

ESQUIMAUS STARVING IN ALASKA—FATE OF THE RACE DEPENDS ON THE HARDY AND BEAUTIFUL REINDEER

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all the straw formed in a lump on the other. Naturally a body so shaped would be turned on the flat side and would have almost as much difficulty as a turtle on its back to change its position. The water easily worked through the canvas when the ground became soaked, and the sleeper had to call for help to turn him over before he could secure relief.

One of the jobs the boys did not particularly relish was the street cleaning each forenoon. The detail, with shovels, rakes, hoes and wheelbarrows, gathered up all refuse, while still other gangs evened the borders of the streets by neatly cutting the sod and filling in injured places. "I tell you," said one sturdy fellow, wiping the perspiration from his brow, "this is very much like work. The resemblance is truly painful." To a photographer who asked for a pose of the street cleaning squad, the corporal in charge said: "Not on your life! We haven't got time for no foolishness, this is business—in fact, this whole blank encampment is business clear up to the hilt."

On Tuesday, when a boy in a wagon drawn by a donkey was seen coming up the hill by the men on the bluff, where they were whiling away their "off duty," the outfit was greeted with a stentorian "Gnahheeh" which was taken up by other voices until it rang all through the camp. "What's that all about?" asked a visitor of one of the men. "Oh," was the reply, "I guess it's a recruit for the street cleaning detail. Looks like one—sounds like one—and blank me if it don't work like one!"

Some of the men of Company K were digging a trench around their tent when a stranger asked the purpose. "Oh! we are just practising a little. We're on that fortification job and the exercise is so delightful we can't wait our turn on duty to wield the seductive spade."

"Did you get wet during the storm last night?" asked a sympathetic woman of the men in one of the tents. "No, thank you," said a wag, saluting politely. "This is about the driest tent outside of Maine!" The good woman went her way rejoicing that the dear fellows were so fortunate! By the way, the rough life of the men, the fact that the restaurant is not open and the busy habits of the camp are very disappointing to the women who have gone there during the week. A dashing blonde was heard to remark at the head of the steps leading down to the rowboat ferry: "This is horrible! All one hears is real military talk. Those young men are all gone daft over surveying and bridge building and angles and areas and things like that. A girl has no more chance here this year than a darky at election in the South. I'm going home, and the next time I come up here I'll bring a compass instead of a bonbon box and an axe instead of my parasol. Maybe I can get somebody to look at me and talk to me then!"

One of the men of Company B appeared before some of his friends the other day with his face all done up in courtplaster. "Why, Charley!" they exclaimed as one person. "What on earth has happened to you? Footpads?"

"Naw!" was the disgusted answer. "Those are honorable scars, I'd have you know! I was one of the axemen for the bridge building outfit. Hereafter I'll note which way the tree starts to fall before I run!"

Captain Sternberger's automobile was a boon to the officers, but was not such a favorite with the men. It had a way of breaking down the neatly repaired borders that was not quite admired by the men who had made them. As the machine turned into the Company A street the other day, a fellow in one of the tents called across the street to another: "There comes that darned bubble wagon again. Call out the shovelers!"

Colonel Bartlett said there had been no illness worth mentioning among the men. "This," said he, "is the largest encampment of army engineers since the Spanish-American War. It is the first encampment of a command of engineers in the history of the National Guard of New-York."

Yesterday morning, when the 7th Regiment

arrived at camp, it found the ground as bare as if the 22d had not spent a week there. Every tent and everything else that might have saved work had it been left was gone.

CAMEL OF THE ARCTIC.

Fate of the Alaskan Esquimau Depends on Reindeer.

General Funston, the United States military commander in Alaska, has been investigating the report that the Esquimaus in that Territory, more particularly in the vicinity of Cape Nome and Pilgrim River, are in danger of starvation. He finds some justification for the stories, and has been instructed to extend relief. This, of course, would be only temporary in its effect. Permanent measures of one kind or another are needed, therefore. The extermination of the whale, seal and walrus along the coast and of the caribou and moose further inland has deprived the natives of what were once their chief food resources. Among General Funston's recommendations are these: There should be a special superintendent of Esquimaus in Alaska, the natives should be compelled to fish during the salmon season, and all of them that remain about military posts should be compelled to work. He takes occasion to add that the "splendid work" of the Commissioner of Education in introducing reindeer and instructing the Alaskans in their care and use "bids fair, in the course of a few years, to eliminate all danger of distress among these people."

The scheme here referred to was conceived by Dr. Sheldon Jackson, who was appointed general agent of the United States Bureau of Education for Alaska in 1885, and who has visited that Territory every year since that time. Failing to get an appropriation from Congress when he first asked for it, he was supplied with \$2,000 by private individuals in 1891, and was thus



PROSPECTING FOR GOLD.

Dr. Gilbert H. Grosvenor, in "The National Geographic Magazine" for April: "The time is coming when Alaska will have great reindeer ranches, like the great cattle ranches of the Southwest, and they will be no less profitable."

The first great service which these picturesque and hardy creatures render is that they furnish food to the natives. It was this consideration primarily which led Dr. Jackson to recommend the experiment. He noted the fact that there were 400,000 square miles of country so barren

solution of the problem was found. In time Alaska is likely to have not only as much meat as her population can possibly consume, but much more for exportation to the more densely settled districts of the United States, where a market for reindeer tongues and hams could easily be created. Besides, the reindeer cow gives a cupful of very rich milk, as thick as cream and making good cheese. The quantity is small, to be sure, but this milk stands dilution without harm, and is a great luxury under some circumstances.

Another exceedingly important use to which these animals are put is transportation. A pair of reindeer, hitched to a sled, can haul a load of between 500 and 700 pounds at the rate of thirty-five miles a day. The best record made in Alaska for a single day by reindeer express is ninety-five miles. By this method freight and mail matter can be conveyed great distances. The United States Government sent mails from Cape Nome to Candle City, on the Arctic Ocean, 260 miles away, last winter in about eight days. Dog teams would have required fifteen or twenty days. Another point of difference between the two animals is that the reindeer can find his food on the road, whereas that which a dog requires must be carried along on a sledge when a journey is made through an uninhabited region, and a dog team cannot haul enough to feed it for any considerable distance. The reindeer can be, and often is, ridden like a horse. Not only young people, presumably of less than average weight, but military officers weighing fully 200 pounds, have been carried by reindeer. When the latter are employed as beasts of burden, however, their packs rarely weigh over 150 pounds. Mr. Grosvenor appropriately calls them the camels of the Arctic.

To the mining camps along the Yukon and its tributaries the reindeer has already proved valuable. At those points butchers will pay from \$60 to \$100 for a single animal, and a male broken to harness will often bring \$150. When the supply has increased materially these quotations may not hold good, but they appear to hint of the relation between this new feature of Alaskan life and the development of Alaskan mineral wealth. Even if the animals were much cheaper, there would still be a large profit on them. In Siberia a full grown bull or doe of the Chukches species brings only \$4, while the more sturdy and powerful Tunguse deer sells for \$7.50. The cost of a fawn to its owner during the first year is scarcely more than \$1. The does breed at the age of two years, and bear a fawn every year thereafter for ten years. The young are very hardy. One herd is mentioned which contained fifty does. Of these forty-eight bore fawns one year, and all but five survived. Herding is an art which must be learned gradually, but it has been mastered by many Esquimaus now, and rarely are animals lost through accident or carelessness.

POE AND THE MANAGER.

A well known theatrical manager, who is distinguished rather for his business ability than for his knowledge of literature, was visited not long ago by an aspiring playwright. He had with him, he explained to the manager, the manuscript of a play based on one of Edgar Allan Poe's stories, which he was sure was destined to make a sensational hit on the stage. The manager consented to hear the play, and listened with increasing interest as the playwright read from his manuscript.

He was enthusiastic when the end was reached.

"That's fine!" he exclaimed—"fine! Now I'll tell you what I'll do: You and Mr. Poe come in to-morrow and we'll talk this thing over." —(Harper's Weekly.)

AN ANOMALY.

The average young woman doesn't wish to see her thirtieth birthday; yet when she has seen it she would like to see it again.—(Smart Set.)



TRAVELLING DEERBACK THROUGH SNOW.

enabled to secure a herd of sixteen reindeer from Siberia. The government gave him \$6,000 in 1894, \$7,500 in each of the next two years and then larger amounts. The last four annual appropriations have been \$25,000 each. Altogether nearly one thousand reindeer have been brought from Siberia, but by breeding the number in Alaska has now been increased to about six thousand head. Inasmuch as the natives have now learned how to care for them, and as there is pasturage enough for many millions, the development is sure to proceed rapidly. Says

that they would not support horses, cattle or even goats. On the other hand, a peculiar moss, on which the reindeer lives, abounds in all Arctic lands and is found in Alaska. More than a dozen years ago Dr. Jackson declared that at least twenty thousand natives were in danger of starvation if no new means of feeding them were provided. To let them experience such a fate would be a disgrace to civilization, and yet to transport provisions enough to that almost inaccessible region would have been a costly undertaking. Another and much better



REINDEER TETHERED DURING A HALT.