

which was constructed during the winter at Unalaska, and had just successfully accomplished the trip of 750 miles across Bering Sea to this point. In the immediate foreground are some of the tents of the miners who are making themselves as comfortable as the conditions will permit during their enforced halt.

In this harbor there were several little steamers owned and manned by small companies, fitted up as dredges and intended to prospect the beds of the Yukon and its tributaries. One of these little steamers which was bound for the Koyukuk River, had, as a part of its equipment, a "full blown" brass band, which discoursed patriotic airs as well as classic selections, while the "twilight sun" gilded cliffs and sky and sea with a glorious blending of most exquisite tints.

No. 99.

Natives of Alaska.

We frequently see published statements to the effect that the aborigines are rapidly disappearing, but the scene here depicted contradicts such an assertion. The eleven youthful Esquimaux who make up the little company in the foreground do not appear to be dissatisfied with existing conditions, nor discouraged at future prospects. They are fairly well clothed and evidently have not recently felt the pangs of hunger. Their youthful games and playthings are simple in character, but these little people extract quite as much enjoyment from them as do our more favored children in civilization, surrounded by the comforts and advantages of the modern nursery and kindergarten. The little Esquimaux have never seen a kitten, for none was ever in that section of Alaska, but its place is well filled by the baby Siwash dog, which consists chiefly of a bundle of the downiest kind of fur, bright eyes and a playful disposition.

In the background is a representation of one of those native sod houses which served as a habitation for the pioneer Russian and American, as well as for the more advanced of the native Esquimaux. Many of these Indians now live in tents, and have otherwise adopted the costumes and customs of Americans.

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