

Government Turns Its Attention To Indians Of Alaska

(WEDNEY ESPEY.)

April 1.—Now that the government has practically put the Indian upon a self-sustaining basis, attention has been directed to the education of the Indians of Alaska.

The Bureau of Education, of the Department of Interior, special agents and academics, have opened a number of places in Alaska, and within the last two years every center of population has been reached.

W. T. Loop, head of the Bureau of Reindeer Service, has advised the natives of industrial education that will make them self-sufficient. He pointed out to the white men who have been sent to Alaska that the natives must be skilled in the use of tools and modern implements of civilization. This is the object of the Bureau of Education.

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900 reindeer in Alaska. The animals were distributed among the natives by the government.

All natives desiring to own herds of their own must serve an apprenticeship of four years, their pay being ten reindeers. The first year they receive six, the second eight, and the last two years of their service ten each year. In this way, by the time their four years' service has expired, they have a herd of twenty-four reindeers, or more, and become self-supporting. The method is an endless chain. Each apprentice has to promise to take no apprentices as his herd increases.

Interesting experiments are being conducted in connection with the reindeer. It has been found that the moss upon which the deer feeds is not particularly nourishing, and consequently the reindeer's activity is limited. The experiments conducted so far have been to teach the animal to eat other food. In case of old reindeer, substitution of new kinds of food for the moss was impracticable, but the young deer, it is claimed, will eat anything.

The natives are good fishermen, even the women sharing this ability with the men. The up-to-date methods of catching fish by nets and traps were eagerly adopted, and in some places large businesses have been developed. In Southern Alaska there are a number of canneries, and the natives get from \$2.00 to \$3.00 a day working at canning salmon. Catching fish for these canneries is also another source of income.

In every large settlement government solicitude for the native is felt. The practical education of the native is seen everywhere.

Even the most northerly point in Alaska, Point Barrow, has felt the touch of civilization. Here is located a school house, the farthest north one in the world. From this point south, the government hopes to erect eight new schools within the next fifteen months. They will be built on the coast line.

Besides educating the natives and helping him to better his condition by introducing reindeer in Alaska, the government keeps him informed as to the price of whalebone, and other of the natural resources of the country. A few years ago, trading vessels along the Alaska coast could get all the whalebone they wanted to exchange for trifling trinkets. Later when a money value was set traders paid about \$50 a pound for the bone. Today through government supervision whalebone brings from \$3 to \$5 a pound. This has opened a very lucrative trade to the native. A catch usually weighs from 2,000 to 2,500 pounds. Some natives are lucky enough to kill two and sometimes three a season. At \$3 a pound, it can easily be seen what a source of income the native derives.

So it has been throughout the entire Alaskan country. The natives under government tutelage are gradually being brought up to the standards of civilization, and within the next decade or two will be entering into the commercial life of Alaska in sharp competition with the white man.

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Great Campaign Now Virtually At Its Close

Twenty-five hundred people may or may not participate in the municipal election tomorrow. The two mayoral candidates as well as all of those in an advisory role, the aldermen and council members have made every effort to get out a full vote, and the high spirits are maintained by those who are here to see that almost the 250,000 registered voters will vote tomorrow morning.

The popularly candidate—Mr. Hawley and Mr. Board—have arranged to meet in the city square, Mayor Hawley to assemble in the afternoon while those who advocate the election of Mr. Board to rally in the afternoon. Bands will play and orators will be heard from. It is expected that the closing of the campaign will be a grand affair.

Quiet Saturday Night With All Policemen

Fewer arrests were made by the police yesterday than have been made any Sunday for about a month. The same was true also of Saturday night, when almost everyone seemed to be making an especial effort to be good. Three men struggled during the Sabbath and were kept under their minds were clear and they were allowed to go their way with friends who came for them. One negro woman "took" a watch and for the taking was charged with larceny.

"Quietest Saturday night and Sunday we have had for a long time, and right on the eve of election, too," remarked a policeman. "And I always get uneasy when these sudden calms come. Afraid now something bad will happen."

Blobbs—"Guzzler says he drinks whisky because he has weak lungs."

Slobbs—"I don't see how weak lungs could produce such a strong breath."



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