

Prabilof Evacuation Camp,  
Punter, Alaska,  
July 11, 1942.

Mr. Edward C. Johnston, Sup't.,  
Fish & Wildlife Service,  
706 Federal Office Building,  
Seattle, Washington.

Dear Mr. Johnston;\*

There are many things coming up here as expected regarding this camp and will endeavor explain them to you.

First: The Selective Service board is asking for registration of the Natives and so far have done nothing towards this as we have been expecting the Penguin now for over a week. As I understand this these natives, classed as wards, with no voting privileges will not be drafted but can enlist if they want.

Second: The employment bureau, or whatever it may be, I understand has permission from you to register all those men. Mr. Olson would not bring them until he came out here first. He stated they had permission from you to come out here and interview all the native workmen. I hope you realize what this will mean. Anyone else coming in here will ask them what they did on the Island and you will have them scattered all over the territory with request to pick them up and bring them back here. You know they can drive trucks up there but to get in down here and compete they will be so badly outclassed no one will keep them. Same on all the other jobs. I told Mr. Olson he did perfectly right as far as I was concerned but if you gave orders to the effect they were to be allowed to go where ever this bureau desires to send them then there was nothing I could do about. Most of the jobs here are for the men only. What then would you do with the families and what arrangements about paying the men that stay here and cook for them, cut the wood, carry water and other laundry duties? The easiest method is to get some way to pay them a small monthly wage and keep them here where we know they will be alright. Although there are some here that I would certainly be glad to get rid of.

Third: The Territorial Public Health has moved in and say this place has got to be improved very soon or they will get the necessary supplies and it will be up to the Seattle Office to find a way to pay for them. They have placed a Doctor here pending arrival one of our own from Seattle and also a registered nurse transferred by the bureau of Indian Affairs to take care of the vaccinations. Mr. Hirst says this place is our worry but Mr. Olson has been keeping in close touch with us and if he hadn't of brought meat from Juneau we would have been up against it for fair. He also brought bread as we still cannot bake. If you think this is any fun you should be here. The sanitary engineer that was here said this water system can not under any conditions be made usable for winter and if these people are going to stay here then some other arrangements will have to be made and that should be quick. He is going to recommend this be turned over to a contractor of some kind but if we can get the material we can do it after a fashion.

Can you not try to get some of the portable houses that are piled up around the coast? These could be made into fairly good places to live. Stoves could be used for heat. Mr. Green, the engineer said we would have to put in flush toilets if we stay here and hot water for washing and baths. The sewer will have to be dumped outside the low tide mark and that salt water cannot be used under pressure to flush the toilets since the sewage is dumped into the water already. We cannot dig clams nearer than a mile from the cannery because of dumping all garbage and toilets into the bay.

He says we cannot build outdoor privies, even though they empty into the water at high tide. The sewage still washes back onto the beach for the flies to walk on and the children to track around.

Benson says he is writing you a report on the buildings and for this side there isn't much to say except they are so old and rotten it is impossible to do any repairing what so ever. The only buildings that are capable of fixing is the two large places where the natives are sleeping. All other houses are absolutely gone from rot. It will be almost impossible to put toilet and bath into any of them except this one we are using for a mess hall and it leaks in thirty places. We have as many as ten and thirteen persons, large and small sleeping, or trying to sleep, in one room. The novelty has worn off long ago and now the real growling is commencing in earnest. Most of them have all the reason in the world to complain. No brooms, soap or mops or brushes to keep the place suitable for pigs to stay in.

Mr. Hirst told me this place was our worry but still we would like very much to know why we are not informed some how when we can expect supplies or some relief from some of our troubles. Mr. Olson brought us some bread and meat but we do not like to go ahead and get any large amount of supplies from Juneau if the Penguin is coming in in the near future. Olson says he cannot find out and is keeping in close touch with us here. Some sort of arrangements should be made so this cannot happen in the future. It seems funny if our government can drop so many people in a place like this then forget about them altogether.

Some of the employees are wondering if there will be the regular pribilof deduction for subsistence and quarters. It is my opinion that only loyalty to the natives is keeping any of the employees here at all and any charge for subsistence should be remedied considerable if supplies furnished in the past is any indications of the future.

You will probably hear from the ~~Nelk~~ health department along the same lines as in the above letter. They are very dissatisfied with present conditions and after a careful study for two weeks am fully in accord with them. If we can get some lumber on the Penguin or otherwise we could set up some tents to relieve the sleeping quarters but still cannot make privies near so it will not help much in one way as the natives will start being careless near where they sleep.

L. C. McMillin  
Agent & Caretaker.