

about fifty pounds for each dog employed.

Under like conditions each reindeer will carry a weight of one hundred and fifty pounds, and the team will easily cover one hundred and fifty miles a day. Besides, the reindeer's only food is the moss and lichens which grow everywhere and can be obtained by the animals at all seasons of the year without difficulty.

Dogs, and especially the breed of dogs at present used by the Alaskan natives, are quarrelsome, become fretful and unmanageable when tired, and frequently are dangerous to their owners on account of attacks of hydrophobia. The reindeer, on the other hand, are the most tractable and docile beasts of burden known to man.

The initial steps in this humane measure have already been taken, and success for its larger development demonstrated by private aid. It now rests with the Government to carry on the good work and extend the system to its legitimate limits.* If it is a sound public policy to bore artesian wells and build water-storage reservoirs by which thousands of arid acres can be reclaimed from barrenness and made fruitful, it is equally a

sound public policy to stock the plains of Alaska with herds of domesticated reindeer, and cause those vast, dreary, desolate and now useless regions to minister to the wealth, happiness, comfort and well-being of man.

With the establishment of reindeer stations at Point Barrow, Point Hope, Port Clarence and on the Yukon River next year, it will be possible to send a letter from St. Michaels, at the mouth of the Yukon, to the Refuge station at Point Barrow in mid-winter, and receive an answer in less than three weeks; and with the extension of the system by the establishment of relay stations at three points on the coast south of St. Michaels, a Christmas greeting can be sent from San Francisco by way of Kodiak Island and across the Alaskan peninsula to the most northern point on the Western Continent—Point Barrow—in less than thirty days. When one stops to consider that the same point is at present closed to communication by ice during ten months of the year, and that there are seasons, even during the two months that it is free from ice, when neither news nor relief may reach the weary watchers and toilers in this remote field, any project which has for its end the lifting of their burdens, will be hailed with joy by every true lover of mankind.

* A bill is now pending before the House of Representatives, having passed the Senate last year, appropriating the sum of \$15,000 for the establishment of experimental stations in Alaska for the propagation of reindeer.

