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Government for Southeastern Alaska

47TH CONGRESS, 1st Session. | SENATE. | REPORT No. 457.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 21, 1882.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BUTLER, from the Committee on Territories, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 1153.]

The Committee on Territories, to whom was referred Senate bill 1153, *have had the same under consideration, and submit the following report:*

The bill does not commend itself to the judgment of your committee, for the reason, among others, that it provides no legislative department for the territorial government, and so unites, in one and the same person, executive and judicial powers as to present an anomaly not admissible under our form of government. It moreover reposes the succession in the executive office in a person wholly disqualified from exercising its authority in a proper manner by reason of his other duties, and provides a judicial machinery complicated, insufficient, and unsatisfactory, mingling the laws of the State of Oregon with the Federal jurisdiction in such a manner as to produce confusion and inconvenience.

Upon the whole your committee are of opinion that the government contemplated in this bill would be ineffectual, and fail to accomplish the object desired in the Territory of Alaska. The bill accompanying this report is therefore submitted as a substitute for Senate bill 1153, and its passage recommended.

The condition of that portion of the public domain known as the Territory of Alaska, and of its inhabitants, is not creditable to the government. It was ceded to the United States by the Russian Government on the 30th day of March, 1867, fifteen years ago. By the third article of the treaty of cession it was stipulated that—

> The inhabitants of the ceded territory, according to their choice, reserving their natural allegiance, may return to Russia within three years; but if they should prefer to remain in the ceded territory, they, with the exception of uncivilized native tribes, shall be admitted to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages, and immunities of citizens of the United States, and shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property, and religion. The uncivilized tribes will be subject to such laws and regulations as the United States may from time to time adopt in regard to aboriginal tribes of that country.

Article 2 of the same treaty reads as follows:

> In the cession of territory and dominion, made by the preceding, are included the right of property in all public lots and squares, vacant lands, and all public buildings, fortifications, barracks, and other edifices which are not private individual property.

It is, however, understood and agreed that the churches which have been built in the ceded territory by the Russian Government, shall remain the property of such members of the Greek Oriental Church, resident in the territory, as may choose to worship therein. Any government archives, papers, and documents relative to the territory and dominion aforesaid, which may be now existing there, will be left in the possession of the agent of the United States; but an authenticated copy of such of them as may be required will be at all times given by the United States to the Russian Government, or to such Russian officers or subjects as they may apply for.

It will be seen by these articles of the treaty "that the inhabitants of the ceded territory, with the exception of the uncivilized native tribes, shall be admitted to all the *rights, advantages, and immunities* of citizens of the United States, and *shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property, and religion*," and "that churches which have been built in the ceded territory by the Russian Government shall remain the property of such members of the Greek Oriental Church resident in the territory as may choose to worship therein."

These are the solemn stipulations and guarantees of this government made in the treaty of cession, and yet for the fifteen years that we have had possession of this territory the 6,000 or 7,000 Russian subjects transferred by the treaty, who have chosen to become American citizens, to say nothing of our own citizens, have been almost wholly without "maintenance" or "protection" in the enjoyment of "their liberty, property, and religion." There was at one time a quasi military government established in the Territory, by quartering a few companies of Regulars at several points on the coast, but this was inadequate, unsatisfactory, and of brief duration. With this exception, the Territory and its inhabitants have been practically at the mercy of outlaws, and have had such protection only as their sense of self-preservation afforded. This, we say, is not creditable to the American people, nor a faithful observance of treaty stipulations. It will not do, in reply to this proposition, to say that the number of inhabitants is too small, or the territory too remote and unprofitable or unproductive to justify the expense and trouble of giving them the protection of law. We must assume that the treaty guaranteeing protection was made with a full knowledge of all the facts in this regard, and having made the guarantee, and the Russian Government having fulfilled its part of the treaty in good faith, every consideration of national honor behooves us to carry out ours in good faith, if but ten American citizens are to be the beneficiaries. It is not a safe rule to measure the performance of national guarantees in affording protection of law to citizenship by the *number* of people to be thus protected, but rather by the *right* of every single citizen, however remote or insignificant he may be, to that protection. But, when the facts are understood, it will be found that neither the numbers of its inhabitants, nor the extent of its domain, nor the value of its productions, nor its capabilities for development, are insignificant.

The inhabitants are shown to be about 35,000 of all classes—civilized, semi-civilized, and uncivilized Indians. In geographical area it is 580,000 square miles, as large as all our territory north of Georgia and east of the Mississippi, leaving out Kentucky alone; that is to say, as large as twenty Eastern States. Its coast line is as great, or greater, than all the other coast line of the United States. It has the largest river on this continent—the Yukon; that is, it is said to discharge a larger volume of water than the Mississippi River, being 70 miles wide at its mouth, navigable for 1,100 or 1,200 miles by steam-vessels, and is 20 miles wide at some points 1,000 miles from its mouth.

The waters of Alaska, if credible witnesses are to be relied on, abound in untold quantities of fish, cod, halibut, salmon, and other valuable species, so important in making up the food supply of mankind. The stand of timber, especially the Alaska cedar, which is said to exist in vast areas, is a most valuable resource for future development. Mineral deposits have been discovered in different parts of the Territory, but all these resources, and many others, are dormant, unproductive, and useless to the American people, because the rule of the mob is the only law of the Territory, and capital shuns such a condition, and the enterprising people of the world will not go where they are not allowed to organize society under a well-regulated form of government.

The great body of the mainland of the Territory is in nearly a square shape, extending from the one hundred and forty-first to about the one hundred and sixty-fifth meridian of west longitude, and from the sixtieth to the seventieth parallel of north latitude. From the southeastern corner extends, for about 500 miles, down to latitude 54′ 40°, the strip of mainland of 30 miles width, which, with its contiguous islands, constitutes what is known as Southeastern Alaska. From the southwestern corner the Alaskan Peninsula stretches out into the North Pacific about 400 miles, and a chain of islands gradually diminishing in size follows the arc of its course, extending to about longitude 188° west, nearly over to the Asiatic coast. Behring's Sea lies north of this chain, and in it lie the two Prebyloff or Seal Islands, about 200 miles north of Oonalaska, and, further on, the large island of Saint Lawrence, which form part of the Territory. (See art. 1, Treaty of Cession, vol. 15, St. at Large, page 539.) This last section is styled Western Alaska. It is the seat of the seal fur trade, the two islands where the seals are taken, and the franchise of taking them being under lease to the Alaskan Commercial Company for the twenty years to expire in 1890. This franchise yields an annual income of $317,500 to the government, and the evidence shows that it is the best provision that can be made to utilize and at the same time preserve this source of revenue, and provide for the comfort of the natives whose services are employed therein. This, with the sea-otter trade, which is considerable, constitutes the chief resource of this section, though there is a growing business there in cod and other fisheries, and some trade in other furs. There are supposed to be valuable mineral resources on the mainland, but they have not yet been developed. (See Census Report, Ex. Doc. 40, House of Representatives, Forty-sixth Congress, third session.)

The chief settlement in this section and chief business place is Oonalaska, situated on the island of the same name, about midway of the Aleutian chain. It is in the direct line between San Francisco and the Arctic Ocean, and is the coaling station for vessels bound between these points. It is also the nearest settlement to the Seal Islands, and the chief depot of the fur companies. It is distant 200 miles from these islands, 2,100 miles from San Francisco, and 1,250 from Sitka, the capital of the Territory, in the southeastern part. It contains a population of 28 whites, 256 creoles, and 1,108 Aleuts. (See same report.)

Kodiak is the second place in importance in this section, being on a large island just south of the peninsula, nearly midway between Sitka and Oonalaska, doing considerable trade in furs and fish, and having a population of 20 whites and 253 creoles. The entire population of the island, including some 1,800 Indians, is 2,600, and they pay some attention to agriculture and raise numbers of cattle. (*Id.*)

The southeastern section differs from the western in several particulars. It has a fur trade, chiefly in land furs. It is heavily timbered

throughout its whole extent, and has lately been discovered to possess valuable mineral wealth. Measures for the development of this industry are now in active progress, and with very encouraging results; and late advices show evidences of a rapid increase in population to engage in it during the season just opening. Parties in Portland, Oreg., and San Francisco are also preparing to develop the lumber facilities of this section, and the fisheries, which are of great value. Some attention is also now being paid to the agricultural improvement of this section. Its area is about 40,000 square miles, and its white population about 1,500. (See printed testimony.)

The principal town and capital of the country under Russian rule and our own is Sitka, situated on the west coast of Baranoff Island, about the center of this section. It has a population of 200 whites and 250 creoles, who are like the whites in all essential particulars. Here are situated a number of government buildings of large size, and suitable for all the purposes of a territorial government, and now in good repair, from the expenditure of a late appropriation made for that purpose.

The largest settlement in this section is what was first known as Harrisburg, but the name of which has been lately changed by the Post-Office Department to Juneau. It is the center of the lately discovered rich gold region, and contains about 600 people, miners, chiefly, and their numbers growing. It lies on the mainland about 160 miles north of Sitka.

Wrangel is situated at the mouth of the Stikine River, which is the only practicable thoroughfare to the Cassiar mining region in British Columbia. It is about 160 miles southeast of Sitka, has a considerable commerce, and transit and import trade, and contains about 250 people. There are a number of smaller settlements throughout this section—at the missionary, trading, fishing, and saw-mill stations—containing from three to twenty whites. Wherever there is a white settlement the Indians have a contiguous settlement of their own, and generally outnumbering the whites.

The Indians of this section number about 7,000. They are industrious and well disposed, except when under the influence of liquor (a vile kind of which they make themselves of molasses or coarse sugar). They have evinced anxiety to be educated, and to come under the white man's law, and no different treatment of them and the whites is advised. This plan works well in British Columbia, and the natives are self-supporting and civilize rapidly. They are employed as common carriers, and make excellent sailors. Information as to the climate, character, resources, and possibilities of the country may be obtained by reference to the testimony of Hon. M. D. Ball, Rev. Mr. Jackson, Dr. Minor, Mr. Petroff, Paymaster James A. Ring, and Master G. C. Hanus, United States Navy, and Mr. Baker, United States Coast Survey, taken by the committee and hereto appended, and to a letter of Mr. Robert Campbell, an employé of the Hudson Bay Company, who made an exploration across the Rocky Mountains forty years ago.

The question first arises whether the present exigencies and future prospects of the inhabitants and domain of Alaska warrant the establishment of any form of government; and, if so, can any be devised more acceptable than the one under consideration?

The first inquiry is sufficiently answered by recurring to the provisions of the treaty of cession cited above, and in the preliminary remarks already made upon that subject. There can be no question that those people and that country are entitled to *some* consideration at the hands

of the national government and the ordinary protection and care vouchsafed to the most insignificant person in other parts of the country. They are as much entitled to our protection as are the citizens of Arizona or New Mexico, or New York or Georgia, because they are as much a part of the common country; otherwise it was a crime to have paid for this territory $7,200,000, and deprived its inhabitants of their allegiance to the Russian Government, and the protection, whatever it may have been, bestowed in return.

If it is conceded that we should give them some kind of government, the next question to be considered is, *what* kind; shall we continue the present abnormal condition of things by permitting the Secretary of the Treasury to continue the exercise of quasi-gubernatorial functions over that vast territory or provide for it a government that comports more with the genius of our institutions? The Secretary of the Treasury has no such powers under our laws as those now exercised by him in Alaska, and it would be an unjudicious, if not a dangerous, precedent to clothe a cabinet officer with such powers as have been exercised by the Secretary of the Treasury in this Territory. The Secretary of the Interior could, by virtue of his jurisdiction over and control of the public lands and the Indians, more properly be invested with authority to regulate the affairs of that remote region.

The Secretary of the Treasury is intrusted with the duty of collecting and disbursing the revenue, and managing the finances, and there can be found nowhere authority to make him governor of a Territory, either to exercise executive authority over it in person, or by deputy, and yet we find him doing that very thing in the Territory of Alaska, and in a very imperfect and unsatisfactory way. The only governmental powers exercised there are those of the collector of customs in that customs-district, or the commanding officer of a United States vessel, so that practically the people have no government. The Secretary of the Treasury and his subordinates have quite as much as they can do if they attend to their legitimate duties. It is the duty of the legislative department of the government to provide proper laws for the protection of the citizens of the country, wherever found in the public domain, and this is an appropriate occasion for the performance of that duty. The following letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Commander Henry Glass, commanding United States ship Jamestown, of date July 11, 1881, is cited to show the condition of affairs in Alaska, and the necessity for some form of civil government:

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, July 11, 1881.

SIR: I have received your dispatch, No. 16, reporting that on the 6th ultimo you caused the arrest of Nicholas Dern and Henry Imhof, residents of Sitka, on a charge of attempting to commit murder in that place, and that they, with James Taylor, a discharged seaman, are held in confinement awaiting instructions from the department. Your action in this matter is approved by the department.

In the absence of any legally constituted judicial tribunals, the peace and good order of society demand that the naval authority in control of the territory should interpose its power to maintain the protection of the lives, persons, and property of individuals within its reach.

You will keep these men in confinement so long as, in your judgment, the interests of peace and good order in the settlement may require their imprisonment.

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM H. HUNT,
Secretary of the Navy.

Commander HENRY GLASS, U. S. N.,
Commanding U. S. S. Jamestown,
Sitka, Alaska.

Much more evidence can be produced, if need be, to show the necessity of civil government in this Territory, and the imperative duty of Congress in the premises.

Your committee kept in view two principal objects in preparing the bill.

1st. That it should provide for such a form of government as was best suited to the conditions existing in the Territory, both as to its geographical relations to the other Territory of the United States, and the situation of its inhabitants; and,

2d. To secure an effective form of government upon as economical a basis as possible.

The bill is modeled or fashioned after the organic act establishing a territorial form of government for the Territories of Louisiana and Orleans, approved March 26, 1804, first session, Eighth Congress, which will be found in Part 1 of Poore's Charts and Constitutions, page 691, and also the act approved March 3, 1805, second session, Eighth Congress, "To provide for the government of the Territory of Louisiana," page 697, same volume. The first of these acts provides, in its fourth section, that "The legislative powers shall be vested in the governor and thirteen of the most fit and discreet persons of the Territory, to be called the legislative council," to be "appointed annually by the President, &c., &c." The second act (March 3, 1805) provides "That the legislative power shall be vested in a governor and three judges, or a majority of them." The bill now reported provides that the governor, chief justice, surveyor-general, marshal, and collector of customs shall constitute a legislative council "for the first year of the operation of the government hereby established," differing from the acts above cited only in the personnel of the legislative council, but equally efficient as either and more economical than the first form of government for the Territory of Alaska.

The Confederate Congress, July 13, 1787, passed an "Ordinance for the government of the territory of the United States northwest of the Ohio River," whereby a government was organized somewhat similar to that provided for in this bill. So that there are a number of precedents for this bill.

The first section of the bill provides that the present customs-districts of Alaska, which embrace the whole territory, shall constitute a Territory of the United States, under the name of the Territory of Alaska.

The second section provides that the executive power of the Territory shall be vested in a governor, and defines his powers and authority.

The third section provides for the appointment of a secretary of the Territory, and defines his duties, and among other things declares that he shall be ex-officio treasurer of said Territory, &c., &c.

The fourth section organizes the judicial power of the Territory into one supreme court and four inferior courts, and that the four inferior courts shall be located at Sitka,—Juneau, Wrangle, and Oonalaska, respectively.

The fifth section defines the jurisdiction and powers of the supreme and inferior courts, and the sixth section provides for the appointment of a marshal and deputies for the Territory.

The seventh section, it is proper to say, was drawn substantially by the former superintendent of the General Land Office in the Interior Departmert, and provides for the extension of the land laws of the United States over said Territory, having due regard to the stipulations of the treaty of cession as to the rights of the residents of the Territory, and of the Russo-Greek Church property at the time of the transfer.

The eighth section provides for the manner in which the various officers of said Territory shall be appointed, their terms of office and salaries.

Section 9 organizes a legislative council, which, together with the governor, shall constitute the legislative department of the government of said Territory, and defines its powers, duties, and authority.

Section 10 directs that all officers provided for by this act shall take the oath of office, &c., and the manner of the same.

Section 11 designates Sitka as the seat of government of said Territory, and that the supreme court and the different officers shall be located there, &c.

Section 12 provides for a Delegate to Congress, and

Section 13 regulates the qualifications for the elective franchise.

The following schedule shows the revenue from customs in the customs district of Alaska, for the three preceding years, and the amount of exports for the two years last past. The increase in both has been very great, and it is believed with the establishment of civil government this increase will be much larger.

REVENUES

Fiscal year ending—	Hospital money.	Customs.	Fees.	Totals.
June 30, 1879	$254 74	$1,453 01	$875 55	$2,583 30
June 30, 1880	209 58	1,097 92	922 55	2,230 05
June 30, 1881	274 75	2,970 35	1,910 75	4,255 55

Exports, year ending June 30, 1880	$26,480
Exports, year ending June 30, 1881	69,183

Domestic shipments of furs not included.
The exports are from Southeastern Alaska alone.
Taken from official reports.

M. D. BALL,
Late Collector.

APRIL 4, 1882.

The following is the approximate amount required for the administration of the civil government for Alaska, as provided in the bill herewith submitted:

For pay of governor	$4,000
For pay of surveyor-general	2,000
For pay of chief justice	4,000
For pay of secretary	2,500
For pay of marshal	500
For pay of attorney	500
For pay of four inferior justices	2,000
For pay of Delegate	5,000
Mileage of Delegate (about)	2,000
Total of incidental expenses	1,000
Total	23,500

This amount will be subject to diminution by the licenses, fines, &c., that may be imposed, and it is expected will be more than realized from the sale of lands, mining locations, &c., none of which sources of revenue have yet been utilized by the government in the slightest degree, or made profitable in any respect whatever.

BILL RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEE.

A BILL for the organization of the Territory of Alaska, and providing for the establishment of a civil government therefor.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all that portion of country ceded by the Emperor of all the

Russias to the United States, by the treaty concluded March 30th, 1867, according to the limits set forth in said treaty, and now constituting the customs districts of Alaska, shall constitute a Territory of the United States, under the name of the Territory of Alaska; the government whereof shall be organized and administered as follows:

SEC. 2. That the executive power and authority in and over said Territory shall be vested in a governor, who shall reside in the said Territory. He shall be commander-in-chief of the militia thereof. He may grant pardons and respites for offenses against the laws of said Territory, and reprieves for those against the United States until the decision of the President thereon shall be made known. He shall appoint and commission all officers, civil and of the militia, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law; and he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, to this end performing all the usual executive functions.

SEC. 3. That a secretary of said Territory shall be appointed, who, under direction of the governor, shall record and preserve all laws and proceedings of the legislative council hereafter constituted and all the acts and proceedings of the governor in his executive department. He shall transmit one copy of the laws and journals of the legislative council, as the same shall be enacted and published, and one copy of the executive proceedings and official correspondence, annually, on the first day of October in each year, to the President of the United States, and two copies of the laws to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives respectively for the use of Congress: *Provided*, That with the first publication of the laws of said Territory shall be embodied the Constitution of the United States, the treaty of cession of said Territory with Russia, and the acts of Congress in relation thereto. In the absence of the governor, or his inability from any cause to discharge the duties of his office, the same shall devolve upon the said secretary. The said secretary shall be ex-officio treasurer of the said Territory, and shall receive all moneys collected from taxes, licenses, fines, or in any other way, and disburse the same in the necessary expenses of the Territorial government, under the direction of the legislative council hereinafter to be constituted. He shall execute and file with the Secretary of the Treasury a bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful discharge of his duties.

SEC. 4. That the judicial power of the said Territory shall be vested in a supreme court and four inferior courts. The supreme court shall consist of one chief justice, and each inferior court of one justice. The four inferior courts shall be located at the settlements of Sitka, Juneau, Wrangel, and Oonalaska. The justices composing the same shall reside in their respective settlements, and shall be appointed by the legislative council hereinafter constituted, and shall hold their offices for one year and until their successors have been appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed by said council. The justice of each of said Territorial courts may appoint a clerk of said court and interpreters, to hold said offices at the pleasure of said court. The clerk of the said supreme court shall be also register in chancery and register of wills and register of deeds for the Territory. The justice of the inferior court at Sitka shall, in the absence or disability of the chief justice, be a member of the council hereinafter constituted, and exercise the same powers therein that said chief justice might exercise if present.

SEC. 5. That the said supreme court shall have original jurisdiction in the probate of wills, the granting of letters testamentary, or the administration on estates, in capital offenses, and in civil cases where the amount in controversy exceeds the sum of two hundred dollars, or involves the question of land title or mining rights, or the constitutionality of a law of the United States or of the Territory; also in all proceedings in chancery and in granting writs of habeas corpus, and shall have both original and appellate jurisdiction in all other civil or criminal cases. The said inferior courts shall have concurrent jurisdiction in all offenses, not felonies, and in all civil common-law cases where the amount in controversy does not exceed the sum of two hundred dollars, and does not involve the title to land or mines, or the constitutionality of a law: *Provided*, That said courts may grant temporary probate and letters or temporary restraining orders, or temporary attachments, whatever the amount involved, subject to the review of the said supreme court. And said justices shall have, in addition, the powers of justices or conservators of the peace. In all criminal prosecutions which are capital the trial shall be by jury, and in all civil cases, except cases of appeal before the supreme court, any issue of fact shall be tried by a jury. And in all cases civil or criminal a jury trial shall be had upon the demand of either party. Said juries to consist of not less than six or more than twelve persons. An appeal shall lie in all cases from the inferior to the supreme court, upon provision for the costs by the party appealing. Writs of error and appeals from the final decisions of said supreme court shall be allowed and may be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States in the same manner and under the same regulations as from the circuit courts of the United States where the value of the property or the amount in controversy, to be ascertained by the oath or affirmation of either party or other com-

petent witnesses, shall exceed in value one thousand dollars, except that a writ of error or appeal shall be allowed to the Supreme Court of the United States from the decision of the said supreme court created by this act upon any writs of habeas corpus involving a question of personal freedom.

SEC. 6. That there shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a marshal and an attorney for said Territory, who shall continue in office two years each, or until their successors are appointed and qualified, and shall receive the same salaries as the attorney and marshal for the State of California, and double fees. The said marshal shall appoint a deputy for each settlement in which said inferior courts are held. Such deputies shall be the executive officers of said courts respectively and ex officio conservators of the peace, and shall receive such fees and allowances as may be fixed by law.

SEC. 7. That the said Territory shall constitute a surveying and land district, and all the laws now in force for the survey, sale, and other disposal of the public lands contained in title thirty-two of the Revised Statutes of the United States and the amendments thereto, shall, from and after the passage of this act, be in full force and effect in said Territory. A surveyor-general shall be appointed, who shall perform all the duties now imposed by law upon surveyors-general in the several Territories, and in addition thereto all the duties of register and receiver of the land-office, as now provided. The bond of the surveyor as receiver shall be in the sum of twenty thousand dollars, and he shall receive, in addition to the salary herein to be provided, the usual fees allowed to registers and receivers: *Provided*, That in each port and at each settlement in said Territory a sufficient shore-front for wharves and warehouses shall be reserved for the use of the United States, and the Indians shall not be disturbed in the possession of lands actually in their use and occupation, not to exceed one hundred and sixty acres to each: *And provided further*, That the United States does relinquish all title to such lots of lands in any of the settlements as were specified in the records of the transfer of said Territory as private property or the property of the Russo-Greek Church, or as have been improved and occupied by bona fide residents and citizens since by permission of the United States authorities, upon payment, in the latter case, of such sum per acre as shall be fixed by the Secretary of the Interior, and that parties who have located lands, mines, or water-rights, under a supposed right to do so, within said Territory, and entered the same on record at any of the custom-houses therein prior to the passage of this act, and have exercised acts of ownership over or used and occupied or improved their said claims, shall have prior homestead or pre-emption claims thereto, and shall not be charged for their said improvements, except that no lots specified as government property, and used and occupied by the government authorities, shall be subject to these provisions. And it shall be the duty of the supreme court of the Territory to provide, as soon as may be, for the settlement and recording of titles: *Provided*, That the location of mines and water-rights, as provided in this section, should be made in pursuance of the United States regulations in such matters.

SEC. 8 That the governor, chief justice, surveyor-general, and secretary herein provided for shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall reside in said Territory, and shall, unless sooner removed by the President, hold their offices, the said governor for the term of four years, the said justice for the term of four years, the said surveyor-general for four years, and the said secretary for four years, and until their successors have been appointed and qualified. They shall receive respectively the following annual salaries: The governor, the sum of four thousand dollars; the surveyor-general, the sum of two thousand dollars; the chief justice, the sum of four thousand dollars; and the secretary, the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars; all of said salaries, together with those of the marshal and attorney herein provided for, to be paid quarterly at the Treasury of the United States. And the said inferior justices shall receive each the sum of five hundred dollars salary per annum, payable in manner as above.

SEC. 9. That the governor, chief justice, surveyor-general, and marshal provided for in this act shall, together with the collector of customs for the district of Alaska, constitute, for the first year of the operation of the government hereby established, a legislative council, of which the said governor shall be ex officio president and the Territorial secretary shall be ex officio clerk. The said council shall meet at the seat of government for the Territory at such times as the governor may designate, and shall provide the legislation necessary to put the government hereby provided in operation. Three of said officials shall constitute a quorum, and at least three, one of whom shall be the governor, shall concur in and sign any enactment in order to give the same the force and effect of a law. The said council shall appoint the justices of the inferior courts for the first year, and any other necessary officials not herein otherwise provided for, and shall provide for the collection of taxes and licenses, and the punishment of crimes, together with the necessary details for the working and the incidental expenses of the Territorial courts; but they shall impose no unusual or excessive punishments, nor require excessive bail. They shall, as soon as may be, divide the said Territory into

counties, and provide for the registration or listing of the voters thereof, and the proper apportionment of representation under the provisions of this act or any other law of the United States. And they shall report their action under this act to the President of the United States and to Congress at each Congressional session. They shall provide for the publication of all their acts necessary to be published, and the distribution of the same among the civilized inhabitants of said Territory; and their authority as a legislative council under this act shall continue until otherwise provided. In the absence of the surveyor-general, the attorney of the Territory, and in the absence of the collector of customs, the special deputy collector, and in the absence of the marshal the deputy marshal at Sitka shall be, respectively, and act as members of said council with the same powers as their principals.

SEC. 10. That all officers provided for by this act shall, before they act as such, respectively take an oath or affirmation before the judge of any district court of the United States, or before the Chief Justice or some associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, to support the Constitution of the United States and faithfully to discharge the duties of their respective offices, which said oaths when so taken shall be certified by the person before whom the same shall have been taken, and such certificates shall be received and recorded by the said secretary of the Territory among the executive proceedings, and afterward the like oath or affirmation shall be taken by all civil officers holding offices in the said Territory hereafter created by law, which shall be certified and recorded in such manner and form as may be prescribed by law.

SEC. 11. That the town of Sitka shall be the seat of government of said Territory, and the supreme court and offices of the governor, surveyor-general, secretary, attorney, and marshal provided for herein shall be located thereat: *Provided*, That the chief justice may visit and hold his court at any of the inferior courts of the Territory as the necessity therefor may arise, and any of the said officers or the collector of customs may visit any part of the said Territory in the discharge of the duties of their respective offices and avail themselves of the means of transportation afforded by any United States vessel to make such visits.

SEC. 12. That a Delegate to the House of Representatives of the United States, who shall be a citizen of the United States and reside in said Territory, to serve for the term of two years, shall be elected by the qualified voters of said Territory, and the said Delegate shall be entitled to the same rights and privileges as are exercised and enjoyed by Delegates from other Territories of the United States to the said House of Representatives; that the first election for such Delegate shall be upon such day as the governor may appoint, and thereafter at such times and places as shall be fixed by the said council. That all the laws of the United States which are not locally inapplicable shall have the same force and effect within said Territory as elsewhere in the United States.

SEC. 13. That all male residents of said Territory over the age of twenty-one years (including Indians who shall speak the English language intelligently and adopt civilized habits), who shall be citizens of the United States by nativity or naturalization, or by the terms of the treaty with Russia, or who, having the other qualifications required by law, shall have declared their intention to become citizens, who shall have resided in the said Territory for six months prior to any election held, shall be qualified to vote thereat; and the legislative council shall prescribe the qualifications of voters at all future elections: *Provided*, That no person shall be deprived of the right to vote or hold office in said Territory on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

APPENDIX.

STATEMENTS BEFORE A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON TERRITORIES, UNITED STATES SENATE, CONSISTING OF SENATORS BUTLER (CHAIRMAN), SLATER, AND SAUNDERS, APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE ADVISABILITY OF ESTABLISHING A TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA.

FEBRUARY AND MARCH, 1880.

STATEMENT OF REV. SHELDON JACKSON, D. D.

February 3, 1880.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Question. What parts of Alaska have you visited?—Answer. Only the southeastern peninsula.

Q. What towns?—A. Fort Wrangell and Sitka are the two towns where there are any white settlers.

Q. What is the population now of those two towns?—A. Fort Wrangell has about 100 whites and 500 Indians, permanent residents, and 500 visiting Indians. Sitka had 57 whites last spring, 300 Russians, and about a thousand Indians, but now, on account of the mining excitement, I suppose there are 500 whites there, they having gone in since I left.

Q. When did you leave there?—A. In September.

Q. Will you be good enough to state to the subcommittee your views about the necessity of having some lawful authority established there under the Government of the United States?—A. Allow me to state something of the extent of that country, because it assumes importance in that respect. It is 2,200 miles from east to west, the extreme limits; from north to south 1,400 miles. It covers a territory as large as all the United States east of the Mississippi River, and north of Georgia, Alabama, and North Carolina. The northern section and central section are largely prairies, five months in the year covered with heavy grass. The climate of the central section is very cold in winter, Arctic climate, and very hot in the summer. The thermometer, for instance, ranges from 70 below to 110 above zero at Fort Yukon, on the Upper Yukon River.

Q. That is in the central section of the State?—A. Yes, sir; the Yukon River is the largest river in the United States.

Q. It is not larger than the Mississippi?—A. It has more water; it is 70 miles wide across its five mouths and intervening delta, and a thousand miles from its mouth it is in some places 20 miles from main bank to main bank.

Q. How many months in the year is it open to navigation, and what is the distance that it is navigable?—A. It is navigable for 1,500 miles five months in the year for light-draught steamers. During the first thousand miles it is in no place less than one mile wide, and ranges from one to five miles wide for that distance. There are shoals occasionally, as you pass up, in low water.

Q. You spoke of several places being very cold, the thermometer being certain degrees in winter and 110 in summer; is that part of the Territory inhabited?—A. Yes, sir; on the Arctic Ocean there is an Esquimaux population. There are Indians scattered up and down the Yukon River, and that river, in their estimation, is so great that they pride themselves in calling themselves in their native language the men of the Yukon. They take that name. Though it is cold there in winter, the sun is oftentimes so hot and so far above the horizon in summer that it produces tropical vegetation, the wild grass growing two or three feet high on the plains where there is any drainage. While that is true of the interior region of the country, the great southern coast of Alaska has a winter climate with a mean annual temperature of the State of Georgia. The Russian Government kept a record of the thermometer and barometer at Sitka, Alaska, for forty consecutive years. Those records were turned over to the United States Government at the time of the transfer, and have recently been tabulated by the United States Coast Survey, and are now passing through the Government Printing Office. Those tables for forty years show that the mean annual winter temperature at Sitka, Alaska, has been the mean annual winter temperature of the State of Georgia. The mean annual summer temperature is found to be that of the State of Minnesota. This mild climate along that immense southern coast makes it

practicable to have a very large population. The population now along the western section of the southern coast of Alaska, the Alaska Peninsula, and the Aleutian Island, is what is called the Aleut population. They were so brought under the influence of Russian instruction and civilization that they are a civilized people.

Q. Do you know how many there are of them?—A. They are, I should say, from five to seven thousand. This population is as well prepared for citizenship as the Mexican population which has been received into citizenship in New Mexico, California, Arizona, and Texas. It is as suitable for citizenship to-day as a large number of the emigrants from Europe who land in our ports. The Russian Government gave them schools and education at Sitka. They had what would be termed by us an academy with collegiate powers. They had a theological seminary for the training of the Greek priests. Some of them have made such proficiency in the Russian schools that they were able to go out and triangulate the harbors and map their triangulation on paper, which were engraved on copper-plate for the Russian Government, and became the established charts.

Q. Were those natives of Alaska?—A. Yes, sir; they were natives of Alaska. Those charts are to-day the basis of the United States Coast Survey charts. That is simply to show the capacity of that people to be brought up. At the time of the transfer to the United States, Russia of course withdrew her schools, and that Aleut population that had made such progress under the Russian Government are now being allowed by this government to relapse into barbarism. Their children are growing up without any means whatever of securing an education. Their parents have in some instances taught them to read the Russian language, and have Russian literature, but they are living without any means of securing an English education, and thus they are being deprived from the privileges that would fit them for American citizenship.

Q. Are they deprived of the opportunities of learning anything of the duties of American citizenship?—A. Yes, sir. They have no means of getting education whatever. They have no schools, and when they grow up and get old enough they have to go to work without any instruction of any kind to fit them for anything whatever.

The southeastern section of Alaska has an Indian population. The Indian population of Alaska is reckoned to be from thirty thousand to sixty thousand. Major-General Halleck, in his report to the War Department, mentions 60,000 as the native population of Alaska. This wide divergence of views simply shows that it is only approximate. But very little is known of the population of the interior of that country. The people of Southeastern Alaska, the Indians, live in comfortable plank houses, from 40 feet by 60 feet ordinary size. They have comfortable clothing; many of them dress in European clothing. The ready-made clothing-store of the United States has reached Southern Alaska. They have plenty of comfortable food. It is not necessary that the United States should feed or clothe them, or make treaties with them. This enables us in our Indian policy to take a new departure; and treat them as American citizens. All that is necessary to be done is to afford them government and teachers, which they cannot procure for themselves.

Q. In other words, you mean to say that if we should afford the protection of a well-organized government, they would subordinate themselves to the law of the United States. That is your idea?—A. That is my idea. I will state under that section that in 1877 and 1878 several hundred miners from the British mines in the Cassiar district came down to Fort Wrangell to spend the winter, and spend their earnings of the summer in intemperance, gambling, and licentiousness. They turned the place into a perfect pandemonium, debauching the native women. They went one night into a native's house, made the Indian woman drunk, and then set fire to the house without any effort to rescue her from the flames; so that she was burned to death.

Q. Do you mean to say that there is no law there to punish that sort of thing?—A. That is what I mean to say.

Q. Who has authority there?—A. The country is absolutely without law.

Senator SLATER. That is the situation there, I know. There is no doubt about that.

Mr. JACKSON. The genius of our American institutions recognizes a general government, a State government, and a Territorial government. Alaska has neither of these. It is simply a possession, a thing unknown to American institutions. No law or court has ever been extended over the Territory. At one time there was a military force in Alaska that exercised some degree of supervision. That was withdrawn in 1877.

Q. (By the CHAIRMAN.) Do you know why that was withdrawn; have you any knowledge about that?—A. No, sir; except what I read in the newspapers, that Alaska was not worth even protecting; that it was a barren; that it was a useless expenditure to keep any troops there. The only officers now in that Territory are the custom-house officer at Sitka, and deputy collector of customs at Fort Wrangell, Kadiak Island, and Unalashka, and the treasury agent at the Seal Island, Behring Sea.

Q. Will you be kind enough to give us any information on the subject of the agricultural possibilities of that country?—A. If you will allow me, briefly I will give the resources of Alaska, commencing with the Seal Islands, two little islands 500 miles from

the main land, in Behring Sea, one six by twelve miles in size, the other six by twelve miles. Those two is ands furnish all the seal-skins of commerce.

Q. Are those the only two of the group of Aleutian Islands?—A. They are not the Aleutian Islands; they are in the interior of Behring Sea. The Alaska Commercial Company pays the United States Government $55,000 each year on the 1st of May, an annual rental for those two islands. They, by terms of their agreement with the government, are allowed to take 100,000 seals each season and pay to the government thereon a royalty of $2.62½ per skin, which brings the government a revenue from Alaska of $317,000 each year.

Q. That is in addition to the $55,000?—A. It is $262,500 royalty on skins and $55,000 rental, making $317,500 a year total.

Q. That is the revenue the government gets from the seals?—A. Yes, sir; and that is over 4 per cent. on the original purchase money. In addition to the seal-skin trade, you have in Northern Alaska the most valuable fur interests of the world, the trade of which amounts to $1,000,000 a year, and along the coasts of Alaska you have the most valuable fisheries of the world.

Q. You speak of the fur trade being worth $1,000,000 a year. Under what rules and regulations is that trade conducted?—A. No rules. This commercial company had 18 trading posts in the center of the Territory, on the Yukon River, along the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands. The Alaska Commercial Company have the monopoly of the seal-skin trade. They have a competitor in the Western Fur Company of San Francisco, which has some 30 trading posts through that country.

Q. Does the government derive any revenue from that?—A. Not a particle. That goes into private hands just the same as the farmer who does not pay any taxes. That, at least, is my idea.

Senator SLATER. You are correct about that. That is a fact.

Mr. JACKSON. That is what I supposed.

Q. (By the CHAIRMAN.) Then the Alaska Commercial Company has the entire benefit from that trade and the government derives no benefit from it at all?—A. They and the other private trading firms get the benefit. I do not know of any revenue received by the government.

As to the fishing interests of Alaska, no scientific or naval expedition, from the time that Captain Cook in circumnavigating the globe visited those waters until the present has failed to remark the incredible number of fish everywhere found in those waters. The value of this resource to the country can be understood when we remember that in the recent arbitration with Great Britain we were adjudged to pay $5,500,000 for the privilege of fishing cod in the Canadian waters, whereas the New England fishermen would have but to transfer the seat of their operations to the Alaska coast in order to get all the cod that it is possible for the commerce of the world to utilize. Three firms in San Francisco recently engaging in that trade, employing during the past season eighteen vessels, took three thousand tons of cod, mainly off the coast of the Shumagin Islands, in Southern Alaska.

Then, in addition to the wonderful cod-fisheries of that coast, we have the salmon interests. Those interests which have proved such a wealth to Oregon in the canneries on the Columbia River, can be equally utilized along the coast of Alaska, where the salmon run in larger quantities and for a longer time. The difference between canning salmon on the Columbia River and in Alaska is that on the Columbia they were paying last season fifty cents per fish, large or small, while in Alaska the fish cost the canner on an average about one cent a piece, large or small. The difference in transportation is so little that some of the large companies on the Columbia River are establishing canneries in Alaska, notably among them Cutting & Co, who have a cannery at Sitka in which they employ one hundred Indians. Thus they are not only doing a good thing for themselves, but demonstrating a method by which we can civilize the Indians, those Indians working with the same regularity and efficiency in that cannery as the operatives in the New England manufactories.

Then there are the valuable fish of commerce, the herring, halibut, and others. In addition there are valuable oil fishes, such as the oulican, called popularly the candle fish.

Q. Do the different kinds of fish abound there in great quantities?—A. In wonderful quantities.

Senator SAUNDERS. Great quantities of fish would naturally be found there where there are so many amphibious animals.

Mr. JACKSON. I will give you an instance. In a canoe voyage there, in passing a little mountain stream, coming down into the ocean, the Indians ran the canoe up the stream. I sat in the canoe, and in ten minutes I saw them club to death with their paddles twenty-five or thirty large salmon. The salmon were lying at the bottom of the stream as we have seen suckers in our Eastern creeks. The stream was knee-deep. The Indians would wade up until they got just over the salmon, strike the water with their paddles, the fish would flop up, when they would strike the fish and seize them

and throw them into the canoe. The number of fish is incredible. In one haul of the seine last summer it is reported they took seven thousand salmon.

I will now state the lumber interest of Alaska. The southeastern section of Alaska is covered with dense forests of fir, spruce, hemlock, and yellow cedar, said by scientists to be the largest body of untouched valuable timber now on the globe. Although not of immediate use, it will be exceedingly useful when the great forests of Maine, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and even Puget Sound, in he course of time, give out by reason of the destruction of timber now going on.

Then coming to the mineral interests, I will state that iron is found in vast bodies in various sections of that Territory. In the Chilcat country there is a large iron mountain similar to that below Saint Louis, Mo. Along the ravines and coasts coal crops out in a great many places of such pureness of quality at the opening that the Russian war steamers in those waters were accustomed to get their coal from those banks. This iron and coal will build up eventually a very large industry in that section. Copper abounds in many sections, especially upon the Copper River, which takes its name from the abundance of copper ore along its banks. The finest quarries of marble are found on the Lynn channel in Southern Alaska. They are said to rival some of the best quarries of Vermont. Gold and silver are found in various sections of that country. The Cassiar mines of British Columbia, on the edge of Alaska, have had a mining population during several summers past of from 2,500 to 3,000 men; and they have taken out from eight hundred thousand to a million dollars' worth in gold dust a year during these same years.

At Shuck, on the coast, seventy-five miles above Fort Wrangell, a few American miners have been washing out gold. I do not know how much they have taken out. Recently an Oregon company have opened quartz mines in the neighborhood of Sitka. The mail steamer in October and November brought $4,000 worth of gold bullion as the product of those mines. This has greatly stimulated emigration to that country, so that every available house and cabin at Sitka is this winter filled with miners who are prospecting and opening mines. They have formed a local government, a miners' government, for Sitka and the immediate vicinity.

As to agricultural resources, the Russians never paid any attention to agriculture; the Indians knew nothing about it; and it is only in a few places that the whites have attempted anything in agriculture in that country. It has been demonstrated, however, that oats and barley will grow well on the Yukon, in the central section of the Territory. The Aleutian Islands, between the volcanic mountains and the coast, have large prairies of fine loam, covered with grass, fit for stock to feed upon the year around. There would be a very valuable grazing interest. It has been prophesied that the Aleutian Islands will yet furnish California with its butter and cheese.

At Kadiak Island, at Unalashka, at Sitka, and at Fort Wrangell, the collectors of customs have had excellent vegetable gardens, in which they have raised all the vegetables with the same facility that they can be raised in Illinois, with, perhaps, the exception of tomatoes. The country abounds in the small wild fruits, such as raspberries, blackberries, and cranberries. Over one hundred barrels of wild cranberries are shipped a year to San Francisco. That resource especially could be developed very much, and add to the wealth of the country. On the Stikeen River an Englishman had, last season, a very fine crop of wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, and garden stuff. He had also gone into the poultry business, and had several hundred chickens, which he expected to sell at five dollars apiece. The Indians have recently gone into the chicken business, one of the chiefs sending down to Portland for half a dozen fowls, from which he raised ninety chickens during the past summer.

Q. You referred to the central region around the Yukon River as being a prairie country and abounding in grass. That information does not come within your own personal knowledge?—A. No, sir; but it is founded on reports of the government scientific expeditions.

Q. Have you any means of forming an estimate as to whether or not that grass could be preserved for stock?—A. It could in the same way that it is done in New England and the Middle States, by cutting it and housing it. The trouble there is that rigorous Arctic winter for six months in the year, through which they would have to feed stock.

Q. But could you get enough to feed?—A. There would be no difficulty in getting enough of it. Timothy grows three feet high. I cut wild timothy at Fort Wrangell that measures over six feet. I brought a bunch of it home, and it is at Princeton, N. J., no spear of which is less than five feet. I cut wild red-top that would average over six feet, the longest spear of which was seven feet three inches. It is the finest country for grass I ever saw. It is a rainy country, a moist, foggy country, and grass grows to perfection. Above Fort Wrangell they put up eighteen tons of grass for the horses used in transporting merchandise to the Cassiar mines.

Q. Would there be any prospect of making those immense plains stock ranges, do you think?—A. No; people are not willing to feed six months in the year where they have a large number of stock.

Q. They would have to house the stock?—A. They would have to house them.

Q. In that section a number of stock could be raised?—A. O, yes; the Aleutian Islands are fine for stock, because there it rarely ever freezes. That whole southern coast is excellent for cattle. It is moderated by the Japan warm current of the Pacific, which strikes the end of the Aleutian Islands as the first point on the American continent. A small section of that stream is deflected northward through Behring Strait, so that we have the remarkable fact that ice is never found floating southward into Behring Strait. Although whalers encounter storms and stiff north winds, which would naturally drive the ice southward, yet the current is so strong that it neutralizes the force of the wind. The ice always floats northward to the Arctic Ocean, which leaves that sea, when it breaks up in the spring, perfectly free for whalers. It is a wonderful provision of Providence that the ice should not come down the Pacific Ocean as it comes down from Newfoundland and troubles our commerce on the Atlantic.

Senator SLATER. There must be an open sea. The current must go through.

Mr. JACKSON. The current goes through. One ground, I believe, on which scientists reason that there is a polar sea is because a warm current passes north.

Q. (By the CHAIRMAN.) Let me understand what that current is.—A. It is the Japan current, called in some books the Kuro Siwa.

Q. It flows north?—A. It flows northeast from the Japan Islands and strikes the American continent at the end of the Aleutian Islands.

Q. And that moderates the temperature?—A. It moderates the temperature.

Senator SLATER. It is that current which makes Oregon so mild.

Mr. JACKSON. Yes, it is that gulf stream which gives Oregon and California their mild climate; and, remember, its first and greater heat is spent along Alaska, so that while the latitude of Alaska is far north of Oregon, yet it has the same mild climate in winter; but that produces fogs and rains. It rains almost incessantly there in the winter. That is the great drawback in regard to that climate. We do not have snow or ice, but we have rain, constant rain.

The resources of that country are such, and its climate is such, that it is bound to have a large population.

Senator SAUNDERS. Are there any oysters there?

Mr. JACKSON. Only small ones, but clams abound, and they are very fine. There are shellfish of various kinds there.

Now, I shall refer again to the government of Alaska. The United States, in article 3 of the treaty with Russia, at the time of the purchase, guaranteed that the Russian population that remained there should have all the privileges of American citizenship after a residence of three years, and should be guaranteed life and liberty and property, all of which have been denied them during the entire thirteen years that they have been under the United States Government; so that practically Alaska has for the past thirteen years been worse off under the United States than she was under the despotic and imperfect Government of Russia. There is nothing to prevent any one from going into a store in Alaska, taking the proprietor by the collar, walking him out of his store, and dispossessing him of his property. The owner could get no redress in any court, from a justice's court up to the Supreme Court of the United States. There is no power or authority there in any one to arrest murderers or to restrain crime in any form whatever. A complete state of lawlessness and anarchy exists there, except for the restraints which the tribal relations of the Indians have. There is nothing to protect widows or orphans in the property left them by their husbands or fathers.

Q. (By the CHAIRMAN.) From your experience in Alaska, is it your opinion that the establishment of some form of territorial government there would result in an increase of the population of Alaska and the development of its resources?—A. Yes, sir; a large number of persons have been to see me in regard to emigrating to Alaska, both on the Pacific coast and since I have been in Washington and the large cities of the country. I have lectured in all our large cities North. When people have said they wanted to go there, I said to them, "If you go there and open up a farm, you can get no title to your farm. If you build a store-house and put in a stock of goods, you have got no protection except your musket and your own bearing." There is no inducement to go there now; but the moment you extend the land laws of the United States over that Territory, hundreds of people will go up and open the resources and develop mines there. Several men have said to me, "I know where the most valuable mines are, but I shall not go near them; I shall not put a pick into the ground to develop them, because there may come along two or three desperadoes who would drive me off after I have developed a mine. After I have shown that it is valuable, they would dispossess me; I can get no title to it." Consequently, everything is left in abeyance until such time as the government will extend law over that country and give titles to land.

Q. The mere extension of the land laws would result in nothing more than in simply giving them titles?—A. But it would help us so far. It would enable us to have titles.

Senator SLATER. It would lay the foundation.

Mr. JACKSON. It would lay the foundation for having courts to protect us, and an executive to enforce the laws. Indeed, you need a complete Territorial government on a small scale there.

Senator SLATER. Is the population there of such a character that we could carry out a system that would involve jury trials?

Mr. JACKSON. Yes, sir; we have that now. For instance, the Aleuts have a jury trial among themselves. Where we have established mission schools, as at Wrangell, they have appointed a native unpaid police force. When they bring a case up they gather a certain number of the chief men together and go into a practical jury trial without any of the legal forms that we have. A jury decides all cases there now in the *quasi* government which they have. At the time of the anarchy, when these miners spent the winter there, the Indians called a constitutional convention of the tribes along that immediate section of the coast. They held a three days' convention, enacted a few simple laws, and appointed this police force, which has been exercising power since the winter of 1877–'78, simply to occupy the ground until the general government should give them something better.

Q. (By the CHAIRMAN.) That is a government which results of their own motion?—A. Of their own motion; of course, they have got no power to enforce their decrees, but everybody yields to them by common consent. These preliminary attempts at government show a proper preparation in those people for a regular government; at least it seems so to me. Whether they are prepared for government or not, it is the duty of the general government, both on the ground of expediency and on the ground of treaty stipulation, to give them a government.

I will state to the committee that within a few days there has been a bunch of wheat, which was raised by our missionary teacher at Sitka, Alaska, sent to the Smithsonian Institute, and you can see a specimen of Alaska wheat by visiting the Smithsonian. We have at all our mission schools an excellent vegetable garden, so that we know things can be raised there.

By Senator SAUNDERS:

Q. As I understand, unless the mining interest should prove to be a success, the salmon fisheries and the fur-bearing interests are the two most valuable things that belong to that country?—A. For the present, they will bring more money. The lumber interest will come in in the course of time.

Q. Do you think the fisheries will last for all time?—A. For all time, and the seal fishery will last for all time, under the regulations and restrictions of the United States Government. Seals are not killed in the north beyond their natural increase. It is no interest for the company to do so, because they have no competition, and if they were to throw too many on the market it would bring the price down.

Q. How long will the seal-fishery contract last?—A. Ten years longer.

The CHAIRMAN. It runs for twenty years. (To Mr. Jackson.) From what you have seen of the general topography of that country, would it be possible to permeate it with railroads, do you think?—A. Yes, sir, the interior. But, then, I do not think there ever will be sufficient interest there, at least not for a great many years, to justify the building of a railroad, unless the object should be to connect with an Asiatic system of railways, and thus get railway communication to Europe. I think that is perfectly practicable. The Russian Government are now, as you know, pushing a governmental railway across into Siberia, and it will come to Behring Strait, which is only fifty-four miles across—a few hours' trip in a steamer. That would save the seasickness and danger that we have now on our voyages across the Atlantic between Europe and the United States.

Q. (By the CHAIRMAN.) That would form railroad communication with the interior of Europe?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. With France, even?—A. Yes, sir. There is railroad communication now from England, with the exception of Dover's Strait, and from France and Germany through Russia, away into Asia, and the Russian Government are pushing it eastward toward the Pacific Ocean, so that, after we get our transcontinental railway into Oregon, all that we would have to do would be to push up the coast, though that would be a pretty difficult thing; it is a mountainous coast; but we could push up from Minnesota into Alaska without any difficulty.

Q. Across the British possessions?—A. Yes, sir; and give us railway communication with France and Germany. That would be the only object I can see in pushing a railroad through Alaska, because the resources there would not justify a railroad; water transportation is too cheap.

Q. Of course, these things are governed by the exigencies as they arise. The point we wanted to get at was if such an exigency should arise in the course of time, whether it would be practicable.—A. Certainly. The interior of Alaska has rolling plains very much like Northern Minnesota, like Iowa, and Illinois.

Q. Of course, there would be no trouble in pushing a railroad over such a country

as you describe. Mr. Elliott told us the whole country was a series of knobs.—A. The coast is that way.

Senator SLATER. Mr. Elliott never had been up on the Yukon River. He did not speak of that section of the Territory.

Mr. JACKSON. I should like to say to the committee that the interest I have in this matter arises from the fact that the Christian churches of the country are going into Alaska with their mission schools, and they want some law, some protection.

Senator SLATER. Have you thought anything about a form of government for that Territory?

Mr. JACKSON. A great deal. We need a governor for an executive; we need a judge for the courts, and we need a land commissioner, and a superintendent of public instruction.

Q. (By the CHAIRMAN.) Do you not need a marshal for the courts, and an executive officer of the courts?—A. Yes; but the duties of marshal and secretary, I think, might be performed by the same person, if you want to make a cheap government.

By Senator SLATER:

Q. You need something in the way of a legislative department?—A. Yes, sir; I would have that established. It could be small; it would not need to be composed of over fifteen or twenty members. You could get a good legislature of twenty-five or thirty members in Alaska.

Q. The question is, how you would proceed to have the legislature selected. Would it not be better in the first experiment, from the way we are starting out, until the Territory should become somewhat organized, to have a legislative council to be appointive like the legislative councils in the first Territorial organizations of the Northwest, consisting of five or ten members, or whatever number might be found necessary?—A. That could be done.

The CHAIRMAN. A governor and council?

Mr. JACKSON. Yes; a governor and council. The people of the Aleutian Islands would be just as capable of voting for a member of the legislature as the people of New Mexico are capable of voting for a Delegate to Congress. The Indians now of the southeastern section in that peninsula of Alaska are qualified to vote, but I should like to see an educational qualification established, simply as a stimulus for them to go to school, so that they would be able to read and write before they could vote.

I can say for the Indians of Southeastern Alaska that anybody with the least show of authority can bring them under the most complete subjection. Our first teacher up there, the only teacher we had in Alaska during the winter of 1877 and 1878, was a widow lady, who went into Fort Wrangell when it was without any law. At once the Indians yielded to her. In the little feuds that would arise between the families of the tribes and between the subdivisions of the tribes they came to her for arbitration, and whatever she would tell them to do they received as a matter of law, and did not think of doubting or disputing her or disagreeing from her. She brought a number of husbands and wives, who had been alienated by heathen jealousies, together again. When any one was sick, they sent for her as a physician; and when at one time one of the miners murdered another, and they got up a vigilance committee and adjudged him to be hung, they sent for her to act as chaplain. She ruled that whole town by moral force.

The CHAIRMAN. We are very much obliged to you, Mr. Jackson, for your statement to the committee.

STATEMENT OF IVAN PETROFF.

FEBRUARY 21, 1880.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Question. Where do you reside, Mr. Petroff?—Answer. At present, in San Francisco.

Q. Have you ever lived in Alaska, and, if so, how long?—A. Yes, sir; I lived there from 1865 to the end of 1870.

Q. In what part of Alaska?—A. Principally on Cook's Inlet and the mainland back of it.

Q. Have you ever been over much of the Territory of Alaska?—A. I have been in nearly every part of it up to Behring Strait.

Q. Have you ever been in the interior?—A. Yes, sir; I have been in the interior from Cook's Inlet north across the Yukon, and on the Atna or Copper River.

Q. How far have you gone up the Yukon River?—A. I only crossed it about 600 miles above its mouth.

Q. How far above its mouth is the river navigable for steamers?—A. Two steamers of about fifty tons each run as far as Fort Yukon.

Q. About how many miles from the mouth of the river is Fort Yukon?—A. About 1,100 miles as the river runs.

Q. Is the river navigable from that point up?—A. It is navigable for canoes for an unknown distance. It branches out into several tributaries there. Fort Yukon is only a little west of the junction of the Porcupine River with the Yukon.

Q. What is the nature of the country where you crossed the river?—A. It is almost entirely level, with low ranges of hills at a distance of about fifteen or twenty miles on each side of the river.

Q. What is the character of the vegetation along the river?—A. Parts of it are dense forests of spruce principally, and nearer to the banks of the river are alder, some fir, and a kind of birch, not very large.

Q. Is this timber that you speak of, the spruce and the alder, suitable for lumber?—A. The alder is not. The other wood might be in cases of emergency. It would do for lumber for building; it does for building log-houses and such as that, but it will not always do there.

Q. Do you know anything of the possibilities of that country for agriculture?—A. I do not think that the Yukon Basin is fit for anything except the raising of hardy vegetables, root vegetables principally. They will grow in favorable localities; but there is one great drawback, there is a great deal of peat and bog all over the banks of the river, and for a great many miles back of it, and the places where you can raise vegetables are such localities where the banks of the river happen to rise a little higher and the surface water drains off.

Q. Off a hundred miles from the river what is the nature of the country?—A. North or south?

Q. In either direction.—A. In the south you get into a mountainous country and very rough, and in the north you get into marshy plains that are covered with moss.

Q. No vegetation?—A. Only a little. The limit of trees is not over fifty miles north of the river.

Q. How is it from there to the Arctic Ocean?—A. From there to the Arctic Ocean there is no more.

Q. No more vegetation?—A. There is some vegetation along the courses of the river, very luxuriant grasses, and during the short summer all kinds of flowers and a great many berries; but there is a substratum of moss under all this vegetation; even the grass grows through the moss.

Q. Coming south towards Sitka, and from Sitka back to the Yukon, what is the nature of the country?—A. I should like to look at the map in answering that question. I can only speak of this range here. (The Alaskan range.) I made my way from the head of Cook's Inlet across the country up to this range of mountains; then crossed the river and returned. When you get one hundred miles south of the river the country is very rough until you reach the head of Cook's Inlet, and this range of mountains, the Alaskan range, extends into the Aliaska peninsula. There is a break at Lake Iliamna. From the Kenai peninsula down the coast to Cape Spencer the land is exceedingly rough. The mountains reach almost to the sea, with hardly any level lands at all on the coast.

Q. Inland a hundred miles, how is it?—A. A hundred miles east you get on to a high plateau, where there is a chain of lakes, and most of the lakes have connection with each other by little rivers, and finally you come to the Yukon River.

Q. Are those lakes navigable?—A. For canoes, but you cannot get in with any vessel. There is no connection with the sea that you could navigate. The Indians make portages to the lakes from the sea.

Q. What is the size of those lakes?—A. They vary from two to twenty and thirty miles in length.

Q. Have they any fish in them?—A. Yes; there are fish in them.

Q. What kinds of fish?—A. Different kinds of trout.

Q. Have you been to Sitka and Wrangell?—A. Yes, sir; I have been there.

Q. What is the nature of the country back from Sitka—mountainous?—A. Exceedingly rugged. There is only very little level land along the water courses. There is a little on top of the mountains. There is generally some level space occupied by lakes or morasses, but in the valleys there are always little spots of level land capable of cultivation, and I am told that on the east side of the island on which Sitka is situated there is more level land, but I have not seen that.

Q. Have you ever been to Kadiak Island?—A. Yes, sir; I lived there some time. I was there for four months in 1870.

Q. What is the nature of that locality?—A. I consider that about the most favorable spot in the whole Territory; is the most pleasant place for a residence.

Q. Is any portion of that susceptible of cultivation?—A. Yes, sir; as far as potatoes and vegetables go; but I do not think any kind of grain will succeed; experiments have been made.

Q. Will oats and wheat succeed there?—A. Not as far as my experience goes. I have seen experiments made, and made some myself.

Q. You say that it is inhabited?—A. Yes, sir; it is inhabited. This island of Kadiak and the adjoining island of Afognak have a population together of over 3,000 people, all semi-civilized, and about three-fifths of them live on little pieces of land that they make use of for raising vegetables, potatoes, &c., and they fish and hunt and make up their living that way.

Q. Of what nationalities are they?—A. They are Aleutes, native Kadiak people as they are called.

Q. Indians?—A. Not exactly Indians, but Russian and Aleut half-breeds, or what they call there Creoles. They make up the bulk of the population on those two islands. The principal agricultural settlement is on Afognak Island.

Q. Have you ever been to the Aleutian Islands, and, if so, what is their climate?—A. Yes, sir; I have been there repeatedly, and they have a very mild climate. They are capable of some cultivation of vegetables. The hardy vegetables will grow there; but they have one great disadvantage—there is no timber at all on those islands. They are dependent on the drift-wood and on what wood is imported from Kadiak, or the mainland. At the principal settlement on Unalashka Island the natives purchase their wood from the trading firms who carry it there from the north, and they pay there as high as ten cents for a single stick of cord-wood for the purpose of keeping themselves warm.

Q. Is that their only means of fuel?—A. They use some shrubs, a kind of heather that grows there. They use that for heating up the houses, and for cooking sometimes, but it takes a large amount. They have to get two or three loads a day to keep the fires going.

Q. How many Aleutians are there?—A. The Aleutian population is something over 1,300 on the islands. Then there is another portion on the peninsula and on the Shumagin Islands. I have the statistics of the population, if you wish to have them, taken from the records of the Russian church, and the census taken by the officers of the revenue-cutter Richard Rush.

Q. I should be very glad to get those. You have never been down to the mouth of the Yukon River?—A. No, sir; I was at Saint Michael's, but not at the mouth of the Yukon. Saint Michael's is northeast of the mouth of the Yukon.

Q. Were you living in Alaska at the time when the transfer was made from the Russian Government to the United States Government?—A. Yes, sir; I was living on Cook's Inlet at that time.

Q. Are there any inhabitants on Cook's Inlet?—A. Yes, sir; a mixed population; a half-breed population of about 500, generally called Kenai people there, but they are all mixed; they are not the pure native race at all. There are about 600 all around the inlet, and there is one settlement of Russians of 15 families on the east coast of the inlet on the Kenai peninsula. Those 15 Russian families are descendants of former employés of the Russian Company who settled there when they were no longer fit for the service of the company, had land allotted to them there, and kept up that settlement and cultivated potatoes and turnips, and have cattle, and do a little trading besides.

Q. Did you observe anything about the mineral resources of the country?—A. From personal observation I know a little of the minerals that occur in those regions, on Cook's Inlet and in the interior, and I have seen something of what is in Sitka.

Q. What is the nature of the mineral deposits?—A. In the mountain ranges on the east and west coasts of Cook's Inlet you find copper ore in different localities, and some that contains silver, and on the Kenai peninsula I have found surface gold, but I could not find it in sufficient quantities to pay. I must remark that I was not an experienced miner.

Q. How about the interior from Cook's Inlet up the Alaskan range?—A. I find copper ore through the main Alaskan range. You find cinnabar (quicksilver ore), and there seem to be great quantities of it. Of course I could only judge of it on my way through; I could not make any stay.

Q. How did you cross that country from Cook's Inlet to Yukon River; what was your mode of conveyance?—A. Partly in canoes up the Suchitno River—in canoes for about 100 miles, then made portages from one lake to another until I crossed the mountain range and got on the tributaries of the Yukon southward, and then took the canoes again. We had to carry our canoes all the way. The canoes which I used were made out of skin, and were very light.

Q. The portion of the route that you did not travel in canoes you took on foot?—A. Yes, sir; there is no other mode of traveling there.

Q. Is that country susceptible of having roads made through it, even mountain roads?—A. Trails, perhaps. I do not think you could have any roads.

Q. In what season of the year was it you crossed there?—A. In the summer. I left the head of Cook's Inlet on the 2d of June, and returned on the 23d of September.

Q. By the same route?—A. The same route.

Q. What was your object, just exploring?—A. At that time I was in the employ of the Russian Company, and I had received orders to find out a new route for making connection with the Yukon Basin. They had formerly made the connection along the coast to Kuskoquim River, striking northwest from the Iliamna Lake along the coast to Kuskoquim River, and made another connection with the Yukon across the mountains. That was the former route, which was a roundabout way. I was told to find a practicable nearer route.

Q. Is there game of any kind across that country?—A. Yes, sir; from Cook's Inlet to the Yukon you find moose and deer.

Q. In large quantities?—A. Yes, in great numbers; and different kinds of fur-bearing animals, foxes, and martens (the Alaska sable); minks are very plentiful, and there are gray wolves also.

Q. In what portions of Alaska do you find those animals?—A. The deer extend all the way down the coast They begin at the boundary all along the coast and on the islands. On the mainland you find deer and the mountain sheep. You find the mountain sheep on the island Sitka is situated on.

Q. Are they good for food?—A. Yes, sir. I think it is only a kind of deer that is called mountain sheep; and when you get to the westward on the Alaskan peninsula you come on to the reindeer range; the wild reindeer differing from the Siberian reindeer in its habits principally, and a little in its skin.

Q. Are the wild reindeer plentiful?—A. Tolerably plentiful. They migrate from the north to the south and back again in different seasons. They are rather plentiful in different localities, as they move around.

Q. You have never been up along the Arctic coast, have you?—A. No, sir.

Q. How about the mineral deposits in the neighborhood of Sitka?—A. I know that they are working several of the quartz mines there; that they have been making shipments of bullion from at least one of the ledges, the Stewart ledge. They have a mill on that ledge which is worked by steam, and they have been making shipments of bullion; I do not know how many, but of different amounts. There are many other ledges that have been prospected and partly worked. They use the arastras worked by water or horse power.

Q. What is the arastras?—A. As far as I understand, it is a system by which the ore is crushed in a kind of circular basin by large stone wheels which are worked by water or horse power. By this process the rock is ground to powder.

Q. Can you give any opinion as to the general mineral resources of that Territory, not confining your remarks to any particular locality? I speak in general, now.—A. According to my knowledge, there are large deposits of copper in a great many parts of the Territory; of iron also in a great many different parts; of gold-bearing quartz, as far as I know, only in the southeastern part, and of cinnabar in the western part of the Territory on the mainland.

Q. Are those deposits accessible by roads, or railways, or navigation?—A. The only deposits accessible to navigation now are in the southeast. The gold-bearing quartz veins and deposits of copper can be reached by navigation, or, at least, you can get within perhaps 50 or 100 miles of the main deposits with ships; but there is no regular communication with that region at all. There is also graphite; large deposits of that on the banks of the Kuskoquim River, in the mountain region north of Bristol Bay.

Q. You say you were an inhabitant of this Territory when the transfer was made from the Russian to the United States Government. Will you be kind enough to state what the feeling of the population was at that time, what were their expectations and their hopes?—A. For some five years previous to the transfer of the Territory, the condition of the Russian colonies on the American continent had been unsettled. The old charter of the Russian company had expired in 1861 and was extended to 1863, and after that the company had no regular charter, but was holding possession, and no other disposition had been made of the Territory. There was a governor in command of the Territory then who was not officially known as being in the employ of the company. He was supposed to have charge of the country only in behalf of the Russian Government, and the company were making efforts to have their charter changed and renewed and modifications made to their advantage. That business was in the hands of a committee from 1863 until the transfer. They did not come to any conclusion and the people did not know what would become of them. When the transfer was finally made to the United States the expectations were that matters would change for the better altogether; that there would be an opportunity for individuals to engage in business and to make homes for themselves in the country. A great many of us who had been living there for seven, ten, and fifteen years considered the country our home, and intended to stay under any favorable circumstances, and I know that a great many individuals made preparations to engage in business as soon as the transfer was actually made.

Q. Have they been disappointed in their expectations from the fact that the United States Government has established no permanent government there?—A. Yes, sir;

that was the principal cause of disappointment. They expected you would have established at least some form of law, some form of government that would allow them to engage in business with some kind of certainty and allow them to secure what possessions they had there; but, at first, the country was placed in the hands of the military, and military posts were established at five or six different places where a military force was not needed at all. There has never been any trouble with the Indians in the present century west of Sitka. There has been no trouble at all with the natives where the troops were stationed on Cook's Inlet and at Kodiak and Unalashka and the Fur Seal Islands.

Q. United States troops?—A. Yes, sir; and at Sitka and Wrangell. The troops that were sent there were of a very undesirable material. They did a great deal of harm to the country by driving out the better class of Russian inhabitants who were there. There was a great deal of theft and robbery going on, excesses of every kind, and in a great many instances offenses were committed by officers as well as by the men.

Q. Just there, will you be good enough to explain the operations or the history and the character of the Russian company that you spoke of? What had they to do with the country?—A. They had obtained a charter for the control of the whole Territory in 1799. They have been one company ever since that time. Previous to that there were several companies, which were consolidated into one and obtained a charter as one company in 1799.

Q. From the Russian Government?—A. From the Russian Government. That charter conferred the right to all the trade of the whole country now called Alaska. Trade in furs or in any other produce of the country was to be carried on exclusively by that company, and all that was produced on the surface of the Territory or even underground was the exclusive property of the company. It was made a penal offense to engage in business there outside of the company.

Q. Private individuals, you mean?—A. Yes, sir; private individuals.

Q. In other words, the Russian Government farmed out this Territory to this company?—A. Yes, sir; transferred it to the management of that company under certain conditions. They were obliged to maintain a church establishment at their expense.

Q. At the expense of the company?—A. Yes, sir; at the company's expense. They were obliged to maintain schools at certain points designated in the charter; they were obliged to maintain such military force and such naval force as was needed at their expense; they were obliged to import into the colonies a sufficient amount of provisions to maintain their employés and all the people in the Territory inside of their jurisdiction, and they were also obliged to import all the goods necessary to keep them in some kind of comfort, and even in the luxuries of life, to some extent. They were obliged by their charter to import the necessary clothing to keep them comfortable, and a certain amount of liquor that was considered necessary at that time.

Q. What consideration did this company pay to the Russian Government for those privileges?—A. They paid a head-tax. That was common all through the empire on every Russian subject. That tax was paid for every individual in their jurisdiction by the company. They paid taxes for some 12,000 individuals. It was not always the same; it changed from one to five rubles a year, but the principal consideration was an indirect one.

Q. An indirect compensation?—A. An indirect compensation, you may call it. It consisted in the overland trade with the Chinese Empire, conducted on the Siberian-Chinese frontier, which could only be carried on with Alaska furs as a circulating medium. In the early part of the century the merchants of China would not accept either Russian coin or Russian manufactures, but would only take furs in exchange for tea. The trade was very important, and in consideration of keeping up that trade the company obtained its charter principally.

Q. And they would exchange the furs for tea?—A. They would exchange the furs for tea, and the company paid an import duty on that tea, which amounted to from one and a half to two million rubles annually.

Q. And that was the condition of the country when it was transferred to the United States Government; that Russian company was still having jurisdiction there?—A. Yes, sir; still having jurisdiction there at that time. They had certain powers. The officer in command of the Territory was called chief manager, and it was a condition of the charter that he must be an officer of the imperial navy of a rank not lower than a captain of the second grade, as they call it; that would be equal to a post-captain in the United States Navy, or what was a post-captain, for I believe that rank has been abolished now, and this chief manager had jurisdiction in all cases except political offenses and capital offenses; in which cases the criminals had to be sent to the nearest Russian court. Okhotsk was the nearest, in Eastern Siberia. In other cases, except the common police cases, there was an appeal to such a Russian court.

Q. The accused had to be transferred to the nearest Russian court; which you say was in Siberia?—A. Yes, sir; but that was only in capital cases, in political cases, in mutiny, and such as that. In all other cases the chief manager had full jurisdiction,

and the agents or managers of districts had jurisdiction in their districts; but there was always an appeal to the chief manager at Sitka in any case.

Q. Did you have trial by jury at that time?—A. No, sir; there was a colonial council at Sitka, composed of members of the company, and sometimes of naval officers stationed there. The colonial council was composed of from three to five members, as circumstances would allow.

Q. Did that form of government give protection to life and property?—A. Yes, it gave protection to life and property in every sense.

Q. Was that protection better secured under that form of government than it has been since under the United States Government?—A. Yes, as far as my experience goes, it was.

Q. Will you be good enough to state what the present condition of that Territory is in that respect?—A. At present Alaska forms a collection district of the Treasury Department, as I understand it, or rather a customs district, with one collector located at Sitka, and, I believe, five deputies in the Territory.

Q. Is that the only form of government there now?—A. That is the only form of government.

Q. Does it not result in a practical denial of protection to life and property?—A. Yes; there is no protection for life or property. There is a man-of-war stationed at Sitka, but outside of that there is no protection. There are no courts in the Territory.

Q. That man-of-war is really governor of the Territory?—A. I do not think that is the case; I do not think the commander has any administrative power at all. It is all in the hands of the collector, as far as I understand the matter. There are settlements in Southeastern Alaska principally, and some in the west, where there are merchants doing business, but there is no way of collecting a debt in the whole Territory.

Q. I want your opinion as to the practical operation of a government for Alaska (in case Congress should see fit to establish one), and, among other things, I should like to ask you if it would be practicable to find inhabitants enough in the Territory at different localities to supply juries for the courts, at Sitka, say?—A. At Sitka there would be no difficulty at all in finding juries and finding material for the necessary officers of the government—at least the subordinate officers; at Wrangell it is the same. In the west it would be rather difficult.

Q. At Cook's Inlet, could not there be men enough gotten from the natives (the Aleuts and the Russians) to form juries with the aid of an interpreter?—A. I am somewhat in doubt as to that, because since the transfer of the Territory the schools have been neglected. There has not always been the necessary supervision on the part of the church authorities to look after the schools, and there was no other authority to look after them, and they have been neglected, and I should very much doubt whether any fit material can be found for intelligent juries until some little has been done in the way of schools. The inhabitants are capable of being educated, certainly; they have the necessary capacity, and are rather quick at learning anything; but there is one obstacle in the way, and that is the ignorance of the people of the English language. The only English-speaking people in all that western region are the traders. There are several firms and private traders with a great deal of rivalry and competition among them, and they would not be very good material for any fair juries in cases between them and the natives.

Q. What language do they speak?—A. All the inhabitants of the coast understand the Russian language. There are between eight and ten thousand members of the Russian Church, who all speak Russian; they are scattered all around the coast and on the islands as far as the coast of the Kuskoquim River and the mouth of the Yukon.

Q. They are a comparatively intelligent people, are they not?—A. Yes, sir; the Russian part particularly. They speak the Russian language only.

Q. Those eight or ten thousand people, you think, if the laws were translated into the Russian language, would be susceptible of participating in self-government in the course of time?—A. I think they would.

Q. Is it your opinion if some form of government were established over the Territory that the number of inhabitants would increase by immigration?—A. I think there would be an immediate increase in the southeastern part of the Territory and a gradual increase in the southwestern part.

Q. Is it your opinion, from your knowledge of the country, that if some form of government should be established there and the population should increase, as you think, the revenues to be derived from that Territory would measurably compensate the government for the expense of keeping up a Territorial government?—A. I think there can be no doubt of that, because, at the present time, the United States Government derives a revenue from the Territory far in excess of what the Territory costs to maintain. Of course, as the population increases, there would be another kind of revenue from the southeastern part, certainly.

Q. What is your opinion of the probable increase of the fish trade with the settle-

ments of the country?—A. That depends entirely on the market on the Pacific coast, until freights are brought down across the continent. The market on the Pacific coast is limited now. There is no limit to the supply of fish.

Q. Of what fish?—A. Of cod-fish, principally, and salmon next in quantity, and halibut third, perhaps.

Q. Are they in great quantities?—A. Yes, sir; they are in great quantities in various parts of the Territory. You will find quantities of salmon in every river as far north as the Yukon. The Yukon, I think, is the last river that contains salmon.

Q. There are great quantities, you say, in all the rivers south of that?—A. Yes; in every river.

Q. Would it not pay to transport these supplies by water around the cape, by the Isthmus of Panama?—A. No; it would not pay. They made experiments among the fishermen, but it would not pay. There is one obstacle in the way. Four firms in San Francisco were engaged in the cod-fishery among the Shumagin Islands, but they have never been able to come to an understanding; consequently, they have kept down the price of fish, and the fish did not admit of shipment any further.

Q. Would there be any chance of establishing a trade with the East, with China and Japan?—A. Some experiments have been made, but not with much success so far. Some shipments have been made to Australia of salted salmon principally, and there is a trade with the Sandwich Islands in salted salmon, but that is not supplied altogether from Alaska. Oregon salmon goes there too.

Q. Will you tell us something about the fur-producing capacity of that Territory, not only the Seal Islands, but other portions of it? First, of the Seal Islands.—A. The Seal Islands produce now under the lease 100,000 seal-skins a year. I visited the fur Seal Islands in 1866 and again in 1878. In 1866 they were under the Russian rule, of course. At that time the business was rather badly managed, and I believe the whole shipment of seal-skins from there was from between forty and fifty thousand; but when I went there in 1878 I had several conversations with the natives whom I had met there before, and they assured me that the seals had of late years been increasing in number, and from what I could see with my eyes of the number I think they were correct in their statement. I certainly saw then a very much larger number than I saw there in 1866 at about the same season of the year; they covered much more ground. The only way to estimate the number is by the ground they cover.

Q. You think, then, under proper care there is no danger of the supply being exhausted?—A. I do not think there is any danger as long as proper care is taken.

Q. As to the product in furs of this mountain region of Alaska and along the Arctic coast, is there not quite an opening in that direction for trading under proper regulations?—A. There is a trade, and I think the field is pretty well occupied as far as the fur business goes. The trading companies that are engaged in the fur trade on the main land, and especially on the Yukon, have the system of employing private traders—that is, to furnish private traders with goods and let them go into the interior and trade with the natives and come back and then purchase furs from them. I was told that they found that to pay better than to send their own employés. In the whole western region you hear of hardly any crime. I know of one murder case where the culprit was taken up and brought down to San Francisco and tried. He came from the Yukon River. He was first confined by traders at Saint Michael, and from there transferred to the United States revenue cutter and given in charge of the captain of that vessel, the late Captain Bailey, who brought him down to San Francisco. He was charged with having killed a trader. The evidence was entirely circumstantial and conflicting, but he was found guilty of manslaughter, and sentenced to ten years at Saint Quentin, near San Francisco. He is there now serving out the sentence.

Q. Was he a native?—A. He was a native.

Q. You said something in conversation with me the other day about the difficulty of getting people to settle on account of the insecurity of their possessions?—A. That is true of the whole country. You cannot take up land under any legal title; you cannot hold property with any legal title. People on Kadiak Island or Cook's Inlet hold land, but they have no title.

Q. There is no means, you say, in the whole Territory of enforcing the collection of a debt?—A. No; none at all. One case happened in Southeastern Alaska last year, at the beginning of 1879, which I will relate. A man living on Prince of Wales Island died and left a widow and eight children. He owned a trading establishment on Prince of Wales Island, and a salmon-salting establishment and a little vessel. At the time of his death his affairs were rather involved. There were merchants of Victoria, British Columbia, and merchants of Wrangell who had claims against him. One Wrangell merchant went to the man's place and took 200 barrels that belonged to the deceased, and filled them with salmon at his own expense, he paying for the labor, and canceled his claim in that way. Another merchant from Victoria went up there in the fall of last year with the avowed purpose of administering the rest of the estate in his favor. There is no possibility of interfering with him in so doing; and there

is the widow, with eight children, who has certainly a claim to some portion of the estate if there were debts.

Q. Were they citizens?—A. They were residents of Alaska at the time of the transfer, and became citizens of the United States. At Unalashka, in the west, I know of one case where a native came to his death under suspicious circumstances. He was found dead on the trail, and was known to have started out on the trail with a certain individual. The individual got to the destination alone. Suspicion pointed to the man who accompanied the murdered man on the trail, and the general opinion of the people was that he had something to do with his death. At that time there was no authority on the island except the acting deputy collector, who was the agent of the Alaska Commercial Company on the island. The people asked him to have a trial of the man who was suspected. The acting deputy had him called up, and made inquiries, and took testimony, and it was written down. The testimony did not furnish any positive proof, and the acting deputy did not feel himself justified to hold the man in custody. Then the people got up a petition, addressed to the acting deputy, asking him to take the man away from the island. The man, by the way, had formerly borne a bad reputation as a turbulent character; he had been in several little personal difficulties. The petition was subsequently signed by the individual himself, saying that he felt convinced it would be for the best of the whole community that he should go away. He signed the petition for his own banishment, and he was taken, on the first opportunity, to a village on the main land on the west coast of the peninsula of Alaska, some two or three hundred miles away. The acting deputy asked the people of that village if they were willing to receive him. They held a consultation and said they would receive him and any of his family, and if he would not behave himself they would know what to do with him. So he settled with them.

Q. Was he a white man?—A. No; he was partly Russian and partly Aleut; but he was a man of education. He was once trained for the priesthood, but did not behave himself.

Mr. PETROFF. I should say in behalf of the Russian-speaking population of the Territory that any legislation that is made for the whole Territory, including the western portion, where the Russian-speaking population principally is, ought to be made fully understood to those people by having translated such portions of it as are actually necessary into the Russian language, or having it explained by a competent person. There are some among those people who speak both English and Russian sufficiently well to explain it to the people, and perhaps some agent could be found to make such an explanation as would be necessary to let those people see how they actually stand and what they can rely upon. At present those people in the west are hardly fit for representative government, that is, to represent themselves in a government. It would be difficult to find any material for that purpose, or even for juries, but with some educational facilities in a short time they would become able to take care of themselves even in that portion of the Territory.

Q. (By the CHAIRMAN.) What are the facts in regard to the type to print the laws in the Russian language?—A. I do not know that I could get sufficient type in this country. There was a little paper published in San Francisco in the Russian language and it had a small font of type. That would not be sufficient for that purpose. My statement to you was that I could get sufficient type to print a column or two in my paper in the Russian language; but the expense would not be very great getting the type from Russia.

Q. Would there be any trouble in getting interpreters of the Russian language for the courts?—A. There would be no trouble at all in the southeast. In some parts of the west, at the trading stations, it might be difficult to get impartial men.

Q. But you think there would be no difficulty in getting interpreters in the Territory? They could be transferred from Sitka or Wrangell to any other point?—A. You could find plenty of interpreters in the southeast, and could use them anywhere.

Q. You mentioned incidentally to me the other day something as to the importance of providing for the quieting of titles by legislation. Will you repeat your statement?—A. If the land laws of the United States are extended over the Territory, I think it not only just but necessary that some provision should be made to protect those persons who are holding land now in their possession, as far as practicable, if they do not hold too much.

By Mr. SLATER:

Q. If those in possession of land now were secured in their right to prove up and acquire title to 160 acres, that, as a general thing, would cover the acreage of their residences?—A. Yes, sir; it would.

Q. Are there any towns there in which the town sites would be required to be taken into consideration?—A. There are in some parts.

Q. Town sites which are not regularly laid out by plats and surveys?—A. None of them are surveyed. The village of Saint Paul, upon Kadiak Island, would be one.

Q. Property holders there are simply located on the land, and they have made improvements in a regular or irregular manner?—A. In rather an irregular manner. Some of the original people there received bills of sale from the old Russian Company of the house and garden they have, but in the west there is no record of such deeds at all. In Sitka there is a record at the custom-house of such possessions.

The CHAIRMAN. I am informed that in the custom-house some records have been made of the homes and possessions of some of the people there, but I take it from what I am informed it is only a partial record. That does not include all the occupied lands and residences?

Mr. PETROFF. No.

The CHAIRMAN. I am very much obliged to you for the information you have given to the subcommittee.

STATEMENT OF M. D. BALL.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Question. When were you last in Alaska?—Answer. I left Sitka on the 26th of January last.

Q. What is your position at Sitka?—A. I am collector of customs for the customs district of Alaska, required by the law to reside in Sitka.

Q. How long have you been there in that capacity?—A. I have been there since the 8th of July, 1878.

Q. State, in your own way, what the present condition and wants of the country are.—A. The country wants, first and foremost, some form of a civil government for the punishment of offenses against life and property, for the regulation of the title of property, the administration of estates, and the collection of debts. That is a very serious want, and very urgently felt there at this time.

Q. Is there no form of government there now?—A. There is no form of government whatever outside of the usual duties of customs officers. Since I have been there, very serious difficulties have arisen owing to this want of law, involving the lives, liberty, and property of the residents.

Q. Citizens of the United States?—A. Yes, sir; nearly the whole population in Southeastern Alaska, with which I am acquainted, are citizens of the United States, either by adoption of the provisions of the third article of the treaty with Russia, by nativity, or by naturalization. There are a few foreigners, chiefly British subjects, who have their residence there, who would have become citizens if there had been any means of accomplishing it.

Q. Is it your opinion that if some form of government were established for the Territory the population would increase?—A. I think so; I do not think there is any doubt of it. I have heard it stated very positively that men have been prevented from opening up industries on account of the want of some form of government; the want of security; and I know that it has been a great drawback to those who have attempted to open up business; for instance, in the fishing business. The resources of the country, around Sitka particularly, and from there to the southeast, as far as the limit of the Territory southeasterly, I think, might be of very great advantage to the United States at large if there was a proper encouragement for their development.

Q. What is the nature of those resources mainly?—A. There are four principal sources of industry: The fur trade, the fisheries, the timber, and the mines. In the fur trade everything has been suffered to slip away from our own people, and to be gobbled up by smugglers from the line along the northern coast of British Columbia, immediately adjoining, chiefly through the want of any facilities on the part of the customs officers for stopping the business. The most valuable portion of the fur trade of that part of Alaska comes from the tributaries of the Chilcat Channel, which runs up about 200 miles north of Sitka, and penetrates a considerable distance into the mainland. Owing to the nearness of that channel to the branches of the Yukon, and the small portage required across, there is a considerable trade with the Indians on the coast of the channel by the interior Indians, where very valuable furs are taken. The Indians on the Chilcat Channel maintain a sort of claim, which they are able to maintain on account of their numbers and warlike propensities, that they shall be the middle men, so to speak, for this trade between the interior Indians and the whites, with whom they trade their furs. I am informed from information which I do not think can be doubted, that every fall and spring a large fleet of canoes is fitted out at Fort Simpson, a post a short distance below our boundary line, in British Columbia, with blankets, liquors, arms, and ammunition—such things as the Indians purchase—and is sent up through the interior channels of the islands to that country, and that it is a regular business for them to go there and exchange these articles with the Chil-

cat Indians for the furs that they have collected in the mean time from the interior Indians, and of their own taking.

Q. And they carry the furs into the British possessions?—A. They carry them into the British possessions and ship them off from there.

Q. On account of which the United States Government gets no revenue whatever?—A. It gets no revenue whatever, and the citizens of the United States do not get the benefit of that trade, which they might have, because otherwise it would come to the adjoining posts of Wrangell and Sitka, in the United States. That thing has been going on, according to my information, for a number of years.

Q. You have no means of preventing it?—A. There are no means whatever of preventing it at the disposal of the collector of customs. It has not been possible for him, with the means at his disposal, to prevent it.

Q. Could you approximate an estimate of the loss to citizens of the United States and to the government by reason of that smuggling?—A. I have no information which would enable me to do that; but I judge from the statements, and from the falling off in the trade in that line, that it must be a very considerable sum that is lost annually. There is still a small trade in furs at Sitka and Wrangell, with the neighboring Indians and those who do not happen to catch these expeditions when they come up; but it is very inconsiderable.

Q. The next matter I think you spoke of was the fisheries. As to the supply, to begin with?—A. All the waters of that portion of the Territory are filled with fine fish. Codfish exist in great numbers a little to the north of Sitka, and salmon and halibut are all about in the greatest profusion. The herring show there once a year in immense numbers; they are taken in very large quantities, and some shipments are made of them. Then there are smaller fish, one variety of which is the oulicon, very highly esteemed for the medicinal qualities of the oil which is made from it. There is in British Columbia, just below the line, an establishment for getting out the oulicon oil and shipping it. That is stated to be a very profitable business there, although the fish there are not nearly of the size nor do they come in the quantities in which they can be found in Cook's Inlet and other places to the north of Sitka, according to my information. This I state, of course, only from what I hear.

Q. You regard the information as reliable?—A. Yes, sir; I regard it as reliable. There are two salmon canneries near Sitka, or in the region rather that I speak of, one of which has been established for four or five years, and is still being carried on with success. The other one has been running two years with success. The cost of obtaining the salmon, as I have been told by the superintendent, is almost unappreciable in estimating the cost of carrying on the business. I know that last summer they used to have to throw over about half their catch every time; they caught more than they could handle, although they keep a pretty good force at work. At one of these canneries clams of very superior quality are canned. Clams are taken all along the coast; in fact, in quanities, and of very fine quality. That is all I know on the fisheries question.

Q. How as to the timber?—A. The whole of the southeastern portion of Alaska as far as I have seen northward, and from what I am informed for the distance of 200 miles farther north, is covered with timber of a very fine size, and much of it of very superior quality.

Q. Of what kind?—A. Among the timber is the yellow cedar of Alaska, which sells readily in Portland for $60 a thousand, and, as I am informed, at a higher price in San Francisco. It is now being used very much in Portland in the manufacture of fine furniture and in the trimming of houses. I saw that myself as I came through Portland. It takes a very fine polish, works beautifully, and is in all respects very superior timber.

Q. In what quantities does that exist? Have you any means of forming an opinion?—A. I have not, but I suppose the quantity could not be exhausted in a good many years yet, even if the whole lumber force of the country were to go at it. The whole country is covered with timber of various kinds, and I understand the yellow cedar is about as thick as almost any other kind.

Q. What are some of the other kinds of timber?—A. The others are the spruce, the fir, some hemlock, and some yew. This timber is used by the Indians for canoes, and is very superior for that purpose. It is reported to be good ship-timber. I do not know anything about that myself, but it is stated to be very good ship-timber. The quality of the timber as to size and freedom from blemish is remarkable, and I believe the quantity almost inexhaustible. The quality is, I know, very superior.

Q. The next point is as to the accessibility to these bodies of timber; could you get to them?—A. Yes, sir; the shores all along these islands are generally very abrupt. The timber, if cut up on the side of the mountain, can be slid down in most places almost, if not quite, into the deep water, or floated down by the streams.

Q. I suppose you would find localities large enough for the establishment of sawmills to cut up the timber?—A. Yes, sir; there is one saw-mill established now on Prince of Wales Island, where they are sawing more lumber than they can find means

of getting rid of. A good deal of it is this yellow cedar. They send large quantities of that down to Portland, and they have also been supplying Sitka with a great deal of lumber during the last few months, for the purpose of building wharves and warehouses at the gold mines and mills there. This saw-mill is working constantly, and, as I say, is working very successfully. They find no difficulty in getting all the logs they want for sawing.

Q. Now, as to the mineral resources of Alaska; what information have you upon that subject?—A. There lately have been discovered and located in the neighborhood of Sitka a large number of gold-bearing quartz ledges. According to the assays most of these ledges would indicate a very rich ore. There has been no thorough test made by crushing large quantities of the ore, except in the case of one ledge; at that ledge they have established a mill. They built a small mill last summer, a five-stamp mill, but owing to bad management in the location they could not get a supply of water to work it. That has kept back the running of the mill, so that no very great results have been derived from it yet, though they have crushed some ore and shipped bullion below in small quantities. Just before I left Sitka, however, they had finished the erection of a steam-mill and the addition of more stamps, ten in number, so that the test is probably now going on. But a number of mining experts have visited the country, and they have all concurred in the opinion that not only the ledges indicate a rich quality of quartz, but that the whole conformation of the country indicates a very valuable mining region.

Q. What of iron, copper, and other metals? Is there any coal there?—A. Coal has been discovered in one or two places, but whether of a quality that would be worth anything I do not know. Some of the coal discovered north of Sitka was experimented with, and it was found that it did not burn very well; there was some difficulty about it. Copper exists beyond a doubt in large quantities up in the neighborhood of the Copper River. The Indians trading from that river down have frequently brought as ballast in their canoes specimens of pure copper ore, and dumped it on the shore when they were ready to get their loads in. That has led to some efforts to discover the region where they get this ore. An expedition, in fact, was started from Sitka to make that discovery since I went there, but, owing to the hostility of some of the Indian tribes that they encountered on the way, the expedition was abandoned, and they came back. I have seen the gold-bearing quartz portion of the Territory near Sitka. I visited it in person myself, and examined the ledges and the country, and from what little knowledge I have on the subject of mines and mining ledges I think it looks as if there was going to be a rich development of gold ore there. I have seen specimens indicating very rich ore from other points above Sitka. There is certainly some very good marble somewhere in that region above. Specimens have been brought down. I have also seen some specimens of green malachite, very pretty, which, if they could be found, would no doubt prove very precious mines. The country north of Sitka has never been properly prospected. Since I went to Sitka a number of miners there have been anxious to prospect that portion of the country, but the condition of affairs, the want of protection, and the fear of Indian violence, has deterred them so far. One expedition was fitted out and went to the head of the Chilcat Bay, intending to stop there and send a party across to a branch of the Yukon, where all the geological indications would point to the fact that the continuation of the placer range, which has been mined down in British Columbia, just below the line, with considerable success, is to be found. When they got to the head of Chilcat Bay, however, the Indians there, supposing that they wanted to interfere with their trade with the interior Indians, made hostile demonstrations against them, and they were compelled to give up the trip. I am satisfied that if the government took some steps simply to make those Indians know that they would protect their citizens who went there on expeditions of that kind, the whole country would be thoroughly prospected in a very little while, because there are men there who are very anxious to do it. If the opinions of these men turn out correct, I think it is highly probable that valuable diggings will be found in that region upon our Alaska soil.

Q. Are there any portions of that Territory susceptible of agricultural development, in your opinion; and, if so, how much of it?—A. If you mean by agricultural development the raising of crops of any kind for shipment away, I think not. The cereals will not ripen there. They will not mature owing to the shortness of the summer, and of course they could never be raised successfully. Grasses grow there, however, very finely. During some of the late winters there they have kept their freshness and greenness all the winter so that cattle could be left out without being fed. The winter before last, for instance, that could have been the case. The hardier kind of vegetables, that is, those not requiring much sun, grow there as fine as I ever saw them produced anywhere. All roots grow well. Potatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, turnips, beets, parsnips, and carrots I have never seen grow larger or finer than they grow there. I may have seen some as fine in other places, but still they can raise them there equal to any other place that I have ever seen. The grasses seem to grow indigenously on some of the islands and most luxuriantly. Hay can be cut and cured there, it being done every

summer; and cattle and sheep can be raised there with very little trouble, and seem to thrive. There are no fruits in that country, as we understand by fruits, but their place is supplied by different kinds of berries which commence to ripen about the 1st of June, and then in a succession last until the 1st of October; the last crop that ripens being cranberries, which are gathered in immense quantities and shipped to Portland and San Francisco, and very highly esteemed in those markets.

Q. Do they grow indigenously?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. From your experience as an officer of the government in Alaska is it your opinion that a form of government might be established for that Territory which it would justify the government in establishing? I mean to ask, could material be procured in the different localities of the Territory for jurymen and the machinery of a court?—A. I think there is no doubt in that part of Alaska with which I am familiar, including Sitka and Wrangell and the small settlements around there, that perfectly good material could be found for juries and for the inferior officers of courts. In fact, I think that the population resident there now is a remarkable one, considering the circumstances under which they have lived there for some time.

Q. In your opinion, they only need the stimulus of organized society to enter upon a career of prosperity?—A. I think so. I can give you some instances that have occurred showing the effect of the want of law.

Q. You can state them.—A. Just before I arrived in Sitka a merchant died there leaving considerable property, including a store-house well stocked with goods, a dwelling-house, and a schooner, and leaving two infant children. The mother of the children was dead, and he had just before his death married a second time. The store-house and the schooner and the dwelling-house which he owned were all purchased with his first wife's money, the mother of these children. When I arrived there the second wife had taken everything from the store-house, and the schooner had just been sold. Information having been given to me by some parties interested in these little children, I wrote a note to the purchaser of the schooner, fortunately before he had paid the money, and requested him to turn the money over to me as the only civil official there, in order that a report of the case might be made, and that the rights of the children might be protected. He complied with the request, and I have held the money in the custom-house safe at Sitka to await some proper means of administering the estate. In the mean time I have taken possession of the store-house, using my authority *ex necessitate* to protect the children. I have rented it out, and with the rent of the store support one of the children, the other having been taken below to an infant asylum through the kindness of the purser of the mail-steamer. But this second wife got away with all the goods of the store, and some parties came very near getting away with the proceeds of the schooner. She occupied the dwelling-house until lately, and is now renting it there and receiving the rent. I give this merely as an instance of the insecurity of property there.

The native Russian subjects who were turned over at the time of the treaty were guaranteed, by the third article of the treaty, as is known of course, protection in their property, persons, and religion. There has been no means provided by the government to carry out this pledge at all since the troops left. The priest there has made great complaints to me of the want of protection to his church property. I have myself seen Indians sprawled upon the porticoes of the church playing cards all day long, with no power to prevent them; and just at that time we thought it politic not to interfere with them, as they had come to the conclusion that they were entitled to these rights. I have also seen the church doors carved over with indecent figures by Indians. I mean that I saw the figures; I did not see the carving when it was being done, or I certainly would have stopped that at any risk; but I have seen indecent figures carved on the church door, and was informed by the priest that he had expostulated with them when they were in the act of doing it, and had been threatened by them with violence if he attempted to prevent them. That is the way their religion has been protected. In person and property, of course, they had no protection, and sundry acts of violence have occurred, which it is not worth while to particularize. On the complaint of the citizens, shortly after I went there, and at their urgent request, I did assume to these Indians an authority of administering some kind of law for these offenses, and have done it in some cases. I have taken that authority, and by that means, to some little extent, even before the arrival of the man-of-war, we succeeded in getting them into a better state of behavior; but of course that cannot be carried out successfully a very long time. There are one or two things I might add.

When I first went to Sitka there were a few cattle there owned generally by the old Russian citizens of the town. The Indians amused themselves with mutilating the cattle, and all the cattle had to be killed in order to make them worth anything at all. The people really have had no protection against any acts of violence that any one chose to commit.

If the government would extend its revenue laws there and charge the different traders in the Territory a license for trading, which I think might be required as in an Indian territory under the Indian law, as it now exists, considerable revenue might be

derived. There are in Sitka and Wrangell, and in that neighborhood, I suppose, forty or fifty men who are engaged in regular merchandise, trading with Indians and white men, who do not pay a cent of revenue or tax of any kind whatever, and never have paid any since the government was turned over, except the internal revenue tax on tobacco, which was for a few years collected by the internal revenue collector for Oregon, but has been abandoned by him, as they told me at his office in Oregon, because it was impracticable to carry it out; so that all these people are trading and the government is deriving no benefit whatever.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there anything else you think it important to state?

Mr. BALL. There is one thing I might mention, so far as the law is concerned. The judge of the United States district court for Oregon rendered a decision in the early part of this month upon a case which was sent down from Sitka, which decision shows the fact that there is no law whatever now for the trial of offenses in Alaska. It was supposed that under certain clauses of the statutes the authority vested in the courts of Oregon, California, or Washington Territory, to try parties for criminal offenses. In October last an assault with a pistol was made by one man upon another in Sitka, with an evident purpose to take the man's life, and upon no provocation. The man was shot five times. He is not yet dead, but still may die from his wounds. The assassin went over immediately to the Jamestown and asked the captain to protect him. He was sent below to the United States court in Oregon, where he employed counsel, pleaded guilty, and put in a plea to the jurisdiction of the court. The court has sustained his plea, showing that neither that court nor any other court has jurisdiction to try the offense. I will state, however, that the difficulty in that case seems to be owing to a defect in the law which is applicable to all property held exclusively by the United States in forts, arsenals, and places of that kind. I propose to bring that decision to the attention of the Judiciary Committee, or some other committee, so as to have the general law modified, if attention is not called to it by the district attorney of Oregon. He said that he himself would report the decision to the proper authorities.

There is nothing else I think of stating, unless you wish my idea upon the form of government.

The CHAIRMAN. I would be very glad if you would give us your idea upon that subject.

Mr. BALL. I would say that the people of that portion of Alaska with which I am acquainted, and of which I speak, both Indians, Creoles, and whites, I think would be as easily controlled and managed under any properly administered government as any people I have ever seen. Considering the absolute want of law, the number of offenses has been remarkably small, I think. They are a tractable and easily managed people. I think that a very economical and simple form of government would satisfy all the wants of all the citizens of the Territory, but I think it imperatively necessary that it should be a government administered on the spot up to the very last extremity. For that purpose there certainly ought to be one justice at least for the Territory, to reside in it, and to hold a court of the highest appeal in the Territory. I say this because the subject has been broached of attaching it to Oregon or Washington Territory. About a year ago a white man was murdered by Indians in the neighborhood of Sitka. We sent the parties suspected below to Oregon for trial. They were tried, and one of the Indians was condemned to be hung. He was not able to employ counsel. The point which was raised in this other case was not made, and the court, thinking it had jurisdiction, tried the case, and he was condemned and hung at Portland. When the news was brought back to Sitka the Indians there refused to believe it. To this day many of them do not believe that the man has ever been hung at all. Before the prisoners were sent below the chief who raised the disturbance there last winter came to the office and stated that he admitted the man had killed the other man, and it was right to hang him, and asked me if I would hang him out in front of the ranch. I told him that we would administer the law according to our own way, and I sent the man below. I am satisfied that the chief wanted merely an opportunity to rescue him, but still that was his request. I am sure that no administration of justice will have any effect upon the Indians, and very little effect upon others when offenders are sent off to some other Territory for the law to be carried out.

By Senator SLATER:

Q. What is your opinion in regard to having a representative form of government there?—A. A representative form of government for the Territory itself?

Q. Yes.—A. I think there ought to be some kind of a legislature.

Q. That is understood; I mean to draw representatives from the Territory itself by dividing it into counties, as we do at present?—A. That is a very difficult subject; I do not know what to think about it. The settlements are so far apart, and communication is so limited that, unless something is done to assist intercommunication between them, it might be found very difficult to carry out anything of the kind. Still, I think, the experiment ought to be made. There is enough material there to form very good law-makers for the Territory, and changes will occur there. Under the best govern-

ment that could possibly be framed here in Congress there will be something more to be done in the way of local legislation after the Territory gets established; but it seems to me that these different larger settlements could be made counties, or counties could be laid off including them, and in that way give those localities representation.

Q. How many groups could you make in dividing what you would call a settled portion of civilization to make the districts contiguous?—A. I do not know much about the western portion of Alaska. There are two ports at which I have deputy collectors, and I have been in the habit of regarding them as the only two important ports in that part of the country; that is, Kadiak and Unalashka. In the east I think there ought to be about three counties at least, one including Baranoff Island, on which Sitka is located, one including Prince of Wales Island, where there are several settlements, and where one of these canneries makes considerable of a settlement, and Wrangell Island. Those three at present would be necessary.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. You might embrace as much contiguous territory as you choose as far as the Territory is concerned?—A. Yes, sir. At present, as I stated, the means of communication are very uncertain. My mail from Sitka to Kadiak, which is only five hundred miles run by sea, has to go first to San Francisco by the regular mail-steamer, and then wait the chances of a trading vessel for San Francisco to Kadiak to be sent up there; and so with the mail returning to me from Kadiak. There is a good deal more prompt communication between Kadiak and Unalashka, because all that territory along the peninsula is traded in all the year round.

By Senator SLATER:

Q. Of course it would have to be at more than one point in the Territory?—A. I think if the mail service was extended as far as Kadiak Island that would provide for transportation and intercommunication sufficient at present.

Q. Then you think there ought to be courts held at three places in the eastern part and at Kadiak Island?—A. At Kadiak and Unalashka I think there ought to be local courts held and justices of the peace, and then the justice of the Territory should hold courts at each one of those places, I think, and possibly more places in the west. As I say, I do not know much about that portion of the country.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. I should think that would be sufficient to begin with, and, as the exigencies require, leave the necessary discretion to the judges in the bill.—A. Yes, sir; I think that would answer. As to the mail service, I think that could be extended to Kadiak, say once a month, by a small steamer at very little cost. I have been informed by parties in Portland that a small steamer will be put upon the waters during the coming spring to trade in and around the channels of these islands, to attempt to get away that fur trade which I referred to as being smuggled into British Columbia. In that case the vessel could be chartered for a very small consideration to carry the mail across to Kadiak once a month for, say, six months in the year. That is all that would be absolutely necessary at present, I think.

Q. How long does it take to make the run from Sitka to Kadiak?—A. Of course it depends on circumstances, but it is about three days' run for a good-going steamer.

Q. Do you have snow at Sitka?—A. Yes, sir, we have snow there. The mountain tops around Sitka are covered with snow for nearly the entire year. The snows commence on the lowlands along the shores generally about the first of January, and the snowing season lasts for about six weeks or two months. Some winters they have deep snows; in other winters they hardly get a covering of snow during the whole winter. The winter before last they had no snow in Sitka that covered the ground during the whole winter; nor was there any ice more than a thin skim on the pools of water in the morning. Last winter we had snow on the ground for about six weeks, but clear, pleasant weather, the thermometer down in the night-time to about eighteen or twenty degrees above zero; but this winter has been unusually severe; the thermometer has gone down to eight or ten degrees below zero. This is the coldest winter within the recollection of any of the present inhabitants.

Q. Will you make a statement as to the importance of the port of Wrangell?—A. Wrangell is the most important business place in the Territory, owing to the fact that it is the port of transit for all trade from British Columbia up the Stakeen River to the Cassiar mines.

Q. The Cassiar mines are in British Columbia?—A. Yes, sir, in British Columbia.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Petroff, what is the nature of the climate of the Aleutian Islands? Is it very severe?

Mr. PETROFF. Not very severe. In the northern part it is pretty severe during the winter, but on the southern side of the Aleutian Islands it is a moderate winter climate, but disagreeable on account of gales and storms. We always have a good deal of snow, though it does not lie very long.

The CHAIRMAN. I do not know of anything further. The information you have furnished, gentlemen, is very valuable and important, and we thank you for it.

STATEMENT OF THOMAS T. MINOR.

MARCH 26, 1880.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Question. Where do you live now?—Answer. At Port Townsend, Washington Territory.

Q. How long have you been there?—A. I have been there twelve years.

Q. Have you ever seen anything of the Territory of Alaska; and, if so, will you be good enough to state what knowledge you have of it?—A. I was sent out in 1868 by the Smithsonian Institution, just after the purchase of Alaska, to visit that Territory, examine into its resources, collect specimens of natural history and ethnology there, and aid the captain of the cutter in making up a report on the country.

Q. How long were you in the Territory?—A. I was in the Territory between seven and eight months.

Q. State in what portions of the Territory you were.—A. I was on a revenue cutter that cruised for 8,000 miles along the shores, visiting nearly every point of interest from Bering Sea to the southeastern extremity of Alaska.

Q. Will you state what you saw of the timber and mineral products of that country—the timber first—and how you saw it.—A. Timber is found all along the Alaskan coast, save in the Aleutian Islands and the peninsula of Alaska south of Kodiak. It is in great abundance, and of most excellent character, being finer-grained and of better texture even than the timber on Puget Sound. Its finest growth is in what is known as the Alexandrian Archipelago, or the Sitka district, the southeastern portion of the Territory.

Q. What kind of timber?—A. Fir, cedar, and the yellow cedar, or Sitka cedar.

Q. Is the Sitka cedar valuable; and, if so, in what way?—A. The Sitka cedar is a timber of very fine texture, susceptible of high polish, and having a peculiar aromatic odor. It had long been an article of trade with the Chinese while the Russians had control of the Territory, and is highly prized where it is known in Oregon and Washington Territory for the making of furniture and as being easily worked. It also withstands the ravages of the terredo or navy worm, and is able to be submerged, resisting their destructive effects.

Q. Do I understand you to say that the terredo will not attack it?—A. It will not attack it.

Q. Does it not become valuable then for piles for wharves and things of that kind?—A. It is of great value for that purpose, and often have I heard enterprising capitalists in Puget Sound suggest the experiment of going to Sitka and making a business of obtaining and exporting it, it being there in great abundance, but the condition of the country prevented them. These piles can be obtained at the Portland Canal at a dollar apiece. The Indians there get them and bring them in at a dollar apiece.

Q. You therefore regard the timber of that Territory as very valuable, if it could be reached and got to market?—A. It is of great value.

Q. Will you state what you think of the mineral outcroppings, from a casual inspection, so far as you went?—A. We found coal in the Sitkan district in four or five places. We found it in Cook's Inlet, where several seams of it are plainly seen for thirty or forty miles along the bluff on the east shore of Cook's Inlet.

Q. How did you trace it in the Sitka district?—A. In the Sitka district we would examine all streams carefully, it being quite a dry season. On the little exposed beds of gravel, which the low water had revealed to view, we would examine for traces of coal, and when found we would follow them up the stream towards its source into the mountains, tracing those coal trails back to the source from whence they came. We found many streams that showed the presence of coal. It was mostly of a character approaching lignite, or what is known as tertiary coal.

Q. A young coal, I think you said in conversation?—A. Yes, a young coal.

Q. You mean that it is of recent development?—A. I mean that it has not acquired the destiny of structure and ability to resist the weather that coal of older growth has, though it would improve very much, if found where it had been subjected to greater pressure, deeper in. This examination of the many streams gave me ample opportunity also to examine and discover the nature of the timber along the streams, which one simply skirting the outer shores of the islands would not be able to judge of.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the capacity of any portion of that country; and, if so, what, for the production of vegetables or products of any kind which are useful to man?—A. It was one object of inquiry to find what products of the soil could be obtained there. I know that potatoes and certain varieties of grain, as oats, can be raised, and raised in great abundance. Corn cannot be raised.

Q. Do you not think there has been a great misapprehension in the public mind as to that Territory, as to its capacities and developments?—A. I believe there has been a

very great misapprehension. I believe that there are many places within the borders of the United States less susceptible of cultivation, and far less capable of supporting a population, than a large portion of Alaska.

Q. From your knowledge of the country, is it not your opinion that the establishment of some stable form of government there by the people would contribute very much to its improvement and development and prosperity?—A. I believe that Alaska, like every other country, can never be developed without some stable form of government; and with such a government I do not believe there is a State or Territory that during the next ten years would show as rapid development and growth.

Q. Is it not your opinion that it has been kept back by the absence of any form of government?—A. It is not only my opinion, but to my knowledge it has been kept back; for many people whom I know would have gone to Alaska, invested there, and settled there, but have been deterred from so doing by the fact that there was no government and no protection to them there.

Q. You are living, I understand you, on the Pacific coast now?—A. I am living at Port Townsend, the nearest port in the United States to Alaska. I come in contact constantly with people from Alaska, people who have been there, people who are going there, and people who would like to go there. There has been an increase in the real American development of the country, the settlement of it, and it would be much greater with some form of government there. I can form no idea regarding the exact number of people there now, but I know it would be far greater if they had a government there, and I know that the number is increasing.

Q. You think, then, there are quite enough there to sustain a government in some sections?—A. I certainly do think there are enough there.

Q. I mean are there enough to fill the minor offices and things of that sort?—A. There are enough there to demand that they should have a government. Collector Ball having recently been there can tell better than I the exact number. Within what I would call the *three* districts, the Wrangell, Sitka, and the Kodiak districts, it is most needed. I am sure that they have claims which ought to be regarded. I speak now of intelligent population. There is a much larger class of what they would call creole population, and a much larger class of intelligent Aleutians, who are American citizens under the treaty, and they are very intelligent.

Q. And would improve under a proper government?—A. They assimilate with our population very readily. They are not like the Indians. They would improve very much. They are honest and docile. They are the most honest people in the world.

Q. You speak of Aleutians?—A. Yes. There is one instance I will relate of their honesty. The only thing they have to burn is a kind of moss. Timber does not grow on the Aleutian Islands. The greatest prize they can get is to find a floating log, which, by these Japanese currents, are washed up on the Aleutian shores. If a man finds such a prize and it is inconvenient for him to take it with him or dispose of it, he will bring it up and lay it at right angles to the beach. The waves never wash a log in that position, but always parallel. There it is perfectly safe. It never will be touched by any Aleutian. It might be there for years and years. It is just the same in the seal-otter hunting. They never have any trouble. They are very obedient, docile, and intelligent. Their boats, which they build themselves, are models of grace and beauty. Long before shell boats were known in our colleges they had boats of equal grace and speed.

Q. You think, then, that those people would improve under the operations of our laws?—A. I believe they would improve very much under the operations of our laws. I do not know whether now they would be fitted for American citizenship, but I am sure they would improve so that they could become so.

Q. They could be educated up to the recognition of the responsibilities of citizenship?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You did not go up the Yukon River?—A. I did not. I visited the Seal Islands. I went to Bristol Bay, and from Katway I got specimens of petroleum, which are now in the Smithsonian, or ought to be. The Indians reported that there were two or three lakes of it there. The stuff that they brought in was crude petroleum, which covered the surface of the lakes.

Q. Where is Katway?—A. It is on the peninsula of Alaska, just opposite Kodiak Island.

Q. That is known as Unalashka, is it not?—A. No, Unalashka is the third or fourth of the Aleutian Islands. This is farther north.

Q. I wish you would state anything else that occurs to you in connection with this matter, because I want to get all the information I can for myself and for Congress, and as you have been there, and have lived near there, you ought to be able to speak knowingly.—A. I do not know what else I can say, except that I have seen specimens of their mineral products which indicate to me that the mineral resources of the Territory are very rich. The fisheries have by others been dwelt upon very largely. I will state my own experience in one instance from the cutter. We hauled the seine at what was known as the Lower Awke Village, and we got with one haul over three thousand

salmon. We filled every boat connected with the vessel, and two enormous Indian canoes, and salted twenty barrels of them, and we all got so tired of salmon that we never wanted to see another one for the remainder of the cruise. The salmon farther north are still better.

Q. And in great quantities?—A. In great quantities. They have a run of salmon in Cook's Inlet known as the king salmon. I asked a native if he could not get me one to send to the Smithsonian Institute to have skinned. I asked him to get me a large one. He was gone about ten minutes and came back with one. He said it was not as large as he might get, but he thought it would do. It weighed seventy pounds. He got it by walking out on a fence that ran into the river, and taking a pole with a basket at the end of it and dropping it a little beneath the surface and waiting for a fish to swim into it. Then he would pull it up, and if it was a small fish he would throw it out and wait until a large one came. That is the way they catch them there.

Q. With a basket at the end of a pole?—A basket with wide meshes at the end of a pole, and they hold it just under the water until the fish comes up and swims into it.

Q. Do you know anything of the cod fisheries?—A. We went to the codfish banks and fished all along them for a great many miles. I never got very tired of hauling fish in, three or four at a time, just as fast as we could pull them in.

Q. Have you ever been to the cod fisheries of Newfoundland?—A. Never.

Q. You do not know how they would compare?—A. The fish are small where we went, but there are deeper codfish banks in Alaska where the fish are larger, but they do not go to them, because they can get, within ten miles of a good harbor in thirty fathoms of water, all the fish they want, weighing from five to ten or fifteen pounds, and it is much easier than fishing in ninety fathoms where they get the largest fish farther out at sea.

Q. Is not that an industry that is capable of great development?—A. It is an industry that is not only capable, but is being developed all the time. There are quite a number of vessels in that cod fishery. There is a permanent establishment there on the islands now, where they have two vessels employed and men there all the time, winter and summer, and they get the fish right there.

Mr. BALL. Captain Bailey reports ten ships engaged in that business there.

Q. (By the CHAIRMAN.) Are the salmon fisheries not capable of very great development if there were a market?—A. The salmon fisheries will be developed every year more and more, and there is no country anywhere that can equal that, for the fish are abundant and so cheap. On the Columbia River, where we get most of the salmon that are used now in the country, where they put up three million dollars' worth every year, they pay fifty cents apiece for salmon, and they are getting less and less; there are fewer of them every year. Here you can get for ten cents half a dozen sometimes, all you want, and with seines they can catch an unlimited amount; every stream is full of them.

Q. You spoke something to me in conversation of the prospect of a more extended trade with China. You said something about trade along the Amoor River. Will you please repeat what you said?—A. I wish I had a map of the Eastern Hemisphere. I have got it written out *en extenso*, and I wish I had it here, with many facts, all of which I cannot remember, that bear upon it directly. I believe that careful students of the world's trade understand that the great market of the future for civilized manufactures and products of civilized nations is to be found in the immense population of China. We reach but a very small portion of that population, and the trade is now of very great extent, but when the entire four hundred millions of her people shall have learned to use the products of civilized manufacture, and developed tastes and wants therefor, the extent of that trade can only be conjectured—it cannot be thoroughly and fairly estimated.

Q. How would you reach that trade from your section of the country, and from Alaska?—A. The only way of reaching that trade economically and speedily is by means of the Amoor River, which is navigable for several thousand miles from its mouth, leading right into the heart of the Chinese Empire. While this river has its mouth so far to the north that it is closed for a large portion of the year by ice, it makes a bend to the south for many hundred miles, approaching so near to the coast that easy communication can be established between a harbor constantly open and a portion of the river that seldom freezes, thereby giving easy transportation to goods that may be used in trade, between the ocean and the river. Puget Sound is five hundred miles nearer to this point, where the trade with China must center, than San Francisco, and Alaska is in still closer proximity to it, the Aleutian Islands reaching out for several thousand miles directly towards it. It is but fair to believe when this China trade is developed that it must find its way along the Alaskan shores, and Alaska will be nearer at hand to supply any wants that it can supply than any other portion of the civilized world. Its ports and harbors must ever offer encouragement to American commerce and productions, when that commerce shall be directed towards carry-

ing the manufactures of our country to China, and bringing away from China such articles as we may demand for our consumption.

Q. You believe, then, that the establishment of a civil government for the Territory of Alaska would have a tendency to develop a great many industries and resources that might be made available in that way?—A. I do. I believe just as you have stated it, that the establishment of a government there would develop manufactures and products, and the exports of furs to China directly. The Chinese market has always been the best one for sea otter, and also for certain of the lumber products of Alaska, which even the Russians used to carry to China as the best market for them.

Q. In the course of your cruising in the neighborhood of Alaska did you become familiarized with any of the animals that produce these furs except the seals?—A. I cannot say that I became acquainted with them. I had the pleasure of obtaining the first specimen of the sea otter that ever was obtained in this country for stuffing as a representation of it, and I saw the seal and other animals, all of them.

Q. Some other gentlemen have testified as to the animals from which furs are produced in those mountains. Perhaps you are not so familiar with it?—A. I am not so familiar, because I was along the coast principally.

Q. Will you state anything you know as to the climate along the coast of Alaska or any portion of it with which you became familiar? I think there is a very great misapprehension in the public mind as to the temperature of the climate. Explain before you go any further as to the effect of the warm current that runs up from the Japan Islands.—A. There is a warm current that runs from the Japan Islands northward, in a northeasterly direction. It is very strong, as shown by Commander Belknap's tests of it, running sometimes four miles an hour. In the summer season a portion of it passes into Bering Sea, and renders the coasts of Alaska within Bering Sea very warm, warmer than any other portion of Alaska; but the larger body of it passes along to the south of the Aleutian Islands and reaches the shores in the region of Sitka, making that region always of a mild temperature, so mild that they are not able to even put up ice in winter. It is an established fact, I suppose well known, that they do not get ice enough in winter to put it up at all. The San Francisco Ice Company undertook to get ice there, but found they could not do it, and got it at Kodiak, which is north of this current; it passes to the south of Kodiak; and there they managed to get ice enough, but they could not get it in the region of Sitka. Sitka is about the mean temperature of a place between Philadelphia and Washington.

Q. The mean temperature?—A. Yes, sir; the mean temperature of Sitka for the year is about that of Washington. You have it colder here in winter, but warmer in summer.

Q. Do you know anything of the temperature in the interior?—A. Beyond the range of mountains that border almost the entire coast the temperature is far colder. It is warmer in summer but colder in winter. There are regions there where, when you dig down two feet, you will find constant ice that never melts in summer; but the coast region is that with which I came in contact, and know most about. In the winter time the current from the Arctic Ocean coming down through Bering Sea deflects a portion of the warm Japan current that runs into Bering Sea in summer and carries it all to the southward of the Aleutian Islands, so that a still larger body is sent toward Sitka, and, to a still greater extent than probably would otherwise be the case, it moderates the temperature there.

Q. You speak of the current running down from the Arctic Ocean; that is a cold current?—A. A cold current.

Q. It drives the warm current southward?—A. It drives the warm current southward. This season in the Aleutian Islands they have had hardly any snow, and but very little ice. A schooner that arrived at San Francisco while I was there said it was about as mild a season as they ever had.

Q. Have you ever been along the northern coast of Alaska—the Arctic coast?—A. No, never. Another very valuable production of Alaska, which has been totally neglected, and which might be developed to a very great extent, would be the obtaining of ivory from the fossil remains in the Arctic region. I have talked with men who have seen that which they described as mountains of ivory.

Q. That is very valuable?—A. It is very valuable, indeed. It was known to the Russians. There have been all along occasional finds. A whaling vessel would get caught in some place there, and the men would be looking ashore and find a large amount of ivory, and go and dig it out and make a good thing of it; but as they could not control their own movements they did not go back there again directly, and the next season there might be ice in there, and the industry has never been looked after or followed up as it would be if there were a government there and a chance for protection.

Q. These deposits, you say, are the fossil remains of the Arctic regions?—A. Yes, sir. They are found in Kotzebue Sound and north of Cape Lisburne.

Q. Are there any fish in those inner lakes?—A. There must be. All the lakes have fish in them; but nobody has visited them and knows. There is a lake fifty miles

long. But little is known about it. There ought to be gold in there; on these adjacent streams it is found.

Q. The cutter, I suppose, could run up those streams entering Bristol Bay?—A. No. We took a boat, but the current is so rapid we found it very difficult. We found mullet that you get down in South Carolina. I got very much sunburnt. We got very many curlew and wild geese. Wild geese breed there. I never saw such quantities of birds. It has been a question where the wild geese breed.

Q. They breed in Bristol Bay?—A. In Bristol Bay, and they breed all along in Cook's Inlet too.

Q. They then fly south?—A. They fly south. They breed there in summer.

Q. And you found mullet?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. That is a very familiar fish with us in South Carolina.—A. And a very delicious fish too. People are going up there all the time, and particularly to the Sitka mining regions, and I know there are many that would go right from Puget Sound if they thought there was any protection for them. The argument is that if they found a mine they would not know whether they could keep it; they would not know whether they would be allowed to keep it.

STATEMENT OF M. D. BALL.

By the CHAIRMAN:

Q. Colonel, will you state what you know of the tenure of certain lots in Sitka, or in any portion of Alaska?—A. At the time of the transfer of the Territory to our authorities, a number of Russians who had been in the employ of the old Russian Company were occupying lots upon which they had either built houses or had established vegetable gardens. The practice of the Russian Company had been to give them a kind of a title to these lots, not by actual deed, but by an understanding that they were to own them and call them their own. At the time of the transfer this understanding was ratified by the American commissioners, and certificates were given by the commissioners to all such parties as had occupied lots, which certificates were put upon record in the custom-house, and are looked upon by the people themselves as their titles to the land. Since then one or two other lots have been taken up by parties; some Russians and some American citizens, discharged soldiers, under the same idea that this kind of an occupation is to constitute a title. Most all of these lots have been improved and have been used by the parties ever since. The only record office in the Territory has been kept at the custom-house, and these people have always looked upon that record as the evidence of their title to the lands. I suppose the whole amount of these lots so taken, occupied, and possessed would be of very small value. I do not know how many have been taken in that way at other points than Sitka; but it seems to me that it would be very unjust and inequitable to deprive these people now of those lots which they have always imagined they had a rightful title to, and which they did have such a title to as the Russian authorities were in the habit of giving.

STATEMENTS BEFORE A SUBCOMMITTEE OF COMMITTEE ON TERRITORIES, UNITED STATES SENATE, CONSISTING OF SENATORS BUTLER (CHAIRMAN), KELLOGG, AND HARRISON, ON THE BILL (S. NO. 1153) PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE DISTRICT OF SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA, AND PROVIDING FOR A CIVIL GOVERNMENT THEREFOR.

MARCH, 1882.

STATEMENT OF G. C. HANUS.

Senator BUTLER. What is your position now in the service of the country?

Mr. HANUS. I am a master in the United States Navy.

Senator BUTLER. In the discharge of your duty in the Navy, have you been much in Alaskan waters?

Mr. HANUS. Yes, sir; I have recently finished a cruise there in the Jamestown.

Senator BUTLER. Will you be good enough to state any information which you may have about the country that would be of interest to Congress in enabling it to provide some form of government for the Territory?

Mr. HANUS. The principal place in Alaska is called Juneau City. It was formerly called Harrisburg, and then Rockwell. It had a number of names, and finally has been called Juneau City. It is a mining town, and it is the principal one of a number

of little camps. Counting them all, I suppose there are from five to six hundred people in that particular district which has Juneau City for its main point.

Senator BUTLER. When you speak of the people, you mean white people?

Mr. HANUS. Yes, sir. There are a great many Indians. I do not refer to them.

Senator BUTLER. How far is Juneau City from Sitka?

Mr. HANUS. You have to take a circuitous route. I should say it is between 150 and 200 miles. It always took a good while to make the trip.

Senator BUTLER. How far is it from the coast?

Mr. HANUS. It is some distance from the coast, but you can reach Juneau City by steamer. There is a wharf there, and a steamer of any draught can go there. The Great Eastern could go there and lay right alongside the wharf.

Senator BUTLER. What is the character of the country around Juneau City? Is it mountainous?

Mr. HANUS. It is mountainous; and, just as it is everywhere else in the lower portion, the vegetation is rank and luxurious. Everything grows there in profusion. I have seen the Indians raise potatoes and turnips. The white people have not been there long enough to try it, and besides, almost all are either hunting gold or else trading, so that they pay little attention to agriculture.

Senator BUTLER. What are the products besides the root crops? Do grasses grow there?

Mr. HANUS. Grasses grow in great profusion, and they grow farther north than that a good way. One of the finest meadows I have ever seen in my life was up in Chilcat. There are photographs here in the city of that part of the country, which show its character much better than I can explain. They were taken when I was up there.

Senator BUTLER. Is that country capable of maintaining a population all the year round?

Mr. HANUS. Yes, sir; I think it is capable of maintaining a population, and I think the rich discovery of minerals will bring a large population there in a very short time. This place, Juneau, has sprung up in almost no time, and there are some very rich claims there, or at least what people believe are rich claims. I, myself, did a good deal of surveying there, and made a preliminary map of the mines that were then discovered when I was there during my leisure time, and I saw during that time a great deal of rich quartz. Although ignorant of mining I could see the gold in the quartz; of course that did not not require any particular knowledge. There is one man there, a man by the name of Harris, who for a time took $30 a day to the man out of a placer claim. He did not keep that up, but was making $10 a day to the man last year.

Senator BUTLER. How many months in the year could they work there?

Mr. HANUS. You can judge for yourself when I state that the climate is very mild. I was there two winters. One was an exceedingly severe winter, so considered by the people. I was then at Sitka, and the coldest weather we had was ten degrees below zero, which, however, continued but a very short time. The last winter I was there, which was the winter before this, the coldest weather at Sitka was 18 degrees above zero. All the year round it is very mild. It is so mild that although there is a lake right back of Sitka there is very seldom more than a week or two of skating. The climate is damp, and it is never very warm in summer, but it is mild.

Senator BUTLER. How do you account for that mild temperature?

Mr. HANUS. The Kuri Simá, or Japan current, comes over from Japan and strikes the coast of Southeastern Alaska, and, being warm, affects the atmosphere.

Senator BUTLER. It moderates the temperature?

Mr. HANUS. It moderates it, and it is also the cause, I believe, of an excessive fall of rain, though that may not be the cause. There is a great deal of moisture there, and a great deal of rain. Besides Juneau, the principal settlement is Sitka. In Sitka there has been a census taken by the naval authorities. I do not recollect exactly, but I believe there are about 200 whites, and 250 Creoles, who are like the whites. The next place to that is Wrangell. The population of Wrangell varies considerably, but I believe there are from 200 to 250 people, or perhaps more, there; sometimes more, sometimes less. There are settlements at Klawak and Shakan. At both of those places there are canneries and fisheries. At Shakan they have sawed a good deal of lumber, as they have a saw-mill there. Besides that there is Hoochino, where the Northwestern Trading Company are going to start extensive oil works. There is a trading post there also. Another place is Hoonah, where there is a mission and a trading post, and there are several other small settlements in other parts. The population of these places ranges from three to twenty white people. There is also a number of people in Schuck, another mining district, but perhaps that would be included in the number I mentioned in the other districts not a great way from there. The Northwestern Trading Company, who do business up there, are principally interested in the fur business, and also in the oil business.

Senator BUTLER. What kind of oil; fish oil?

Mr. HANUS. Fish oil. I never saw any place where fish were so plenty. There are great numbers of whales, dog-fish, herring, and salmon. There are many other kinds of fish there also.

Senator BUTLER. This company was organized for the purpose of making fish oil?

Mr. HANUS. It was first organized for the purpose of trading in furs, but they have since started the oil business. There being no government up there I think is the reason why people have not worked more extensively in the mines. Mr. Robertson, who represents William T. Coleman & Co., of San Francisco, a very large commission house—I suppose the largest there is on the Pacific coast—told me that they could not spend any money, and could not do anything until Congress had done something to give some protection to people owning property. They went to work and bought half a claim up there, and they are interested in others. How they claim it I do not know. Another party, a Mr. Treadwell—I do not know whom he represents—bought a large claim up there, and is going to work it; but they are all hanging back. Some are hanging back because there are no courts there. There is no protection whatever, except the good will of one man to another. A man takes up a claim, when another comes and claims it, and there is nothing but brute force which will decide who shall have it. I think that is the principal reason why the country has not developed sooner.

Senator BUTLER. Is it your opinion that if some form of government were established there that the country would develop?

Mr. HANUS. Undoubtedly; I do not see how it could help it. It is rich in many things that will make it prosperous. The climate is mild. I do not believe it will ever be much of an agricultural country, but I believe it will be a stock-raising country, and for the reason I shall state. While we were in Sitka there was never a day in the year that we could not have had venison to eat, and although we did not eat it at the breeding season we could have had it every day of the year; and where deer are as plentiful as that I believe stock can be raised, because, of course, stock can be assisted in winter by the making of hay, and large quantities of hay can be cut there.

Senator BUTLER. What have you to say about the timber of that country?

Mr. HANUS. It is very rich in timber. It will supply timber for a good many years to come, when they once have to go to Alaska for it. There is very fine yellow cedar up there, and there are excellent spars for vessels. I never saw a place where there are finer spars for ships than you can find up there. Undoubtedly, after a time, when the forests of Oregon become somewhat exhausted, people will go to Alaska for timber. There are portions of Southeastern Alaska where there is no good timber, but then there is plenty of country there densely wooded. At a comparatively low altitude the growth of timber ceases. As the country is very mountainous, there are large tracts of land without timber.

Senator BUTLER. How far inland have you ever been?

Mr. HANUS. I have traveled extensively there. The southeastern section of Alaska is all made up of islands. I have been up to Chilcat, an Indian village, where there are no white people living at all. I was sent up there during some trouble; and there I saw the grass growing, and trees, and everything in a flourishing condition. It looked more like a scene in some southern country than a country as far north as Alaska. There is a missionary lady who describes this part of the country in the last Presbyterian Monthly, and she describes it exactly as I would do were I able to do so.

Senator BUTLER. Do you remember how far inland that is?

Mr. HANUS. Going up the river is about 25 miles from Chilcoot to Chilcat. I have been all through this part of the country, from Chilcat down, as I went down to Oregon. I am perfectly well acquainted with this part of the country; I did some surveying up there, and I was sent around on duty a number of times.

Senator BUTLER. How far is Juneau City from Chilcat River?

Mr. HANUS. I suppose it is sixty or seventy miles from the mouth of the river.

Senator BUTLER. You said something about the timber in Alaska; is any business being done in that direction now?

Mr. HANUS. Yes, there is a saw-mill down at Chican which is doing work, and another at Sitka. I know of one company that wanted to go into the timber business, but there being no land laws up there they would have to steal the timber from the government if they would cut it. That is the only way they could have done. This is the reason that this interest cannot be developed at present.

Senator BUTLER. Is the timber you speak of accessible? Can you get to it to utilize it?

Mr. HANUS. You can get to it more readily than in any other country, because you can get to it on the water and tow it around. The land rises right up there; and almost invariably you can cut the timber and draw it down to the water with but little trouble and float it off. But, as I said, no company can go to work legitimately now because they would steal every stick of timber that they would cut.

Senator BUTLER. Therefore, you think if there was some protection to that interest it would be largely developed?

Mr. HANUS. I believe the country would develop in every imaginable way if there were protection.

I was going to mention the Indians. The Indians there, unlike the Indians of the plains, work, and they not only will work but they are anxious to work. You may see them around every morning at the mining camps. I was stationed four months on shore at Juneau City, and every morning I would see these Indians standing around waiting to pack rock on their backs to carry it four miles over a mountain trail; and that is the hardest kind of work that I know of. They not only do that, but you can employ them in any kind of business. They work in canneries, in saw-mills, or anywhere else. They are anxious to be educated. All the schools are full. At Sitka the attendance on the schools is very large, and I have no doubt that those people can be civilized just as much as any people we have got anywhere.

Senator BUTLER. If they had the opportunity?

Mr. HANUS. If they had the opportunity. The Presbyterian Mission is doing a great deal towards it; they are making an opportunity. A man up there has no way of making a will; he has no way of disposing of a piece of property. It is the good-will of one man to another and the common public opinion that preserve peace and good order.

Senator BUTLER. Are not the Indians employed as sailors?

Mr. HANUS Yes, sir; we had quite a number of them, not only on board ship, but there was a party of them sent out with me surveying. I went out in a canoe with them. They were quick to learn, apt, and readily acquired what was desired. They were apt in picking out stations, and evidently understood what was going on. They are splendid surfmen. I think they will furnish a good many of our sailors in the future, because they live on a coast which resembles that of the State of Maine. I have done a good deal of work on the coast of Maine, and this coast resembles it so much that if a man were to close his eyes in the State of Maine, and be suddenly transported and look upon the islands in Southeastern Alaska, he would imagine he was still in Maine. It is just such a country; there is no difference in the world; or, if anything, I believe that you can raise more in Alaska than you can in Maine.

Senator BUTLER. Have you ever been down in the Aleutian Islands?

Mr. HANUS. No, sir; I have never been to the westward at all. It is quite a trip across there, and I have never been there.

Senator BUTLER. How long were you stationed up there?

Mr. HANUS. I was stationed up there over two years.

Senator BUTLER. What were your duties?

Mr. HANUS. I was an officer on board the Jamestown.

Senator BUTLER. Who was in command of the Jamestown?

Mr. HANUS. Commander Beardsley at first and afterwards Commander Glass.

Senator BUTLER. Will you state the object in sending this vessel up there?

Mr. HANUS. The cause of our going there was that the people of Sitka made an appeal to the general government to send some force up there to protect them from the Indians, who they feared might attack them. The Indians had become very insolent. They appeared to think that the United States Government had abandoned the settlement up there and did not care for the country anyway. I have been told by a number of people there that the Indians would come into the stores and do about as they pleased, and the whites were so much afraid that in several instances I know they sent their families below.

Senator BUTLER. This United States vessel was really the only government they had?

Mr. HANUS. That was the only government they had after we got there.

Senator BUTLER. What vessel is there now?

Mr. HANUS. The Wachusett, with Commander Glass, the same commander who commanded the Jamestown the last part of the period I have spoken of.

Senator BUTLER. He then is exercising all the powers of government?

Mr. HANUS. He is exercising all the authority; but every act of authority on his part is assumed. He has to take the responsibility, and hereafter may have to suffer for it. As I understand it, there are two suits now pending against him in San Francisco, because he locked up two men who had tried to shoot another man, and whom they would probably have killed if he had not shut them up. He referred the matter to the government here in Washington, and the department sustained him in what he had done; but that would not do any good in a civil court.

Senator BUTLER. Your opinion, then, is that some form of government is absolutely necessary for the protection of the inhabitants of Alaska?

Mr. HANUS Yes, sir; it is, decidedly. They are people with all the feelings of citizens anywhere else. There are some very nice people up there; people who have got some education; people who want to spend a great many years to come there, and who want to spend money there in assisting the development of the country; but they will, of course, hesitate, if nothing is done here. At any rate, it will hinder the growth of the country and hinder its development if nothing is done here. The people there are very much discouraged. They all believe, perhaps wrongfully, that it is due to a powerful corporation known as the Alaska Commercial Company, and

that they are not represented by anybody else except that corporation, because that is the only representation they have had here in Washington, and that is not the kind they want.

Senator BUTLER. The Alaska Fur Company operates northwest of that?

Mr. HANUS. Yes, sir; but apparently the people all believe that that company does not want any government for Alaska at all; that they would rather have Alaska left alone. There is one man, who, I believe, has not been in Southeastern Alaska for many years, and who, if he was ever there, was there only a few days, and he is by many regarded as an authority on affairs in Alaska. One officer, Paymaster Ring, who happened to be in the city, came to me one day, and showed me an article which was so opposed to the facts that we put a counter statement in the paper.

Senator BUTLER. Who is that man?

Mr. HANUS. He is known as Professor Elliott, and is in some way connected with the Smithsonian Institution.

Senator BUTLER. He makes a great many statements that are not true about Alaska?

Mr. HANUS. He made one statement which he may believe to be true, but which is no, in point of fact, true, and that is the article in the paper which Paymaster Ring and I answered.

Senator BUTLER. Your opinion is that if some form of government were established there the population would increase?

Mr. HANUS. I certainly believe so.

Senator BUTLER. With good, enterprising citizens?

Mr. HANUS. Yes, sir.

Senator BUTLER. People who would be willing to spend their money and develop the country?

Mr. HANUS. I do. I believe that is one of the things that has hindered them from doing so heretofore. In fact, all the people who are spending money up there desire a government. The Northwest Trading Company, which is probably now as influential a body as has anything to say in Southeastern Alaska, I know, wishes a government to protect itself, especially from the low class of traders who sell molasses to the Indians, and sell it for no other purpose than to let them make hootzenoo out of it. The Indians make hootzenoo out of molasses, which is a very vile kind of rum, and not only makes them drunk, but almost crazy, and under its influence they commit outrages which otherwise they never would think of doing.

Senator BUTLER. These irresponsible traders sell them molasses?

Mr. HANUS. Yes, sir; and there is no way to prevent them in law.

Senator BUTLER. State generally what your opinion is as to the form of government that would answer the purpose. Would your idea be that an economical, simple form of government would be sufficient for the present purposes?

Mr. HANUS. Yes, sir; I suppose that an economical form of government would be sufficient. I think, though, one of the most essential things is that they should have some one here to represent all classes and all interests alike. The people, whether wrongfully or rightfully, blame the Alaska Commercial Company for their condition to-day; that is a condition that leaves them without law or protection of any kind whatever.

Senator BUTLER. They would want somebody to represent them from Southeastern Alaska, the settled part of it?

Mr. HANUS. Yes, sir; the white people of the westward, as I am told, being Russian Aleutes, probably do not know what the rights of citizens mean anyway. They came to us from a country that does not respect their rights very much; but many of the people in Southeastern Alaska are a different class of people. It is very essential the land laws should be extended, because, unless that is done, of course no land will be improved. Land cannot be taken up, and, as I said before, no timber claim can be preempted. The timber interests cannot be gotten at, except through a lawless way, which a legitimate company would not undertake.

Senator BUTLER. And it is very demoralizing?

Mr. HANUS. Yes, sir; there are people who own land there now in good faith. They go and record it in the books at the collector's office. If a man sells a piece of land to you up there he will sell to you for cash, and you go and record it in the deed-book the same as if there was a general law. The people have done that in good faith, thinking every winter that Congress would do something to legalize the records up there and give them a legitimate title to the land; but really they own nothing in fact. It all depends on the action of Congress and it has gone on from year to year, until the people are pretty well discouraged; but now I think the time has come when before long Congress will be forced to take action, because there is much population coming in from outside, and they are mostly American people.

Senator BUTLER. Who will be heard?

Mr. HANUS. And they will be heard.

STATEMENT OF MARCUS BAKER.

Senator BUTLER. We have been charged with the duty of considering certain bills for the establishment of some form of government in Alaska. I take it, it is unnecessary to go through the bills to elicit from you what your opinion is as to the necessity of such a measure, and the reasons for that opinion. Will you, therefore, be good enough just to state what you know about Alaska, having reference to that matter—its resources, its population, its possibilities, &c.?

Mr. BAKER. At the outset I wish to call special attention to the fact that the region of country for which legislation is asked is the southeastern part, and a very small part of the whole country. In what I shall say, I will confine myself strictly to the southeastern portion, which is simply a vast archipelago, with a small border of mainland, of high, rocky, and coniferous timbered islands, with deep connecting fiords very much like the coast of Norway, abounding with fish, and inhabited for the most part by Indians. Of these Indians, according to the census of 1880, there are 6,725. Of the white population there has been a large increase within a year. Mr. Hanus has informed you on that point more accurately than I can do, as he has been on the ground later, but there seem to be anywhere from 1,100 to 1,400 or 1,500 whites and creoles.

Senator BUTLER. In that section of Alaska?

Mr. BAKER. In the section for which legislation is asked. In general the resources which are patent upon the surface and which are the inducements for people to enter the territory, are, as Mr. Hanus has given you, the mines, the timber, the fisheries, and the furs. Agriculturally, I think its possibilities are few. Its possibilities are much the same as those of Sweden and Norway, where agriculture can be carried on only in a small way, and where consequently the principal resource of the people is in the sea, *i. e.*, in the fisheries. The moist and equable climate of Southeastern Alaska is favorable to grass growing, and consequently is favorable for grazing and dairy purposes. I consider the possibilities of this section of country to be therefore about the same as those of the Scandinavian peninsula.

Alaska was bought by the United States and taken possession of on the 20th of October, 1867. At that time, by treaty, we promised citizenship to all the Russians and creoles who chosed to remain in the country. From that time up to the present, there have been introduced into Congress, up to and including the year 1879, twenty bills providing for a temporary government for Alaska, for civil organization for Alaska, or to extend the land laws over Alaska; that is, looking toward the general end of establishing some government there. There have been some bills introduced at this Congress and at the two preceding Congresses which I have not looked up, so that I cannot give the exact figures, but I may say in general terms, that about twenty-five bills have been introduced into Congress since 1869, for the government of that country. None of them have passed. Other bills have been introduced, but those bills have all had reference to the collection of revenue, or to the management and government of the seal islands to the westward, where the Alaska Commercial Company operates. Those have passed and become laws, and they are the only laws which are operated in the territory to-day. A number of questions of law have been called up and decided in the courts of Oregan, Judge Deady presiding. For instance, one person who committed a murder in British Columbia, was brought across the boundary and down the Stikine River, and while on his way down he killed the officer who had him in charge. He was afterwards taken below to Oregon and tried, and dismissed for want of jurisdiction. The number of cases arising before any court is very small, because it is perfectly well understood that no court has any jurisdiction. If any controversy should arise between any two parties, between Indians and whites, or between the whites themselves, they have nothing to do but to fight it out themselves, because they understand perfectly well if they go into any court, they will simply be ruled out from want of jurisdiction. No court has any jurisdiction in that region. The effect of this is, that only those people who are sufficiently strong to control things to suit themselves get any footing. Consequently some attempts have been made to secure rights for companies. For instance, a bill was introduced in Congress about 1876 or 1877 (I do not remember exactly the year), proposing to lease one of those islands to a ship-building company for ship-building purposes, but that failed to become a law. In general all bills in anyway affecting Southeastern Alaska have failed. The people who are interested in Southeastern Alaska wonder why this is. The gentleman of whom Mr. Hanus has spoken, Mr. Henry W. Elliott, visited Southeastern Alaska in 1866, and spent a week at Sitka in 1874. He has spent fourteen months on the seal islands, of which islands and the animal life upon them he has made a special study, and has just published a monograph upon the subject. Upon those he is an authority. He has studied the subject as nobody else has, and he knows whereof he speaks. But for his knowledge of the remainder of the Territory, he knows as any one may know from conversation with people who have visited the ground, and from books and papers, and his statements are generally antagonized by people who have been on the ground; that is, the impressions he leaves are bad, whatever may be the intention. Saying nothing about

the intention, if you desire to get an accurate knowledge of any particular region, the general statements which Mr. Elliott has made about it do not conduce to accurate knowledge. Mr. Elliott is on the ground every winter in Washington. I see him from time to time, and am personally acquainted with him. He is very kind to me; I have never had any quarrel with him; but it is my belief, saying nothing about his intention, that he does not fairly represent the sentiment there; and it has been believed and charged that he does represent this company, whose interest it is to antagonize any legislation.

Consequently, as I understand it, the friends of this bill come into Congress and draw the line at a point where this company has, so far as we know, not one cent of interest pecuniarily, and they say, "Give us, if you will, legislation entirely out of the reach or influence of this company," because the feeling is that if we attempt to extend it, although there is no reason why it should not be extended, it will simply be defeated. So we simply ask for the protection and the guarantee of law over a region which with such guarantee there is every probability to believe will in the course of time develop into a region which will support a sparse but active and useful population, though not likely to fill up with great numbers rapidly unless at the particular centers where gold is found in great abundance, as was the case in California. If the mines should turn out very prosperously you can expect to see a great throng. If they turn out badly there will be simply the disaffected miners drifting off and forming settlements, but there would be a steady and healthy growth. Even if it were not so, and even if the numbers were small, still the demand for protection for the few is precisely as great as for the many, only it is not brought into such conspicuous notice.

In my opinion it is very desirable that legislation should be enacted for Alaska so that the country may have somebody here in Washington to represent the general interests of all the people there, rather than the interests of any one or all the companies having charter rights. There should be some one here who would be charged with looking to the general interests of the people there as opposed to the interests of any company. I believe that the people of Alaska are entitled to their rights as we promised them, and I cannot understand why all the bills introduced for the purpose of securing those rights should fail, unless it is to somebody's interest to have them fail.

Senator BUTLER. Do you know much of that portion called Western Alaska—the Aleutian Islands?

Mr. BAKER. Yes, sir.

Senator BUTLER. You have been down through that country?

Mr. BAKER. I have. I have, in a general way, speaking in very general terms, traversed the whole border of Alaska. I have never been inland much, but I have cruised on the coast three summers, and have visited most of the Aleutian Islands, visiting the larger ones.

Senator BUTLER. In what capacity?

Mr. BAKER. I am connected with the Coast Survey. We were cruising, and made surveys of various little harbors and astronomical and magnetic observations. My own special part of the work was that of astronomical and magnetic observer. I cruised among the Aleutian Islands in the summer of 1873, from Sitka, north and westward, along the coast in the summer of 1874, and in Bering Sea as far as latitude 60° N.; and in the summer of 1880 I went by steamer from San Francisco to Portland, and thence by steamer to Sitka; thence in the launch of the U. S. S. Jamestown, lying at anchor in Sitka, to the Chilkat River, in the region Mr. Hanus described, and back to Sitka again; thence westward and nothward, in the Coast Survey schooner Yukon, to the Arctic Ocean, going nearly to Point Barrow, touching at various points, spending sometimes a few hours, sometimes a day or two, once or twice perhaps a week.

Senator BUTLER. You went through Bering Strait?

Mr. BAKER. Through Bering Strait and northward to Point Barrow. We were stopped by the ice. The Corwin was just coming back and reported the ice closing down, and so we went no farther. It was a 12,000-mile cruise that summer from San Francisco up and back again.

Senator BUTLER. You went from Sitka in a sailing vessel?

Mr. BAKER. I went from Sitka in a sailing vessel. I have always gone in a sailing vessel, except simply the steamer trip to Sitka.

Senator BUTLER. Have you ever been up the Yukon River any distance?

Mr. BAKER. No, sir; I have never been in the interior. I have been associated in this work with Mr. Dall as his assistant. He has written a work on Alaska, and has spent two winters on the Yukon. He has been clear up to the headwaters, up to Fort Yukon. It is possible to go up that river by steamer. There are two steamers running up annually, making a collection of furs and taking supplies, starting from Saint Michael's, I think.

Senator BUTLER. What would you say of the climate along the coast as far as you have gone? It varies, I suppose, as you get north.

Mr. BAKER. Exactly. Mr. Dall and myself have made a complete résumé and collection of all climatological material, and discussed it in a publication. I have not a

copy here, but from that you would get a very general idea of the climate. In Southeastern Alaska you have a short range of temperature. The coldest ever recorded at Sitka was 10 degrees below zero, Fahr., and the warmest about 84 degrees above, but, in general, it gets up to a maximum in summer of about 80 degrees, and in winter to a minimum of 12 or 15 degrees above zero, Fahr. The range is small. Snow does not lie long there on the coast. On the back side of the mountain towards the mainland it lies some months. Taking the year through, the mean temperature at Sitka is about the same as Northern New York, Southern Vermont, and New Hampshire, Central Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, except that the range is not the same. It is not so warm in summer, nor so cold in winter, but in the mean it is about the same. That is true along the coast and through the Aleutian Islands. The isotherm of 40° Fahr. passes through the Aleutian Islands, and in general you have an equable moist climate, a great deal of fog and cloud, and a considerable rainfall. The maximum rainfall seems to be at the Queen Charlotte Islands, and diminishes either way; it is still very great in Washington Territory and Oregon, and to the northward, but grows less and less, until you get far to the northward in Alaska, when it becomes considerably dryer, especially as soon as you recede a little from the coast. Up in the interior, in the Yukon Valley, there is most intense cold in winter, and corresponding heat in summer. The thermometer at Fort Yukon in midsummer attains a height of 100° Fahr. in the shade, and it is so warm that travel is given up in the day-time and continued when the sun is low. In winter it falls to minus 50 and minus 55. At Point Barrow, on the extreme north, there are only two months in the year when the mean temperature rises above the freezing point. There are ten months of frost, and of course the temperature falls from the freezing point down to very excessive cold. Nevertheless, in the Yukon Valley, in the short summer, where the sun does not set, vegetation springs up very rapidly, and also the hardy root crops; grasses ripen rapidly; and so far as any experiments have been tried there, they are very successful. It is in its character very much like the steppes of Northern Siberia, and Siberia supports a scattered, to be sure, but yet in various centers quite a numerous, population, getting their entire resources from the country itself.

Senator BUTLER. Do you think it would be practicable to cultivate there the cereals, wheat or oats? Do you think the season would be long enough for that?

Mr. BAKER. I do not think it is possible to come to a final conclusion without some experiments, but from such scant material as we have, there are a few localities where the hardy cereals, like barley or oats, may be raised. I do not think the prospect is good, but I think it is worth trying. Wheat, I should say beforehand, would probably fail. It has been tried at Sitka, and headed nicely, but it failed to fill; the kernels were shriveled. I saw a few handfuls brought from there which had been raised merely as an experiment, but in the way of root crops and the various garden crops, potatoes, turnips, cauliflower, and all that class of vegetables, those do well wherever tried. Potatoes have been cultivated in the Territory from a very early period. The Indians understand the culture of potatoes very well, and sell to the traders.

Senator BUTLER. Irish potatoes?

Mr. BAKER. Yes, sir; Irish potatoes. A gentleman by the name of A. G. Cozian, now dead, and who lived many years at Sitka, and was formerly a trader there, told me that he brought up in 1864 and sold to the Indians eleven tons of potatoes, which they bought as seed, and those Indians inhabit this archipelago, that is, in the southeastern part. Attempts have been made to cultivate, but in general it is found that maritime people do not take to the soil. These people get their living out of the water; their diet is largely of fish and the venison which they get, and the result is that they, being sailors who originally crossed from the Siberian side, know nothing about the cultivation of the soil. In some cases, where the experiment has been tried, it seemed to me the way they treated it, it was sure to insure its failure. They brought up this cold seaweed or kelp and piled it over the beds as manure. Instead of its being warm and fermenting, and acting as a fertilizer, in this humid and rather cold climate, they never got warm at all, and it seemed to me to retard the growth. Without data to form an intelligent opinion upon the subject as to what the possibilities are, the only satisfactory solution would be to guarantee to those who are willing to make the attempt the protection of the law and the courts, and the opportunity to acquire a title from which they cannot be displaced, and give them a fair opportunity to try experiments.

Senator BUTLER. In other words, you think that it is quite worth the experiment of putting a government there?

Mr. BAKER. I think so; decidedly.

Senator BUTLER. And the government would be justified in whatever expense was incurred in giving protection to American citizens?

Mr. BAKER. Yes, sir; exactly.

Senator BUTLER. That is doubtless the principle which is at the bottom of all this?

Mr. BAKER. That is where it comes to finally.

STATEMENT OF PAYMASTER J. A. RING, U. S. N.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *December* 18, 1881.

Having been requested by the Hon. A. Saunders, chairman of Committee on Territories, to state in writing something regarding the population, and the mineral and agricultural resources of Southeastern Alaska, I would state as follows:

My residence in Alaska lasted twenty-six months, and ceased the 15th of last August. During this time I frequently visited Harrisburg, a town scarcely a year old, and situated in the new mining district of same name. I have also visited Chilcoot, Hoonyah, Killisnoo, and Fort Wrangell. The greater portion of my residence was in Sitka.

I should estimate the white population of this southeastern portion of Alaska to be about 1,200, and to be distributed as follows: Harrisburg, 500; Sitka, 200; Wrangell, 250; and two or three hundred more among the settlements at Chican Shuck, Hoonyah, Killisnoo, and Chilcat, and other small settlements.

I have been upon the mining ground at Harrisburg, and know that the placer mines have yielded very handsomely during the last season, and that the quartz veins give every indication of richness and permanency. Sales have been made of some of these at good figures to San Francisco capitalists, and work upon them is now being vigorously prosecuted. The mining grounds in other localities also give promising indications.

I have no doubt there will be a large influx of population into Southeastern Alaska the coming spring.

The same section of country is by no means deficient in agricultural promise; grasses grow there luxuriantly, and many vegetables; among them cabbages, turnips, and potatoes, grow remarkably well and yield abundantly.

The fur trade of this section is extensive, and supports a number of traders. The timber is of fine quality and very abundant; one kind, the yellow cedar, being highly prized and rarely found in other localities.

The waters abound in excellent fish, such as the salmon, halibut, cod, herring, and others of lesser value.

Very respectfully,

JAMES A. RING,
Passed Assistant Paymaster, U. S. Navy.

LETTER OF ROBERT CAMPBELL.

RIDING MOUNTAIN HOUSE, MANITOBA,
November 30, 1881.

MY DEAR SIR: In my hurried note to you from Winnipeg, in October, I promised to write you, at my first leisure; but leisure and I seem to have parted company of late, and I am anything but in a vein to write, and in what follows I have to draw upon my memory, as all my memoranda and note books are in Scotland, whither I may, *D. V.*, shortly return.

Being an employé of the Hudson Bay Company, I was, for a series of years, employed by it in exploring, trading, and extending the trade in the till then unknown part of the Rocky Mountains, and especially in search of rivers, or sources of rivers flowing from the west of the mountains.

In summer, 1838, I ascended to and established a trading post at Dease's Lake, (since then a gold field), and soon after, in July, I crossed the mountain and came to the headwaters of a river, which, with a party of two Indian boys and a half-breed, I followed for some time, and came to a tributary which we crossed on Terror Bridge, a very shaky structure over a foaming torrent. About 15 miles beyond the bridge we came on a very large camp of Indians, assembled there for the double purpose of catching salmon, which abounded in the river, and of trading with the then notable chief, "Shakes," who ascended there from Fort Highfield, a large trading station of the Russians, established at the mouth of the river, on the Pacific coast. From these Indians I was glad to learn that the name of the river was "Stikene."

I gave notes to some of the Indians, to be delivered at any Hudson Bay Company post, relating the result of my discovery thus far, and as the object of my trip was now attained I wished to retrace my steps without delay; but it was with no little difficulty that we got away from the camp of the savages. We owed our safety to the Nahany chief, and the tribe we came first in contact with in the morning. This discovery, which made no small noise at the time, led in a great measure to the Hudson Bay Company leasing from the Russians a stretch of country along the coast, for purposes of trade.

After passing a winter of very severe privation and suffering, we abandoned Dease's Lake with the opening of navigation, and re-established Fort Halkett.

In the spring of 1840 I was again sent out to explore. I ascended the northwest branch of the Liard River, and at its headwaters found a beautiful large lake, which I named "Francis Lake." Thence I crossed the mountains and came on the headwaters of a magnificent stream which I named "Pelly River," after our governor, Sir J. H. Pelly. In the following year I established a trading post at "Francis Lake," from which starting-point I explored the last named river downwards, establishing a post, Pelly Banks, at the point where we first saw the river, and in 1848 established Fort Selkirk, at the confluence of the Pelly and Lewis rivers.

At this time and for years after it was a matter of conjecture what river this was, and where it debouched into the sea. The Russians seemed afraid to ascend any of the rivers flowing through their then territory into the sea, beyond a few leagues.

Fort Yukon was established in 1846 or '7, (I think), from Peel's River, near the mouth of the McKenzie River, and from the first I expressed the belief, in which hardly any concurred, that the Pelly and Yukon were identical. In 1850 I received Sir George Simpson's permission to explore the Pelly down to its mouth. This I did, with the happy result of in due time reaching Fort Yukon, thus proving my conjectures were correct, and also setting the question at rest, that the Pelly and Yukon were one and the same river. Thence I ascended the Porcupine River to La Prière House, thence crossed the mountains eastward to Peel's River Fort, and up the McKenzie to Fort Simpson, a circle of some thousand miles.

When I visited England, in 1853, I got this stretch of country, till then unknown and untrodden by white man, entered upon the map of North America, by the Hudson Bay Company's mapmaker, J. Arrowsmith.

Since Mr. Arrowsmith's death I see no correct copy of said maps, but I sent corrected copies to several interested friends, and shall, if in London, try and procure, and forward to your address one so corrected.

"As regards the general topographical features of the country, of soil, streams, &c." The Pelly is a magnificent river—increasing in size by the many affluents that swell its tide as it sweeps in gentle serpentine curves by the points of the mountains on either side the valley; many of its tributaries are large rivers, especially McMillan, Lewes, White Mud, and Stewart's Rivers. Generally a range of mountains borders the river on each side, the back range much higher, with its peaks partially or altogether covered with snow. The bræ face on the left bank is in general covered with a green verdure, like the Highland glens, with occasional strips of woodland running up its valleys. The opposite hill is more wooded and is almost covered with scrub. The whole valley is more or less well wooded with spruce, pine, poplar, and birch, but, as all over the country, the sad ravages of fire are visible everywhere.

Game is pretty abundant and we often had the pleasure, as we drifted down, to see moose, deer, bears, grizzly, black, and brown on the hill-side, or crossing the river, and when passing where the mountains rise abrupt from the water edge, with their rocky fronts, we often saw and killed wild sheep (big horn). In winter when the reindeer return from the coast, large herds range through the woods.

The lakes throughout the interior abound with fish; white-fish the prince of fish. Three kinds of salmon ascend the river in great abundance in its lower parts, and some as far up as Pelly Banks, which is about 3,000 miles from seacoast. The salmon, on their return in fall, are seen in a dying state, in vast numbers, in the shallow water along the banks, so much so that the flesh of the grizzly bear, which feeds principally on fish at that time of year, is so tainted that Indians will not eat it..

On descending the river in summer when everything is in full bloom, the varied scenery is so beautiful and picturesque, and of such expanse, that it altogether baffles description. The mountains skirt the river till within about 40 miles of Fort Yukon, when they recede in the distance, and the river spreads itself over a large valley, winding through channels among islands.

When in full freshet flow in summer steamers could ascend to within 30 miles of Pelly Banks.

The soil in the valley is generally good, being a rich sandy loam, but from its northern and mountainous locality, I should say not much adapted for agriculture, until the country under a more genial sun is crowded out. We tried barley, potatoes, and ground vegetables at Fort Selkirk, with indifferent success, flies more than anything else destroying the vegetables.

As to minerals, when up there I paid little or no attention to them; however I forwarded specimens of the rocks from Pelly Banks to Fort Yukon and its flora kingdom to England, to Sir W. J. Hooker, Royal Gardens, Kew. The specimens, both of rocks and flowers, were lost on the way to England.

The fruit grew plentifully, according to locality—blue, cran, goose, and straw berries being most abundant.

Indians of several tribes were pretty numerous along the river, none of which had ever seen a white man till our advent among them. They hardly possessed any civ-

ilized article. Their dress consisted of skins of animals killed in the chase; their food in summer, of salmon, and in winter of dried salmon and game. They were very fine, tractable fellows, after we made their acquaintance, and were full of gratitude to us for introducing the many necessary articles of life.

The rascally Chilcate Indians from the Pacific coast were in the habit of making trading excursions to Pelly. They ascended by Lynn Canal, thence crossed over the mountains to the head of Lewes River. Descending this river they came to the Pelly, where ofttimes, when strong enough, they pillaged and massacred the Pelly Indians, than whom there could be no more honest men.

I may mention that I saw traces of buffalo having been there at some former period, and several skeletons of some species of elephant were found in swamps near Fort Selkirk; the thigh bone of one I sent home is now in the British Museum, London.

The climate all along the Pelly is milder than in the same latitudes on the east side of the mountains.

Please be so kind as to pardon this long, irregular letter, and favor me with a line acknowledging its receipt. Address, Hudson Bay Company's Office, Montreal, or London, England.

With esteem and every good wish, I remain yours, truly,

ROBERT CAMPBELL.

General M. C. BUTLER,
Edgefield, S. C., U. S.

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