

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF FISHERIES
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
706 Federal Office Building, Seattle, Wash.

Funter, Alaska.
Pribilof Evacuation Camp,
July 1, 1942.

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

Dear Mr. Johnston:-

Confirming our verbal conversation regarding the payment of some sort of a salary for the Pribilof natives while they are evacuees from the Islands.

There still isn't a doubt in my mind that a salary of some amount should be paid them while they are away from their homes. They come in contact with many people, here that tell them of all the work that is available around and the money they can make. Some have openly declared they are going to take their families and look for work to make some money. Even saying the Government has to take care of them no matter where they go and give them some pay.

Believe it would not be at all satisfactory to take part of the men and send them around to other localities for work and some would have to be left behind to look after the women and children and do the necessary work here. Have asked the Superintendent about work at the Hawk Inlet plant and he says they are all full over there. He also said he could not keep liquor away from them. Have considered nearly all angles in the situation here and urgently recommend every endeavor should be made to keep the Pribilof Natives together as a unit and pay them a nominal salary to try to keep them satisfied. Otherwise all the work the Government has put in and the expense would all have to be done over again if they are allowed to roam at will. It would also be a terrific expense to pick them up again because it would have to be in the end. So far have denied all requests to be allowed to leave to look for work. Have explained to them that their stay here is very indefinite and if they leave they may not be here in case they get orders to go home again.

Last year first class native on St. Paul drew \$754.10 or better than \$60.00 a month. Recommend a salary of twenty or twenty five dollars a month be paid first class men and graduated down to ten dollars. If they should be returned to the Islands this could be deducted from divisions coming to them in the future or paid outright as a salary. Japanese, I believe, are paid a monthly wage in concentration camps and if so the above recommend should not be so far out of line as they are our own people.

Have not made any promises to the natives but something will have to be done to correct the living conditions here or some other diversion or it will be more than any living person can handle. They are over \$8,500.00 in debt now and they should not be allowed to get any deeper

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but they still have to have tobacco and the things the bureau has stopped furnishing to them in later years past.

For a basis to figure on will give here the number of men in each class last division and the new ones added by graduation from school. Total St. Paul men 84, do not know the number of St. George workmen but all should be treated alike.

33 men first class.....	@ \$20.00.....	\$ 660.00
19 men second class.....	17.50.....	332.50
18 men third class.....	15.00.....	270.00
14 men fourth class.....	10.00.....	<u>140.00</u>
		\$1,402.50

St. George has about 60 men. The exact figures could be furnished when and if necessary. Entire payroll both Villages should not be over \$2,500.00 per month. Any payment or salary should be dated back to May 1, 1942, so much needed supplies and clothes can be purchased that were left behind when the Islands were evacuated.

Yours very truly,

L. S. McMillin
Agent & Caretaker.