1-9-1891

Experiment station in southern Alaska.

51ST CONGRESS, 2d Session. } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { REPORT No. 3414.

EXPERIMENT STATION IN SOUTHERN ALASKA.

JANUARY 9, 1891.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MCCOMAS, from the Committee on Education, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. Res. 258.]

The Committee on Education reports favorably House joint resolution 258, with sundry amendments recommended by the committee.

Congress has passed several acts encouraging the establishment of agricultural schools and experiment stations in the different States and Territories.

These several acts require the assent of the legislatures of the several States and Territories before their provisions become available; but as Alaska has no legislature, it is the only Territory which is unable to avail itself of the benefits and provisions of these acts.

This bill proposes to extend to Alaska the benefits and provisions of the agricultural acts through the Secretary of the Interior, in like manner to the other Territories. The acts are recited in the preamble to the joint resolution.

There has been very wide divergence of views with regard to the agricultural and horticultural capabilities of Alaska, or whether it has any agricultural capabilities at all.

This bill would secure the establishment of an experiment station in southern Alaska, which has a temperate climate, and test the question of what can and what can not be raised to advantage.

This would be of very great service both to the natives, who through the Government schools are coming into our civilization, and to the white settlers who may locate in that vast region, which embraces about 580,000 square miles.

There are hundreds of thousands of square miles of area within the Arctic regions of Alaska that, there is no question, can never be adapted to ordinary agricultural pursuits, nor utilized for purposes of raising cattle, horses, or sheep; but this large area is especially adapted for the support of reindeer.

This bill will enable the Secretary of the Interior, through the Government industrial schools, to make the stock raising of reindeer the great industrial feature of that region.

This will utilize hundreds of thousands of square miles of territory, will build up a large and profitable industry, and, above all, will provide a comfortable support for the native population of that region.

This is the more important at the present time, because the American whalers have practically destroyed and driven out the whale and the walrus from the waters adjacent to the coast of Alaska.

The destruction of the whale and walrus has taken away three-fourths of the ordinary food supply of the Eskimo population, and that population to-day on the Arctic coas tof Alaska is on the verge of starvation. The large canneries will soon take away the fish supply.

The introduction of tame reindeer from Siberia into Alaska thus has a twofold importance:

(1) As the establishment of a profitable industry.

(2) As a relief of a starving people, a relief that will become more and more valuable as the years roll round, a relief that once established perpetuates itself.

This project is wiser than to pauperize the people of Alaska.

The revenue from that country warrants this attempt to make these people self sustaining.

The lease of the Seal Islands by the United States Treasury Department to the North American Commercial Company, on the basis of 100,000 skins, ought to yield a revenue of about $1,000,000 annually. Under the old lease the revenue was $317,500 annually.

The extending to Alaska of the benefits of the agricultural bill approved August 30, 1890, would give for the year ending June—

1890	$15,000
1891	16,000
1892	17,000
	48,000

From the act establishing agricultural experiment stations approved July 2, 1862, the sum of $15,000.

The joint resolution would therefore carry for the year ending June 30, 1892, $93,000, and for the following year, $33,000.

The committee report therefore this joint resolution with the following amendments and recommend that it pass.

In line 4, page 2, after the word "to" insert "give any assent required by either of said acts, and to."

In line 4, page 2, after the word "benefits" insert "and provisions."

In line 6, page 2, after "Territory" insert "of Alaska."

In line 7, page 2, after the word "acts" add "in like manner as for any other Territory."

APPENDIX.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, December 15, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose, for the information of the Senate, a copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Education, of date December 5, 1890, and also a copy of a letter from Dr. Sheldon Jackson, United States general agent of education in Alaska, to the Commissioner, of date November 12, 1890, relative to the impoverished and destitute condition of the native inhabitants in Alaska, consequent upon the destruction of their sources of livelihood by the whaling-fishery, seal-hunting, and walrus-hunting industries, and suggesting the establishment of an agricultural and mechanical college and the instruction by means of the same of the natives in the rearing and management of the domestic reindeer for their support, the same to be introduced from eastern Siberia and northern Europe.

Very respectfully,

GEO. CHANDLER,
Acting Secretary.

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF EDUCATION,
Washington, D. C., December 26, 1890.

SIR: On the 5th instant I had the honor of transmitting to you a report from Dr. Sheldon Jackson, general agent of education for Alaska, in which he stated that the Eskimo of Arctic Alaska were on the verge of starvation, and recommended that we avail ourselves of the benefit of the several acts of Congress for promoting instruction in agriculture and the mechanic arts, and thereby provide a way of introducing into Alaska the domesticated reindeer of Siberia.

On the 15th instant you very kindly transmitted the above communications to Congress for such action as might be necessary, and on the 19th instant a joint resolution was introduced into the House of Representatives authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to extend to Alaska the benefits of the act approved March 2, 1887, creating "agricultural experiment stations," and of an act approved August 30, 1890, for the better support of agricultural schools in the several States and Territories.

If this very desirable legislation is granted, and under its provisions a suitable school is established, it will be a comparatively easy matter to purchase in Siberia a herd of domesticated reindeer, transport them to Alaska, and give instruction in their care and management.

This would be a great step forward in lifting the native races of that boreal region out of barbarism and starting them toward civilization, a step from the grade of wild hunter to the grade of herdsmen who live on domesticated cattle, and besides this, furnish an article of exportation and commerce. The native tribes on the Siberian side are thriving with their herds of reindeer.

It seems that all northern Alaska is filled with moss meadows (tundra) which furnish the very food that the reindeer requires.

Once started, the business would grow into large proportions, and the most serious problem that threatens Alaska will be solved.

Since the subject has been agitated a number of calls have been received by this office for information with regard to it.

I would, therefore, respectfully request permission to publish in a small pamphlet the inclosed report of Dr. Sheldon Jackson with accompanying papers.

Respectfully, yours,

W. T. HARRIS,
Commissioner

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF EDUCATION, ALASKA DIVISION,
Washington, D. C., November 12, 1890.

DEAR SIR: In advance of a full report of operations in Alaska, I desire to call your attention to the need of legislation by Congress in order to secure for Alaska the benefits of the acts of Congress in 1887 and 1890 to promote instruction in agriculture and the mechanic arts.

And I do this now—

(1) Because it is the short session of Congress, and whatever is done should be done at once; and

(2) Because of the starving condition of the Eskimo on the Arctic coast of Alaska, which condition will be relieved by the proposed legislation (Appendixes A and B).

From time immemorial they have lived upon the whale, the walrus, and the seal of their coasts, the fish and aquatic birds of their rivers, and the caribou or wild reindeer of their vast inland plains.

The supply of these in years past was abundant, and furnished ample food for all the people. But fifty years ago American whalers, having largely exhausted the supply in other waters, found their way into the North Pacific Ocean. Then commenced for that section the slaughter and destruction of whales that went steadily forward at the rate of hundreds and thousands annually, until they were destroyed and driven out of the Pacific Ocean. They were then followed into Behring Sea, and the slaughter went on. The whales took refuge among the ice-fields of the Arctic Ocean and thither the whalers followed. In this relentless hunt the remnant have been driven still farther into the inaccessible regions around the North Pole, and are no longer within reach of the natives (Appendixes C, D, and E).

As the great herds of buffalo that once roamed the western prairies have been exterminated for their pelts, so the whales have been sacrificed for the fat that incased their bodies, and the bone that hung in their mouths. With the destruction of the whale, one large source of food supply for the natives has been cut off.

Another large supply was derived from the walrus, which once swarmed in great numbers in those northern seas. But commerce wanted more ivory, and the whalers turned their attention to the walrus, destroying thousands annually for the sake of their tusks. Where a few years ago they were so numerous that their bellowings were heard above the roar of the waves and grinding and crashing of the ice fields, this year I cruised for weeks without seeing or hearing one. The walrus as a source of food supply is already practically extinct.

The seal and sea lion, once so common in Behring Sea, are now becoming so scarce that it is with difficulty that the natives procure a sufficient number of skins to cover their boats, and their flesh, on account of its rarity, has become a luxury.

In the past the natives, with tireless industry, caught and cured for use in their long winters great quantities of fish, but American canneries have already come to some of their streams, and will soon be found on all of them, both carrying the food out of the country and, by their wasteful methods, destroying the future supply. Five million cans of salmon annually shipped away from Alaska—and the business still in its infancy—means starvation to the native races in the near future.

With the advent of improved breech-loading firearms the wild reindeer are both being killed off and frightened away to the remote and more inaccessible regions of the interior (Appendix K), and another source of food supply is diminishing.*

Thus the support of the people is largely gone, and the process of slow starvation and extermination has commenced along the whole Arctic coast of Alaska. Villages that once numbered thousands have been reduced to hundreds—of some tribes but two or three families remain. At Point Barrow, in 1828, Captain Beechey's expedition found Nuwuk a village of 1,000 people; in 1863 there were 309; now there are not over 100. In 1826 Captain Beechey speaks of finding a large population at Cape Franklin; to-day it is without an inhabitant. He also mentions a large village of 1,000 to 2,000 people on Schismareff Inlet; it has now but 3 houses.

According to Mr. John W. Kelly, who has written a monograph upon the Arctic Eskimo of Alaska, Point Hope, at the commencement of the century, had a population of 2,000; now it has about 350. Mr. Kelly further says: "That Kavea country is almost depopulated owing to the scarcity of game which has been killed or driven away. * * * The coast tribes between Point Hope and Point Barrow have been cut down in population so as to be almost obliterated. The Kookpovoros of Point Lay have only 3 huts left; the Ootookas of Icy Cape 1 hut; the Koogmute has 3 settlements of from 1 to 4 families; Sezaro has about 80 people."

Mr. Henry D. Woolfe, who has spent many years in the Arctic region, writes: "Along the seacoast from Wainright Inlet to Point Lay numerous remains of houses testify to the former number of the people. * * * From Cape Seppings to Cape

* The reindeer have long since been driven away. (John W. Kelly, in Ethnographical Memoranda Concerning the Arctic Eskimos in Alaska, A. D. 1889, page 9.)

Krusenstern and inland to Nounatok River there still remain about 40 people—the remnant of a tribe called Key-wah-ling-nach-ah-mutes. They will in a few years entirely disappear as a distinctive tribe."

I myself saw a number of abandoned villages and crumbling houses during the summer, and wherever I visited the people I heard the same tale of destitution.

On the island of Attou, once famous for the number of its sea-otter skins, the catch for the past nine years has averaged but 3 sea otter and 25 fox skins, an annual income of about $2 for each person. The Alaska Commercial Company this past summer sent $1,300 worth of provisions to keep them from starving.

At Akutan the whole catch for the past summer was nineteen sea otters. This represents the entire support of 100 people for twelve months. At Unalashka both the agent of the Alaska Commercial Company and the teacher of the Government school testified that there would be great destitution among the people this winter because of the disappearance of the sea otter. At St. George Island the United States Treasury agent testified that there was not sufficient provision on the island to last through the season, and asked that a Governmnnt vessel might be sent with a full supply. At Cape Prince of Wales, Point Hope, and Point Barrow was the same account of short supply of food. At the latter place intimations were given that the natives in their distress would break into the Government warehouse and help themselves to the supply that is in store for shipwrecked whalers. At Point Barrow, largely owing to the insufficient food supply, the death rate is reported to the birth rate as 15 to 1. It does not take long to figure out the end. They will die off more and more rapidly as the already insufficient food supply becomes less and less.

INTRODUCTION OF REINDEER.

In this crisis it is important that steps should be taken at once to afford relief. Relief can, of course, be afforded by Congress voting an appropriation to feed them, as it has so many of the North American Indians. But I think that every one familiar with the feeding process among the Indians will devoutly wish that it may not be necessary to extend that system to the Eskimo of Alaska. It would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, and, worse than that, degrade, pauperize, and finally exterminate the people. There is a better, cheaper, more practical, and more humane way, and that is to introduce into northern Alaska the domesticated reindeer (Appendices F and G) of Siberia, and train the Eskimo young men in their management, care, and propagation.

This would in a few years create as permanent and secure a food supply for the Eskimo as cattle or sheep raising in Texas or New Mexico does for the people of those sections.

It may be necessary to afford temporary relief for two or three years to the Eskimo, until the heards of domestic reindeer can be started, but after that the people will be self-supporting.

As you well know, in the Arctic and subarctic regions of Lapland and Siberia the domesticated reindeer is food, clothing, house, furniture, implements, and transportation to the people. Its milk and flesh furnish food; its marrow and tongue are considered choice delicacies; its blood, mixed with the contents of its stomach, is made into a favorite dish called in Siberia "manyalla"; its intestines are cleaned, filled with tallow, and eaten as a sausage; its skin is made into clothes, bedding, tent covers, reindeer harness, ropes, cords, and fish lines; the hard skin of the forelegs makes an excellent covering for snow shoes.*

Its sinews are dried and pounded into a strong and lasting thread; its bones are soaked in seal oil and burned for fuel; its horns are made into various kinds of household implements—into weapons for hunting and war and in the manufacture of sleds.

Indeed I know of no other animal that in so many different ways can minister to the comfort and well-being of man in the far northern regions of the earth as the reindeer.†

> The reindeer form their riches; these their tents,
> Their robes, their beds, and all their homely wealth supply;
> Their wholesome fare and cheerful cups.

Under favorable circumstances a swift reindeer can traverse 150 miles in a day. A speed of 100 miles per day is easily made. As a beast of burden they can draw a load of 300 pounds. They yield a cupful of milk at a milking; this small quantity, however, is so thick and rich that it needs to be diluted with nearly a quart of water to make it drinkable.

---

* Kennan's Tent Life in Siberia, page 188.

† Without the reindeer the Laplander could not exist in those northern regions: it is his horse, his beast of burden, his food, his clothing, his shoes, and his gloves. (Du Chaillu's Land of the Midnight Sun, vol. 2, page 199.)

It has a strong flavor like goat's milk, and is more nutritious and nourishing than cow's milk. The Lapps manufacture from it butter and cheese. A dressed reindeer in Siberia weighs from 80 to 100 pounds. The reindeer feed upon the moss and other lichens that abound in the Arctic regions, and the farther north the larger and stronger the reindeer.

Now, in central and Arctic Alaska are between 300,000 and 400,000 square miles (an area equal to the New England and Middle States combined, together with Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois) of moss-covered tundra and rolling plains of grass that are specially adapted by nature for the grazing of the reindeer, and is practically useless for any other purpose.

If it is a sound public policy to bore artesian wells and build water-storage reservoirs, by which thousands of arid acres can be reclaimed from barrenness and made fruitful, it is equally a sound public policy to stock the plains of Alaska with herds of domesticated reindeer, and cause those vast, dreary, desolate, frozen, and storm-swept regions to minister to the wealth, happiness, comfort, and well-being of man. What stock raising has been and is on the vast plains of Texas, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana, reindeer raising can be in northern Alaska. In the corresponding regionsf o Lapland, in Arctic Norway, and in Sweden and Russia are 27,000 people supporting themselves (besides paying a tax to the government of $400,000, or $1 per head for their reindeer), and procuring their food and clothing largely from their 400,000 domesticated reindeer (Appendix H). Also in the corresponding regions of Siberia, with similar climate, soil, and environment (and only 40 miles distant at the straits), are thousands of Chukchees, Koraks, and other tribes fed and clothed by their tens of thousands of domesticated reindeer.

During the summer I visited four settlements of natives on the Siberian coast, the two extremes being 700 miles apart, and saw much of the people, both of the Koraks and Chukchees. I found them a good-sized, robust, fleshy, well-fed pagan, half-civilized, nomad people, living largely on their herds of reindeer. Families own from 1,000 to 10,000 deer. These are divided into herds of from 1,000 to 1,500. One of these latter I visited on the beach near Cape Navarin. In Arctic Siberia the natives with their reindeer have plenty; in Arctic Alaska without the reindeer they are starving.

Then, instead of feeding and pauperizing them, let us civilize, build up their manhood, and lift them into self-support by helping them to the reindeer. To stock Alaska with reindeer and make millions of acres of moss-covered tundra conducive to the wealth of the country would be a great and worthy event under any circumstances.

But just now it is specially important and urgent from the fact, stated in the opening of this report, that the destruction of the whale and walrus has brought large numbers of Eskimo face to face with starvation and that something must be done promptly to save them.

The introduction of the reindeer would ultimately afford them a steady and permanent food supply.

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION.

Passing from northern Alaska, with its adaptation to reindeer raising, we find the whole southern coast, stretching for thousands of miles, to possess a temperate climate. This is due to the "Kuro-siwo" or "Japan current" of the Pacific Ocean. In this "temperate belt" it is probable that there are areas of greater or less extent that are adapted to agriculture. At least it is known that there are small farms or vegetable gardens on Kodiak and Afognak Islands, on the shores of Cook's Inlet and in southeastern Alaska. It is also known that wild berries grow in great profusion and abundance in many sections. But no intelligent and continued experiments have been made to test the agricultural and horticultural capabilities of the country.

Until a quite recent period (1867) the European population were fur-trading Russians. They were followed by fur-trading Americans, and more recently by the gold seekers. No one expected to remain long in the country, and there has been no incentive to carry forward intelligent experiments in agriculture.

As early as my first report to the Commissioner of Education (1885) I called attention to the fact that there was a very wide diversity of views concerning the agricultural and horticultural capabilities of Alaska, and necessarily very great ignorance; that no systematic effort intelligently prosecuted had ever been made to ascertain what could or what could not be raised to advantage; that it was of very great importance, both to the people of Alaska and the country at large, that careful experiments should be made, extending over a term of years, to ascertain the vegetables, grains, grasses, berries, apples, plums, trees, flowers, etc., best adapted to the country; the best methods of cultivating, gathering, and curing the same; the planting and grafting of fruit trees; the development of the wild cranberry; cattle, hog, and poultry raising; butter and cheese making, etc. In 1886 my recommendation was

taken up by the U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture, who, in his annual report for that year (page 20), says: "Something in the line of experimental work might also be undertaken in Alaska possibly with profit. It is well known that the Department of the Interior has established an agency for the promotion of education in that Territory.

"It has been suggested that a line of experiments, to be undertaken by this Department, would easily prove whatever of agricultural and horticultural capability may exist in the Territory. No careful attention seems to have been given there, as yet, to this branch of industry, and the resources of the country are quite unknown and undeveloped.

"The Industrial Training School at Sitka would furnish an admirable basis for a station, where could be conducted careful experiments to ascertain the agricultural products best adapted to the climate and soil of the Territory, and what breeds of cattle and other domestic animals are most suited to its climate and soil.

"Such an experiment ought to extend over a series of years, and the result would amply repay any expenditure that Congress may choose to make in this direction."

In view, therefore, of the national importance of introducing the domesticated reindeer of Siberia into northern Alaska, and testing the agricultural capacity of southern Alaska, I most earnestly recommend that you secure the establishment of an "agricultural school and experiment station" in connection with the system of industrial education in Alaska.

By an act approved July 2, 1862, Congress made provision for schools for the "benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts." By an act approved March 2, 1887, provision was made for "agricultural experiment stations" in connection with the agricultural schools. And by the act approved August 30, 1890, certain of the proceeds of the sale of public lands were set aside for the better support of these agricultural schools.

These acts of Congress require the assent of the legislature of the State or Territory in order that their provisions may become available.

But Alaska has no legislature, and is governed directly by Congress. On this account, and partly because nineteen-twentieths of the children to be benefited belong to the native races, Congress has committed to the Secretary of the Interior the duty of making "needful and proper provision for education in Alaska." It is, therefore, eminently proper that he should be authorized to extend to Alaska the benefits of the agricultural acts of 1887 and 1890 (Appendix J.), and secure the establishment of a school that can introduce reindeer into that region, and teach their management, care, and propagation, and also to conduct a series of experiments to determine the agricultural capabilities of the country.

To reclaim and make valuable vast areas of land otherwise worthless; to introduce large, permanent, and wealth-producing industries where none previously existed; to take a barbarian people on the verge of starvation and lift them up to a comfortable self-support and civilization, is certainly a work of national importance.

It was my good fortune to make my visit to the Eskimo in the United States revenue steamer *Bear*, commanded by Capt. Michael A. Healy, who has made an annual cruise in those waters for ten years past. Having seen much of the native population and taken a great interest in their welfare, he has probably a better knowledge of their condition and necessities than any other person. His attention was early called to the advantage that the introduction of domesticated reindeer would be to the inhabitants of northern Alaska, and he has given the subject considerable thought.

When, therefore, I suggested the feasibility of introducing the domesticated reindeer of Siberia into Alaska in connection with the Government industrial schools, and my purpose to recommend it, he immediately indorsed the proposition, and rendered me much assistance in pursuing my inquiries with regard to the subject. He is also ready to coöperate in carrying out any plan that may be devised. Feeling sure that this important matter will have your hearty assistance,

I remain, with great respect, very truly, yours,

SHELDON JACKSON,
United States General Agent of Education for Alaska.

Hon. W. T. HARRIS, LL. D.,
Commissioner of Education of the United States.

APPENDIX A.

U. S. REVENUE STEAMER BEAR,
San Francisco, Cal., December 6, 1890.

DEAR SIR: Under orders from the Secretary of the Treasury, I have been ten years on the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean station of the U. S. Revenue Marine Service,

My duties have brought me very closely in contact with and greatly interested me in the native population.

On account of this interest, I have watched with pleasure the coming among them of the missionaries of the several churches and the teachers of the Government schools.

I have also seen with apprehension the gradual exhaustion of the native food supply.

From time immemorial they have lived principally on the whale, seal, walrus, salmon, and wild reindeer. But in the persistent hunt of white men for the whale and walrus, the latter has largely disappeared, and the former been driven beyond the reach of the natives. The white men are also erecting canneries on their best fishing streams, and the usual supply of fish is being cut off; and with the advent of improved firearms the wild reindeer are migrating farther and farther away.

With the disappearance of the whale, walrus, salmon, and reindeer, a very large portion of their food supply is taken away, and starvation and gradual extinction appear in the near future.

On my recent cruise I was accompanied by Dr. Sheldon Jackson, United States general agent of education, and together we have made the question of a future food supply the subject of special thought and investigation.

We have consulted with a few of the leading teachers, missionaries, traders, and whaling captains whom we have met, and they, without a single exception, agree with us that the most practical relief is the introduction of domesticated reindeer into that portion of Northern and Arctic Alaska adapted to them.

In Lapland there are 400,000 domesticated reindeer, sustaining a population of 27,000. In Siberia, but a few miles from Alaska, with climate and country of similar conditions, are tens of thousands of tame reindeer supporting thousands of people, and it will be a very easy and comparatively cheap matter to introduce the tame reindeer of Siberia into Alaska and teach the natives the care and management of them.

This it is proposed to do in connection with the industrial schools established among the natives by the Bureau of Education. As in connection with the industrial schools in Dakota, Indian Territory, and elsewhere, the Indian boy is taught the raising of stock, so in the industrial schools of Alaska it is proposed to teach the Eskimo young men the raising of tame reindeer.

A few thousand dollars expended now in the establishment of this new industry will save hundreds of thousands hereafter. For if the time comes when the Government will be compelled to feed these Eskimo it will cost over $1,000,000.

In Northern Alaska there are about 400,000 square miles that are adapted to the reindeer and are unfit for anything else.

This region has a present population of about 20,000, all of whom will be ultimately benefitted by the new industry.

With an assured support, such as will come from herds of tame reindeer, there is no reason why the present population shall not be increased in numbers and advanced to the position of civilized, wealth-producing American citizens.

Asking for your favorable consideration, and earnest advocacy of this matter,

I remain, very respectfully,

M. A. HEALY,
Captain, U. S. Revenue Marine.

Hon. W. T. HARRIS, LL. D.,
United States Commissioner of Education, Washington, D. C.

APPENDIX B.

DESTITUTION AMONG THE ALASKA ESKIMO.

[An interview with Capt. M. A. Healy, U. S. Revenue Marine Service, in San Francisco Chronicle, December 12, 1890.]

For several seasons past the Eskimo of Northwestern Alaska have experienced great hardships in obtaining a supply of deer meat for their winter stores. It is to be feared that when the *Bear* makes her annual visit to the Arctic next summer many of the villages will be found to have lost their residents from starvation. The latest advices from the Arctic report a failure not only in the autumn deer hunt, but in the entire catch of whales, walrus, and seals.

Naturally of a timid disposition the deer have learned that the natives with breech-loading arms are far more formidable foes than when bows, arrows, and spears were employed in the chase. Again, the Eskimo spare neither young or old when a herd is found, and little suckling fawns as well as does carrying young fall victims to their guns.

Formerly on the lower Yukon around St. Michael's, on Norton Sound, and in the country known as the Kotzebue Sound district, numbers of deer made yearly visits. Now it is rare to find that the natives living at these points have seen or tasted deer meat.

The Alaskan deer of the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions have been confounded with the reindeer of other localities, but while certainly belonging to the rangifer family, they are the true barren-ground caribou, differing from the upland caribou and domesticated reindeer of Lapland and Siberia in being smaller in body and horns. From July to September the instincts of the deer induce them to come from the interior to the seacoast to obtain rest and freedom from the tortures inflicted by the hordes of mosquitoes that infest the inland swamps, and also to get saline matter from the herbage and moss growing in proximity to the ocean. In September they commence their inland migration, and from July until the middle of October they are ruthlessly pursued by the natives. Some rest is afforded to the animals during the dark days that prevail in the Arctic zone from November until January, but as soon after the early part of February as the weather permits the food-seekers again take the field. The does have their young during April, and by a provision of nature the horns of the female only attain size during the time she is suckling the fawn and until it reaches such an age that it can feed—about two months.

When it is considered that a deer, weighing on an average 125 pounds, is consumed at a single sitting by five or six natives, it may be readily perceived that the average returns of a successful hunting party must be large to feed a village.

During the past season in the Arctic the attention of Captain Healy, of the United State revenue steamer *Bear*, has been directed in a very pointed manner to the attainment of some method whereby the supply of deer for food and clothing purposes may be increased in northwestern Alaska. This year, taking advantage of the presence on the *Bear* of Dr. Sheldon Jackson, United States commissioner of education for Alaska, the captain, in conjunction with Commissioner Jackson, intends to present to the Secretary of the Interior data upon the subject.

Within a radius of 100 miles inland from the shores of the ocean on the Siberian coast, from Cape Navarin to Plover Bay, there are a people known as deer men. They belong to the Chukchee tribe of Siberians, and are essentially a nomadic race, wandering from East Cape, on the northern coast, to Cape Navarin, southward. Accompanied by their herds of tame reindeer, aggregating in many instances thousands, they roam in search of food. These reindeer, while resembling the Alaskan species in the main, differ in the texture of their skins, the pelts being spotted brown and white, with a smooth surface. These deer men subsist mainly on the products of their herds, bartering the skins with the coast natives for tobacco, seal oil, walrus hides for their boot soles, and other minor commodities, such as powder, shot, lead, and flour. At Cape Navarin and East Cape, Siberia, they sometimes meet the whaling ships and sell them deer meat and skins for tobacco, etc.

Captain Healy's ideas are to propose to the Government that he be empowered to purchase a number of these deer of both sexes and transport them on the *Bear* to some point on the Alaskan coast where moss and feed are plentiful. These deer are to form the nucleus of a herd, and from the yearly increase they can be distributed over other portions of the Northwest Territory. As the Alaskan Eskimo are not skilled in herding deer, Captain Healy intends, if permission be granted by the Government, to endeavor to enlist the services of some experienced Siberian natives to instruct them.

Unless some measures be adopted, as suggested by Captain Healy, it is sure that a decade will witness the extermination of the people of our Arctic province on its northwest shores. The results of the active and unscrupulous chase of their pelagic food supplies by the whalemen have already become evident; walrus are almost invisible on the ice-floes within reach of the native hunters, while the flurried and galled whale makes its passage to the unknown regions of the Arctic Ocean at a speed which defies the natives to capture it.

The proposition of Captain Healy will be communicated to the Washington authorities at an early date.

APPENDIX C.

DESTRUCTION OF THE WHALES.

[From Bancroft's History of Alaska, pages 668 and 669.]

Of whaling enterprise in the neighborhood of the Alaskan coast mention has already been made, but a few statements that will serve to explain *the enormous decrease that has occurred in the catch within the last three decades* may not be out of place.

Of the 600 or 700 American whalers that were fitted out for the season of 1857 at least one-half, including most of the larger vessels, were engaged in the north Pacific. The presence of so vast a fleet tended, of course, to exhaust the whaling-grounds or to drive the fish into other waters, for there are no permanent whaling grounds on any portions of the globe except those encircled by ice for about ten months in the year. In the seas of Greenland, not many years ago, whales were rarely to be seen; in 1870 they were fairly plentiful. The sea of Okhotsk and the waters in the neighborhood of the Aleutian Islands were a few decades ago favorite hunting grounds, but are now almost depleted, while in 1870 the coast of New Siberia was swarming with whales. Schools of sperm whale are occasionally seen between the Alaska peninsula and Prince William Sound, and the humpback sometimes makes its appearance as far north as Baranof Island. Between Bristol Bay and Bering Strait a fair catch is sometimes taken, but most of the vessels forming what is termed the north Pacific whaling fleet now pass into the Arctic Ocean in quest of their prey. Probably not more than 8 or 10 of them are employed on the whaling grounds of the Alaskan coast.

In 1881 the whaling fleet of the north Pacific mustered only 30 and in the following year 40 craft, of which 4 were steamers. The catch for 1881 was one of the most profitable that has occurred since the date of the transfer, being valued at $1,139,000, or an average of about $57,000 for each vessel, some of them returning with cargoes worth $75,000, and few with cargoes worth less than $30,000. In 1883 the catch was inconsiderable, several of the whalers returning "clean," and few making a profit for their owners.

The threatened destruction of these fisheries is a matter that seems to deserve some attention. In 1850, as will be remembered, it was estimated that 300 whaling vessels visited Alaskan waters and the Okhotsk and Bering Seas. Two years later the value of the catch of the North Pacific fleet was more than $14,000,000.

After 1852 it gradually decreased until in 1862 it was less than $800,000; for 1867 the amount was about $3,200,000; in 1881 it had again fallen to $1,139,000; and for the season of 1883 there was a still further reduction.

APPENDIX D.

DECREASE OF THE FOOD SUPPLY IN WESTERN ALASKA.

[From Petroff's census report, 1880.]

The whaling industry may be expected to decline gradually here as it has done in other sections of the globe. The danger indicated lies in the fact that the trading vessels coming to this region, chiefly from the Sandwich Islands, have carried such quantities of alcoholic liquor that the natives have acquired a craving for the same that can no longer be subdued, and this causes them to look for no other equivalent for their furs, oil, and ivory than the means of intoxication. At the same time they become utterly reckless in their pursuit of fur-bearing and other animals, thinking only of satisfying their desire for the present without the slightest thought of the future; and if this state of affairs be continued *the extermination of the people, consequent upon the exhaustion of their means of subsistence, can only be a question of time.*

APPENDIX E.

CATCH OF WHALES IN ALASKAN WATERS.

[From Senate Executive Document No. 34. The Forty-second Congress, second session. Pages 4 and 5.]

Year.	No. of ships.	Average barrels.	Total catch oil, sperm, and whale.	Total value, including bone.
			Barrels.	
1845	163	953	250,600	$5,337,780
1846	192	869	253,800	5,542,990
1847	177	1,059	187,443	4,519,330
1848	159	1,164	185,256	4,198,637
1849	155	1,334	206,850	5,085,716
1850	144	1,692	243,648	7,186,549
1851	138	626	86,360	2,812,350
1852	278	1,343	373,450	14,118,900
1853	238	912	218,135	7,264,470
1854	232	794	184,063	6,506,976
1855	217	873	189,579	8,038,914
1856	178	822	146,410	6,651,156
1857	143	796	113,900	5,158,760
1858	196	620	121,650	4,625,620
1859	176	535	94,160	3,459,060
1860	121	518	62,678	2,297,511
1861	76	724	55,024	1,792,900
1862	32	610	19,525	785,217
1863	42	857	36,010	1,855,770
1864	68	522	35,490	2,725,612
1865	59	617	36,415	3,092,160
1866	95	598	56,925	4,301,250
1867	90	640	57,620	3,192,380
1885	.....	.....	20,817	.....
1889	49	.....	12,231	.....
1890	48	.....	7,452	.....

APPENDIX F.

REINDEER.

(From Encyclopedia Britannica, volume 7, pages 24 and 25.]

The reindeer (*Tarandus rangifer*), the only domesticated species of deer, has a range somewhat similar to the elk, extending over the entire boreal region of both hemispheres, from Greenland and Spitzbergen in the north to New Brunswick in the south. There are several well-marked varieties, differing greatly in size and in form of the antlers—the largest form occurring furthest north, while by many writers the American reindeer, which has never been domesticated, is regarded as a distinct species. The antlers, which are long and branching and considerably palmated, are present in both sexes, although in the female they are slender and less branched than in the males. In the latter they appear at a much earlier age than in any other species of deer, and Darwin conjectures that in this circumstance a key to their exceptional appearance in the female may be found. The reindeer has long been domesticated in Scandinavia, and is of indispensable importance to the Lapland race, whom it serves at once as a substitute for the horse, cow, sheep, and goat. As a beast of burden it is capable of drawing a weight of 300 pounds, while its fleetness and endurance are still more remarkable. Harnessed to a sledge it will travel without difficulty 100 miles a day over the frozen snow, its broad and deeply cleft hoofs being admirably adapted for traveling over such a surface. During the summer the Lapland reindeer feeds chiefly on the young shoots of the willow and birch; and as at this season migration to the coast seems necessary to the well-being of the species, the Laplander, with his family and herds, sojourns for several months in the neighborhood of the sea. In winter its food consists chiefly of the reindeer moss and other lichens, which it makes use of its hoofs in seeking for beneath the snow. The wild reindeer grows to a much greater size than the tame breed, but in Northern Europe the former are being gradually reduced through the natives entrapping and domesticating them. The tame breed found in Northern Asia is much larger than the Lapland form and is there used to ride on. There are two distinct varieties of the Ameri-

can reindeer, the barren-ground caribou and the woodland caribou. The former, which is larger and more widely distributed of the two, frequents in summer the shores of the Arctic Sea, retiring to the woods in autumn to feed on the tree and other lichens. The latter occupies a very limited tract of woodland country, and, unlike the barren-ground form, migrates southward in spring. The American reindeer travel in great herds, and being both unsuspicious and curious they fall ready victims to the bow and arrow or the cunning snare of the Indian, to whom their carcasses form the chief source of food, clothing, tents, and tools.

APPENDIX G.

WILD REINDEER IN ALASKA.

[Charles H. Townsend, in the Report of the Cruise of the U. S. Revenue-Marine Steamer *Corwin* 1885, Capt. M. A. Healy, commanding, pages 87 and 88.]

Reindeer are found more or less regularly throughout Alaska. They were found by Mr. McLenegan on the Noŭtak, as well as by our party on the Kowak. Traders in the service of the Alaska Commercial Company told me of their common distribution over the Yukon, Kuskokvim, and Aleutian divisions of the country. They have even been shot on Ounimak Island, at the end of the peninsula. But reindeer are restless animals, irregular in their migrations and habits. Sometimes they desert whole sections of the country for months together, and they appear to have withdrawn from many regions where fire-arms have been introduced. Notwithstanding the fact that large herds of reindeer are kept in a state of domestication by the Chukchees at East Cape and other well-known places on the Asiatic side of Bering Straits, with whom the natives of the Alaskan side communicate regularly, there appears to be no domestication of the species whatever in Alaska, nor indeed in any part of North America.

In time, when the general use of fire-arms by the natives of upper Alaska shall have reduced the numbers of this wary animal, the introduction of the tame variety, which is a substantial support to the people just across the Straits, among our own thriftless, alcohol-bewitched Eskimos, would be a philanthropic movement, contributing more toward their amelioration than any system of schools or kindred charities. The native boats could never accomplish the importation, which would, however, present no difficulty to ordinary sea-going vessels. The taming of the American reindeer is impracticable; for domestication, with this animal at least, is the result of subjection through many generations. Something tending to render a wild people pastoral or agricultural ought to be the first step toward their advancement. In our management of these people, "purchased from the Russians," we have an opportunity to atone, in a measure, for a century of dishonorable treatment of the Indian.

APPENDIX H.

DOMESTIC REINDEER IN LAPLAND.

[From Du Chaillu's Land of the Midnight Sun, volume 2, pages 167 and 168.]

The Fjeld Lapp's time is engaged in adding to his herd, to which he and his family devote all their energies, for their welfare depends on the growth of the animals. It is difficult to ascertain exactly the increase or decrease of reindeer according to the districts, for the people often change, and there has been of late years in the north a large immigration of Norwegian Lapps to the territory of Sweden, especially to Keresuando, but, taken as a whole, the population and the reindeer are increasing. There is a greater number in Norway than in Sweden, owing to the number of stationary bönder (farmer) and sea Lapps, which far outnumber the nomads. According to the late census there are:

In Sweden (1870) 6,702 Laplanders, with 220,800 reindeer; in Norway (1865, 17,178 Laplanders, with 101,768 reindeer; in Finland (1865) 615 Laplanders, with 40,200 reindeer; in Russia (1859) 2,207 Laplanders, with 4,200 reindeer.

With those that belong to farmers and others I think we may safely say that the reindeer number about 400,000. The Samoïdes have the largest and finest breeds, which are not numbered among those of the Lapps. In Kautokeino there are Lapps who own 2,000 reindeer; in Sorsele, in Sweden, one is said to own 5,000, and others 1,000 and 2,000. Some of the forest Lapps have 1,000. In Lulea Lappmark there are herds

of over 2,000; in Finmarken, of 5,000; and some Lapps have owned as many as 10,000. A herd of 2,000 to 2,500 is said to give about 200 to 250 calves yearly.

Every owner has his own mark branded upon the ears of all his reindeer, and no other person has a right to have the same, as this is the lawful proof of ownership; otherwise, when several herds are mingled on the mountains, the separation would be impossible. According to custom no one can make a new mark, but must buy that of an extinct herd; if these are scarce the price paid to the families that own them is often high; the name of the purchaser and each mark have to be recorded in court, like those of any other owner and property. The tax paid is according to the pasture land occupied.

APPENDIX J.

Joint resolution to extend to Alaska the benefit of the laws encouraging in the several States and Territories instruction in agriculture and the mechanic arts.

Whereas Congress passed an act, approved March second, eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, entitled "An act to establish agricultural experiment stations in connection with the colleges established in the several states under the provisions of an act approved July second, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, and of the acts supplementary thereto;" and an act approved August thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety, entitled "An act to apply a portion of the proceeds of the public lands to the more complete endowment and support of the colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts, established under the provisions of an act of Congress approved July second, eighteen hundred and sixty-two;" and

Whereas these several acts require the assent of the legislature of the State or Territory before their provisions become available; and

Whereas Alaska has no legislature, and on that account Congress has committed the charge of education in that section to the Secretary of the Interior: Therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Intetior is hereby authorized and empowered to extend to Alaska the benefits of the above-cited acts, and to receive and disburse through the Bureau of Education for the benefit of the said Territory all moneys now or hereafter appropriated under said acts.

APPENDIX K.

SAN FRANCISCO, *December* 18, 1890.

DEAR SIR: Referring to your desire to obtain information relative to the introduction of reindeer into the northwest portion of the Territory of Alaska, I would say that in my opinion the project is entirely feasible. My experience in Alaska permits me to state on authority, that the next decade will witness the extinction of the American reindeer, or rather caribou. In 1881 when I first visited the district of Norton and Kotzebue Sounds and the lower Yukon, deer were plentiful. This past winter (1889) not a single animal had been seen within a radius of 200 miles. Similar conditions are coexisting from Port Clarence to Point Barrow, and where in former years the hunters had to travel but 50 miles to reach the deer haunts, to-day they traverse twice that distance. These contingencies arise from three causes:

(1) The indiscriminate slaughter of young and old animals.

(2) The use at the present day of improved weapons of the chase, in lieu of the primitive bows, arrows, and spears.

(3) The conditions of wind prevailing at the seasons when the deer go to and from the coast. It must be distinctly understood that upon a supply of these animals our Alaskan Eskimo depend for clothing as well as their store of meat, should their pelagic sources of provender fail.

The proposition to introduce deer from the Siberian herds can be effected at a cost of but a few thousand dollars.

The location for the first experimental station should be on Choris Peninsula or the vicinity of Kotzebue Sound. This location has climatic similarities with Siberia. The food (moss) supply is abundant and herding easy.

As the results of this initial experiment become manifest, additional locations for herds can be established. Within two seasons the Chukchee herdsmen will be able to instruct the Eskimo in the style of herding.

I have made inquiries upon the subject and now give you the result. Ten years ago the Russian steamer *Alexander* went to the Kamchatka Peninsula, and officers of the Alaska Commercial Company bought 7 male and 7 female deer, transporting them to Behring Island (one of the islands leased by the company from Russia). Captains Blair and Greenberg, and Superintendent Lubegoil inform me that the herd now numbers 180. From this you can judge the rate of propagation.

The revenue steamer *Bear* can be utilized for transportation, and I know no man more capable of conducting the experiment than Captain Healy.

I hope that the small sum required will be voted by Congress, as unless something is done for these people their annihilation is only a question of a brief period.

The whalers have so frightened the big fish that the natives are unable to pursue them in their rapid passage, while the extermination of the walrus is almost a fact.

These remarks I present as requested.

Yours, very truly,

HENRY D. WOOLFE.

Dr. SHELDON JACKSON,
Washington, D. C.

APPENDIX L.

Mr. Henry W. Elliott, who has published a monogram on the Fur-Seal Islands of Alaska, Government Printing Office, 1884, page 13, says:

"*Stock and poultry raising.*—On account of the severe climatic conditions it is of course impracticable to keep stock here with any profit or pleasure. The experiment has been tried faithfully. It is found best to bring beef cattle up in the spring on the steamer, turn them out to pasture until the close of the season, in October and November, and then, if the snow comes, to kill them and keep them refrigerated the rest of the year. Stock can not be profitably raised here, the proportion of severe weather annually is too great—from three to perhaps six months of every year they require feeding and watering, with good shelter. To furnish an animal with hay and grain up there is a costly matter, and the dampness of the growing summer season on both islands renders haymaking impracticable. Perhaps a few head of hardy Siberian cattle might pick up a living on the north shore of St. Paul, among the grasses and sand dunes there, with nothing more than shelter and water given them, but they would need both of those attentions. Then the care of them would hardly return expenses, as the entire grazing ground could not support any number of animals. It is less than 2 square miles in extent, and half of this area is unproductive. Then, too, a struggle for existence would reduce the flesh and vitality of these cattle to *so low an ebb that it is doubtful whether they could be put through another winter alive, especially if severe. I was then, and am now, strongly inclined to think that if a few of those Siberian reindeer could be brought over to St. Paul and St. George they would make a very successful struggle for existence and be a source of a good supply, summer and winter, of fresh meat for the agents of the Government and the company who may be living upon the islands.*"

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,
Friday, January 9, 1891.

The committee met at 10 a m., Hon. James O'Donnell in the chair.

Mr. MCCOMAS. I move we take up for consideration House bill number 12691 and House resolution number 278 and consider them together. They are both relating to Alaska and I presume the subject-matter will be those resolutions.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. MCCOMAS. Dr. Sheldon Jackson, superintendent of education for Alaska, who has perhaps the biggest problem of education under his control of any man in this country, can give us some information respecting the matter. He is here for that purpose by invitation.

The CHAIRMAN. Dr. Jackson, the committee will be pleased to hear from you.

STATEMENT OF DR. SHELDON JACKSON, GENERAL AGENT OF EDUCATION FOR ALASKA.

Dr. JACKSON said: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, I will call the attention of the committee to the map of Alaska. Alaska has something like an area of 580,000 square miles, or as large as all of the United States east of the Mississippi

River north of the Gulf States. Congress in 1884, in creating the act of civil government, directed the Secretary of the Interior to make needful and proper provision for the education of the children of Alaska without distinction of race, and to enable him to do that Congress appropriated the sum of $25,000 to cover with schools an area reaching nearly to the extent of one-sixth of the whole of the United States. All we could do the first year—the work was started in 1885, although the appropriation was passed in 1884—was to establish schools in southeastern Alaska. I was appointed general agent of education for Alaska. All western and northern Alaska was beyond my reach, and I could not by any possible way get there and back the same summer. If I had made the attempt I would have had to wait until the spring of 1886, then go to San Francisco and take the Alaska commercial steamer north to Ounalaska, and get back perhaps in October of that year.

Last season, in attempting to establish schools among the Eskimos in the Arctic region, I was compelled to take the revenue cutter at Puget Sound, and was five months going up and back, yet we were traveling continuously, and that was the best I could do. Going through Behring Sea and the Arctic Ocean up to the northernmost point of North America, a good school was established for the Eskimos last August at Point Barrow. There is no regular mail line in Alaska to the westward of Sitka. Our communication with western, central, and northern Alaska is by vessels chartered by fur-trading companies and salmon-canning companies and by the whalers who make their annual trips into the Arctic in search of whales. For that reason the commissioner of education in western Alaska, where we can only visit our schools once a year, where they can not be under constant supervision, has very largely gone into the system of contract schools. That is, he says to the Presbyterians, the Baptists, the Methodists, the Episcopalians, the Congregationalists, or Roman Catholics, "If you put up a good school at such a point and give us a good teacher, one who will be capable of teaching a grammar school at Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, or Cleveland, we will give you so much in proportion to the number of pupils in attendance." So the educational system through western and northern Alaska is largely the contract system.

Mr. CARUTH. These red marks on the map indicate the places where you have schools.

Dr. JACKSON. Yes, sir; and it shows the diligence of the Bureau, that in the five years since the matter was placed in its hands in 1885 it has been able to establish so many schools.

Mr. CARUTH. How many schools are there altogether?

Dr. JACKSON. We have about fourteen day schools there entirely under the control of the Government and about eleven contract schools.

Mr. CARUTH. How many pupils are in attendance at these schools?

Dr. JACKSON. In round number, from 1,200 to 1,500.

The CHAIRMAN. I noticed in your enrollment statistics for 1889 that you had 921 scholars and 14 teachers as against 814 in 1890 and 14 teachers, and the appropriation has gone from $25,000 in 1884 to $50,000 in 1890.

Dr. JACKSON. I will explain that. The 1884 Congress gave us two funds. It gave one to the Bureau of Education for the ordinary common schools. Then it gave the Indian Bureau $15,000 for the old-fashioned Indian schools. At that time they considered the whole native population of Alaska as Indians. The appropriations ran in that way for three years; then, as the common school fund set forth that it was to be used without distinction as to race, the two funds were thrown together in the sundry civil appropriation bill; and the larger part of the money, at least half of it, goes for the contract schools.

The CHAIRMAN. I notice in 1890 there was used some $30,000 of appropriation for these schools divided among the different denominations, and I notice that the Presbyterians had some $18,000 of this and the balance was divided between the Episcopal, Moravians, Methodist, Catholic, and Congregationalists.

Dr. JACKSON. That comes from the pro rata per pupil. The Presbyterians have been settled for about thirteen years at Sitka and have put in from $30,000 to $40,000 in buildings and improvements and they have about 170 children in the schools, and by allowing the pro rata per child, it ran the fund for the Presbyterians up to $18,000 last year. That is the reason for this proportion, the size of the school and the pro rata per pupil.

The CHAIRMAN. And in this enrollment you speak of, how about the 14 teachers?

Dr. JACKSON. They belong to the day schools only. We have with the day and contract schools about 66 employés.

The CHAIRMAN. These day schools are governmental entirely.

Dr. JACKSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. MCCOMAS. When you left Alaska how many pupils were there in all, if you include the contract and day schools?

Dr. JACKSON. I should say, in round numbers, 1,500.

Mr. GEISSENHAINER. What proportion does that bear to the population?

Dr. JACKSON. We estimate that the school population is about 10,000 and we have only about 1,500 in school.

Mr. GEISSENHAINER. What is the cause of that?

Dr. JACKSON. Simply that Congress has not given the funds to establish schools enough. Some of these schools are 500 miles apart and from 1 to 250 miles is the ordinary distance between schools.

Mr. MCCOMAS. That is a pretty long walk before school time.

Mr. LANGSTON. How many Government schools are there and how many contract schools are there?

Dr. JACKSON. Fourteen Government and eleven contract.

Mr. LANGSTON. What denominations are at work there?

Dr. JACKSON. Presbyterians, Methodists, Congregationalists, Protestant Episcopal, Moravians, Friends, and Roman Catholics.

Mr. GEISSENHAINER. Any Lutherans?

Dr. JACKSON. Two Swedish Lutherans have made application, and if we have the fund for 1891 they will be placed under contract. The Commissioner would have done so last year if the appropriation asked for had been granted.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Have you any native teachers?

Dr. JACKSON. We have three. The oldest native school teachers is only thirteen years of age, and of course it takes time to take these people out of barbarism and bring them to a position where they are capable teachers. We have three who have arrived at that stage now.

Mr. LANGSTON. What progress do you find these people make in their studies?

Dr. JACKSON. We find they make rapid progress. All our teachers are from the East and they have had experience in the various departments of the eastern schools and they testify that practically there is no difference between the native mind and that of the ordinary American child in the States, at least in the first stages of education.

Mr. LANGSTON. What ages have you in the schools?

Dr. JACKSON. We have all ages from babyhood up to fifty and sixty years of age. In one instance we have had the grandmother, mother, and daughter in the same class. Especially among the native tribes of southeastern Alaska there is an exceeding earnest desire to be able to read the Bible.

Mr. LANGSTON. What is the age of these three native teachers you have there?

Dr. JACKSON. There is a young man I should say about eighteen years of age. There is one young lady who has just graduated from Elizabeth, N. J., last June, who has now returned to be a teacher, and I should say she was twenty years of age. There is one teacher who is twenty-five or twenty-six years old.

Mr. LANGSTON. These three were prepared at schools outside of Alaska?

Dr. JACKSON. Two finished their education outside of Alaska, but the woman twenty-five years of age received all her training in the Alaska schools.

A few minutes ago the chairman called my attention to the fact that there was not a large increase but rather a decrease in the attendance. We regret that, and that is why a bill has been introduced in Congress to give us compulsory education. The native parents will not avail themselves of the advantages. One week they are exceedingly anxious to have the children attend school and the next week possibly may be favorable for going fishing, and the whole family will go for probably two weeks. That breaks up any continuous progress in the child, and has been a great hindrance to the work. There is urgent need of compulsory attendance law by which we may keep these children for a certain length of time every year in school.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Would the statute be enforced?

Dr. JACKSON. Yes, sir; more readily than in the States. Our plan is to appoint a native man, perhaps the chief of the village, assistant teacher. His work is to keep the children in school, and for the sum of $15 a month, which would be the wages he would expect, he would see that every child was in school.

Mr. LANGSTON. What is the population as you estimate it?

Dr. JACKSON. It is about 34,000 to 35,000, of which 33,000 is native.

Mr. LANGSTON. What proportion Indian?

Dr. JACKSON. There are very few Indians in Alaska. Commencing along with the Arctic Ocean line and crossing down to Behring Sea is Esquimaux population. Half the native population of Alaska is Esquimaux.

Mr. MCCOMAS. Has the census of Alaska been reported yet?

Dr. JACKSON. No, sir; and it will not be until next September, I think.

Mr. MCCOMAS. What is your estimate?

Dr. JACKSON. Of course we have a good many whites, but I should say there are 33,000 or 34,000 natives, and I should estimate the whites at about 2,000 to 4,000.

Mr. MCCOMAS. I believe the Russians have taken a census of that country?

Dr. JACKSON. Yes, sir; and the United States have in 1880.

Mr. MCCOMAS. What was the census of 1880?

Dr. JACKSON. About 34,000, I think, for the whole country

Mr. MCCORMICK. And you estimate about the same now?

Dr. JACKSON. Yes, sir; it has not increased very much.

Mr. McCOMAS. During a century has the population increased or decreased?

Dr. JACKSON. The census reports have been so imperfect that there is no telling anything about that.

Mr. McCOMAS. What is the Russian population there now?

Dr. JACKSON. About 3,000.

Mr. McCOMAS. Has that decreased?

Dr. JACKSON. Yes; I think it is dying out.

Mr. COBB. Who composes the other population?

Dr. JACKSON. We have about 6,000 Thlingets.

Mr. McCOMAS. Where are the Thlingets?

Dr. JACKSON. They are one of ten separate tribes in southeast Alaska, speaking Thlinget language.

Mr. COBB. Indians?

Dr. JACKSON. That is a debated point.

Mr. COBB. Are they white or red?

Dr. JACKSON. They are partly colored, very light.

Mr. COBB. As light as the Indians?

Dr. JACKSON. They are not as dark as the Indians.

Mr. McCOMAS. How many are Aleuts?

Dr. JACKSON. There are probably 2,000 or 3,000 Aleuts. These were originally Esquimaux, and are practically civilized. They are confined almost entirely to the islands. They are a very inoffensive, mild people, and that is found to be the condition of the entire native population of Alaska. There has never been a war, and it would be hard to force them into war with the whites. Of course they have had intertribal wars.

Mr. LANGSTON. You speak of Esquimaux.

Dr. JACKSON. Of all; Thlingets and Esquimaux.

When you have your long session of Congress usually the appropriation for education in Alaska is in the sundry civil bill and is among the last things enacted, and the last vessel which leaves San Francisco which reaches the teachers of western Alaska leaves in April or May, and the result has been each long term of Congress when the bill is passed in July the Commissioner can not communicate with them for another year. In the spring he does not know anything about it and there is no way for the Commissioner to know whether to appoint the teachers or not, so we have gone on keeping our schools going, supposing Congress would make the appropriation.

The CHAIRMAN. Are these schools taught in continuous session for a term?

Dr. JACKSON. It is a continuous session of nine months with a holiday vacation.

The CHAIRMAN. When is the vacation?

Dr. JACKSON. During Christmas and New Year, and we have a vacation of June, July, and August. We commence the 1st of September and close the 31st of May. These schools have been very economically managed, and I would be very glad if all of you gentlemen could make a trip up there and examine into them.

Mr. McCORMICK. How do you manage it, so far as getting the children together is concerned?

Dr. JACKSON. We have taken the largest villages first, and our schools are in villages of from 500 to 2,000 inhabitants. In a village of 500 people, one-half of the population is under twenty-one yers of age, so we have a much larger school population than you would expect from the total population of the Territory.

Mr. GEISSENHAINER. What is the average age of the Esquimaux?

Dr. JACKSON. Well, I saw only one old man this whole entire season among them and I do not think he was over sixty years, but he looked as though he was ninety or one hundred.

Mr. COBB. Is there a possibility of developing that people?

Dr. JACKSON. A great deal, sir. The Government took measurements of the Esquimaux population at Point Barrow and the average stature was 5 feet 7 inches, and the average weight was 167 pounds, so you see these are fair-sized men.

Mr. COBB. A good deal was said on the floor of the House about the character of the people in regard to their licentiousness, etc.

Dr. JACKSON. Most native people are. They do not look at it in the same light that we do. The women there regard it in the same light as washing, just as a means of earning money, and they do not look upon it as a sin. They do not lose caste by their immorality, but are raised in the estimation of their companions, and they think that a woman is fortunate who has cohabitation with a white man. They seem to have no conception that there is any wrong about it.

Mr. COBB. Do you think that they can be developed out of that?

Dr. JACKSON. Yes, sir; because in southeastern Alaska where we have had them for some eight or ten years in schools, a portion of them have become just as virtuous and in as fair a proportion as you find among our own people. That is a matter of education.

Now to go back to the point of why it is important that that bill should be in a continuing appropriation so that the Commissioner would know when he had to send word early in May that he could commission the teachers to go on with the contract schools, etc. ——

Mr. McCOMAS. What is the distance in miles and in time from Washington and your schools of Alaska?

Dr. JACKSON. It is two weeks to the schools in southeastern Alaska.

Mr. McCOMAS. From Washington?

Dr. JACKSON. From Washington, two weeks.

Mr. LANGSTON. Two weeks from here to where you reside?

Dr. JACKSON. To Sitka. If you go to Ounalaska, it is from twelve to fifteen days from San Francisco, and of course six days from here would make it eighteen days, but if you fail to get a steamer you have to wait a year for the next one.

The CHAIRMAN. The steamers run once a year?

Dr. JACKSON. Yes, sir; to the schools of northern and central Alaska, but they run two or three times up to the Aleutian Islands.

Mr. McCOMAS. Unless you have this appropriation——

Dr. JACKSON. The Commissioner has to go on supposing you are going to do it, which the law does not permit.

Mr. McCOMAS. And it commenced with $25,000 and later it has got to $50,000 a year, which I have reason to know is very inadequate.

Dr. JACKSON. We asked last year $75,000, but any of you gentlemen can see the Commissioner not only has to pay the salaries of the teachers but has to build the schoolhouses and build residences for the teachers. We could not send a cultivated man up there with his wife, a first class teacher, and put them in these Esquimaux houses. These Esquimaux live in underground houses, filthy and low beyond all description. It would ruin the health of a teacher to make him live in one of those houses, so the Government has to build the teachers' residences as well as schoolhouses.

Mr. LANGSTON. What has been done in the way of building the structures of which you speak?

Dr. JACKSON. I can not give you the entire number. There were two residences and three school buildings erected in central Alaska last year, and two school buildings in southeastern Alaska by the Government.

Mr. LANGSTON. By the churches?

Dr. JACKSON. The churches wherever they enter into a contract build all the school buildings.

Mr. LANGSTON. Can you tell how many buildings the churches have already erected and how many the Government have erected?

Dr. JACKSON. I could not do it now but I can send it to the committee before the next meeting. I can tell the number of stations that have buildings. The Presbyterians have possibly from $30,000 to $40,000 worth of buildings at Sitka. The number of buildings——

Mr. LANGSTON. The Presbyterians are doing quite a large work.

Dr. JACKSON. They have been longest on the ground. The other denominations, however, are doing a good deal of work.

Mr. LANGSTON. How are the Roman Catholics proceeding?

Dr. JACKSON. I have been unable to visit them. They have three stations and have five or six priests, two or three sisters, and two or three lay brothers.

Mr. LANGSTON. The educational work of Alaska at the present is really in the hands of churches, is it not?

Dr. JACKSON. No, sir; it is in the hands of the Bureau of Education entirely.

Mr. LANGSTON. But I mean by contract with the educational department of the Government the work is in the hands of the churches?

Dr. JACKSON. About half and half. The Bureau has fourteen day schools and the churches have nothing to do with them at all.

Mr. GEISSENHAINER. Do I understand this is put into the hands of the churches simply because there was no other contractor?

Dr. JACKSON. That seemed to be the most practical thing to do. For instance it has two or three advantages——

Mr. GEISSENHAINER. That is not my question exactly. There is no one else there to do that——

Dr. JACKSON. Not outside of the natives.

Mr. GEISSENHAINER. In that connection I would like to ask another question; the duration of life among these people I understand to be exceedingly short?

Dr. JACKSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. GEISSENHAINER. What relation will that bear proportionately to the delay and retardment of the development of that people?

Dr. JACKSON. I do not quite understand your question.

Mr. GEISSENHAINER. Do they live long enough, in your opinion, for there to be a possibility of development?

Dr. JACKSON. Yes, sir. Take the children as they grow up and they will not die as soon as the fathers and mothers, because they have learned some of the laws of health. The death rate is due largely to exposure and ignorance of the laws of health.

Mr. LANGSTON. Then, as far as you have observed, what is the effect of education upon their general health and habits?

Dr. JACKSON. I just received a few days ago a report from the surgeon of the United States man-of-war *Pinta*, who has been employed in connection with the Sitka industrial school, and his testimony after investigation at Sitka is that the death rate in the school as compared with the death rate of the children outside of the schools is as one to three. Education increases their chances of life two-thirds.

The CHAIRMAN. The school at Sitka is an industrial school.

Dr. JACKSON. Yes, sir; they teach furniture making, boot and shoe making, and bagging and coopering, making barrels, and we have a young man who has been prepared as a teacher of printing, setting type, and things of that kind. The people of southeastern Alaska have a mechanical bent of mind. You can take six wild boys, say, at least that is my idea, and put them in Boston beside six boys picked up in Boston in the same way and the Alaskan boys in three months will gain what will take the Boston boys four or five months. They are natural born mechanics.

The CHAIRMAN. I see that more than half the amount expended for teachers last year was expended at the Sitka industrial school, $18,000.

Dr. JACKSON. That is because they had one hundred and seventy pupils. The Commissioner gives so much per pupil, but in this was $3,000 extra, because $15,000 is the normal amount. This $3,000 was given to try to develop a sawmill. At that time there was a territorial board of education of Alaska, and they were exceedingly anxious that a sawmill should be established at Sitka, and that was a sort of bonus given to secure the sawmill.

Mr. MCCOMAS. That $50,000 of last year was inadequate?

Dr. JACKSON. Yes, sir; we have been compelled to refuse applications for schools which ought to be granted.

Mr. MCCOMAS. From populous settlements?

Dr. JACKSON. Yes, sir; for instance, there is a region of hundreds of square miles [illustrating on map] where there is not a single school. There is a native population there of perhaps a thousand or more people and they are applying for a school. The same thing is up at Great Cook Inlet, where there is a Russian population—several Russian villages. These had schools under the Russian régime but have not had any since the country was transferred.

Mr. MCCOMAS. Just there, if I am right, this same bill No. 12691 has been reported favorably by the Senate committee. Now, has it passed?

Dr. JACKSON. No, sir; it has not passed. I would state in regard to that bill, unless the Commissioner would state it perhaps more definitely than I can, when the bill was in Congress this feature was developed. They said, "Here you are asking for an appropriation for five years and you are taking it out of the hands of the next Democratic House." It never occurred.

Mr. MCCOMAS. That would hardly occur here.

Dr. JACKSON. It occurred in the Senate. Immediately the Commissioner said, "Of course throw it out; I will not ask for five years." That feature of it never occurred to us before.

Mr. MCCOMAS. Was that said during the debate in the Senate?

Dr. JACKSON. Not in the debate in the Senate, but in conversation outside.

Mr. CARUTH. Well, we are very jealous of our rights.

Dr. JACKSON. Of course the Commissioner at once said "Throw it out." Now, I will take up the subject of the reindeer.

Mr. MCCOMAS. First on this bill which was reported favorably by the Senate.

Dr. JACKSON. At the same time it has been amended, and if I understand it it now runs for two years instead of five.

Mr. MCCOMAS. If I understand it it is a bill for two years.

Dr. JACKSON. Yes, sir; $60,000 for 1892 and $70,000 for 1893.

Mr. MCCOMAS. This is the Senate bill as it is now?

Dr. JACKSON. That is my understanding of it.

Mr. MCCOMAS. Is it so, Mr. Commissioner?

Commissioner HARRIS. That is my understanding.

Dr. JACKSON. In going up by direction of the Commissioner of Education to establish these schools among the Arctic region I had the privilege of traveling upon a revenue cutter, for I could not get up in any other way, and we did not travel continuously, but made a good many stops in order to take presents there to some Siberian people which the Government had voted for the rescue of American sailors. That enabled me to study the native population. I found this people to be low down in civilization, a barbarous native population, but well fed and clothed because they had large herds of domestic reindeer, of which I have brought you samples of the clothing of the people and the character of the skins. When we got to the Alaska side,

especially north of Cape Prince of Wales, from there to Point Barrow, there was a cry everywhere of starvation. These people for generations past—no one knows how long—their principal food product has been whales and walrus, which have abounded throughout the southern Arctic Ocean, and seal and fish which come up the river and the reindeer of the interior. American whalers have killed out and driven off the whales from that portion of the ocean so that the whaling industry is practically about to be closed in these Northern Pacific waters. They have for the sake of the ivory tusks killed off the walrus, so that two large sources of food supply for the natives that the natives have had for time immemorial has gone. Then the people were dependent upon the seal and the fish and the reindeer. With the coming of breech-loading fire-arms in that country they have driven the wild reindeer in Northern Siberia back into the hills and mountains.

From these causes the people along that northern coast of Alaska are starving. The question forced itself upon my attention and also upon the attention of Captain Healy, of the revenue cutter, who has been there for ten consecutive seasons: "What is the best thing to do? Shall we go back to Washington and ask Congress to appropriate a fund to feed these people or what else shall we do? That of course would be the simplest process, to have an appropriation to feed them. That might do for one year or even the next year, but then they would rely upon that food and would not exert themselves as they might. So we said, why not take the reindeer of Siberia and introduce it into Alaska in connection with the industrial schools. When I got back to Washington the Bureau of Education suggested (Congress had passed an act, approved August 30, 1890, increasing and providing for the general support of agricultural schools and mechanical instruction), why not get Alaska under that fund? All the other States and Territories are under it, why not Alaska? To obtain the benefit of that fund, as you know, requires the sanction of the legislative representatives of a State or Territory. It must have that to enable them to carry out its provisions, and Alaska has no legislature, consequently Congress in passing the civil act providing for any legislature, provided no legislature existed, in order it might not be deprived of the educational advantages, gives to the Secretary of the Interior the authority to provide for schools. So the question came up, why not have a bill introduced before Congress extending the provisions of these agricultural laws to Alaska under the control of the Secretary of the Interior? Then he can establish the agricultural school and experimental stations by which, instead of experimenting on the raising of cattle, hogs, and horses, as they would in a similar school in Texas or Nebraska or Michigan, why not make the reindeer the principal stock of it?

As early as 1885, in my first annual report to the Bureau of Education , I called attention to the fact there was great diversion of views in regard to the a gricultural capacity of Alaska. You will find some official report gives to Alaska a wonderful agricultural capacity and other official reports say there is no agricultural capacity there at all. Some of them seem to think that you can raise wheat and barley, and others say you can not raise potatoes as big as a walnut. So I concluded, why not let, say the Bureau of Agriculture in connection with the industrial schools and Bureau of Education, have an experimental school and station up there by which competent persons can experiment and tell whether you can raise tomatoes or peaches or oranges in Alaska or not, or even raise potatoes, or wheat, or barley, or what kind of products you can raise. If this was definitely determined then the natives who are coming up to civilization through these schools would be producing potatoes or cabbages or whatever they could raise. Now the purpose of the bill for the States and Territories is just this: It is to test the agricultural production with experimental stations and to promote the industry of cattle-raising, etc.

Now, we want that simply extended to Alaska and let it have a chance to determine what can be raised in the way of agricultural experimental stations and in the way of stock-raising of these tame reindeer of Siberia. Now, practically, they have there a mild climate. This portion up here is Arctic, but Sitka is no colder than Washington. Along this entire coast here is a range of mountains, and when you pass over the range of mountains from the coast to the interior you get into the Arctic climate. The thermometer falls to 20 and possibly up as high as 100° below zero beyond this mountain range and that whole country has a frozen subsoil. You can go anywhere in July or August and with a spade, by digging down about 18 inches, you come to this frozen subsoil. At Point Barrow the Government attempted to see how far that went and they dug down 30 feet and did not get through. On top of that frozen subsoil grows the Arctic lichen or moss, which is the natural food of the reindeer, so we have practically almost entirely through Alaska, leaving out the southeast coast, 400,000 square miles of territory upon which you will probably never raise cattle, horses, or sheep, and which is the natural home of the reindeer. Years ago the wild reindeer roamed there, but now they have all been killed off, and if we bring over the tame reindeer it would be for Alaska like restocking the plains with the great family of buffalo, and you will have secured a vast industry for that country.

Mr. McCOMAS. Are the tame reindeer easily propagated?

Dr. JACKSON. Yes, sir; the Alaska Commercial Company some ten years ago, put, some statements say 14 and other 20, on these islands. They have now about 200 as a result of the 14 in ten years, although in Norway and Sweden among Lapps, the increase is very much smaller than that. That is, all the testimony from Lapland gives a slow increase. These experiments that have been made upon these islands show rapid increase. The only trouble in my mind in regard to this is that the relief is going to be slow and starvation is actually now upon them. If we start this reindeer propagation by getting a bill through this session the Commissioner will start me back in April and we will go ahead with it.

Mr. McCOMAS. What will you be compelled to pay for them?

Dr. JACKSON. About $10 a head. That pays the expenses of the men and gathering them up; of course the transportation would be on the Government vessel. We have not applied to the Secretary of the Treasury, but I have no doubt he would place a revenue-marine vessel at our service.

The CHAIRMAN. I see that Captain Healey says that in northern Alaska there is about 400,000 miles adapted to the reindeer.

Dr. JACKSON. That takes practically all Alaska; no, that takes up north of these mountains here. The wild reindeer roamed here and wherever they are found tame reindeer will live.

Mr. McCOMAS. Will you fence them in and confine them?

Dr. JACKSON. No; they herd them as they did cattle in the early days in Texas.

Mr. McCOMAS. Will they not become wild?

Dr. JACKSON. They become by domestication an almost entirely different species of animals, so much so that some scientists say that they are different. They claim that what we call the reindeer in Alaska are the caribou, a very similar animal.

The CHAIRMAN. Would you state what the population of Alaska is? I see that Captain Healey estimates 20,000 for northern Alaska.

Dr. JACKSON. I should say the entire population is from 34,000 to 35,000.

The CHAIRMAN. Then this statement is one-half of the whole population?

Dr. JACKSON. No, these 20,000 are not all starving. These people in southern Alaska have not felt the pressure yet. The starving is in the Arctic coast region among four or five thousand along the coast north of Bering Strait, and it is only a question of time that the same things are going to affect the interior people farther south, and we are providing for it and we are making the first steps towards civilization. Now, if you would take the money and establish these experimental stations and make the people down here farmers, it would be a great civilizing process, the magnitude of which we can scarcely grasp, to take them at once from their present slovenly methods of life and make them herdsmen. That is the first step towards civilization. They are athletic, healthy people, except where they have caught syphilitic diseases from sailors along the coast. We are trying to make American citizens of them and this is the first step towards bringing them up to manhood. Now, another point: For instance, in Norway and Sweden 27,000 people have 400,000 reindeer. For three, four, or five years we would have to buy reindeer to get a surplus stock of reindeer. After we get the reindeer stocked in well we can spend a larger proportion of the money among agricultural experiments.

The CHAIRMAN. I understand that these Alaskans are great eaters.

Dr. JACKSON. Yes, sir; and all savage people are that. The Indians on the plains fast for two weeks and then eat at one sitting what would kill an ordinary man.

The CHAIRMAN. I understood Captain Healy to say that a deer weighing 125 pounds is consumed at a single sitting by five or six natives.

Dr. JACKSON. I have no doubt of that.

The CHAIRMAN. At that rate you would have to have about 5,000 deer a day.

Dr. JACKSON. But they make one big meal and then go two or three days without eating at all. Here is a starving people and the question is, shall we pauperize them and feed them or put in their hands a permanent industry that will support them ten years from now.

Mr. LANGSTON. I do not believe I quite understood you in regard to the white population of that country.

Dr. JACKSON. We have none, except in southeastern Alaska, and at only three places. At Juneau there is a gold mine. There we have one of the richest gold mines that has been developed and that has attracted there from one to three thousand white men around it, and this composes the largest portion of our white population of Alaska.

Mr. LANGSTON. About 3,000 in that locality?

Dr. JACKSON. They are all in that locality. Then when you get to Wrangell there are 20 or 30 white men who are mostly traders, saloon-keepers, and sawmill men, and at Sitka there are the Government officials living there, perhaps 100 white men, including the traders.

Mr. LANGSTON. What influence has the white population upon this population now?

Dr. JACKSON. As usual the first whites who come to a country are not the best class, yet we have of course as good men living among the whites of Alaska as any where.

Mr. MCCOMAS. I want you to state in this connection that if this revenue goes to Alaska as to every other State and Territory under existing law, what revenue there is we are now deriving from Alaska of which we will get the benefit.

Dr. JACKSON. If the seal islands do not fail we get a million a year.

Mr. MCCOMAS. So we would be spending a few thousand dollars to support a starving people, whereas under contracts now existing we may possibly get a million dollars?

Mr. CARUTH. I understand the provisions of this law extends to every Territory except Alaska.

Mr. MCCOMAS. Yes, sir; and it would be to Alaska if it had a legislature, but it has not any. This is simply an enabling act to extend it there.

The CHAIRMAN (holding up pamphlet). I will state that this is a preliminary report, and you will find a great deal of valuable information bearing upon this question, together with the doctor's report.

Dr. JACKSON. What I have said to-day is practically in that report.

Mr. LANGSTON. That is your report to the Commissioner?

Dr. JACKSON. Yes, sir.

STATEMENT OF DR. W. T. HARRIS, COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION.

The CHAIRMAN. Gentlemen of the Committee: It affords me pleasure to introduce to you the Commissioner of Education, Dr. W. T. Harris.

Dr. HARRIS. I have not anything to add to what has been fully presented by Dr. Jackson and drawn out by your questions. I would say we wish to tide over the long session of Congress; that is all, and we wish to have a little increase, so we can lay our plans from year to year wisely in regard to that; and with regard to this matter of southwest Alaska I will say what perhaps Dr. Jackson stated before I came in. The whole of this is practically in the United States. We can communicate with this portion once in two weeks, but all the other region up here we can not communicate with but once a year, and it is this part here we are concerned about in this Arctic region.

The CHAIRMAN. You have for the current year an appropriation of $50,000?

Dr. HARRIS. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. What do you ask for the coming year?

Dr. HARRIS. We ask for an increase of $20,000.

The CHAIRMAN. That would be $70,000. Would that be sufficient to buy the reindeer?

Dr. HARRIS. No, sir; that is to come out of another fund for experimental agricultural colleges. If we had $20,000 or $30,000 or $40,000 we could not use it all at once, but if it is increased $10,000 or $15,000 a year we can use all that amount and can increase our facilities there, and if we can know that the increase of one year will be followed by an increase of another we can use that up wisely. We should like an increase of $10,000—but Dr. Jackeon has told you about that.

Mr. MCCOMAS. This resolution contemplates that as there is nobody under the law now who can accept the benefit of such laws the Secretary of the Interior shall be authorized to accept said benefit in the same manner as a legislature of a State or Territory could. You have not now but you will have, I presume, at once, a letter from the Secretary of the Interior. He approves this, does he not?

Dr. HARRIS. Yes, sir.

Mr. MCCOMAS. The committee ought to have it at once.

Dr. JACKSON. You have it in the Congressional Record in a communication to the Senate.

Here the committee went into executive session and the resolution was reported favorably, amended in the last clause as follows:

"*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and empowered to give any assent required by said act, and to extend to Alaska the benefits of the above-cited act, and to receive and disburse through the Bureau of Education for the benefit of said Territory all moneys now or hereafter appropriated under said act for the benefit of Alaska in like manner as for any other Territory."

Thereupon the committee adjourned.