The death of the calves alone, with improper care and the cold weather of the winter months, creates a loss which, if we could raise beef from those calves, if we could preserve them and keep them alive, would amount to a considerable sum, just the value of beef.

With regard to the milk being solely for white employees, that is not true in that milk has been delivered to the natives to their door, usually on a medical officer's request. The evening milking was always available to them. It is the morning delivery that is usually the most satisfactory, and the employees would set out their containers which would be picked up. If, however, they did not set them out, they received no milk that day. The natives would not receive any milk if they did not have their containers on hand. I think that is a very important point in that many of them who decided to take milk would soon consider that they were being denied their fair amount when actually they did not do their part in having a container ready. In the last 5 years this has occurred so frequently that it can be considered as happening right along.

MR. DAY. Mr. Oldroyd has the very definite idea that this dairy herd could produce what on the mainland

would be the equivalent of \$100 to \$125 worth of milk a month.

Mu. OLDROYD. Per cow.

MR. DAY. If you had 20 cows in production, producing milk valued at \$100 to \$125 per month clear profit, would that milk be consumed by the Natives? Is there an aversion to cow's milk?

MR. OLDROYD. That would be gross.

MR. DAY. All right, gross-that value in milk. Could the milk supply from 15 to 20 cows producing regularly be used by the native population?

MR. OLSON. Some of it, but there is a definite preference for canned milk. I don't believe that the majority of the people prefer fresh milk.

THE CHAIRMAN. Now that we have discussed this matter of the milk and the dairy situation, I wonder whether we ought not to come to some conclusion as to suggestions for dealing with it for the immediate future or for some long-time program. Do you want to say something, Mr. Day?

MR. DAY. Yes, I am glad to have the opportunity to make a brief statement on it. I think we can all consider that the situation at present is not what we desire, but after talking to Mr. Oldroyd and the staff here, it seems to me there is a distinct possibility, if we could secure the funds for an agricultural man here as we have requested in previous budget estimates, and which I shall renew with considerable vigor when I get back, with the existing dairy herd not only to produce additional milk, but to produce considerable meat. It seems to me inasmuch as meat is one of the basic requirements here, we have an opportunity to produce wholesome milk and wholesome meat products right on the island. This would save the shipment of meat and canned milk from the States on boats which never have enough room anyhow. Such a man could also supervise the work of the greenhouse and assist in connection with the reindeer herds. I think there are many things that could be done on this island and St. George as well.

THE CHAIRMAN. Dr. Nichols, we are going to turn to you now for a minute to get your general observations. Particularly I should like you to express yourself regarding the educational situation and our conference with the teachers the other day.

DR. NICHOLS. Mr. Stevens, did you have a further comment about the animal-husbandry business?

MR. STEVENS. Yes, Dr. Nichols, I think in connection with the dairy herd it would be desirable to put on the record the thought that has been expressed in a number of places-that every encouragement should be given to at least one of the natives of St. Paul to study animal



Government house at St. Paul, Pribilof Islands, headquarters for the Fish and Wildlife Service staff.

husbandry and particularly dairying at the University of Alaska.

DR. NICHOLS. Thank you, Mr. Stevens. I was asked a question about education. We went through the school the day before yesterday, and visited each classroom and saw the teachers actually teaching, went up and down the rows, saw the books the students were using, talked to the students, and then later, after school was dismissed at 4 o'clock, we had a long meeting with the four teachers which lasted until after 5 on the first day of school. I warned the rest of the Committee that as an old school teacher I felt the first day of school would probably be the worst day possible. We were delightfully surprised to find no disciplinary problems evident whatsoever; the teachers were all teaching; everybody working the first day and there were plenty of books and plenty of workbooks on all subjects, and plenty of supplies.

The textbooks we looked at were up to the standards of the Territory and ahead of many school books in the United States, both in newness and in the selection of books. We saw workbooks which cost a lot of money and which are unobtainable because of lack of funds in many places in the States. These workbooks are used by the students and have to be replaced each year. They cost a good deal of money. I don't mean to say that everything was perfect, but we found the school under extensive alterations as suggested by previous reports. We found concrete being poured in the basement for showers and

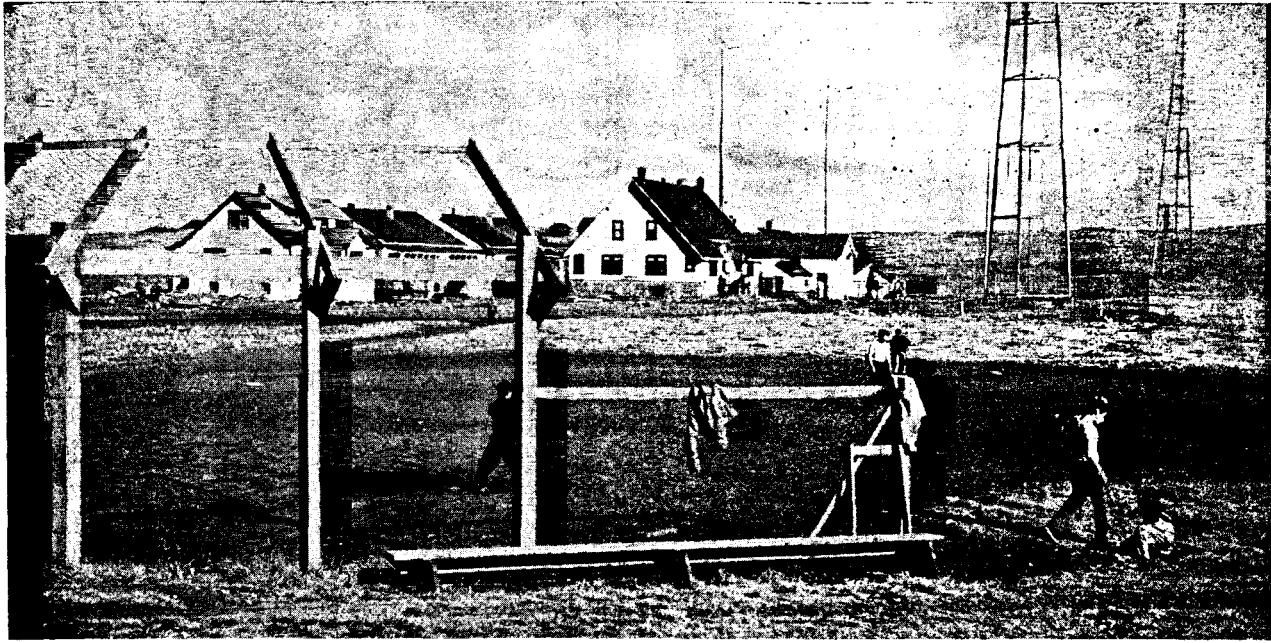
home-economics rooms, which are needed. We found the rooms upstairs in good condition. We noticed perhaps a lack of supplementary library books and reference material, but we heard that the Fish and Wildlife Service had allotted a budget of \$1,500 a year for school supplies alone. That is a very generous amount, isn't it, Mr. Foster?

MR. FOSTER. That is exceptionally generous.

DR. NICHOLS. Though it did include buying a few desks, they weren't going to spend it all for desks. They were going to get a slide projector and later educational movies and finally sound movies out of that money. They were going to make it go as far as they could. I personally was very much pleased with the personality of each teacher. A teacher with a poor personality is generally, in the lower grades at least, worse than no teacher at all. I found each one wholesome and interested in his or her work. I was really very much pleased with the effort being made along the educational line. I think the administration is to be complimented. I don't know of any great lack that I saw there at all. It would be nice to have a home-economics and shop-work class, but they are working toward that. They are working toward the junior high-the ninth grade and so on.

THE CHAIRMAN. What did you discover in the matter of the attitude of the teachers toward encouraging the pupils to go beyond the eighth grade?

DR. NICHOLS. Well, I just read a charge this morning



The baseball diamond is well used. Fish and Wildlife Service employee buildings and radio station in the background.

or rather Dr. Dawber just read it to us stating that the children were not encouraged to go on to school, but to get out and skin the seals when they got to be 15. I don't see any evidence of that at all. They are happy to see them go on to Mount Edgecumbe, to schools in the States, to the University of Alaska, or anywhere else.

THE CHAIRMAN. Dr. Nichols, won't you enlarge upon this situation with other observations about the general conditions?

MR. DAY. Dr. Dawber, before we leave education I should like to make this brief statement. In line with previous studies and recommendations, the Fish and Wildlife Service now has under consideration with the Territorial Department of Education a cooperative agreement which we hope will be signed very shortly, and which Mr. Erickson was originally planning on coming over here and working out at the present time. The Territorial Department of Education will establish the standards of the educational program on the islands, not only as to teachers but as to the curriculum and all of the things that go with it. That will be a similar arrangement to the one that we now have with the Territorial Department of Health. So that I think we can look for a continuation of study in accordance with Territorial standards.

MR. OLSON. I should like to add that we are now conforming with the Territorial courses of study.

DR. NICHOLS. Mr. Foster, you are more conversant with native educational problems in this region than I

am; what did you think about our visit and general impression of the school?

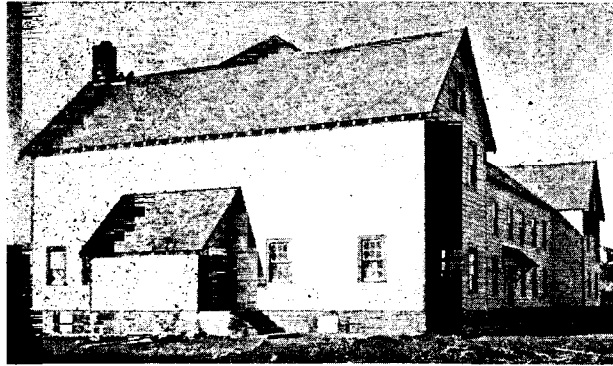
MR. FOSTER. Since I was here with Secretary Warne about three summers ago, it has been of unusual interest to visit the school at this time. The change has been phenomenal. At that time there were two teachers with approximately 90 students. Now there are four teachers with 91 students. They have an exceptionally good man at the head of this school. The school program looks very good, and the school plant is materially improved over what it was at that time. The textbooks are new, and the interesting thing to me was that every desk had a brand-new dictionary in it, and was amply supplied with the latest type of workbook. I should say that the school program at the present time is equal to any school program in Alaska. I should agree with Dr. Nichols that there are certain supplemental materials, particularly source material, that need to be obtained, but with this generous allotment of \$1,500 to be divided between four classrooms and the home-economics and shop department, the school certainly has a real future before it. I also find a very fine attitude on the part of the teachers towards getting the children out for higher education, and the future for the higher education on this island seems to be very good.

THE CHAIRMAN. Mr. Foster, what did you think of the attitude towards the natives and their abilities? What did you think the teachers thought of them as natives?

MR. FOSTER. The attitude was very good. I wouldn't ask for any improvement at all. That is certainly in line with the thinking of our own Service, and these teachers here would fit in nicely with the program that we are attempting to administer on the mainland of Alaska.

THE CHAIRMAN. I should like to say that I concur with what has been said about education, and especially in this matter of the attitude toward natives. There are not, of course, many non-native children, but there are some scattered through the schools, and I saw nothing whatever but the best kind of relationships between them. We are going to turn now to the matter of health for a moment, and I am going to ask Mr. Stevens to make some observations based upon the summary of what we got out of the record the other day regarding health and the doctor.

MR. STEVENS. I think as a general summary that it is fair to say that the health of the natives on St. Paul Island is on the whole very good-much better than in the other native communities which we have seen in Alaska. The doctor and other employees of the Fish and Wildlife Service here state frankly that the food issue is adequate in calories, but not well balanced, and they are



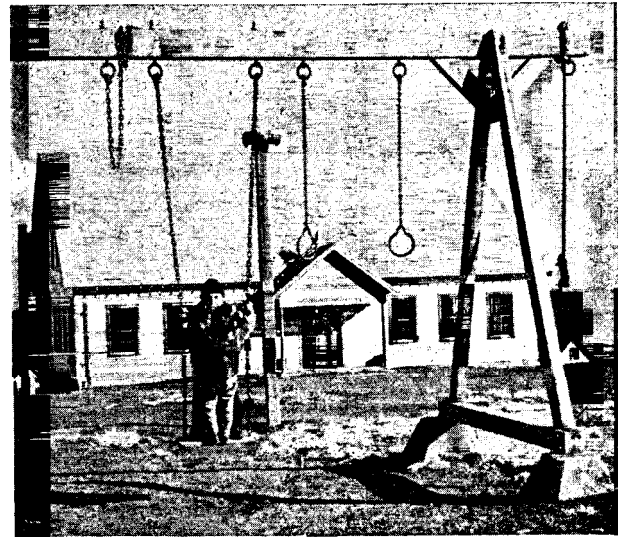
New recreation hall for the St. Paul Aleuts has a large gymnasium, equipped also as a theater, with accommodations for commissary, ladies' clubroom, and barber shop.

on record as trying to provide a better-balanced diet. I think it is pertinent to note that 32 of the 52 native houses have running water, which is much better than any sanitary facilities which exist in the other native villages we have seen.

THE CHAIRMAN. Well, on the question of health and food-especially food-I think we have got to face the matter of criticism that has come from some of the natives in the matter of the disparity of the food available

for the natives and that served in the mess halls for the employees. I wonder, Mr. Day, if you would say what you have in mind about that problem?

MR. DAY. I think I can personally appreciate what you are talking about here. In the few days we have been here, we have had placed before us on the table at the mess hall about twice the amount of food any ordinary individual could consume. It has been of very high quality and well prepared. In going into this, I can understand how the natives would resent the fact that the white people in the mess hall are eating better than they



The schoolhouse at St. Paul.

are. I understand that the cook takes much pride in his culinary arts and particularly when any of the "brass" comes around, he likes to put on a little bit of a show and indicate how well he can serve his food. I think he is doing it in all sincerity. I understand he is a very reliable cook, and that is considerable to be said in his favor because cooks are sometimes not too reliable in some of these eating places. However, I think it is something that administratively we must attempt to adjust, and I propose to do that before leaving the island. I shall talk to him about some of the impressions that result from this. I think that is one of these minor and temporary things, but it can be magnified out of all proportion to its value.

THE CHAIRMAN. Suppose we move over now to the matter of the homes and the conditions.

DR. NICHOLS. I should like to ask one other question if I may.

MR. DAY. Of course.

DR. NICHOLS. Mr. Day, the charge has been made here

on the island to Mr. Stevens and myself that when one of the steers or one of the dry cows here' is butchered, none of the fresh meat is ever distributed to the natives; that it is all for the benefit of the white employees. Could you clear up that matter for us please?

MR. DAY. Since this is my first visit to the islands also, I can't, but I think perhaps Mr. Olson can answer that question.

MR. OLSON. Fault can still be found with our statement that we are furnishing more than the required number of calories, which actually is a fact when comparing it with the recommended dietary allowances prepared by the Committee on Food and Nutrition of the National Research Council, it is shown that we are providing a larger number of calories of food than is recommended. In comparing the tables—

DR. NICHOLS. How about a direct answer on this question?



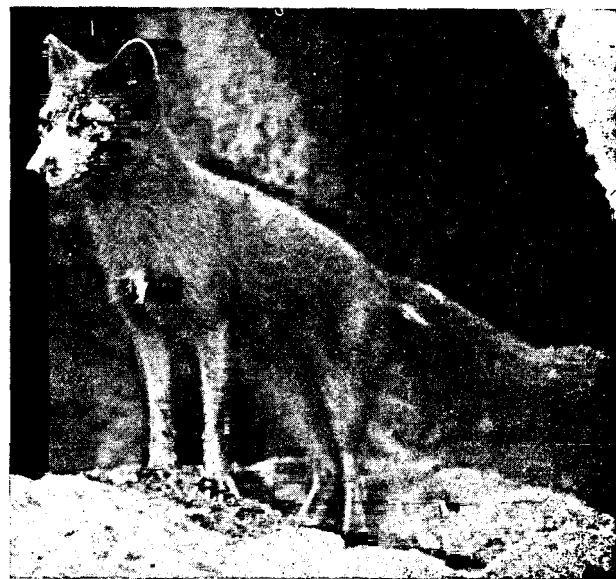
This young bull seal resents interference.

MR. OLSON. In comparing these tables (I am getting at that particular point you brought up there) we feel that the management has set up an original food issue schedule and has done a very good job of it. However, as I said, fault is still to be found with it, but we would like to point out that there is a disagreement among physicians, dieticians, and most of those who have been members of committees, as to what a correct diet should consist of. The opinion is divided on what kind of and what quantity of vitamins are required; and in the last 5 years, the Pribilofs have been visited by medical missions composed of specialists in nearly every field, and in all of these inspections the recommendations have differed. We

just have one question that we put up quite often: If the native food issue is sufficient only in certain types and improperly balanced, to what should we attribute their excellent health and low mortality rate in the past few years.

Just because we kill stock here, I don't see where there is any relationship between that and how or whether it goes to the general mess, to the Aleutian mess of the natives, or the white employees. A lot of it does go out to the other messes, but we have a basic food issue here which we are not supposed to exceed. We are not permitted here—our people, the employees who are in charge of that and have that responsibility, cannot issue above the amounts that are allotted, and which are set on this basic food issue. I think that we are killing stock to supplement the meat supply that would otherwise be shipped up from Seattle.

MR. DAY. What is your answer to that direct question, that if a beef animal were to be killed tomorrow, would the meat all go to the white mess, would it be divided between the various categories, or how would it be handled?



Blue-fox pelts are an added source of income for the Pribilof people.

MR. OLSON. If a steer was slaughtered tomorrow, that meat would go into cold storage for general consumption by the white mess, and a portion of it would go to the Aleutian mess. Perhaps Mr. Anderson can enlarge upon that because he was storekeeper here for a number of years and certainly did issue meat—fresh meat.

DR. NICHOLS. I didn't want to enter into this discussion

here on calories and dietary requirements. We are just trying to clear up a question that the natives have made a charge that they get no fresh meat and they feel they should have the opportunity of getting fresh meat just as well as the white employees. That's all we are trying to do, and I'm not discussing the matter of whether you've got the right number of calories. We've been told that the reason the natives don't get as much fresh meat as perhaps you would like to give them is the shortage of space on the ships. Now in the light of that statement how can you justify the killing of an animal and not an absolutely-what I would consider-fair distribution of the meat supply you have here?

MR. ANDERSON. I should like to answer the question of the natives of the village not getting any meat. The last year I was storekeeper and handling the distribution, if I remember correctly, we had after the killing approximately 3,200 pounds of dressed meat, and of that the village was issued 1,800 pounds approximately, which would be a little over half.

DR. NICHOLS. But is your white staff half of the village population?

MR. ANDERSON. No, the white staff is not half the population.

DR. NICHOLS. About what is it? About 2 percent or 5 percent?

MR. ANDERSON. I should probably say about 3 percent.

MR. DAY. Mr. Anderson, I am not quite clear. You say that 3 percent of the population here are whites. That consists, I think, of the resident population. What about the people that come in during the sealing season during the summer? You must have a higher population than 3 percent during that period, do you not?

MR. ANDERSON. Yes, I was thinking of just the resident population when I said the 3 percent. They average about 25, that is including the families with about four or five children. There are approximately 35 Fouke Fur Company men; we have about 70 temporary men that are here for 5 or 6 months of the year; and in addition to that, there are about 30 extra workmen of our own department.

DR. NICHOLS. Now I'm not quite clear on this question of how this meat is divided up when you don't have this heavy load of temporary help on hand. You surely must butcher sometime when all those fellows are not here, and butcher a couple of steers like I saw down on the meadow yesterday. How do you distribute that meat then? Does part of it go to the natives? Is it all put in cold storage? Just how do you handle it? Would you mind answering that, please?

MR. ANDERSON. Yes. We butcher once a year. We never kill one steer-that wouldn't go around to more than

about half an issue if we tried to, so we usually kill a number of steers at a time in the fall when they are in prime condition. They are put into storage, and then they are distributed to the messes as required. I mentioned a while ago that we issued last year 1,800 pounds of beef. This was beef that we had received and that was already cut, and that we had received from the supply ship and bought at a much higher price than our local beef cost. The reason we did that is because it is very hard to distribute one steer or even two steers among 51 families so that each one will get a fair sample or an equal portion of the same quality of beef. If we are to kill a large number and we have no beef that is already cut, I should suggest that in the future we would bone all the beef and make hamburger out of it. In that way, it is the only way that I can see that you will get an equitable distribution.

THE CHAIRMAN. I understand, Dr. Nichols, you would like to get into the record now, while we are on this food question, something about other available animal food here.

DR. NICHOLS. It has to be said that hunting and fishing are pretty free to the natives-that they are not restricted except in certain seasons in order to protect certain birds, the kittiwake in particular, according to Mr. Olson. However, the thing I want to raise is, I think, **the very** fundamental issue of whether we should expect the natives to supplement their food rations during their leisure time on the theory that it is now insufficient. Let me give you an example. If I were working in Idaho for a garage, a man might offer me \$2,400, but he might say, you can go hunting and fishing during your time off (Saturdays, Sundays, and vacation) and make at least \$200 out of the fish and game in this region, so, therefore, I shall pay you \$2,200 because you can get the rest of it with your own efforts during your own leisure time. Now I think it is a very fundamental issue whether in the future we can expect these natives, with the diminishing of the hunting and fishing supply which they say seems to be happening-we won't say why-to augment their food. In my opinion, the food issue, if it is going to be issued at all, or the salary, if they are going to be paid salary, should be sufficient to cover a decent standard of living from the standpoint of food, and then if some fellows want to hunt and fish, I think that is their recreation and luxury privilege rather than their necessity. What would you say about that as a long-range policy, Mr. Day?

MR. DAY. I don't think that there has ever been any policy here that there are enough wildlife resources that they can depend on it as a source of food supply. Mr. Olson probably has more details on how the hunting and



The fur-seal herds of the Pribilofs now number about 3,750,000 animals, and the sale of skins nets the United States Treasury some \$1,500,000 a year.





The Russian Orthodox Church at St. Paul. The community has a substantial fund for a new and larger house of worship.

fishing are handled here, and just what restrictions are imposed upon the natives.

MR. OLSON. There is still considerable hunting, and it is noted that certain individuals are very much interested in it, and do go out at every opportunity. There are many others that don't make the effort. Many of our most industrious men do take those opportunities and seem to be quite successful, particularly in their sea-lion hunting. The only restriction against shooting is during the summer months, partially because of frightening the fur seals on the rookeries and also because the birds are nesting at that time. Along with it, there isn't a great deal of interest by the natives in taking birds during the middle

of the summer. They use all available time for halibut fishing at that time of the year. There is a considerable amount of halibut brought in here. It is well to point out here that our sealers on the sealing gang leave the village at 3 o'clock in the morning the early part of the season and are through in the early forenoon around 7, 8, or 9 o'clock. They get some rest, and in the afternoons when the weather is good, they take off on their halibut fishing. Throughout most of the sealing season that is done. They have a certain amount of recreation along with it; they like to fish, and they like to hunt.

MR. DAY. Our wage scale has not been based on that factor to your knowledge, has it?

MR. OLSON. No, it has not.

DR. NICHOLS. As to the supplemental food supply by hunting and fishing, I should like to ask Mr. Day specifically whether in the future they are going to count on that as a food-supply item, or whether they are going to attempt to furnish a complete and adequate balanced diet regardless of leisure-time possibilities for hunting and fishing here?

MR. DAY. I think there is no question but what the Fish and Wildlife Service's policy should be that a balanced diet should be supplied the natives, providing we can get adequate advice from the experts as to what a balanced diet is, and providing funds are available to do that job. I think, however, that we should not forget the fact that because there are supplies of halibut available, there are also some of these seal products and certain local meat supplies, that the natives have supplemented their rations by their own efforts in spite of the issues that have been made. This is probably reflected in the condition of the health of the natives.

MR. FOSTER. I should like to put into this record that every effort should be made to assist the Fish and Wildlife Service, and that they put forth every effort to get from the Congress adequate funds to pay commercial freight on the supplies for which they do not have adequate shipping space on their own ships. I have heard here time and time again in these discussions "we do not have adequate shipping space to get all the necessary supplies up here." It appears to me that the Congress has a definite obligation in assisting the Fish and Wildlife Service to furnish these people with all the necessities of life, and there is no excuse for not appropriating the funds for commercial freight above what the Fish and Wildlife Service can handle on their own ships.

MR. STEVENS. In connection with Mr. Foster's remark on commercial fishing, I think it is relevant to note that when we were in Bethel, the people there remarked that the steamship that comes in there at least twice a year is only partially loaded, and it would be possible, I should think, for it to cover the distance to the Pribilofs, and the company might be glad to do so in order to fill up its ship.

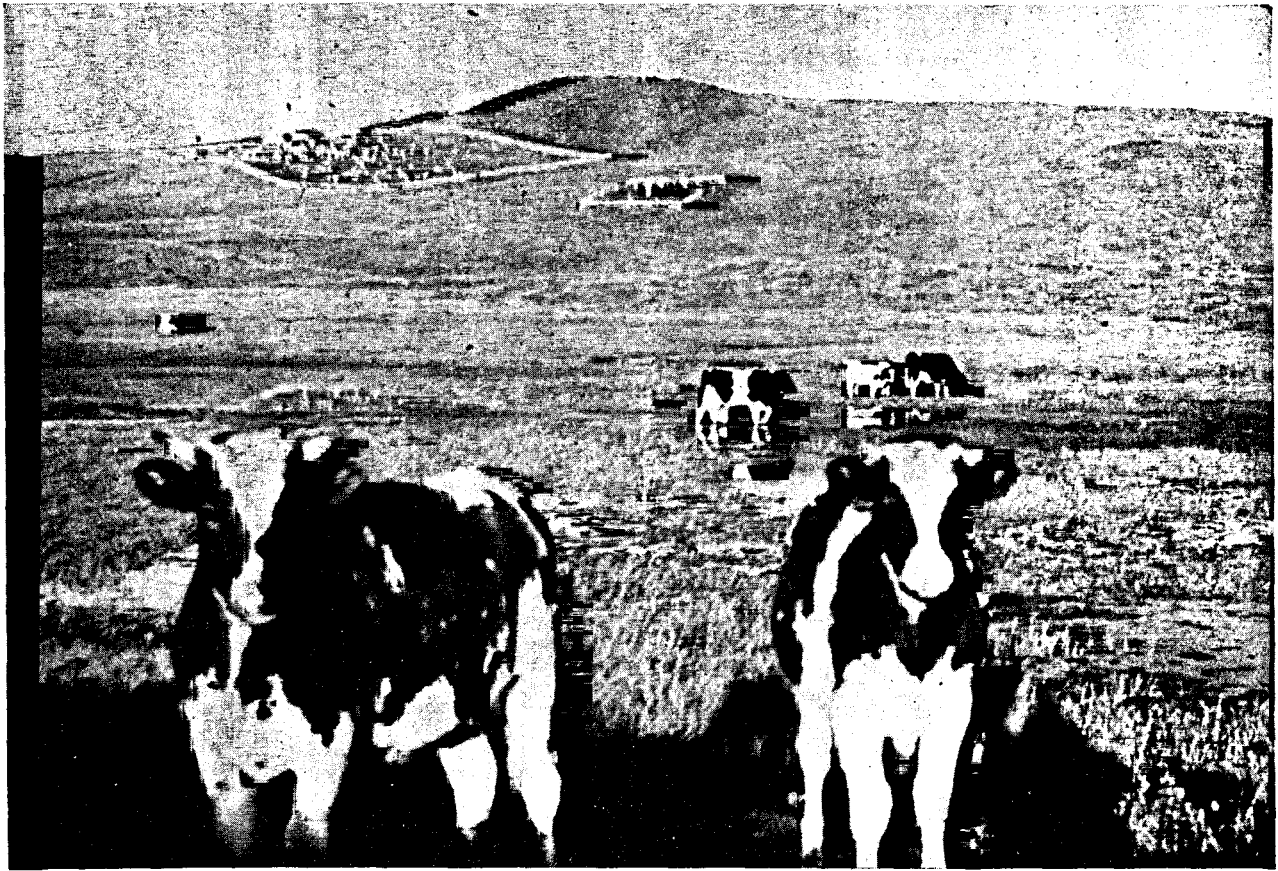
THE CHAIRMAN. We are merely expressing our observations on this matter of food, and I should like to conclude with this; in spite of the fact that the United States Congress is obligated under the law to take care of these people, I think the question of responsibilities also begins to enter now that they are demanding rights, and I don't think you are going to solve this food problem until you have arrived at the place where these people are going to be put on the same basis as all other citizens in which they will be properly compensated for their labor, and

then be free to buy what they need, where they want it. Supposing we move on now and have a little conversation about our observations relative to the homes as we see them. Mr. Oldroyd, I think you have been interested in going around. There has been some criticism from people about these inspections of the homes. I hope you will include that as you make your observations, will you?

MR. OLDROYD. The homes in St. Paul have been very interesting to me. I have walked down the streets of the village. They are neat and attractive on the outside, and I have only visited one home, but I found in that home a very interesting homemaker. I spoke to her and told her that she must be a good homemaker because of the fine appearance of her kitchen and her home. Everything was neat and attractive, and she had very good taste. I don't know about the average condition of the homes here, but judging from that one it seems to me that the other homes might be brought up to that standard through education, and I should like to make this suggestion directly to Director Day that in my opinion if we had a home demonstration agent to work with the homemakers, it wouldn't be very long that we would need any inspection. When I heard about the inspection, it was rather repugnant to me. It just seemed that it shouldn't be. If I lived here, I wouldn't want a doctor to come in and tell me that I had to have my home inspected every week. So I objected to that, and I do believe that there is a way that it can be handled whereby it shouldn't be necessary to have officials of the Government or the physician or anyone else come in and inspect my home regularly. I think perhaps that can be corrected.

I think that perhaps we could encourage the people to have a few plantings about some of their homes. I believe the Caragana tree might be used or we might have the native blueberries or the Russian olive. I think we might do something along that line. In walking up and down the streets, I noticed that many of the homes have a few plants in them which indicate that they do enjoy plants and that we might be able to improve the general condition of the homes by a little additional expense which would pay off well in the long run.

THE CHAIRMAN. I have been in some native homes--some of them have been those of the leaders of the native group, but the others were those of ordinary citizens here--and I find them pretty much on a par. The one objection I have found is the lack of a back door in some of the houses, and they complain about that. I don't know if that is very general or not, but that is one of the complaints. I don't see why they shouldn't have a back door if they want it. I think I should like to get out the back way sometimes, There is another item on this matter of



Fine dairy herds are found on both St. Paul and St. George Islands—extremely rare sights in the Bering Sea area.

homes that enters here. I understand that not all of them have running water in them, and those that do have it had to put it in themselves. For the most part, the problem of water supply enters here, and I wonder, Mr. Olson, whether you can say a word about that?

MR. OLSON. I think at the present time there are over 30 homes that have running water. The natives have paid for the pipe to connect to the village system. That has been the policy here on the islands so that the residents would then feel that they had that responsibility of maintaining it—preventing it from freezing, which is a very important point in this country—and we found that with those who found it difficult to install water in their houses, they watched it very carefully. We have only had a couple of instances where some carelessness was shown, and that is, I think, fairly well remedied now. They also pay for the fixtures within the house.

DR. NICHOLS. In connection with the fixtures in the house and the pipe which the natives have paid for, what sort of equity does it give them in a home? In other words,

if the native has put in improvements at his own expense, does that give him continued right to occupy that particular house?

MR. OLSON. It has been the policy and pretty well understood by all the natives, and I think there is no reason to question it, that a family is assigned to a home and may have it and continue to occupy it as long as they live, and very often it is occupied by their children after that time.

DR. NICHOLS. Mr. Olson, what would you say about the desires of the natives, as expressed to us at the council meeting the other night, that they would like to pay and finally own their own homes? They would be willing to make payments on them so that they could feel that they were theirs.

MR. OLSON. That would probably be a development in the future, but it would be in the distant future after the matters involved at the present time; of course, it is all Federal property.

MR. DAY. I think it should be made clear that any

change such as that in the fundamental organization of this community would take additional legislation by the Congress to permit it in the future.

MR. FOSTER. It would be my opinion that the fact that it is a Federal property would not prevent private ownership if certain plans could be worked out. On the National Forest we built our homes in a great many places, cabins and the like, and yet there is no ownership of the lands, which are Federal lands.

MR. DAY. That is an indefinite permit—a 99-year permit, or something of that nature.

MR. OLSON. In Mr. Oldroyd's remarks he voiced an expression that has certainly been of some concern to us on the islands also, and that is the matter of inspecting the homes each Thursday afternoon. We have found it a little difficult to get away from the present system in that we still feel that it adds to the cleanliness and the orderliness of the home life; still the statement that it certainly would be distasteful is true. I would like to ask if he would have any suggestions as to how it could be changed? That is one matter that we have asked about and have received no answer to this date.

MR. OLDROYD. I'm very much interested in that question and I believe as I suggested to Mr. Day that it can only be done through education, and that would require a home agent with a great deal of tact to go in and get the confidence of the women and gradually educate them and bring them up to a higher standard. I think that could be effectively carried out.

DR. NICHOLS. I have already made two suggestions to Mr. Olson previously on this. One was that a member of the Native Council, or whatever you are going to call it, accompany the agent and the doctor on the inspection so that the natives would begin to take an interest in the inspection of their own homes with a view to possible inspection of their own as a community enterprise with some final check up by the doctor if necessary. I also suggested that prizes or certificates be awarded to the best homes, and that they be exempted from inspection. But Mr. Olson said that would create a lot of ill feeling, but two suggestions have been previously made on this matter.

MR. FOSTER. Mr. Chairman, like Mr. Olroyd, I feel rather keenly on this whole subject of the inspection of private homes. If you are going to inspect one of them, in order to keep down the feeling of discrimination or favoritism I should say that every home on the island should be inspected regardless of race or creed.

MR. STEVENS. I understand that the electric power to the natives' homes is now cut off at 12 midnight each night, whereas it remains on throughout the night in

the employees', and I wonder what the reason for this distinction is?

MR. OLSON. Our power plant is semi-modern, but it is an expensive operation, and we do take advantage of savings by cutting down our large units whenever there is an opportunity of doing so, and when cutting down from one of the larger units to the small night plant, it will not carry the entire village. It will only handle street lights and some additional power. That is the main reason. We don't have to keep the man on during the mid-night shift.

THE CHAIRMAN. Well, in rounding out this discussion on the homes, I should like to say again, and there is no attempt to whitewash anything at all, the Commission has to make a few comparisons, that as I have seen the other homes of the natives throughout Alaska, I should certainly put St. Paul on a par almost with Metlakatla. Certainly in contrast with many of the situations that we have seen it is vastly different from the average native home, and at least that much must be said by way of progress.

MR. DAY. I should like to interpose that not having seen Metlakatla, I won't concede that point.

MR. FOSTER. I'm a little touchy on the matter of homes. This is the only true communal government subsidy that I know of in Alaska, and the homes are nice. I've been in a number of them and they are nice homes, but we want to remember that Uncle Sam has put up the homes; they are not the result of individual initiative.

THE CHAIRMAN. In some of the correspondence, the whole question of what happened to these Aleuts when they were evacuated to Funter Bay camp, and the psychological carry over of that as they have come back to the Island, is I think an important matter to keep in mind as we are dealing with conditions. I wonder whether you want to say something about that?

MR. DAY. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am delighted to have a chance to say something about it. In my opinion, no group of American citizens was treated as roughly because of the War as were the Aleuts of the Pribilof Islands, with the possible exception of the evacuation of the Japanese out of California, and I don't think even they were treated as roughly as people here were. It was through no fault of any one except perhaps war hysteria. I was not the Director at that time; I was not even Assistant Director, but I do recall one hot day in July in Washington when a wire was received from the Army saying that the entire population of St. George and St. Paul were on an Army transport out of the Pribilofs, and inquiring where would the Service like to have them taken. Moving 500 people, and I don't know how many families, from an Army transport to an unknown point of destination was

no small job, I can assure you. In Washington, our people immediately got in touch with our office in Juneau, and there was great consternation as to where these families were to be taken. Finally there was found an abandoned fish cannery, and an abandoned coal mine at Funter Bay. I have never seen either.

Those people were moved bodily into some of the worst conditions I think that any of our people have had to experience. Now Congress, as I recall, was not in session, and no provision was made by the Army for taking care of these folks. It was only through the goodness of heart of the Commanding Officer that extra supplies were dumped at the Island when these people were debarked. The War Relocation Authority, when they started moving the Japanese population, had funds, they had manpower, they had an organization to do it, but this situation was something that was entirely left to the devices of a small bureau that had no means with which to handle this problem. I was not on the Juneau end, but I understand that the situation was bad. I don't know whether it could be described in any other fashion. That condition could do nothing but leave a very definite and indelible impression upon the memories and the lives of these people. I don't blame them for some of the bitterness that has ensued, nor do I blame the Japanese for some of the bitterness that they at the present time express. In fact, I think that is probably the best comparison that you could make. The folks taken out of California, the Japanese, many of them loyal citizens, scattered to the four winds of the United States, many of them put in concentration camps. Fortunately, Funter Bay was not a concentration camp because these people were not considered disloyal, but they were the victims of a very serious war-hysteria episode, and the results are still evident in their thinking. If you would like any further information as to what actually happened on Funter Bay, I think our records are full of it. That briefly is the background for this situation.

THE CHAIRMAN. The question of native participation and consultation in the affairs of the island has been raised in many ways, and I think that the meeting held last night to deal with the charter of the community might throw some light upon what the situation is and what the anticipation is for the future, I wonder, Mr. Day, will you say a word about the meeting last night?

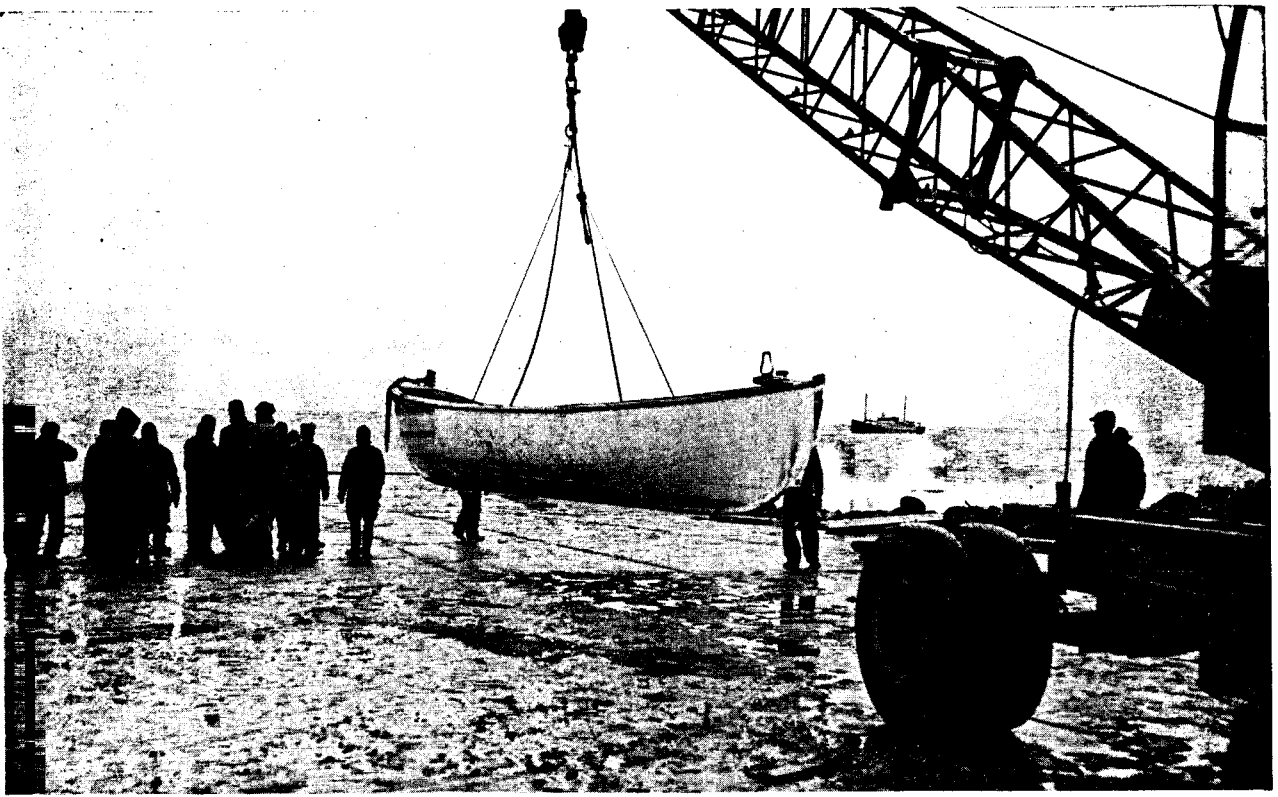
MR. DAY. The meeting last night was a culmination of negotiations that have been carried on *over* a period, I think, of about 2 years, in which consideration has been given to the establishment of a legally organized community organization here at St. Paul, the same as is now the case in many native communities both

in the States and on the mainland of Alaska. This is under the Indian Reorganization Act, and as such it gives the native population a certain degree of legal entity, I should say, that they do not now have. Advantages of this organization would be evident in their ability to make loans from Federal funds set up for this purpose, the same as other native tribes. This proposed charter has been under consideration by the Department, and great assistance has been given by members of the Indian Service and the Solicitor's Office, while our own attorneys and people in charge of the Pribilofs in my office have been working on it. We are very much indebted to the members of the staff of Dr. Nichols for their assistance in this, because they have had the know-how and background throughout their years of experience in organizing these charters and constitutions, and the members of the party here, Dr. Nichols, Mr. Stevens, and Mr. Foster, were all very helpful last night in explaining the details of the charter and how it operates on Indian reservations and in other native communities elsewhere. I think the situation was pretty well cleared up and questions answered at last night's meeting.

I think there is very little doubt but that this community will organize and that may be followed after a lapse of time by the natives of St. George. In my opinion, it is a long step forward in that these people are trying to do more for themselves. We have encouraged them to take a more active participation, and I hope that they will. I hope that they will assume some responsibilities; and as they assume responsibilities, I hope they'll look a little bit less to the Government for the cures of all of their ills and all of their needs. That, in my opinion, is a step in the right direction.

THE CHAIRMAN. While we are on this matter of rights, the question of religious freedom has been raised in some of the records; I suppose largely due to the fact that there is just the Russian Church here. I think it might be well to get clear what the situation will be, so I am going to ask Mr. Olson just this question. Mr. Olson, if some responsible group thought there was need for additional religious leadership, would there be any objection to that organization coming if it would build its own buildings without any responsibility whatever on the part of the Government?

MR. OLSON. Well, Dr. Dawber, I am not in a position to state departmental policy, but it would appear to me that a permit would perhaps be granted to certain ground on the island and allow whoever wished to come in for missionary or other work if they took their own responsibility in building their quarters and providing their own facilities.



A futile attempt was made to ride out the rough waters to reach the Fish and Wildlife vessel FS 244 standing by to take the party to Dutch Harbor.

MR. DAY. We heard from the Fish and Wildlife Service vessel 244. The vessel was delayed beyond their scheduled departure. They'll not arrive here until 2 or 3 o'clock tomorrow morning. We have checked the tides and it looks as though if we go to St. George Island we couldn't get off the boat and on to the island until tomorrow afternoon. If we remain only for the afternoon, I fear that we will not have the time to go through the detailed discussion we had with the people of this island, and it will probably take another day. This, I am afraid, would pretty badly throw our whole schedule out of balance in view of the fact that we were not able to cover the northern islands. We are about a week behind the original boat schedule, and if we are going to accommodate the people who have reservations out of Anchorage on the 11th, it means, I fear, that we will have to pass up St. George. As to the conditions at St. George and any similarity, perhaps Mr. Olson could tell us whether there are enough pressing matters that need to be discussed there, or whether there is a great difference between the situation here and there, so that we could pass up St. George without doing anybody an injustice.

MR. OLSON. I doubt whether we would be accomplish-

ing anything other than the full consideration of the problems of the people over there which are similar to here. The homes over there are somewhat larger on the average that they are here. They are well kept and it is just a smaller community, but very similar to St. Paul.

DR. NICHOLS. I agree with Mr. Olson. We flew quite close over St. George—a little too close for some of us—and so we know the physical set-up. We've seen the island; we've seen the cows, the rocks just like this island; we've seen the seal herds, the arrangement of the village, the houses, and the church. While we were here, we all made a point of talking to people, asking questions about conditions at St. George. I've talked to the various natives, and they don't seem to have as many pressing problems there. The teachers who came from over there, and who are here this year, say perhaps they are a little better in their school facilities and school. Mr. Olson says they keep their houses a little better. In fact, they are not demanding a charter at this time, so I think rather than jeopardize our entire schedule, and since we are over a week late on it already, that we might well feel confident in proceeding, so as to keep our schedule, because we have talked to a good many people from there,

and the problems are about the same as here, though perhaps not as severe; and if anything, there is less need for recommendations for that island than for here.

THE CHAIRMAN. In the light of these observations it has been decided that we will go on from here when the boat arrives, leaving tomorrow morning right after breakfast. With the background of information that we have, we feel we will be able to give the answers which have

been requested of us relative to the conditions in this area.

(The meeting adjourned.)

Storms continued, making boarding of the FS 244 impossible for 2 days, thus again upsetting the original plans. Finally, the Group abandoned the ship's cruise altogether, chartered a plane, and flew from St. Paul to Anchorage on October 9, disbanding at that point.

the
to
the
it is

this

ions

sing

ittle

are

are

feel

PRIBILOF ISLANDS SURVEY REPORT

The following report was prepared and signed by the four members of the Study Group before leaving St. Paul Island, and represents the united thinking of the body.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA,
October 8, 1949.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the conduct of the study of the welfare and living conditions of the natives of the Bering Sea area the Group has been impressed by the peculiar and unusual obligation imposed by law upon the Secretary of the Interior in the administration of the Pribilof Islands. Here, on the two tiny islands of St. Paul and St. George, about 80 percent of all the existing fur seals in the world make their summer homes and then return to the icy waters of the Pacific Ocean.

The herd through unbridled exploitation was reduced from an estimated 4,000,000 animals prior to Russian occupation to a low of 130,000 when an international convention between Russia, Japan, Great Britain, and the United States outlawed the destructive practice of killing at sea, and international protection was afforded by a treaty signed in 1911. The United States Government was given the responsibility for the management of the herd, which has since that time been built back to an estimated number approaching 3,500,000 animals.

The international situation changed at the beginning of the recent war, and a new agreement was reached in 1942 which retains management of the herd by the United States Government, but provides that Canada shall receive 20 percent of the skins taken on the Pribilof Islands, the remainder to be retained by the United States. About 65,000 surplus animals are killed each year, the United States skins being processed, tanned, and dyed in St. Louis, Missouri, by the Fouke Fur Company and then sold at public auction, with the net proceeds deposited in the United States Treasury. In 1948 the cash income amounted to \$1,345,000, and since 1910 the proceeds from the sale of fur-seal and fox skins and byproducts, such as meal and oil, have amounted to more than \$16,000,000. The original purchase price for all Alaska was \$7,500,000.

Following the exchange of notes between the Canadian Minister and the Secretary of State in 1942 looking toward a revision of earlier treaty obligations, the President of the United States signed a new Alaska Fur-Seal Law on February 26, 1944, giving effect to the provi-

sional agreement. This act brings together all previous legislation directly affecting the Pribilof Islands fur-seal herd.

Entitled "An Act to give effect to the Provisional Fur Seal Agreement of 1942 between the United States of America and Canada; to protect the fur seals of the Pribilof Islands; and for other purposes," it is referred to as the Fur-Seal Act of February 26, 1944.

The act contains 18 separate sections dealing with the various phases of managing this valuable natural resource, but two sections are of particular interest to this commission in its study of the native problems of the Bering Sea area. They are as follows:

SEC. 7. Whenever seals are killed and sealskins taken on any of the Pribilof Islands, the native inhabitants of the islands shall be employed in such killing and in curing the skins taken, and shall receive for their labor fair compensation to be fixed from time to time by the Secretary, who shall have the authority to prescribe the manner in which such compensation shall be paid to the natives or expended or otherwise used on their behalf and for their benefit.

SEC. 8. The Secretary shall have authority to establish and maintain depots for provisions and supplies on the Pribilof Islands and to provide for the transportation of such provisions and supplies from the mainland of the United States to the islands by the charter of private vessels or by the use of public vessels of the United States which may be under his control or which may be placed at his disposal by the President: and he likewise shall have authority to furnish food, shelter, fuel, clothing, and other necessities of life to the native inhabitants of the Pribilof Islands and to provide for their comfort, maintenance, education, and protection.

Thus these natives are not only guaranteed by Federal law priority in the "killing and curing of the skins taken" but the Secretary of the Interior is also authorized to "furnish food, shelter, fuel, clothing, and other necessities of life to the native inhabitants of the Pribilof Islands and to provide for their comfort, maintenance, education, and protection."

FINDINGS

Keeping in mind the unusual circumstances under which the Fish and Wildlife Service must operate to carry out the provision of Federal law, the Special Survey Group after careful study and observations and following numerous discussions with the leaders of the

community of St. Paul and the local administrators find that:

1. Because of the close relationship of these natives to the management of the highly valuable fur-seal resource, they enjoy an economic security on a par with the highest income group of any native people in all Alaska. There are no depressions nor "hard times" here.

2. Evidence of their well-being is amply demonstrated by the general weights and physical conditions of adults and children alike. While many other native villages of the Bering Sea area have a most serious tuberculosis problem St. Paul Island has only one active case out of a population of 335. In recent years, some half dozen other cases have been removed from the Island for treatment in Alaska Native Service hospitals on the mainland. Of even greater significance we are reliably informed that in every Aleut community in Alaska except St. Paul and St. George, the population is declining. Here, it has greatly increased during the past decade.

3. The school systems on both islands now compare favorably with those in the best native communities in Alaska. To insure a continued high standard and greater improvement, the Fish and Wildlife Service has an agreement with the Territorial Commissioner of Education for the review of school standards and for other aid in school matters. The teachers have a wholesome interest in the pupils and encourage them to attend outside schools for the high-school and college grades.

4. Hospitals and medical facilities are adequate, and are furnished free by the Government. The Group had the unusual experience of visiting a 10-bed hospital in St. Paul with not a single patient. An agreement between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alaska Department of Health affords highly competent advice and assistance in all health matters.

5. Housing on both St. Paul and St. George Islands is far superior to that in any other native community in Alaska, with the possible exception of Hoonah and Metlakatla in Southeastern Alaska. It is also better than that found in many white communities in Alaska. This is due to the provision of law which provides that the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to furnish "food, shelter, fuel, clothing, and other necessities of life to the native inhabitants," where the natives in other communities have not had such Federal assistance. The natives on the Pribilofs do provide furnishings and plumbing for their homes.

6. The Group can find absolutely no basis for the charge that the native Aleuts of the Pribilof Islands are held in "slavery," "bondage," or "peonage." Because of the difficulty of securing free transportation from the is-

lands, there is a mistaken impression that the natives are not free to come and go as they please.

7. Under the present system of compensation for services performed on this special Government reservation, it can well be said that these people are of special interest to the Government. The system of payment in wages since the inception of sealing operations under the treaty, has furnished, as a part of the compensation, housing, food, fuel, electricity, some clothing and other supplies, medical and dental attention, hospitalization, sick leave, annual leave, national plus 4½ special church holidays, and disability and retirement benefits.

8. Cash compensation, in addition to the Government issues, is paid in accordance with the numbers of seal and fox skins taken from the islands annually. On the basis of the pelts taken in 1949, first-class sealers received \$922.80, second-class sealers \$738.00, third-class sealers \$531.60, fourth-class sealers \$356.40, and fifth-class sealers \$265.20. All classes reflect the relative responsibilities of the jobs performed, except that absentees are lowered in class during a given year in accordance with the working time lost. During seasons of the year when there are no sealing operations, the employees work on repairs to the roads to the killing grounds, construction, and maintenance of the village and various Government installations on the islands.

9. While the long-established system of furnishing the residents with Government issues of the necessities of life, plus the cash division, has resulted in a healthy and well-fed people, it has tended to discourage individual initiative, both economically and socially.

10. There is still evident some resentment and bitterness over the abrupt and disastrous removal by the Army of the people of the Pribilofs at the beginning of the late war to prevent their possible capture by the Japanese. They were all loaded on an Army transport and were many miles from the islands when the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service was notified and asked to designate their destination. Relocating two communities of more than 500 men, women, and children without supplies on such abrupt notice was no simple task. They were finally disembarked at Funter Bay near Juneau, Alaska where an abandoned fish cannery and mine became their temporary home. The sufferings, deprivation, and uncertainties that resulted from this war-time tragedy have not been forgotten, for which no one can blame them.

11. There is in St. Paul, as well as in St. George, a Russian Orthodox Church (apparently not under Communist domination), into which all native members of the community are born. The priest is paid from native can-

teen funds and each member of the native community contributes annually to the church building fund, deposited in a bank in Seattle, Washington. The Group foresees some time in the future when other religious missionary groups may make application to serve on the Pribilofs, in which case the way must be made administratively clear for them to furnish additional religious and social leadership among the natives.

12. We are forced to the conclusion that much of the criticism of the Fish and Wildlife Service's administration of the Pribilof Islands is unjust, unwarranted, and without foundation in fact. Some of it may have been valid in the past, but it is not so at present. The bald facts remain that there are not now and never have been any destitute families, any neglected welfare cases, any crime liquor problem (with the exception of home brew). There is no necessity for policemen or jail. No one draws unemployment compensation, because all able-bodied men are working.

13. The most serious problems of native welfare and need for assistance in the Bering Sea area is not on the Pribilof Islands. Rather it is elsewhere. On all sides- on the mainland, the Aleutian chain, Nunivak Island, Nome, and Kotzebue-poverty, disease, and want are evident in striking contrast to the conditions on St. Paul and St. George Islands. In the lower Yukon - Kuskokwim area, covering an expanse of tundra the size of the State of Pennsylvania, there is only one Alaska Native Service hospital. This is a modern 43-bed structure located at Bethel. Additional quarters will soon provide another 26 beds. This hospital must accommodate the natives from 72 villages and a total population of some 7,000. The doctor in charge estimated the tuberculosis incidence as ranging from 15 to 33 percent in the various communities. Almost the sole cash income of these people comes from trapping, and it was locally estimated that this would average about \$400 per year per trapper. Some additional wages are earned by those who work in the Bristol Bay fishery, but even with this, a total income exceeding \$2,000 per year is out of the ordinary.

A similar standard of living is found in the Nome and Kotzebue areas, as well as on Nunivak Island. The bulk of these people obtain their meats by killing seals, some walrus, and reindeer, caribou, and waterfowl, and use fish extensively for both human consumption and for dog food.

Housing in most instances in this vast region still consists of small cabins and underground barabaras, where crowded conditions and unbalanced diets lead to tuberculosis, skin diseases, and ailments of the eyes.

Along the Aleutian chain, the natives are on the decline,

through disease and impoverishment, much of it brought on by the unbridled and excessive use of liquor.

These people should receive the most active sympathy and aid of those who wish to improve the status of the natives in Alaska.

The Alaska Native Service, the Alaska Department of Health, and the Territorial Department of Education are all struggling to improve these conditions, but with existing budgets, progress is painfully slow.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PRIBILOFS

The Survey Group recommends, with reference to the Pribilof Islands, as follows:

1. The proposed Corporate Charter of the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, and the related Constitution and Bylaws, under the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, should be voted upon and accepted by the residents of St. Paul at an early date. This action would give the people of the village a greater degree of responsibility in the administration of community affairs. The charter and bylaws were approved by Secretary Krug on September 14, 1949, and await only acceptance by the qualified voters of St. Paul to become operative. Some 200 such charters in the States and 70 in Alaska have already been approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and such adoption here will extend the benefits of this Act to St. Paul. St. George has not petitioned for such a charter, but if one is later requested it should receive careful consideration.

2. The Fish and Wildlife Service should expedite the long-discussed change from the present system of Government issues plus compensation to a plan of total compensation for services rendered. This, in our opinion would eliminate much of the recurring dissatisfaction among the natives over low wage scales. They are now inclined to consider the annual cash bonus as the only compensation they receive, while they ignore the value of the supplies and services furnished by the Government.

3. The Fish and Wildlife Service should employ a trained agricultural agent to supervise the handling of the two fine dairy herds on St. Paul and St. George Islands. These herds are not now being given the attention they deserve to accomplish the original aim of supplying fresh milk and beef for the island communities. It is also our opinion that much more could be done in raising additional vegetables, poultry, and domestic rabbits if funds were secured to employ a competent agricultural supervisor. It would also be desirable to provide the services of a home demonstration agent to work with homemakers and 4-H clubs. Further effort should be made to

encourage the natives to secure training along these lines and return to the village.

4. Every effort should be made to restore the reindeer herd to the numbers present before the Islands were occupied by the military during the recent war.

5. Greater consideration should be given to the training of the natives for some of the positions now filled by white employees.

6. It should be a continuing policy of the Fish and Wildlife Service that students be encouraged to secure educational benefits beyond those now furnished on the Islands. Some should be encouraged to settle down elsewhere and others, who have received higher educations, should be encouraged to return for employment here. Veterans should be encouraged to take advantage of the so-called GI Bill of Rights before the opportunity expires.

7. A library should be provided for use of both the school and the community, and some person should be assigned to its care.

8. A small social room where light refreshments could be served might well be provided, possibly in connection with the canteen, where the people could gather whenever they desire social conversation and refreshments.

9. Every effort should be made to provide better social relations between the native and nonnative residents of the Islands.

10. The airplane-landing strip on St. Paul Island should be widened, enlarged, and otherwise improved to meet CAA standards. Otherwise the recently established post office will be of little benefit, since the CAA has condemned its use by contract carriers after December 1, 1949.

11. The Congress should provide increased appropriations to further rehabilitate the Pribilof Islands communities which still show many scars of military occupation, and to provide additional housing for a growing population. In particular, a fire-protection system is sorely needed, as are improvements in the water and sewer lines.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OTHER BERING SEA

COMMUNITIES

With reference to the situation in other native communities in the Bering Sea area the group recommends as follows:

1. Greater provision should be made for the improvement of the general living conditions of the natives. This would involve housing, community development, social and recreational life, education, health, and economic opportunities. The 6-year program as recommended by the Alaska Committee of the Department of the Interior, if implemented by adequate Congressional appropriations, would go far toward solving these problems.

2. Since the economic welfare of the natives of this general area is in large part dependent upon fish, fur, and other forms of wildlife, every effort should be made by teachers, game officials, and missionaries to stress the importance of the proper management, use, and protection of wildlife for the benefit of not only the present populations, but also of future generations.

3. The facts reveal that the most deplorable conditions among the natives exist in those communities and villages where liquor is available. This places upon those communities and their governing officials a great responsibility in controlling the sale of liquor and the enforcement of laws that will prevent the unfortunate conditions that result from the excessive use of liquor. This also involves the obligation on the part of the Territory to enforce all existing liquor laws which is not now being done.

4. The group urges continuing and accelerated support for the programs of the Alaska Native Service, the Alaska Department of Health, the Territorial Commissioner of Education and all other groups and organizations, public and private, that are striving to improve the standards of living for the native peoples who constitute about one-third of the total population of the Territory.

Mark A. Dawber
Chairman

Lorin T. Oldroyd
John R. Nichol
Albert M. Day

ANNUAL INCOME OF ALASKAN NATIVES IN VILLAGES DEPENDENT ON THE FUR INDUSTRY, FISCAL YEAR 1949

Village	Population		Annual Income		
	All persons	Hunters	Total	Average Per hunter	Average Per person
Deering	164	28	\$ 355	\$ 13	\$ 2
Diomedes	106	30	170	6	2
Gambell	290	83	8,744	105	30
Kwethluk	210	50	7,060	141	34
Minto	145	40	28,527	713	197
Rampart	79	22	23,281	1,058	295
Savoonga	258	73	26,406	362	102
Selawik	316	147	37,778	257	120
Shageluk	102	24	22,325	930	219
Shishmaref	225	27	2,150	80	10
Shungnak and Kobuk	164	57	15,426	274	95
Stebbins	130	50	4,420	88	34
Tanana	100	30	30,435	1,014	30-1
Tanunak	96	31	5,939	192	62
Unalakleet	396	168	5,036	30	13
Venetie	70	14	3,357	210	48
White Mountain	149	30	896	30	6
Total	3,000	906	\$222,505	\$246	\$74

CASH COMPENSATION PLAN FOR THE PRIBILOFS

On December 23, 1949, the Department of the Interior approved a new cash-compensation system for the Aleut workmen of the Pribilof Islands, effective January 1, 1950. This plan provides for the classification of all workmen in various wage categories on the basis of year-round duty assignments, and prescribes annual wage rates for each wage category. In addition to cash wage payments, provision is made for incentive-bonus payments based on the number of pelts taken by each of the two communities on the Pribilof Islands. The prorata share of each workman in the community bonus payments is determined by his relative proficiency in the sealing and other work performed on the Islands.

A close approximation of the annual income of the natives who depend on the fur industry as a means of livelihood is given in the table that follows. This shows the value of the furs taken by 17 representative villages

in the year ending June 30, 1949. The data used are based on the fur and game reports for each of these villages and on the current average prices for the various kinds of fur.

The following table gives a schedule of the annual wage rates approved on December 23, 1949, an estimate of the number of workmen on each island in each wage category, and a statement of the annual incentive-bonus payments that may be anticipated from an average take of pelts. Under the new pay system, the resident Aleut workmen receive 24 days of annual leave and 12 days of sick leave each year, exclusive of regular nonworkdays and national and special church holidays.

In addition to their cash income, the resident Aleut natives of the Pribilof Islands receive from the Government, without charge, housing, basic food and household supplies, many items of clothing, medical and dental

attention, and education, and recreation facilities. The average annual value of these supplies and facilities has been conservatively estimated at \$917 for each of the 142 year-round workmen. In the case of supplies furnished by the Government, this estimate represents Seattle whole-

sale plus a 10-percent handling charge. The new compensation plan provides a basis for the gradual transition over a period of from 5 to 10 years from partial payment to full payment in cash for services rendered by the Aleut workmen.

CASH-COMPENSATION PLAN FOR RESIDENT ALEUT WORKMEN OF THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS

Class of workman	Estimated number in class	Wage rate		Sealing bonus		Foxing bonus		Estimated total for year
		Annual	Monthly	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount	
ST. PAUL ISLAND								
Foreman	1	\$1,500	\$125	4	\$256	1	\$4	\$1,760
Skilled:								
A - 3		1,440	120	4	256	1	4	1,700
A - 2	6	1,320	110	4	256	1	4	1,580
A - 1	3	1,200	100	4	256	1	4	1,460
Semiskilled:								
B - 3	15	1,140	95	4	256	1	4	1,400
B - 2	15	1,020	85	4	256	1	4	1,280
B - 1	12	900	75	3	192	1	4	1,096
Unskilled:								
C - 3	12	840	70	3	192	1	4	1,036
C - 2	14	720	60	2	128	1	4	852
C - 1	12	600	50	2	128	1	4	732
Unskilled:								
D - 3	2	480	40	1	65			545
D - 2	3	420	35	1	65			485
D - 1	9	360	30	1	65			425
Total	104							
ST. GEORGE ISLAND								
Foreman	1	1,500	125	4	104	4	61	1,665
Skilled:								
A - 3		1,440	120	4	104	4	61	1,605
A - 2	2	1,320	110	4	104	4	61	1,485
A - 1	2	1,200	100	4	104	4	61	1,365
Semiskilled:								
B - 3	8	1,140	95	4	104	4	61	1,305
B - 2	12	1,020	85	4	104	4	61	1,185
B - 1	9	900	75	3	78	3	46	1,024
Unskilled:								
c - 3	6	840	70	3	78	3	46	964
c - 2	8	720	60	2	50	2	30	800
C - 1	3	600	50	2	50	2	30	680
Unskilled:								
D - 3	1	480	40	1	25	1	15	520
D - 2	1	420	35	1	25	1	15	460
D - 1	4	360	30	1	25	1	15	400
Total	57							

Estimated community earnings:

	ST. PAUL	ST. GEORGE
Wages	\$ 89,040	\$50,940
Sealing	18,900	4,375
Foxing	330	2,620
Total	\$108,270	\$57,935

HEALTH CONDITIONS IN THE PRIBILOFS

At the request of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Dr. C. Earl Albrecht, Commissioner of Health for Alaska, visited St. Paul Island in September 1947, for the purpose of surveying health and sanitation conditions in the native community on the island. In his report on this survey, dated October 30, 1947, Dr. Albrecht made the following observations on sanitation conditions on the island.

"For the most part, the environmental sanitation is quite satisfactory on St. Paul Island. The village was outstandingly well kept, orderly, and clean. An excellent system of garbage disposal has been worked out and with few exceptions a neat, sanitary method of disposal was being followed from the individual homes to the community garbage dumps. One garbage dump, because of its close proximity to the village and children, does constitute somewhat of a nuisance. However, with repeated burning and filling of the dump, this menace is being fairly well controlled. Every native home was visited and the most positive impression was the unusual degree of tidiness and cleanliness apparent in the majority of the homes. To be sure, a few were below standard, but by far the majority of homes were well kept, well equipped, and comfortable.

"The source of water from the village is a small lake above and fairly near the village. The water is piped from the lake to the town. The lake is not safely protected from human or animal intrusion. Except in winter, the lake water seeps through approximately 30 feet of sand into a well, from which it is pumped into the village water system into four 40,000-gallon tanks. Noticeably absent was the lack of any protective system such as filtration or chlorination. It would appear that the entire water system is becoming inadequate and may need replacement in the very near future. St Paul village has grown from a population of 179 in 1924 to 324 in 1946, and it was reported that there has been no change made in the water system during that period of time. In some sections of the village it was reported that the pressure was very low. This naturally decreases some of the major purposes of the water system and materially decreases the amount of fire protection.

"The sewerage system on St. Paul Island is inadequate and potentially very dangerous. There are only an approximate 500 yards of sewerage system at the present time; it is in bad condition and needs complete replacement. The present sewerage system runs from the hospital to the beach, with the hospital, doctor's house, bunk

house, company house, office, and power house draining into the system. None of the private homes are connected. At the present time the sewerage system is in such poor condition as to constitute a serious health menace. Breaks in the system, with unprotected surface outlets, permit children and others to come in contact with raw sewage. A recommendation was made that an engineer make a survey of the entire village and that a modern, complete sewerage system be installed."

With regard to the medical program on St. Paul Island, Dr. Albrecht stated that "Dr. Edwin Wilde, Medical Director, and Miss Helen Aydelott, nurse, seem most interested in their work, and under the circumstances, are carrying out a most adequate program. The interest and enthusiasm manifested by these two professional people gave a very strong impression of a conscientious effort to give good medical and nursing care."

In summarizing his report, Dr. Albrecht stated that he came away from St. Paul Island with two lasting impressions:

"The first had to do with the set-up in general on the Islands. The overall set-up, facilities, and program of care for the natives were outstanding-both in themselves, and in the results reflected in the dignity, self-respect, cleanliness, and industry of almost every native citizen encountered during our 5 days' visit.

"The second impression was that with relatively few changes a near ideal pattern of community living could be achieved. The change amount to the establishment of a few new policies and the addition of certain supplies and items of equipment essential for health protection."

Upon receipt of Dr. Albrecht's report, a memorandum of understanding was drawn, effective April 14, 1948, under which the Territorial Department of Health for Alaska provides medical, nursing, and consultation services to the Fish and Wildlife Service in connection with the administration of the health program on the Pribilof Islands. The Territorial Department of Health has completed a chest X-ray survey of the Aleut residents on the Islands and has assisted in the isolation of tuberculosis patients, when active cases have been found, to prevent the spread of this disease.

The Department of Health reviews reports prepared by Fish and Wildlife Service physicians on the Pribilof Islands, and assists the Service wherever possible in recruiting medical personnel for the two Pribilof communities. On the basis of Dr. Albrecht's recommendations essential new medical textbooks, equipment, and

supplies have been procured. His recommendations have been used to justify requests for increased appropriations to improve sanitation facilities on the Pribilofs.

A civil engineer has been employed by the Fish and Wildlife Service on the Pribilof Islands since September 1948. Surveys for improvements in the sewer and water systems have been completed, and a new sewer system is now being installed on St. Paul Island with funds appropriated for the purpose in fiscal year 1949. The current appropriations for fiscal year 1950 provide funds for a similar project on St. George Island. High priority has been assigned to the improvement of the fresh-water systems on the Pribilof Islands but this undertaking will be contingent upon the appropriation of funds for the work.

OCTOBER 14, 1949.

MARK A. DAWBER
Chairman, Study Commission
Investigation of Bering Sea
and Pribilof Island Natives
Dear Dr. Dawber:

It has been requested that we supply you with a statement bearing on the general health situation of the natives in the Kotzebue, Nome, Pribilof, Kuskokwim, and Yukon areas as well as the Diomedes, St. Lawrence and Nunivak Island natives. In order to report adequately on the present situation of the Natives in the above areas, we are quoting excerpts from recent field reports made by our field physicians on the marine health units. These will be listed under the areas designated about which we have sufficient material to be of any value.

HOOPER BAY AREA (M/V HEALTH, JULY 1949)

Omukumuit. --"This is a very primitive little Eskimo village near Tanunak, a spot rarely visited by white men and very squalid. A little crippled boy was huddled near a doorway whimpering with pain. We were told that an old man was very ill so we went to see him. We found him on a dirty bunk in the filthiest house I have ever seen. He was delirious and markedly dehydrated. It is remarkable that infants survive here at all. They are never bathed. Scabies and head lice are in every home. Eye infections and corneal scars are common. There is no sewerage system at all. Water of questionable potency is obtained from a stream nearby."

Tanunak. --"More than half the babies die before they are two years old. Measles was the only apparently known contagious disease in the village in the past two years other than the respiratory infections and tuber-

culosis. There were some mortalities from the measles or from associated complications. Sporadic cases of diarrhea are common but there were no cases during our visit. One child with probable rheumatic fever was found. Many children had corneal scars."

Hooper Bay. --"There were about 300 people here-- most of them women and children. The men were away at the cannery. Of these, 49 had some form of tuberculosis. Sixteen handicapped children were found. Eye infections are especially noticeable and there are a multitude of corneal scars. Here, too, we found that many 'tiny babies die. Although cases of actual dystocia are comparatively rare, post partum hemorrhage was not infrequent, and mild cases of post partum infection were common. There was an epidemic of chickenpox here in the summer of 1940, of measles in 1941, influenza in 1943, and pertussis about 1942 or 1943."

Scammon Bay. --"This community is very similar to I Hooper Bay."

YUKON DELTA AREA (M/V HEALTH, AUGUST 1949)

St. Michael. --"The people seem to have a good understanding of their illnesses and are willing to help in any way they can. The people themselves are so very wonderful it is very discouraging to repeat so many times, especially to the tuberculosis patients, 'We will do what we can to get you into the hospital, but there are only a very few hospitals in Alaska and they are small. We wish we could do more for you, but it may be many months before you hear from us.' They understand very well what we mean.

"We found that there had been an epidemic of chickenpox here in June of 1949; also, according to the people, there had been an epidemic of mumps the week prior to our arrival. This is the first history suggestive of mumps that we have obtained."

Stebbins. --"Many of the Eskimos get their water from mudholes back of the village. Rainwater is collected at the schoolhouse."

Unalakleet. --"There was a mild epidemic of mumps in the village just before our arrival. There was another epidemic this spring. There was a severe diarrhea epidemic ten years ago and another mild one in the last year. There was a mild outbreak during our visit that involved mostly infants and small children. No pathogenic organisms were isolated from the stools. All serologies here were negative but five cases of acute gonorrhoea were found. It seems that the more advanced the community, the more serious the dental problems of the town."

YUKON DELTA AREA (YUKON HEALTH, SEPTEMBER 1949)

Chaniliut. -- "Ten minimal pulmonary tuberculosis, four moderately advanced tuberculosis and two primary active tuberculosis were found. One case of acute gonorrhea and two crippled children with Potts disease were reported. Outhouses are not used; just the tundra. Refuse is thrown on the ground or in the river."

Hamilton. -- "Two known infant deaths in the past year, the cause of which is unknown. Fourteen people with minimal pulmonary tuberculosis were found along with three moderately advanced and one primary active suspect. Two cases of gonorrhoea were treated. Many of the people had scars which looked as if they had once upon a time had impetigo-like skin lesions. Most of the people have large cavities in their teeth. Water supply is mainly from river water and some from rain water shed from tin roofs. Sewerage goes on the tundra with waste going in the river. Houses are log with some tents. Village is littered as usual with bones, dogs and their waste, etc."

Kwiguk. -- "Twenty-two cases of suspected or probable tuberculosis were found of which fourteen were minimal, six were moderately advanced, one was far advanced and two primary active. One child with patent ductus arteriosis, one acute rheumatic fever with probably rheumatic carditis, one congenital anomaly of the low back and one probable Potts disease of lumbar spine were found

among the children. Smallpox? Waste is disposed of in the river or on the ground. The one outhouse is just anywhere in the bushes or under the stars."

NUNIVAK ISLAND (M/V HEALTH JUNE 1949)

Mekoryuk. -- "This is a primitive Eskimo village on Nunivak Island. Tuberculosis and infant mortality are the two major problems here. One is equally terrible with the other. Although it is hard to obtain definite figures, at least half the babies die before they are a year old. Some are breast-fed well beyond the age of a year and if the mother has inadequate milk the baby may have nothing but seal oil and fish. The ones who do survive are remarkably sturdy. Any sanitary system is virtually unknown. Water is obtained by melting snow which may have to be carried some distances in summer 'or by collecting rain water. There is no sewage-disposal system. Four children were found who may have rheumatic heart disease. Episodes of diarrhea are frequent. Five crippled children were reported this year."

We trust that this is the information desired. If you wish statistics on specific disease rates in these areas, we will be happy to forward these to you.

I am looking forward to seeing you in New York.

Sincerely,

C. EARL ALBRECHT, M.D.

Commissioner of Health