

AIR MAIL

706 Federal Office Bldg.,
Seattle, Washington.
September 18, 1942.

Ward T. Bower, Chief,
Division of Alaska Fisheries,
Fish and Wildlife Service,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Bower:

Enclosed herewith is a copy of Mr. McMillin's letter of September 12, 1942 which is considered by me to be very unfair and definitely shows a lack of cooperative spirit. However, there are many matters pointed out by Mr. McMillin that deserve some consideration such as our natives leaving to accept positions in commercial fields or other Government agencies. The question arises in my mind as to the rights of the families of these men remaining at Funter Bay at Government expense while the head of the family earns a substantial wage elsewhere.

The fact that this office has been unable to procure sanitation and building materials prior to this date is unfortunate. As you are aware, your original orders directed that all purchases from emergency funds be placed through Mr. Ummel's department here in Seattle. This did not meet with my approval as it caused a duplication of efforts and much time could have been saved had this office been permitted to do the purchasing. Our Washington Office has, for some reason, received more prompt action in obtaining necessary priorities than the office of Mr. Ummel. Sanitation fixtures ordered nearly two months ago have been shipped on this Penguin and the delay in shipment of these articles is a direct result of inability to obtain quick action in obtaining priorities.

It is unfortunate that this letter was received after the departure of Mr. Edward C. Johnston on the Penguin and it is felt that his presence in the field will bring about some order and result in the inauguration of a definite plan for the relief of the present unsatisfactory condition.

In the face of conditions mentioned in Mr. McMillin's letter, my apparent pessimistic attitude regarding Funter Bay should be understandable. Up to the time Mr. Johnston left Funter Bay on August 13 very little wood had been cut for the winter use, no fish had been salted for the winter

supply and no action had been taken to repair the water system although 8,000 feet of 4-inch pipe had been delivered for that purpose. Despite the fact that approximately 50 oil drums were available at Funter Bay, none had been converted to wood burning heaters. It would be difficult to find any place in Alaska or camp in the States that does not contain oil drum heaters which, in comparison, are far superior to the commercial type stove.

Your comments in this matter will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

F. G. Morton,
Asst. Superintendent.

Enc.