

3-19-1885

## Resolution of Senator Manderson

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 19, 1885.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MANDERSON submitted the following

## RESOLUTION:

*Resolved*, That a committee of not exceeding five Senators, to be selected by the Committee on Territories, be authorized to proceed to Alaska during the recess of Congress and inquire into and investigate the operation of the act of May 17, 1884, "providing a civil government for Alaska;" whether the system of government established by said act is adequate for the maintenance of order and the protection of the rights of persons and property; whether the said act is being properly executed by the officers appointed under the same; the condition of the natives or Indians of said Territory; their relations to the Government of the United States, and what legislation is required for their proper management; the condition and character of mines, mining claims, and mining titles; the character of land tenures, or possessions, or other titles to lands; the present condition and value of the public buildings belonging to the United States in said Territory; the manner in which the laws relating to customs, and other laws and regulations, have been and are now being executed.

Also to inquire into and investigate the past and present condition of the seal fisheries of the Pribylov Islands; whether the Alaska Commercial Company has heretofore complied, and is now complying, with the terms of its lease from, and its agreement with, the United States, and the laws relating to said seal fisheries, or whether the said company has heretofore violated, or is now violating, the same in any manner; whether the officers of the Government appointed to see that said laws and the conditions of said lease are executed have been and are faithfully performing their duties, and whether the system in operation is adequate and proper for guarding and protecting the interests of the Government and the rights of said company in relation to said seal fisheries.

Also to inquire into the natural resources of said Territory, the character and value of its present and probable products; whether the general land laws, or laws relating to timber or mining lands, should be extended over said Territory, and to examine, generally, into all matters relating to the development of the said Territory and to the prosperity and welfare of its people. Said committee shall have power to sit in the vacation of the Senate at any place in the United States, to send for persons and papers, to examine witnesses, to appoint a clerk and a stenographer, and shall make report with their recommendations in respect to future legislation to the Senate at the next regular session of Congress.

The expenses of said committee, of the clerk, stenographer, witnesses, &c., shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the Senate, to be certified by the chairman of the committee, and audited and allowed by the Committee to Audit and Control the Contingent Expenses of the Senate.