

OWNING DOGS IS ALSO A STANDARD

In re: Mrs. Lee Fishback's letter of Feb. 24, to American Anti-vivisection Society, 1903 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

She has no personal contact with the Eskimos whom she has degraded, and so we must say that she has pronounced judgment after hearing two "owners of (dog) racing kennels." She says;

1) "The isolated Native . . . considers great numbers of dogs a sign of prestige."

Isn't that your standard too, namely, more of what others consider valuable, money, for instance, or automobiles in this motor age, or dogs on which life depends in an area where automobiles are useless and money too, and in many areas even concubines.

2) "The Native has no idea whatever how to breed good dogs. What dogs he has are the result of natural selection" (and she should add) "like people" as every modern wife will stipulate.

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She is mistaken however in thinking these people whose lives are often dependant on dogs do not care. Those wonderful dogs which for their purpose are coveted everywhere in the northern world especially by explorers were not produced by "natural selection" for the practicable business of living and not "racing."

3) "A single team of nine or ten dogs is often quite adequate to cover the needs of several families" says this "expert" made so by a short talk with two owners of a dog kennel. Mankind however refuses to be practical and renounces the standard of "one man and many women" because it is in the nature of man and woman to own all by himself what he cherishes or needs. One automobile won't do for a family of father, mother and three sons anymore.

4) "The tradition . . . has always been; 'feast or famine' . . . with no forethought whatever toward a future."

The only answer is to deny this statement. In the course of several thousand years, they have survived and have taught Mrs. Fishback's race that if it would survive, they must imitate the Eskimo. The Eskimo thus proves his superiority and the rescued white man agrees.

There is no universal standard for living or dressing from nakedness of Adam and Eve to the breech cloth of the tropics, the toga of the Roman to the pantaloons of the Caucasian, the bloomers of the nineties to the bikinies of today back to the go-go girls of California—all are produced by the consensus of the moment and the climate. Venus de Milo couldn't live north of the Arctic Circle but the Eskimo women can who are judged by their unmeasureable contribution to their mankind.

However well we cover it up, the "law of the jungle" is the ultimate law. "Dog eat dog" prevails especially among the capitalistic society, but among the Eskimos, their rule is "the greatest good to the greatest number." If one must starve, that means all starve too. There is no such thing as being the richest country in the world and at the same time having millions living below the minimum standard set by government. People live by such standards and so do dogs who are not cuddled and covered by a blanket in the coldest weather and eating once a day among a people who without emotion will kill the weakest dog if a human life requires it. This is the same rule that made horse-stealing a capital offence when the white man conquered the west.

Of course the rule is that necessity compels the Eskimo to work and relieved from necessity, too many will idle. But the Eskimo did not invent the word "malingering" whose devotees so much disturb the relief systems of our enlightened society. That didn't just begin. Wasn't that the law laid down by Capt. John Smith when his aristocrats refused to work until they were all faced with starvation? Didn't he then command "If you don't work you won't eat" whereupon the men took the silver spoon out of their mouths and exchanged it for a shovel in more useful dirt?

If civilization would leave the primitive people alone, they will survive and in happiness. You might not like their standards, but you would as many others have when driven by necessity. A friend of mine, once lost of the upper Stikine River, began chawing his shoe-leather for sustenance on the 8th day! So would you if you were lucky enough to have shoe-leather.

The primitives will change or die because the greedy white man wants what the primitive wants. He took our precious girls because there were no others, and so many of them left them and their children when he was done with them. Now he takes their land which even by the laws of the plunderer says it belongs to the primitive again because of his greed. We will yield to it, but we don't like it. These Eskimos are wonderful people.

—WILLIAM L. PAUL, SR.

Of Executive Committee of
the Alaska Native Brotherhood