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Letter from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting a report of recent explorations in Northern Alaska, by Lieut. George M Stoney, U. S. N.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

TRANSMITTING

A report of recent explorations in Northern Alaska, by Lieut. George M. Stoney, U. S. N.

FEBRUARY 10, 1885.—Ordered to be printed, and, with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Territories.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, February 9, 1885.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Senate, a valuable report of recent explorations in Northern Alaska, by Lieut. George M. Stoney, United States Navy, because of its importance and interest to the Government.

Lieutenant Stoney's report contains valuable and interesting information concerning the resources of the country in the vicinity of the Putnam River, Alaska Territory, in connection with the exploration of that river previously discovered by him.

The report is concise, systematic, and a valuable document, in that it throws much light upon unknown portions of Alaska. Among the interesting facts reported may be enumerated the following: The discovery of a codfish bank off Nunivak Island, definitely located in the report of the voyage to Hotham Inlet; the timber and vegetation in the country in the valley of the river; the discovery of coal-fields on the river banks; the collection of geological specimens, which, with the specimens of fish preserved in alcohol, were sent to the Smithsonian Institution; the description of the animals and wild fowl which abound in the country; and the accounts of the inhabitants, their peculiar customs, industries, and modes of life, with illustrated descriptions of their huts, canoes, and sledges.

The report of the exploration of the river shows that proper observations were taken to establish the positions of the prominent points, and to substantiate the accuracy of the work in a scientific manner. An excellent chart accompanies the report, with tables of positions and ranges of the barometer and thermometer while in the Putnam River Valley.

Should Congress decide to order this report to be printed, I respectfully request that 1,000 copies of the same may be available for the use of this Department.

Very respectfully,

WM. E. CHANDLER,
Secretary of the Navy.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE PRO TEMPORE.