

VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON
DEARING FARM
BETHEL, VERMONT

July 6, 1950

Dear Ada:

I am glad to have news of you through your letter of June 28; it took some time to find me, for the Macmillan Company sent it to my New York address and then it had to come out here to our summer place. But I am sorry to hear that you are not well. I had supposed you were in Alaska, for I think that is where you were when last I heard, which must be now fifteen years ago or longer, perhaps twenty.

1924 Mrs. John Fletcher, who helped you and me so much twenty five years ago (in 1923 and 1925) now lives in North Carolina. Miss Gertrude Andrus, who also helped both of us during the same years, is in Seattle, I think, and so are Carl Lomen and other members of the Lomen family, who helped us too. I am sending all of them copies of your letter and carbons of this reply.

The arrangements which these friends of yours and mine, and other friends, made with you on my behalf twenty five years ago, were all carried out on our part, including the payment to you of all monies agreed upon, both by the Canadian incorporated company, which alone had relations with you as employer toward employee, and by me. According to my recollection, I kept giving you thereafter small sums when you appealed to me, until I had given three or four times as much as originally discussed. These charities finally had to cease, both because I could not spare the money and because, according to what my friends and yours told me who knew what you did with the money, you kept giving away to others what I gave you, instead of saving it up for your own use. I admired your charitable spirit but I just did not have then, and do not have now, any more money to spare.

1925 This is all so long ago that I do not remember whether you were ever promised any specific sum in connection with the story you gave to Mr. Jordan, which was used in my book THE ADVENTURE OF WRANGEL ISLAND in 1905; but we have all the records in New York and they can be dug up if necessary. What I distinctly remember is that you were paid every cent either the Company or I ever agreed to pay you, and that I thereafter made you several gifts, when appeals came to me because you were hard up. Some of these gifts were handled by Miss Andrus, some, I think, both by Mrs. Fletcher and the Lomens. They are among the people who know that you were paid what was legally due you, and that, after everything had been paid, you received a good deal of money as gifts from me and from others who were interested in the Wrangel expedition and who were sorry for you.

Mrs. Ada Johnson
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