

1-6-1890

Resolution of Senator Plumb

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 6, 1890.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

Mr. PLUMB submitted the following

RESOLUTION:

Whereas the Secretary of the Treasury has by public advertisement invited bids for leasing the islands of St. Paul and St. George, in the Territory of Alaska, for a period of twenty years; and

Whereas the law under which said proposal is issued was passed about twenty years since, and the circumstances and conditions existing in Alaska and with reference to the seal industry have materially changed during that period; and

Whereas it has been charged, upon the authority of a late governor of Alaska, that the Alaska Commercial Company, now occupying said islands under lease from the Government, has exercised its privileges oppressively and against the interests of both the natives and the Government; and

Whereas said company claims that it is the only person or organization which can successfully compete for the lease invited by the Secretary of the Treasury as aforesaid, and there is every reason to believe that under present legislation and conditions the lease proposed will be made to said Alaska Commercial Company substantially without competition: Therefore,

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be requested not to make a new lease of said islands until further action by Congress or until the latest period made necessary by existing law, and that meanwhile he make full report to the Senate as to the manner in which the said Alaska Commercial Company has discharged its duties and obligations under the present lease, and also what additional legislation, if any, is necessary in order that the interests of the Government and those of the natives and citizens of Alaska may be more fully protected.