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Alleged shelling of Alaskan villages. Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, in response to a resolution of the House of Representatives relative to the alleged shelling of two villages in Alaska by the revenue cutter Corwin.

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AFFAIRS IN ALASKA.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

Resolution of the Board of Trade of Portland, Oreg., in relation to the recent shelling of an Indian village in Alaska by United States forces.

JANUARY 31, 1883.—Referred to the Committee on the Territories and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *January 29, 1883.*

SIR: Referring to this department's letters to you of the 20th of December last, I have the honor to inclose herewith a copy of a resolution of the Board of Trade of Portland, Oreg., dated the 13th instant, touching the action of Commander Merriman in regard to Alaskan matters.

Very respectfully,

CHAS. J. FOLGER,
Secretary.

Hon. J. W. KEIFER,
Speaker House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

Resolutions of the Board of Trade of Portland, Oreg.

At a special meeting of the Board of Trade of Portland, Oreg., held on January 13, 1883, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas the Board of Trade of Portland, Oreg., has for many years observed with concern and regret the state of lawlessness and violence which has existed in the Territory of Alaska; and

Whereas said lawlessness has culminated in the recent seizure and threatened massacre of American citizens by the Indians of that region; and

Whereas the greater portion of the trade with Alaska is controlled by the merchants of Portland, members of this board, who are thus vitally interested in the preservation of peace and good order in that Territory; and

Whereas the board has heard with much satisfaction of the action of Commander Merriman in punishing the insubordinate Indians, in rescuing the American citizens, and in the preservation of American property above referred to: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the Board of Trade of Portland, Oregon, That we highly commend the course pursued by Commander Merriman in suppressing the above attempt at violence, and in chastising the refractory natives.

Resolved, That Commander Merriman took the only proper means to render life and property safe among the Indians of Alaska.

Resolved, That our thanks are due, and we hereby tender the same, to Commander Merriman for his prompt and vigorous action in the premises, whereby life and property have been rendered secure, and the majesty of the law vindicated, as far as is possible in the absence of any form of civil government, the establishment of which has long been denied to our appeals.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions be properly certified to and sent to Commander Merriman, and similar copies to the honorable the Secretaries of the Navy and Treasury.

DONALD MACLEAY,
President.

True copy. Test:

[SEAL.]

F. K. ARNOLD,
Secretary.