and Russia by prohibiting citizens; and subjects of the United States from killing fun seals, but by sections 3 and 11 natives of the islands were permitted to kill annually a sufficient number of male seals to provide food and clothing.

As early as 1902 Congress passed conservation legislation containing special exceptions; for the natives of Alaska, and the white residents. The Act of June 7, 1902, 180 as amended by the Act of May 11, 1908, 181 prohibits the wanton destruction of wild game animals; or wild birds for the purpose of shipment from Alaska. It also provides that

Nothing in this Act shall \* • \* prevent the killing of any game animal or bird for food or clothing at any time by natives, or by miners or explorers, when in need of food; but the game animals or birds so killed during closed season shall mother shipped or sold.

Section 1 of the Act of June 14, 1906, as amended by the Act of June 25, 1938,188 without changing the provisions respecting na tives, prohibits all 'companies,' corporations, or associations not authorized to transact business under federal, state, or territorial laws and aliens without, first papers, from catching or killing except with rod, spear, or gaff, any fish of any kind or species in any of, the waters of Alaska under the jurisdiction of the United States. By amendments to section 4 of the act for the protection and regulation of the fisheries of Alaska,134 commercial fishing of any species of salmon except by band, rod, spear, or gaff in any streams of Alaska or near their mouth, is unlawful excepting in the Karluk, Ugashik, Yukon, and Kuskokwim Rivers. The exception of the two last-named rivers is applicable only to native Indians and permanent white inhabitants taking king salmon, under conditions prescribed by the Secretary of Commerce (now by the Secretary of the Interior). 135

Article II, clause 3, of the treaty between the United States and Great Britain for the protection of migratory birds in the United States and Canada provides: 136

The close season on other migratory nongame birds shall continue throughout the year, except that Eskimos

6, 1911. Ratified by Russia October 22, 1911. Ratifications exchanged December 12. 1911. Proclaimed December 14. 1911. A treaty between the United States and Great Britain, concluded February 7, 1911. 37 Stat. 1538, providing for the preservation and protection of fur seals. became effective on December 14, 1911. the date of the proclamation of the treaty between the United States, Great Britain, Japan, and Russia. 130 32 Stat. 327.

<sup>183</sup> 35 Stat, 102. Sec. 10 of the Alaska Game Law, Act of January 13, 1925. 43 Stat. 739, amended Act of February 14, 1931, 46 Stat. 1111. and Act of June 25, 1938, 52 Stat. 1169. empowers the Secretary of Agriculture to make, regulations for taking game animals etc., upon consultation with the Alaska Game Commission, but except as provided such regulations shall not prohibit

any Indian or Eskimo, prospector or traveler to take animals or birds during the closed season when he is in absolute need of food and other food is not available, but the shipment or sale of any animals or birds or narts thereof so taken shall not be permitted, except that the hides of animals so taken may be sold within the Territory \* \* \*,

182 34 Stat. 263.

183 52 Stat. 1174.

124 Act of June 26, 1906, 84 Stat. 478. amended by Act of Jane 6, 1924,
c. 272. 43 Stat. 464. and Act of April 16, 1934, 48 Stat. 694.

Pursuant to the Reorganization Act of April 3. 1930. 53 Stat. 561, Reorganization Plan No. 2 transmitted May 9. 1939, 53 Stat. 1431. and Public Resolution No. 20, 76th Cong., 1st sess., approved June 7, 1030. the Bureau of Fisheries was transferred from the Department of Commerce to the Department of the Interior, effective July 1, 1930. On the same date, the Bureau of Biological Survey was transferred to the Interior Department from the Department of Agriculture. By Plan No. 3, April 2. 1940, the two Bureaus were consolidated udder the name Fish and Wildlife Service, H. Doc. No. 681, 76th Cong., 3d sess.

<sup>126</sup> 39 Stat. 1702. signed August 16, 1916: ratification advised by the Senate August 29, ratified by, the President September 1, and by Great Britain October 20; ratifications exchanged December 7 and proclaimed December 8, 1096.

and Indians may take at any. season auks, auklets, guillemots, murres, and puffins, and their eggs, for food and their skins for clothing, but the birds and eggs so taken shall not be sold or offered for sale.

Regulations prohibiting the killing of whales, walruses, and sea lions have special provisions regarding natives. Many other rules regarding refuges and hunting of migratory birds grant special privileges to the natives. 536

The Alaska Game Law 125 regulates the taking of food game luring the regular season, but exempts the natives from the necessity of securing hunting and trapping or fur dealers licenses. Native cooperative or mission stores are also exempt. 146 And, subject to regulations of the Secretary of the Interior regarding animals whose extinction is imminent, the law permits them, to take game during the closed season when in absolute need of food and other game is not available. 146 Section 3 empowers the Secretary of Agriculture, now Secretary of the interior, to safeguard the livelihood of the natives and conserve the fur animals requiring nonresident trappers to reside 3 years in the territory instead of one, before becoming eligible for resident trapping license.

## B. REINDEER OWNERSHIP

Reindeer constitute one of the most valuable assets of the natives, supplying them with food and clothing and acting as

<sup>127</sup> Alaska. Its Resources and Development, op. cit., p. 67; Department of Commerce Circular No. 286, Ninth Edition, June 29, 1930. pp. 1 and 3; amended Act of February 14, 1931, 46 Stat. 1111. and Act of June 25, 1938. 52 Stat. 1169.

which provides for exemption for natives attesting that they possess me-half or more of Indian or Eskimo blood, from the resident hunting and trapping license. Bureau of Biological Survey, Regulations for the Aleutian Islands Reservation, Alaska (1939). Regulation 7, provides-

• • in reassigning islands for fur and fox farming and other uses, primary consideration shall be given to the welfare of native villages add communities of the Aleutian Chain. Permits involving a native or native interest shall be issued or reissued only for the benefit Of the Community or village of which he is a member

For exemption of native residents from requirement of permit to capture certain game, see Bureau-of Biological Survey Regulations for the Administration of the Aleutian Islands Reservation, Alaska (1939). Regulation 3. Bureau of Biological Survey, Department of the Interior Wildlife Circular 1 (1939), Regulations Relating to Migratory Birds and. Certain Game Mammals, Regulation 7 provides,:

In Alaska, Eskimos and Indians may take, in any manner and at any time, and may possess and transport, auks, auklets, guillemots, murres, and puffins and their eggs and skins for use of themselves and their immediate families for food and clothing.

And see 50 C. F. R. 91.3.

Also see Cameron, The Bureau of Biological Survey (1929), p. 103.

\*Act of January 13, 1925, 43 Stat. 739. amended by Act of February 14. 1931. 46 Stat. 1111, and Act of June 25. 1938. 52 Stat. 1169. For a list of the laws protecting wildlife in Alaska and regulations of the Alaska Game Commission, Juneau. Alaska, see circulars issued by this Commission. For history of Alaskan game legislation, see Cameron, The Bureau of Biological Survey (1929), pp. 110-124. On work of Alaska Game Commission see Annual Report of Governor of Alaska (1939), pp. 29-30.

Act of January 13, 1925. c. 75, sec. 11H, 43 Stat. 739, 745, amended Act of February 14, 1931, c. 185, sec. 10, 46 Stat. 1111, 1113, and Act of June 25, 1938. sec. 5, 52 Stat. 1169, 1171-1172. The Consolidated Purchasing and Shipping Unit Division of Territories and Island Possessions. Department of the Interior, acts as agent for the native cooperative stores, buying their supplies, and selling, for their benefit, such items as reindeer meat and hides, furs, and ivories. The purchasing procedure is similar to that used by it in procuring supplies for governmental agencies

A resident citizen or Alaskan native must obtain a registered guide license when acting as guide for a nonresident In any section of the Territory where the regulations of the Alaska Game Law and Game commission require nonresidents to employ guides. Compiled Laws of Alaska, 1933. sec. 51D. See Act of January 13. 1925. sec. 11D, 43 Stat.

739, 744, 745.

beasts of burden.148 The animals were first introduced into Alaska from Siberia from 1891 to 1902 by Dr. Sheldon Jackson. the United States General Agent in Alaska.14 The original purpose of importation was to augment the dwindling source of uative food supply consisting of game and fish, which had been seriously depleted by the whites. The total Importation by 1902, when shipments ceased, was about 1.280 head, and by 1938 the original stock expanded into a reindeer population estimated at 600,000 head.144

The Federal Government, in recent years, has conducted numerous experiments on the cross-breeding of reindeer and native caribou.14 on the control of predatory enemies, and on reindeer

The Federal Government has passed many statutes to protect the natives against food shortage due to periodic depletion of game or sea food and' to encourage the raising of reindeer for their own subsistence and eventully for sale on the market.

Supplement No. 9 to the Public Health Reports, December 12, 1913. P. 3.. Alaska, Its Resources and Development, op. cit., p. 124: "The importance of the reindeer industry to the social and economic welfare of there native people can scarcely be overemphasized." Also see ibid. p. 41; Spicer, o p . cit., pp. 98-99.

The District Court considered the importance of the reindeer to the natives la the construction of the Act of April 27. 1904, 33 Stat. 391, 392, 393, which provided that each road overseer in Alaska shall require all male persons between the ages of 18 and 50 to work on the public roads for 2 days or to be subject to a road tar. In the discretion of the overseer, the tax could be performed. by the man with a team of dogs, borses, or "a reindeer team of not less than two reindeer and. sleigh or cart." In holding that an Estimo was subject to this duty. the court said that the legislative intent to include the Eskimo was shown by the provision concerning reindeer. United States v. Sitarangok, 4 Alaska 667 (1913). Also see Annual Report of the Secretary of Interior (1937). P. 311: Annual Report of the Governor of Alaska (1939). p. 51.

143 "The wild reindeer were an important part of the Eskimo food supply before the coming of whites but . . . the introduction of firenems quickly decimated them, rendering the Eskimos atmost destitute.' derson and Eeits, Alaska Natives, op. cit., p. 195. Also see Cameron. The Bureau of Biological Survey (1929). pp. 117-118 and the annual reports of the United States Bureau of Education, 1891-1931.

Laska, its Resources and Development. op. cit., p. 122. The Fifteenth Census of the United States, Outlying Territories and Possessions (1932), p. 30. contains an estimate of 712,500 reindeer as of 1930. No longer, as in the past, in danger of starvation, some of the Eskimos have gained a livelihood by raising reindeer. Alaska Its Resources and Development, op. cit., p. 41. Although it has been estimated that the Territory was capable of grazing between three and four intition animals (Estimate of Bureau of Biological Survey. The Bureau of Education estimated ten million. Cameron, op. cit., p. 117), the predatory animals like wolves and coyotes have in recent years killed many reindeer, especially on the Arctic Coast. This menace Increased because the reindeer. formerly herded by attendants. have been allowed in recent years to roam. and are corralled only at certain seasons. By this change in herd management the reindeer scatter widely over the ranges, and increasing numbers of wolves and coyotes have seriously menaced the Industry. The territorial legislature, by special bounty appropriations. has cooperated with the Reindeer Service., the Forest Service, Office of Indian Affairs, the Alaska Game Commission, and the Bureau of Biological Survey, which, since 1937. bas resumed its work in investigating and reducing depredations of predatory animals. (Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey (1937). pp. 56, 59-60. Ibid. (1939). p. 68.) Despite these efforts toward predatory control, a recent survey indicated that coyotes and wolves are increasing, and that their deprenations On reindeer herds are becoming more serious. (Ibid. (1939), p. 67.)

148 Report of Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey (1937), p. 51 144 Reindeer in Alaska. Department of Agriculture Bull.. No. 1089 (1922). and Progress of Reindeer Grazing Investigations in Alaska, Bull.. No. 1423 (1926). Also see Cameron, @ oit. (1929). pp. 118-119, 133, 134, 158-157

<sup>147</sup> 51 L. D. 155. 157 (1926) : see Act of March 4, 1907. 34 Stat. 1295. 1338; Act of May 24, 1922, 42 Stat. 552, 584; Act of January 24, 1923, 12 Stat. 1174, 1205: Act of June 5. 1924. 43 Stat. 390. 427 : Act of March 3. 1925. c. 462. 43 Stat. 1141. 1181; Act of January 12. 1927. 44 Stat. 934. 968. Also see United States v. Sitarangok, 4 Alaska 667 (1913); 53 I. D. 71 (1930): 54 1. D. 15 (1932). Outside capital gradually established a commercial reindeer business. Alaska. Its Resources and Development.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs 44 gives instructions to the ustives and distributes reindeer on terms which enable them eventually to acquire a qualified ownership. The Government, however. retains a reversionary ownership so that an act of the territorial legislatur'e imposing a tax upon each reindeer killed for market was held Inapplicable to reindeer killed for market by natives of 

It has been administratively held that Congress had conferred upon the Secretary of the Interior the power to make regulations and impose restrictions upon the disposition of rein. deer transferred to the natives by the Government, and these regulations may be enforced by suit to recover the animal illegally transferred or its value. .

Despite the safeguards created by statute and administrative rules, by 1920 about a quarter of all the reindeer in Alaska was wned by whites.151

The most important law relating to reindeer is the Act of September 1, 1937,162 which is designed to establish for the natives of Alaska a self-sustaining economy by acquiring for them the whole reindeer business, and to develop native activity in all branches of the industry. The Secretary of the Interior Is empowered to acquire by purchase or other lawful means, including condemnation. "reindeer, reindeer-range equipment, abattoirs, cold-storage plants, warehouses, and other property, real or personal. the acquisition of which he determines to be necessary to the effectuation of the purposes of this Act" (sec. 2), and to make distribution thereof to the natives or to their organizations.<sup>153</sup> under such conditions as he may prescribe (sec. 8). He is also

op. cit., p. 123. to the Report of the Governor of Ataska for 1925. p. 65. it was estimated that of the 200,000 reindeer in Alaska. two-thirds belonged to the natives. In the 1938 Report. p. 46. it was estimated that of the 544,000 reindeer, 67 percent were owned by the natives.

The Act of March 4. 1921, 41 Stat. 1367. 1406. authorizes the Commissioner of Education to sell male reindeer and invest the proceeds in the purchase of female reindeer for distribution by him among the natives who had not been supplied with them.

144 In 1929 the supervision of the reindeer was turned over to the Governor. but on July 1. 1937, the reindeer service was transferred from his supervision to the Office of Indian Affairs, Governor's Report for 1938. p.46.

Direct supervision of herds and the business of the native cooperative stores had been handled by federal teachers, and hence full responsibility for the reindeer service was placed under the Education Divinion of the Indian Office. Annual Report of the Secretary of the Interior. 1937. p. 232.

" 51 L. D. 155. 157-158 (1925).

The following discussion by the Solicitor of the regulations gives an dea of the administrative system:

the administrative system:

As has already been intimated, the absolute ownership of all reludeer in Alaska was in the Government originally, and such interests in them as are held by the natives grow out of contractual relations between the individual natives and the United States based on regulations issued for that purpose. By these regulations the natives who hold reindeer are issued into two classes, one known as "apprentices," to whom a stated number of reindeer are issued by the Government from its herds, and the other as "herders." The regulations provided that the reindeer issued to these natives shall revert to the Government in the case of the death of either an apprentice or a herder without heirs, or with heirs who are not competent or do not manifest a desire to take charge of the herd, or in ease of an apprentice who abandons his herd. Or where a herder becomes intemperate and falls to reform within one year, or continuously neglects his herd, and the members of his family are not competent to control the herd and fall to provide a competent herder.

Each apprentice and herder is required to enter into a contract with the Government, of which the regulations mentioned are made a part, and in which there are other stipulations calling for the reversion of the herd to the Government under certain contingencies.

tingencies.

150 Op Sol. I. D., M. 26690. September 16, 1931.

usi Cameron op. cit.. pp. 117-118.

153 50 Stat. 900. See Annual Report of Secretary of Interior (1937). o. 356-7

145 Alaska. Its Resources and Development. op. cit.. p. 123:

A survey by that Department (Department of the Interior) in 1933 showed 78 native reindeer associations with 5.878 members owning herds varying in size from a few hundred to many thousand head. Less than 20 of these herds were owned by other than natives.

authorized to issue rules and regulations to prevent the transfer or devise of reindeer to non-natives: (sec. 10), and regulate the ranging of reindeer on public lands (sec. 14). Criminal sanctions are provided for violations of this statute (secs. 10 and 14). and \$2,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for expenditure by the Secretary of the Interior in carrying out the provisions of this act (sec. 16). 155 By the Acts of May 9, 1938, 186 and June 25, 1938, a total of \$50,000 was appropriated for a survey, and appraisal of the property and reindeer authorized to be acquired for the natives. This study has been made under the supervision of a congressional committee authorized by the Act of May 9, 1938, which recommended to Congress that funds be made available to carry out the purposes of the Reindeer Act 188 By the Third Deficiency Appropriation Act, fiscal year 1939,188 \$720,000 was appropriated for the purchase of reindeer, equipment, abattoirs, corrals, etc., owned by non-natives and \$75,000 was appropriated for administrative expenses. Payments for reindeer are limited to an average of \$4 per head.160

## C. LANDS

Congress and administrative authorities have consistently recognized and respected the rights of the natives of Alaska in the land occupied by them. The rights of the natives are in many respects the same as those generally enjoyed by the Indians residing in the United States, viz: the right of use and occupancy, with the fee in the United States.160

Article III of the Treaty of Cession 163 provides that the members of the civilized native tribes shall be protected in the free

enjoyment of their property.

Section 8<sup>164</sup> of the Act of May 17, 1884, 165 establishing a civil government in Alaska and extending to it the laws of the United

154 Of the estimated 315,000 square miles of grazing land in Alaska. 200,000 square miles are considered suitable only for reindeer grazing Alaska, Its Resources and Development, op. cit., pp. 123, 126.

155 Ibid.

156 52 Stat. 291, 313 157 52 Stat. 1114. 1132.

158 Hearings, before the Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations, 76th Cong., 1st session on the Interior Department Appro priation bill for 1940, pt. II. pp. 537 of seq. Also see hearings before

same committee on the bill for 1941, pt. II. pp. 463, et seq.

150 Act of August 9, 1939, 53 Stat. 1301, 1315. Act of May 10. 1939. 53 Stat. 685. 708. segregated \$3,000 out of the \$75,000 appropriation for reindeer service, for the purchase and distribution of reindeer.

on Nunivak Island. Act of August 9, 1939. 53 Stat. 1301, 1315.

101 United States V. Berrigen, 2 Alaska, 442, 448 (1905); 13 L. D. 120 (1891); 23 L. D. 335 (1896); 26 L. D. 517 (1898); 28 L. D. 427 (1899): 37 L. D. 334 (1908): 50 L. D. 315 (1924); 52 L. D. 597 (1929); 53 I. D. 194 (1930); 53 I. D. 593 (1932).

The following acts of Congress contain provisions protecting the Alaskan natives in the use and occupancy of land occupied by them at the time:

Art of May 17, 1884, 23 Stat. 24, 26: Act of March 3, 1891, 26 Stat. 1095, 1100; Act of June 6, 1900, 31 Stat, 321, 330. The Act of June 19, 1935, 49 Stat. 388, authorizes the Tlinget and Haida Indians of Alaska to sue the United States to determine property claims.

For a discussion of the power of Congress over land, see sec. 4, supra and Chapter 5. sec. 5.

162 50 L. D. 315 (1924).

183 15 Stat. 539. 542 (1867); The full text of this provision is set forth in section 3 of this chapter.

164 This section provides in part: . .

That the Indians or other persons in said district shall not be disturbed in the possession of any lands actually in their use or occupation or now claimed by them but the terms under which such persons may acquire title to such lands is reserved for future legislation by Congress. \* \*\*\*

Section 12 empowers the Secretary of the Interior to select two officers who together with the Governor shall constitute .a Commission to ex amine and report on the condition of the Indians, "what lands, if any, should be reserved for their use," etc.

165 23 Stat. 24.

States relating to mining claims, is the first legislation which recognizes the rights of Alaska Indians to the possession of lands in their actual use and occupancy.100 In interpreting this provision. the court in Heckman v. Sutter, said:

The prohibition contained in the act of 1884 against the disturbance of the use of possession of any Indian or other person of any land in Alaska claimed by them is sufficiently general and comprehensive to include tide lands as well as lands above high-water mark. Nor is it surprising that congress, in first dealing with the then sparsely settled country, was disposed to protect its few inhabitants in the possession of lands, of, whatever, char-acter, by means of which they eked out their hard and precarious existence. The fact that at that time the Indians and other occupants of the country largely made their living by fishing was no doubt well, known to the legislative branch of the government, as well as the fact that that business, if conducted on any substantial scale, necessitated the use of parts of the tide flats in the putting out and hauling in of the necessary seines. Congress saw proper to protect by its act of, 1884 the possession and use by these Indians and other persons of any and all land in Alaska against intrusion by third persons, and so far has never deemed it wise to otherwise provide. (Pp. 88-89.)

A subsequent judicial decision 167 also stresses the importance of interpreting the statute in the light of the communal habits of the natives:

It is well known that the native Indians of this country by their peculiar habits live in villages here and there, in some of which they remain most of the year and in others during certain summer months; that while their habits are somewhat migratory, they have well-settled places of abode, and these usually are not abandoned, though they may vacate them for a few months at a time. The history of the habits of these people is well understood. (P. 239.)

It is believed that.. the language of this act does not refer to lands held by Indians in severalty, but as to holdings by them collectively in their villages and such places as were occupied by them; that their methods of life were well understood by the lawmaking power, and that they were understood to occupy. lands in common either in villages where they lived, or for fishing, hunting, and like purposes.

No doubt I think exists as to the rights of those Indians who had occupied some particular tract of land solely and exclusively by himself, and had actually occupied the same continuously before and at the time and since the passage of the act of May 17, 1884. He could maintain his possessory right to this property by virtue of this act, and the rights of the native might and should have protection under such circumstances. But it is evident to the court that the native Indians who occupied the land in dispute, if they occupied it exclusively and continuously, if they were in the actual undisputed possession thereof at the time the act of 1884 went into effect, were occupying it as a village, where a number had settled, and were there as common occupants, and not as individual, claimants to any particular portion of the same. If they occupied the same exclusively as a village or otherwise, their right to the same must be protected; if protected at all, under section 8, above referred to. If the Congress of the United States have made no provision for this class of residents acquiring title to lands since the act of 1884, then they may not obtain title. 188 (Pp. 239-240.)

<sup>166</sup> Heckman v. Sutter, 119 Fed. 83 (C. C. A. 9. 1902). aff'g. Butter v. Heckman, 1 Alaska 188 (1901); United States v. Berrigan, 2 Alaska 442 (1905); 37 L. D. 334 (1908): 49 L. D. 592 (1923).

<sup>167</sup> Johnson v. Pacific Coast S. S. Co., 2 Alaska 224 (1904).

<sup>108</sup> Cf. the following excerpt from an administrative holding, 37 L. D. 334. 336-337 (1908) :

Congress had a purpose in withholding from these Indians the title to their possessions, especially without restraint upon alienation. It protects them in their possessions under the legal title held by the United States by declaring in the act of May 17. 1884. that they shall not be disturbed in the possession Of any lands

This act protects land held by Indians and other persons in Alaska at the time of its passage and not lands subsequently acquired, nor land occupied within a public reservation.

The Act of March 3, 1891,181 which extends the Homestead Law to Alaska and provides for the acquisition by an individual group or association of 160 acres of land for trade or manufacturing purposes, expressly excepts "any lands. . . . to which the natives of Alaska have prior rights by virtue of actual occupa tion \* \* ." The possessory rights of the natives cannot be infringed by the granting of townsites.173

Section 1 of the Act of May 26, 1926,178 authorizes the townsite trustee to issue, a restricted deed to an Alaskan native for a tract in a townsite occupied and set, apart for him. Section 3 provides that whenever the Secretary of the Interior shall find nonmineral public lands to be claimed and occupied by natives, as a town or village, he may issue a patent therefor to a trustee who shall convey by restricted deed such land to the individual native, exclusive of that embraced in streets or allevs.

The determination of persons eligible to receive patents under this act was delegated to the Department of the Interior, which has frequently changed its interpretation of the natives eligible to acquire title to the public domain. Regulations 174 were promulgated providing that the act applied only to natives who had not secured certificates of citizenship under the Territorial Law.17 Although the wisdom of permitting the issuance of unrestricted deeds to natives, solely because of their citizenship was ques tioned, 176 such regulations were authorized by law. 177

Though the statute provided that all of the deeds should contain restrictions on alienation, levy, sale, and encumbrance, the townsite trustees exercised discretion as to whether natives should receive restricted or unrestricted deeds, and they reached an understanding with the General Land Office that natives leading a civilized life should be treated in all respects as white citizens. but that the lands possessed by other Indians or natives should not be assessed nor conveved but should be set apart for them as Indian possessions. 178

Section 10 of the Act of May 14, 1898, 179 extending the homestead laws of the United States to Alaska, authorizes the Secretary of the interior to reserve for the use of the natives of Alaska.

suitable tracts of laud along the water front of any stream inlet, bay, or sea shore for landing places for canoes and other craft used by such natives • •

actually in their actual use or occupation, or claimed by them a the date of that act.

Such recognition by Congress of a right of occupancy and possession prevents the acquisition of title to such lands without legislative authority, and white the title remains in the Government the Indians' right to occupancy cannot be impaired nor can the land be assessed for taxes or charged or burdened with any obligation or incumbrance that could not be lawfully imposed upon public lands of the United States or other lands to which it holds the title. It was evidently contemplated by the act that these Indians should enjoy every right and privilege of a land owner except the right to encumber the land or to convey title thereto.

180 Heckman v. Butter. 119 Fed. 83 (C. C. A. 9. 1902). affg. Sutter v. Heckman, 1 Alaska 188 (1901); Columbia Canning Co. v. Hampton.. 161 Fed. 60 (C. C. A. 9, 1908): 13 L. D. 120 (1891); 37 L. D. 334 (1908).

170 26 L. D. 104 (1898).

<sup>171</sup> 26 Stat 1095, 1100. Discussed in Memo. Acting Sol. I. D.. February

<sup>172</sup> 28 L. D. 427 (1899) : 28 L. D. 535 (1899). The Department of the Interior has refused to approve townsites which would interfere with the native use of water for domestic purposes, 24 L. D. 312 (1897): or which would interfere with the native use of a right-of-way. 26 L. D. 512 (1898).

177 44 Stat. 629.

174 50 L. D. 27, 46 (1923).

176 Memo. Acting Sol. I. D.. February 17, 1939.

176 Ibid. For a discussion of citizenship, see sec. 5. supra.

177 50 L. D. 27, 46 (1923); 51 L. D. 501 (1926).

178 Memo. Acting Sol. I.D., February 17, 1939.

179 30 Stat. 409, 413.

Title to such reserved land cannot be acquired by any individual or group of individuals, even with Indian consent.160

In the case of United States v. Lynch, in it was held that an order of the Secretary of the Interior reserving certain tidelands for a landing place for the boats of the natives did not reserve any land for any particular native and that the United States was the proper party to sue in an action of trespass. The court stressed the communal nature of the life and occupation of the Indians as a guide to congressional intention:

There has been no legislation by Congress particularly appertaining to the lands occupied by the Indians of Alaska on May 7, 1884. It is true that there is a provision for the Indians of the United States to enter lands under the Homestead Act. 23 Stat. 96 (43 U. S. C. A. § 190). This act is also applicable to the Indians of Alaska who may enter lands under the Homestead Act, but the entry of lands under the Homestead Act is necessarily. restricted to lands above the line of ordinary high-water mark There' is no specific provision of legislation relative to the acquisition of title to public lands by Indians occupying them on May 17, 1884, that I am aware of. 188 (P. 573.)

Section 27 of the Act of June 6, 1900, us establishing a civil government for Alaska, provides that-

The Indians \* \* \* shall not be isturbed in the possession of any lands now actually in their use or occupation, \* \* •

The case of United States V. Berrigan 184 held that this statute not only prohibits an entry, under the land laws, upon land occupied by the natives but also forbids any other action which will disturb their possession and renders void any attempt to dispossess them by contract. The court also held that the United States, and not an individual Indian, was the proper party to sue out a mandatory injunction against trespass on Indian land.185

Under the Act of May 17, 1906. 186 the Secretary of the Interior may allot nonmineral land not exceeding 160 acres to any native who is the head of a family or who is 21 years of age. It also provides that such allotment shall be deemed the homestead of the attottee and his heirs forever and shall be inalienable and nontaxable until Congress provides otherwise.

Title remains in the United States,187 and moneys received from trespass on timber on such allotted land is not paid to the allottee, but must be deposited in the public funds of the United States.186

After the approval of an allotment, the allottee's rights are

151 7 Alaska 568 (1927).

<sup>180 50</sup> L. D. 315 (1924): 48 L. D. 362 (1921); 52 L. D. 597 (1929), modified by 53 I. D. 194 (1930).

<sup>182</sup> An administrative holding, 50 L. D. 315, 317-318 (1924). interpreting this provision, states :

<sup>\* \* \*</sup> there is no authority under existing law by which these lands can be sold. \* \* \* As previously shown. until Congress grants some greater title. the right of the natives to Alaska is simply one of use and occupancy. Nor does the reservation of a particular area for their benefit result lo placing actual title in the Iodians. \* \* the tide or other lands occupied by or reserved for the Indiana at Ketchikan, Alaska, cannot be disposed of under existing law but that the power rests with Congress, by statute, with or without the consent of the Indians, to provide for the ultimate disposal of those lands.

See 44 L. D. 441 (1915). for a discussion of the ripartan rights of the natives.

<sup>183 31</sup> Stat 321. 330.

<sup>184 2</sup> Alaska 442 (1905). Accord: United States v. Cadzow, 6 Alaska 126 (1914).

Also see United States v. Cadzow, 5 Alaska 125 (1914).

<sup>286</sup> C. 2469. 34 Stat. 197. Only a small area is held by beneficiaries under this act. Land Use in Alaska. Preliminary Report. Advisory Committee on Land Use and Subcommittees to Alaska Planning Council (1938), p. 50.

<sup>187</sup> See 50 L. D. 315 (1924).

<sup>188 44</sup> L. D. 113 (1915). The trespass occurred prior to the approval of the allotment.

not defeated by a subsequent, reservation by Executive order of a tract of land, which includes the allotment.180

In the words of a recent administrative holding: 100

That Congress did not intend that an allottee's right should be less than a "vested right," or be subject to extinction at the pleasure of the Executive branch of the Government, is very clearly shown by the fact that it went further in the act conferring that right than it has done in other kindred statutes by declaring in emphatic words that "the land so allotted shall be deemed the homestead of the allottee and his heirs in perpetuity.

Actual occupancy and continuous use of a tract of land by a native, prior to its inclusion within a national forest, confers upon the occupant a preference right to an allotment, even though the application for an allotment was filed subsequent to the creation of a reservation. 191

The Allotment Act 100 does not limit the use of the land by the. allottee nor the duration of his occupancy; nor the character of his improvements.198

The Secretary of the Interior was empowered by section 2 of the Act of May 1, 1936: 184

to designate as an Indian reservation any area of land which has been reserved for the use and occupancy of Indians or Eskimos by section 8 of the Act of May 17, 1884 (23 Stat. 26), or by section 14 or section 15 of the Act of March 3, 1891 (26 Stat. 1101), or which has been heretofore reserved under any executive order and placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior or any bureau thereof, together with additional public lands adjacent thereto, within the Territory of Alaska, or any other public lauds which are actually occupied by Indians or Eskimos within said Territory: *Provided*, That the designation by the Secretary of the Interior of any such area of land as a reser-

vation shall be effective only upon its approval by the vote, by secret ballot, of a majority of the Indian or Eskimo residents thereof who vote at a special election duly called by the Secretary of the Interior upon thirty, days' notice: *Provided, however*, That in each instance the total vote cast shall not be less than 30 per centum of those entitled to vote.

A provision is also made that this act shall not affect existing rights. = Telefonio di dello di Maccolla VVIII digli i cadi da vece

. There have already been- a number of administrative interpretations of this act. It has been held' that a reservation may include sufficient water frontage to protect and provide for the fishing occupations of the Indians.105 Although water in connection with the reservation of the uplands cannot be independently reserved under section 2, waters adjacent to any lands already reserved or being reserved may be reserved for the natives occupying the rest of the reservation.196 Waters may not be withdrawn as far from the shore as the territorial limits. of Alaska.

Adopting the test formulated by the Supreme Court in the Alaska Pacific Fisheries case, 197 it was held to be the intent of Congress that under section 2 only those adjacent waters may be reserved which are essential for the effective use and are an iutegral part of the reserved land. A recent opinion 198 on this question advised:

It appears that for all practical purposes the extent of water designated by the President in connection with the Annette Islands Reservation, namely, 3,000 feet from the shore at mean low tide; should be used as the standard and even as the maximum unless it is shown that the natives have been using and actually need, a further area. (Pp. 9-10.)

The principal part of each reservation must be land upon which the natives are actually residing. 19

## SECTION 9. TRIBES AND ASSOCIATIONS

corporation Law of Alaska 200 and the Indian Village Act. 201 reported that some Indian villages not organized under either of act offered a new source of federal protection to the natives these laws have an informal organization with a council, usually elected annually.200

Section 19 of the Act of June 18, 1934, 208 provides that Eskimo and other aboriginal peoples of Alaska shall be considered Indians for the purpose of the act, and section 13 provides tha sections 9, 10, 11, 12, and 16 shall apply to the Territory of the Alaska. These provisions relate to tribal organization, loans for economic development and for tuition in vocational schools, and preference to Indians for positions in the Indian Service. The Act of May 1, 1936,204 extends to Alaska all the remaining sections

Indian villages have been organized under the Municipal In-except sections 2, 3, 4, and 18, relating to tribal lands and reser-It is rations, which are largely inapplicable to this territory. This "who in the past," according to Commissioner of Indian Affairs Collier, "have seen their land rights almost universally disregarded, their fishing rights increasingly invaded, and their economic situation grow each year more desperate."

> The Act of May 1, 1936, was passed to remedy the failure of Act of June 18, 1934 to extend the incorporation and credit privileges of that act to the organizations in Alaska, and, what was equally important, to authorize a type of organization more suited to the existing native groupings and activities than the organizations authorized for Indians in the States.

> By an oversight, apparently, of the congressional conference committee considering the Act of June 18, 1934, section 17 of that act providing for incorporation of tribes, was omitted from the list of sections made applicable to Alaska, and this resulted in the ruling that the credit funds made available by section 10 to incorporated organizations could not be made available in Alaska in the absence of the privilege of incorporation.<sup>200</sup> The

<sup>189 48</sup> L. D. 435 (1922). Memo. Sol. I. D.. March 28. 1939; also see Worthen Lumber Mills v. Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Co.. 229 Fed. 966 (C. C. A. 9, 1916).

<sup>190 48</sup> L. D. 435, 437 (1922).

<sup>191 48</sup> L. D. 362 (1921).

<sup>192</sup> Act of May 17. 1906, c. 2469. 34 Stat. 197. Also see 48 L. D. 70 (1921), and 50 L. D. 27, 48 (1923). as modified by 51 L. D. 145 (1925). <sup>193</sup>52 L. D. 597 (1929).

<sup>194</sup> C. 254. 49 Stat. 1250.

<sup>16</sup>s Op. Sol. I. D., bf.28978, April 19, 1937.

<sup>196</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>197</sup> Alaska Pacific Fisheries v. United States, 248 U. S. 78 (1918), aff'g 240 Fed. 274 (C. C. A. 9. 1917). This case is more fully discussed in sec. 4, supra,

<sup>198</sup> Op. Sol. I. D., M.28978, April 19, 1937.

<sup>199</sup> Memo. Sol. I. D., September 14, 1937. Op. Sol. I. D., M.28978, April 19, 1937.

<sup>200</sup> Compiled Laws of Alaska for 1933, ch. 44. Pursuant to this act Klawock was organized as a city of the first class and Hydaburg and Saxman, as cities of the second class.

<sup>201</sup> Session Laws of Alaska for 1915. ch. 11; amended Session Laws of Alaska for 1917. ch. 25; repealed Session Laws of Alaska for 1929. ch. 23; villages like Angoon and Hoonah, organized before the repeal of this law. continue to function, although their status is doubtful.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>202</sup> Most. if not all, of these villages are within the area of the Tongass National Forest Reservation.

<sup>48</sup> Stat. 984:

<sup>204</sup> C. 254, 49 Stat. 1250.

<sup>206</sup> Annual Report of Secretary of Interior (1936) p. 163.

<sup>200</sup> Op. Sol. I. D., M.28978, April 19, 1937.

omission was remedied in the Act of 1936 by the express extension ||Act of June 18, 1934, providing that the constitutions may conof section 17 to Alaska organizations and by the provision that tain all powers of an Indian group recognized under existing the groups Of Indians authorized to organize may receive charters law. The best example of this type of organization is the organ-Of incorporation and credit loans in accordance with the Act lization of the Eskimo villages." Of June 18, 1934.3

the organization of Indian bands or tribes, or the Indians residing | municipal activities. This type of organization is specially suiton a reservation. However, since most of the natives in Alaska do not live on reservations and are not grouped as bands or tribes, as in the States, and since most of the natives live in native villages or communities and many groups of natives work in particular kinds of Occupations or have other ties that bind their interests together, it was provided in section 1 of the Act of May 1, 1936, that

groups of Indians in Alaska not heretofore recognized as bands or tribes, but having a common bond of Occupation. or association, or residence within a well-defined neighborhood, community, or rural district, may organize to adopt constitutions and bylaws and to receive charters of incorporation and Federal loans under sections 16, 17, and 10 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

The criterion of organization was adopted from section 9 of the Federal Credit Union Act, 300 and the interpretation of this language by the authorities administering that act is looked to for guidance in determining the eligibility of native groups seeking to organize.

Under the interpretation and application of the Act of May 1. 1936, the Interior Department has held, as a matter of law and policy, that, like a band or tribe, a group which may organize under the act must be a previously existing group, bound by common interests or economic ties, and not a newly formed group established solely for the purpose of receiving benefits under the Indian Reorganization Act. The Interior Department has also held that, as in the organization of a band or tribe, the group organizing acts as a unit and includes at the outset all those natives who belong to the group, although individuals may withdraw later from the organization.

The instructions on organization in Alaska, approved by the Secretary of the Interior on December 22, 1937, set forth the kinds of organization possible under the act:

(1) A group consisting of all the native residents of a locality may organize to carry on municipal and public activities as well as economic enterprises. This type of organization would be suitable for exclusively native villages. Authority for municipal activities is based on the provision of section 16 of the

MI From the standpoint of the Alaskan economy, this means that credit funds may be loaned to floance such enterprises as fishing, trading, canncry operations. and reindeer development. Report of Governor of Alaska for 1938, p. 45.

208 Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs (1937), pp. 200-201.

The native villages vary "from 30 or 40 to 300 or 400 Persons. Except in southeastern Alaska. these villages are widely separated and have little or no communication with each other. The village and not the ethnological tribe is the unit." Letter by R. L. Wilbur, in Hearings before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 23. 1932. on S. 1196. 72nd Cong., 1st sess., p. 16.

the natural form of Indian organization and that no tribal organizations existed as they are known in the United Stares. It was found that the word "tribe" was used in Alaska to denote ethnic or language, groups and did not signify "domestic dependent pations" as the tribes were recognized to be in the United States. (Memo. Sol. I. D.. May 25, 1940)

• While the native organizations and associations to Alaska do not have the character or status of tribes, they may equally be considered instrumentalities of the United States where they are operating under a loan agreement from the United States or are organized and chartered as Federal corporations under the Indian Reorganization Act. (Memo. Sol. I. D., June 10, 1040)

200 Act of June 26. 1934, c. 750, 48 Stat 1216, 1219, 12 U. S. C. 1759. Native Village of Saxman, January 14. 1941.

(2) Groups comprising all the native residents of a locality The type of organization authorized by the latter act was may organize solely for business purposes without contemplating able in the case of Indian groups residing in white communities. which communities already provide for municipal activities. Examples of such an organization are the organizations at Craig \*\*\* and Sitka.\*\*\*

> (3) A group not comprising all the residents Of a locality but comprising Persons having a common bond of occupation or association may organize to carry on economic activities. In the case of such organizations, cooperative and democratic features in the method of organization are encouraged and as wide abase among the natives is sought as is possible in the circumstances of the case. An example of such an organization is the Hydaburg Cooperative Association, composed of resident Native fishermen of Hydaburg who have a "common bond of occupation in the fish industry, including the catching, processing and selling of fish and the building of fishing boats and equipment.\*\*\*

> As of February 1, 1941, 38 native groups had organized and received charters under the Alaska act.\*\*

> Although the Alaskan Native Brotherhood, is neither a tribe nor a group organized under the Act of May 1, 1936. It must be considered in any survey of native organizations. The Brotherhood was organized in the fall of 1913 with the announced objective Of preparing the natives of Alaska to exercise the rights and duties of citizenship. The Brotherhood is governed by an annual convention composed of delegates from its "local camps."

> 210 See, for example. Constitution of the Native Village of Shishmaref. atified August 2. 1939. and charter ratified on the same date.

> 311 Constitution of the Craig Community Association. ratified October 8, 1938. and Charter ratified on the same date. This association, composed of about 200 members of the Haida and Tlingit tribes residing in the neighborhood of Craig, granted loans to many members with which bey bought new boats, made repairs, and renovated their old boats. See Alaskan Fisheries Hearings. A. Res. 162. 76th Cong., 1st sess., pt. II (1939), p. 628.

> 212 Constitution of the Sitka Community Association, ratifled October 11. 1938. and charter ratified on the same date.

> 218 Constitution of the Hydaburg Cooperative Association ratified April 14, 1938, and charter ratified on the same date. Also see Annual Report, Governor of Alaska (1939), pp. 50-51.

214 Act of May 1. 1936. sec. 1. 49 Stat. 1250, 48 U. S. C. 362.

Hydaburg Cooperative Association of Alaska, constitution and charter ratified April 14. 1938; Klawock Cooperative Association Of Alaska. October 4, 1938; Craig Community Association of Craig. Alaska. October 8, 1938: Sitka Community Association of Alaska. October 11, 1938; Organized Village of Kasaan, October 15. 1938 : King Island Native Community. January 31. 1939: Native Village of Atka, May 23. 1939; Native Village of Nikolski, June 12. 1939: Native Village of Wales, July 29, 1939; Native Village of Shishmaret, August 2. 1939; Native Village of Karluk, August 23. 1939: Hoonah Indian Association. October 23, 1939; Angoon Community Association. November 15, 1939; Nome Eskimo Community, November 23, 1939: Native Village of Elim. November 24, 1939; Native Village of White Mountain. November 25, 1939; Native Village of Tyonek. November 27, 1939; Stebbins Community Association, December 5, 1939: Native Village of Noatak, December 28, 1939: Native Village of Unalakleet, December 30, 1939; Native Village of Minto, December 30, 1939; Native Village of Stevens, December 30, 1939; Native Village of Gambell, December 31, 1939; Native Village of Fort Yukon, January 2. 1910: Native Village of Nunapitchuk, January 2, 1940; Native Village of Kwethluk, January 11. 1940; Native Village of Venetie, January 25, 1940: Ketchikan Indian Corporation, January 27, 1940; Native Village of Shaktoolik, January 27, 1940; Native Village of Diomede, January 31, 1940; Native Village of Chanega, February 3, 1940; Native Village of Kivalina, February 7. 1940; Native Village of Point Hope. February 29. 1940; Native Village Of Selawik, March 15, 1940; Native Village of Barrow, March 21. 1940: Native Village of Tetlin, March 26. 1940; Native Village of Mekoryuk, August 24, 1940; Executive officers, including the Grand Secretary, who is the administrative head, are elected annually.

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The Grand President becomes a member of a permanent "Executive Committee" which exercises the powers of the convention between sessions.

This society takes an active interest in legislation and other matters which affect the natives.200

Unique among native communities is that of the Metlakahtla Indians. Encouraged by federal officials about 800, of these Indians migrated in 1887 to the Annette islands in southeast Alaska from their homes in Metlakahtla, British Columbia.<sup>217</sup> A ruling of the Attorney General 218 held that the President of the United States lacked authority to establish a reserva tion for these Indians on the public domain without congressional sanction, because they were aliens, born outside of the boundaries of the United States proper, By the Act of March 3, 1891, 219 Congress created a reservation for the use of these immigrants and such other Alaskan natives as might join them, to be used in common under rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior. By the Act of March 4, 1907,22

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Congress permitted these. Indians to be licensed as masters. pilots, and engineers of steamboats and as operators of motor boats, as if citizens of the United States. Congress granted collective naturalization by the Act of May 7, 1934,222 to the Metlakahtlans and the Indians who emigrated from British Columbia not later than January 1, 1900, and resided continuously in Annette Island.

The community has flourished; it owns a salmon cannery 222 which is operated under a lease from the Department of the Interior. Out of their receipts they have built up a large trust fund 24 in the Treasury of the United States, bearing 4 percent interest.

The community income is used by the directors of the town

council for civic improvements, care of dependents, etc. From the profits, the community has built, and equipped a hydroelectric plant which furnishes each house with electricity free of charge, and a service of the hand and the

The privilege not joining the Metlakahtlan community and occupying, any part of the Island is subject to vote of the Metlakahtlan council. To obtain membership, except by birth, requires the approval of three-fourths of the members of the town council. The land and resources of the reservation are held in common; individuals occupy land by permits from the council. Local self-government is' recognized in rules and regulations of the Secretary of the Interior.200

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<sup>215</sup> For a brief discussion of this organization, see testimony by Judge Wickersham before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 23, 1932,. on S. 1196, 72nd Cong., 1st sess., pp. 10-11.

<sup>216</sup> The significance, of the Brotherhood as the representatives of an important portion of the natives is shown by the fact that the Delegate from Alaska declined to sponsor legislation extending the Wheeler-Howard Act -to Alaska until learning its views. 83 Cong. Rec. pt. 9, p. 180

At the outset a number of "local camps" and many officers had vigorously opposed the provisions of the Wheeler-Howard Act referring to "Indian reservations" because they thought that these provisions would deprive them of some of their rights of citizenship. When it was demonstrated strated that this fear was groundless, the Executive Committee approved the measure. Ibid. 180.

<sup>217</sup> For a brief account of the development of this colony. see Department of the Interior, The Problem of the Alaskan Development (April 1940). pp. 44-47. See also fn. 5. supra.
218 Op. A. G. 557 (1877).

<sup>210 26</sup> Stat. 1095, 1101.

<sup>200</sup> Secretary of the Interior Lane issued such rules and regulations on January, 28, 1915. 25 C. F. R. 1.1-1.68.

<sup>221</sup> c. 2929, 34 stat. 1411.

<sup>223</sup> C. 221. 48 Stat. 667. The Alaska legislature had urged Congress to grant citizenship to these Indians. H. Joint Memorial, No. 10, Laws of Alaska (1929), pp. 341-342. For a private act naturalizing a single Methakahtlan, see Act of April 15. 1938. 52 Stat. 1299.

<sup>223</sup> See Survey of Conditions of the Indians of the United States, pt. 35 (Metlakantia Indians, Alaska). 74th Cong., 2d sess., Hearings. 8. Subcomm. on Ind. Act. The success of this community is discussed in Hearings on Alaskan Fisheries held pursuant to H. Res. 162, 76th Cong., 1st sess. (1939). pp. 158-159. 638, 652-659. 719-725. 995-999.

<sup>24</sup> Act of August 28. 1937. 50 Stat. 873.

<sup>25</sup> C. F. R. pt. 1 (Rules and Regulations for Annette Islands Reserve, Alaska (1915) ).