



thirty years among a population of many thousands, and in spite of the fact that the company's traders themselves supplied the Eskimos with guns better to equip them as hunters. The law referred to has been only a flimsy mosquito bar to cover the unblushing extortion practised by the Alaska Fur and Commercial Company. This iniquitous law ought to be instantly repealed, then the natives can buy guns from other parties for what they are worth.

These trading posts also supply the natives with cheap-John tea, tobacco, crackers, calico, and worthless gewgaws, such as tin crucifixes and brass rings.

The poor, hungry, half-naked native in his craving for tea and tobacco (they dare not madden him with whisky for fear he will turn upon them) has thus been made the instrument of his own undoing.

Independence and plenty have been exchanged for serfdom and squalor by the destruction of the animals of this land. In the summer the country is covered with high grass and flowers. Unless you go far away in the interior, you will tire yourself

wandering over the tundras and through the forests and never see a vestige of life, except very rarely, a frightened ptarmigan. And yet innumerable millions of dollars worth of furs have been taken here. Not long ago the sea, the river banks, the lakes, tundras, and mountains, swarmed with seals, otters, foxes, minx, bears, lynx, martens, beavers, wolverines, and wild reindeer.

It is only a matter of a few years until the last food source of the Eskimos will become ruined by the numerous salmon canneries, which are now under the control of another big corporation called the Alaska Packers' Association.

Secretary Seward's purchase of Alaska in 1865, for seven million dollars, has never benefited the common citizens of the United States, who were taxed to pay for it, one iota. It has enriched a few, however,—the members of three gigantic corporations, who have literally skinned the land of most all its natural wealth and left nothing in return that could in any way aid its development. These corporations are guilty of reducing a happy and prosperous people to