

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

The plane brought us food in December and this food lasted until February. It was stored in the small building at Pelly lake. Everyone got food from this building. If they had fox skins, they bought food and left the skins as payment. If they had no fox skins, they took the food they needed and left no payment. Sometime in February the building with the food burned down. There was not a lot of food left in it but there was tobacco, tea, fat, ammunition; also food belonging to the R.C.M.P. at Baker Lake and some dog food. I was told that Peewa had come to the building for food and had stayed in the building for two nights. He tried to light a make-shift gasoline stove in the building and the stove blew up. The building burned down. Most of the people died after the building burned down; during March they died.

I would point out that this Eskimo says that when the building was burned down there was very little food, only tea, tobacco, fat and ammunition.

Near the end of March the plane brought food to Pelly lake and all the Eskimos came in from the camps to get it. The plane came again in April and brought more food because the caribou had not come and the fishing was still not good.

Of course, this was after they had all died—after the starvation period.

During the winter Kadluk had foxes and he got food from the building. He and his family came to my camp in January and February and I gave them food. After the fire Kadluk and his family had all died. They were hungry and could not walk far.

This was the evidence at the inquest. This is all. There were no questions. But I want to know how much food was left in December, the last time contact was made with the Eskimos? Was the amount of food left in December considered enough to last until March 22, the next time they would contact the Eskimos, bearing in mind that the caribou had been decreasing year after year? The people concerned had been warned about it. What plans did they make? Is this the sort of planning that was made for the people who live entirely off caribou? I want to read some of these autopsy reports to the committee: I am not going to read them all: it makes me too sick. Here is one. It refers to the Eskimo Kadluk. He was the man referred to by the Eskimo who had died along with his whole family. We do not know how they died—hunger, I suppose—but as far as the evidence goes, they just died. This is the autopsy report of Dr. Wallace, the clinical history of E2-326 Kadluk:

Clinical history: This 50 year old man was the first of an entire family to perish in the Garry lake area. He is said to have eaten a large amount of dog meat and also some time near the end of February to have fallen in the water. He apparently escaped from this accident and got home successfully. The following day he is said to have had oedema of the arms and legs but complained of no other symptoms. He died a few weeks later.

No other history is available of his illness, except that his entire family is said to have been sick from eating dog meat.

External appearance: length 5'3", weight 107 lbs. The body is that of a fairly stocky but somewhat emaciated male Eskimo. His outer clothing is missing except for his boots. A full suit of inner caribou clothing is present and in addition a woollen sweater and an underwear vest is worn. There are no mitts. There is a pair of inner and outer caribou boots and in addition a pair of canvas boots covering these. No marks of violence of any type are seen externally. There is practically no subcutaneous fat anywhere and the retro-orbital tissues consist mainly of fibrous watery material. In spite of the lack of fat the body appears fairly muscular. Small white pimples are present on the arms.

They are all the same. It is criminal.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. I must advise the hon. member his time has expired.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Has the hon. member the unanimous consent of the committee to continue?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Hardie:** Mr. Chairman, I shall not read all of this report but I wish to choose a few excerpts to illustrate how serious this matter is. I ask hon. gentlemen of this committee to consider this thought. Let us imagine that 14 people in this chamber occupying seven seats were to starve to death. That does not sound very serious, does it? It is a simple statement of fact to say that 14 people have starved to death. But we in Canada have little personal experience with death as a result of starvation. We speak of people starving to death in the Far East or in the Arctic and there is no real or personal association in our minds. But if 14 people in any part of Canada other than that part which I have the honour to represent were to die of starvation the entire country would be aroused in indignation that conditions of this kind could exist in our society at this stage of the development of our country.

I wish to quote again from a report describing the circumstances under which a small child died. The report reads as follows:

Akkikunga or Putulik (Female Infant)—E2-609.

The identity of this child appears in some doubt, but Putulik E2-609 is listed in the nurse's notes as being the son of Kadluk. This is a female baby, also identified to my understanding, as one of Kadluk's family.

History: The nurse's notes give the birth date of Putulik as September 2, 1957. The R.C.M.P. notes give the birth date of Akkikunga, which may be the correct identification of this child, as January 1958. The baby is only loosely wrapped in tarpaulin and measures 18 inches in length. The history is that the mother Kabluk had insufficient milk to feed him.