

# Funston Has Peace Mission in Alaska

SEATTLE, Wash., July 20.—"Can the government of the United States render any assistance to the native Eskimos and Indians of Alaska which will enable them to become self-supporting, and which will check the present marked tendency towards their early extinction by starvation and disease?"

This is the problem which the war department has referred to Brig. Gen. Frederick Funston for investigation and report. Gen. Funston is now in Alaska and will spend the greater portion of the summer season in studying the habits of the natives, and in making inquiries of the white residents regarding them.

The problem is one which appeals strongly to the humanitarian side of the American character. The national and international events of the past few years have tended to cause the average citizen of the United States to look more and more strongly upon his government as a national charity society, the purpose of which is to give aid, comfort and assistance to any people in need.

Gradually, steadily, surely, even rapidly some of the native tribes of Alaska are decreasing in numbers, and the fear is expressed in many quarters that they are in great danger of becoming extinct in a few years unless some action is taken to counteract the tendency. There is seldom a winter during which there are not reports from some region of Alaska of severe hardship and suffering among the natives, and these reports frequently include accounts of the ravages of deadly diseases, the inadequacy of food supplies, and a heavy percentage of mortality. Seldom a winter passes during which the military commanders at the principal military stations do not distribute, gratis, among the suffering natives, quantities of food supplies for the purpose of preventing actual starvation.

### Many Die Near Nome.

Last winter there was a heavy mortality among the natives in the vicinity of Nome and Pitkin river on account of disease and the lack of sufficient food. Three years ago there was such a heavy mortality among certain of the tribes living along the Western coast that in some of the villages there were not enough persons left living to carry away the dead and the bodies were left to rot in the huts. Ever since the invasion of the northern portion of Alaska by Americans starvation has been rife among the native villages during the long winter seasons and whole villages have been wiped out in a single winter.

About twenty years ago the entire population of St. Lawrence island, numbering upwards of 1,400 people, starved to death in a single winter, the dead bodies being found lying in the squalid huts by the officers and men of the revenue cutter Corwin the following spring.

Gen. Funston is peculiarly suited to

of food to carry them through the long and trying winters. When the run of salmon comes on, these agents should see to it that all able-bodied natives exert their energies to laying in supplies of fish, and those who neglect or refuse to do so should be severely punished.

These recommendations do not meet

and four on St. Michael's island. Yet, in those days, starvation was rife among the Eskimos, as it is now. Even then it was no uncommon thing for whole villages to perish in a single winter by disease and starvation.

"To my certain knowledge, in 1884 the moose and caribou in the entire lower valley of the Yukon and on the

dition solely to his own prodigality and disregard for the future. The only part the white men have played in the business is that they have purchased the furs, walrus ivory, whalebone, etc., offered them by the natives. The trifling disposition of these people and their utter disregard for the future is the cause of their present distress.

### Rivers Swarm With Fish.

"The rivers of Alaska swarm with fish, there having been no diminution of the supply, as also do the waters of the entire coast. The hair seal, which furnishes boots and summer clothing

## SOME OF THE GIRLS ARE PRETTY



Eskimo Belles at Point Blossom Who Have No Objection to the Camera

the approval of Secretary Hitchcock of the interior department, who has stated that he believes that such assistance would tend to make the natives even more dependent upon the assistance of others. To all appearances the impression prevails, very strongly at Washington that the natives are more sinned against than sinning. At the national capital it is believed that the principal causes of the distress among the natives have

west coast had been practically exterminated. The natives had obtained breech-loading rifles from the whalers some twenty years before, and slaughtered the great herds of game with the most reckless prodigality. The animals were given no rest at any season, and were all but exterminated. There are still, or at least were in 1884, great droves of caribou on the Porcupine river, in Northeastern Alaska, and between that river and the Arctic ocean

to the Eskimo, and the flesh of which is eaten, has been by no means exterminated. All that the Eskimo has to do to provide his family with food for the entire year is to bestir himself during the fishing season and lay in a supply for the ensuing winter, instead of loafing about the trading stations, mining camps and army posts during the summer and depending upon charity after it is too late to fish or hunt. "Partly from ill-considered charity,

## THE VILLAGERS POSE



Group of Natives on the Kewalik River

the task which has been assigned him. Ten years ago he spent nearly three years in the wilds of Alaska, living chiefly among the natives, at a time when there was less than one white man to every 10,000 square miles of territory, at a time when there was not a single mining camp in the whole valley of the Yukon west of the Canadian boundary. At that time he made an exhaustive study of the traits and habits of the natives of the district, and based upon his knowledge of them during that period he rendered to the war department, prior to going north, a preliminary report on the subject.

### Would Employ Agents.

In that report Gen. Funston recommended that officers or agents of the government be placed in full control of the Eskimos, given magisterial powers over them, and instructed to require them all to provide during the prodigal summers a sufficient quantity

arisen from the presence among them of white men, who, in addition to killing off the game and impoverishing the streams of fish, have introduced among them improvident habits and fatal vices.

Gen. Funston very radically differs from these views. Prior to his departure for Alaska he discussed the subject quite fully, giving his reasons for the position he has taken.

### Always Were Hungry.

"During the years I spent in Alaska, 1892, 1893 and 1894," said he, "there was not a single mining camp in the whole valley of the Yukon west of the Canadian boundary, and never had been. The same could be said of the western coast of the territory, and the most southern coast. In all that vast region the greatest number of white men at any one place, outside of the few scattered missions, was the half dozen employees of the Alaska Commercial company at Unalaska, about an equal number on St. Paul's island,

I have seen as many as 2,000 in a single herd and 6,000 in a single day. "It is true that the walrus has been practically exterminated in Bering sea and adjoining waters, but that was done, not by the white men, but by natives, and in the same improvident fashion that they exterminated the moose and caribou of the Yukon.

"In fact the Eskimo owes his con-

of which the Alaskan natives have been the recipients, they have developed a great fondness for bacon, hard bread, canned beef and other foods of like nature, and just so long as the Eskimo is encouraged to idleness and shiftlessness by the knowledge that he will be fed by the government if he neglects to provide for himself, he

## ONE OF THE NATIVE INDUSTRIES



Eskimos Drilling Ivory and Making Mukluks at Port Clarence



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will continue to be a vagabond and a loafer.

"The presence of such mining camps as Nome and others, with their great numbers of dogs used for transportation purposes, creates an almost limitless demand for dried salmon to be used as dog food. An Indian can, during the run of salmon, catch and dry enough fish to furnish himself and family with food for the entire year, and can sell enough to purchase Siberian reindeer skins for clothing. Nearly every native has a sled for dogs and during eight months of the year can earn more wages than a skilled mechanic in the United States by hauling supplies for miners. If he is willing to work in the summer he can make from \$8 to \$10 a day.

"The splendid work now being done under the direction of the commissioner of education in introducing the Siberian reindeer and instructing the natives in their care and use, bids fair, in the course of a few years, to eliminate all danger of distress among those people. At the time of my visit the missionaries were doing great work in improving the condition of the natives, encouraging industrious habits and exercising a generally good influence over them.

"From time to time the commanding officers of the various posts in Alaska have issued limited quantities of rations to absolutely destitute natives where it was necessary to prevent starvation, and are still doing so as occasion arises. In my visit to Alaska I shall take every opportunity to confer on this subject with army officers, traders, missionaries and others and report the result of my investigations to the war department. In the meantime cases of absolute destitution will continue to be relieved as heretofore."

### Another Prediction.

"Yes," sighed the youth in purple suspenders, "the old gentleman caught me nursing his daughter and there was a storm."

"You should have sent a report to the weather department," chuckled his friend in duck trousers.

"What should I have sent?"

"The storm was caused by heavy local pressure."

## CHOP SUEY FAD GROWS IN POPULARITY

Chicago Appetite is Becoming Cultivated to Chinese Dish of Mystery.

If the signs of the times are not misleading, Chicago's appetite, like the nation itself, is expanding far towards the East.

Just now, down on Clark street, there is being fitted up a Chinese restaurant that will occupy three floors of a corner building, while on either side of the new Chinese eating house are other restaurants which have made small fortunes for the Mongolians who are operating them.

But not alone on Clark street are the Chinese catering to the appetites of Chicago's citizens. On Randolph street there is a well patronized Chinese restaurant, and North Clark street and other thoroughfares have their quota of places where the mysterious chop suey is served. And "mysterious" as applied to chop suey and the other Chinese dishes is about the only word that will fit the case.

The chop suey merchant is not unlike the Chinese physician in some respects. It was not long ago that a young woman acting on the advice of some whimsical friend, called on a Chinese doctor who has an office on the south side. She was suffering from an irritating cough.

"Little medicine, ten dollars," said the Chinaman after he had made a great show of diagnosing the case.

"But I don't want a little medicine; I want to be cured," protested the girl.

"Ah, me see," responded the doctor from across the Pacific. "Much medicine, \$20."

And so it is with chop suey and with

the dozen or more other dishes that the Chinese restaurants have to offer. They have a chop suey to suit every purse, and he who does not care to eat of the more popular mystery can find plenty of other things on the bill of fare that will excite his curiosity. Here, for instance, is the bill of fare as spread on the tables of one Chinese restaurant:

- Chop suey and rice.....25c to 40c
- Chicken chop suey and rice.....55c to 80c
- Mo Gu chop suey and rice.....30c
- Foo Young dove and rice.....30c
- Chicken rice soup.....35c
- Chow mein.....75c to \$1.00
- Bolled chicken.....25c
- Roast pork.....15c to 25c
- Fried chicken.....75c to \$1.00
- Chow mar man.....30c
- Yet Gof man.....15c
- Canned Chinese milk.....30c
- Steak and green peppers and rice.....30c
- Wu Lung tea.....15c
- Sung Su tea.....15c

At least everyone knows what the fried chicken means.

### ALL DAY.

- All day, all day the shuttles fly
- Across the noisy loom.
- All day, all day the pulleys sigh
- Adown the busy room.
- All day, all day the big machines
- Tread through the wavy way;
- All day, all day the same old scenes
- All day, all day.
- All day, all day the foreman's eyes
- Sweep o'er the hundred place.
- All day, all day the expostion
- Upon his changing face.
- All day, all day a thousand feet
- Tread through the wavy way;
- All day, all day to labor's beat,
- All day, all day.
- All day, all day the bent souls yearn
- For freedom from the toll;
- All day, all day the pulleys turn,
- Exgrimed with dust and oil.
- All day, all day the tollers' fate
- "The driver or never pay;
- All day, all day the endless gait,
- All day, all day.

—Joe Cane in New York Sun.

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