

# Native Allotments Now Liberalized

Recently Senator Bartlett announced that liberalized native allotment regulations, under consideration for some time, had been signed by Under Secretary of the Interior John A. Carver, Jr., for publication in the Federal Register.

One feature of the revised regulations provides that residence and cultivation requirements will be interpreted in view of native customs. In the past, native applicants have been held to the same rigid requirements as non-native homesteaders.

From now on, hunting, trapping, berry picking and other native uses of land will be considered acceptable under the Native Allotment Act.

In the past, too, Senator Bartlett pointed out, native applicants have been required to take their 160 acres in one contiguous or one block of land. Under the new regulations this will no longer be the case. An applicant may now acquire several tracts of not less than 40 acres each and totalling not more than 160 acres in the aggregate.

Expressing pleasure that the regulations are at long last being published, Senator Bartlett said, "I have been working with officials of the Interior Department and the State of Alaska for over a year and a half on incorporating more liberal provisions into regulations.

"We have overcome many obstacles which at the beginning seemed insurmountable. I commend all of those who have played a part in drafting the regulations and in working out many difficult problems. The result I hope will be to improve vastly land acquisition procedures for Alaska natives."