

Ill-Constructed Sawmill



IMPROPERLY INSTALLED SAWMILL—The people of Noorvik are bitterly complaining about the improper installation of their new sawmill which the Bureau of Indian Affairs obtained for them. A man assigned by the BIA apparently left hurriedly after a half-hour instruction period to the local men and without installing the planer.

Noorvik Unhappy About Sawmill

The people of the village of Noorvik are very unhappy about the installation of their new sawmill as done and supervised by a Bureau of Indian Affairs man not long ago.

Joe Field, speaking for his village, wrote as follows:

"We went down to see our sawmill which the BIA set up for us. It is all wrong and has to be built over again.

The man who came did not do job well. There is gangplank to bring logs and it is not completed. The man did not adjust saw blade and the belt wore out in one half hour cutting. The planer lay on its side—he never set it.

"There were six guys working from Noorvik 12 hours a day and when he get through,

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Sawmill . . .

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he gave one half hour instruction to men and take off.

"Went down and took picture to show you. Rails is not straight now and can't be used. You see it is not straight.

"There were two white persons and two native people went down to see this. Also we have logs which we cut and they are on beach. We have loans to become businessmen but no sawmill to cut our lumber and we have to pay on loans this year, \$360.00. We can't bring most logs here because logs might drift away on us.

"We are mad right now and we have to fight fires to pay our loans."

L.L. Brice, of Brice, Inc. here in Fairbanks, whose firm is constructing the Noorvik airfield, had this to say about the sawmill installation:

"I have inspected the little American Sawmill that was installed here at Noorvik late in June.

"The foundations are insufficient. The mill will have to be completely torn down, better foundation installed, and then be completely reworked. The carriage track, the husk frame, the motor, the pulleys that drive the carriage, the drum gears, and everything else in the mill is completely out of alignment, and would be dangerous to operate in its present condition.

"The mill machinery is excellent equipment and should give many years of good service if installed properly."