Report upon the customs district, public service, and resources of Alaska Territory.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

COMMUNICATING,

In answer to a Senate resolution of January 7, 1879, copies of portions of the report of William Gouverneur Morris, special agent of the Treasury Department, in regard to the condition of the public service, resources, &c., of Alaska Territory.

FEBRUARY 4, 1879.—Referred to the Committee on Commerce and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., February 3, 1879.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a resolution of the Senate, dated the 7th ultimo, directing that this department communicate to the Senate, if not incompatible with the public service, the report of William Gouverneur Morris, special agent of the Treasury Department, recently submitted, in regard to the condition of the public service, resources, &c., of Alaska Territory.

The report has been examined, and the portion which is deemed to be of public interest is herewith transmitted. The portions omitted are mainly the recommendations made by Mr. Morris which require immediate action by this department.

Portions of the report indicate the necessity for the adoption of some legislation for the better protection of the inhabitants of the Territory and the preservation of law and order, as well as the necessity for some system of land records in that Territory by which titles to real estate may be perfected.

Very respectfully,

JOHN SHERMAN,
Secretary.

Hon. Wm. A. Wheeler,
Vice-President.

OFFICE SPECIAL AGENT OF THE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT, TWELFTH DISTRICT,
Port Townsend, Washington Territory, November 25, 1878.

SIR: For the past two years and more I have made Alaskan matters my especial study, and have devoted much time and patient attention to gathering all available information relating to that unexplored region.
Since the acquisition of the Territory, in 1868, no adequate steps have been taken by the government to properly acquire any definite knowledge of its geography, topography, ethnology, or natural resources. To the Smithsonian Institution we are principally indebted for such meager scientific information as has not been the direct result of the hardy and adventurous prospectors, who have penetrated its inaccessible cliffs and mountainous retreats in search of mineral treasure. Added to this, must be mentioned the reports of Elliott, Dall, and Whymper, of the Russian Telegraph Expedition, and books and maps prepared by the United States Coast Survey, relating principally to the coast and harbors. These sum up about all the written knowledge we have of Alaska of to-day, save what can be gained from occasional contributions to newspapers, and by contemporaneous testimony furnished those who have explored its depths, and who, by dint of hard work, industry, and untold hardships, have demonstrated that Alaska is not the "desert watery waste" hitherto supposed to be, and that instead of it being only fit for polar bears to live in, it has, if properly protected and nurtured by the government, a bright and useful future before it.

It is not purposed in this communication to make any reference to the works of older writers, which have been published about Alaska before its acquisition by the United States. When the treaty was before the Senate, the Hon. Charles Sumner ably reviewed its history, and presented an elaborate and interesting description of the Territory. The Hon. William H. Seward was most enthusiastic, as is well known, in the negotiation of the purchase, and has contributed valuable and lasting information concerning its resources.

I shall only deal with the present condition of affairs; what development has been produced during the past two years, the present status of the country, and more particularly since its abandonment by the War Department. In fine, not Alaska of the past, but Alaska of the present, as she now stands, utterly desolate and all forlorn, unprotected in the extremest sense of the word, weeping at the doors of Congress, and begging that her citizens may be permitted to enjoy the blessings of freedom, and be protected in their lives, liberty, and pursuit of happiness.

Being deeply interested in the promotion of the advancement of this neglected region, it occurred to me forcibly that perhaps by being personally present at the seat of government during the last session of Congress I might be able to mature some plan of action which would receive the sanction of the department and facilitate the necessary legislation. It had also occurred to me that if proper representations were made, Congress might be induced to make the requisite appropriation for a scientific exploration of the country. Having also been unofficially informed that the honorable Secretary had advised the abolition of the customs-district of Alaska, based upon a report said to have been furnished by Col. Henry C. De Ahna, late collector at Sitka, I thought my presence in Washington, where I could converse with the Secretary and present my views to the proper committee of Congress, might be conducive to the public good, and so, instead of making written report, I addressed the department the following letter:

**Special Agency Treasury Department, Victoria, B. C., January 9, 1878.**

_Sir: Since the withdrawal of the military from Alaska, that Territory has been practically without any government or protection whatever, save the occasional presence of a vessel of the revenue marine. I have endeavored to keep the department advised of the state of affairs in that.*
Public Service and Resources of Alaska.

Locality to the best of my knowledge, and a very satisfactory result has been obtained with the limited means and jurisdiction at its command.

The opinion, however, is respectfully ventured that some additional legislation is needed for that Territory, and a report has already been rendered in reference to the importation ofspirits and vinous liquors.

As previously advised, I am collecting the requisite data and information for the presentation of some reflections upon the proposition to abolish the whole customs district of Alaska, a measure which can only result in great loss to the revenue.

Since my incumbency as special agent, August 6, 1874, a great deal of my time and attention has been directed to the wants and resources of this, today, almost unknown region.

I am not prepared at present to charge directly any persons with a deliberate intent to undervalue the natural wealth of Alaska, and prevent its settlement and civilization, but that there is an undercurrent at work to belittle the purchase and decry the acquisition from Russia as worthless and a desert watery waste, is patent to all those who have the good will and interest of the Territory at heart, and who have made explorations there, and who are cognizant there lie in Alaska immense fields of undeveloped mineral wealth, which only require the fostering care of the government to make valuable to mankind.

For more than two years have I endeavored to impress upon the department the substantial result which would ensue from a thorough inspection of that country by an officer of this agency, not only to thoroughly overhaul the customs force, location of officers, suggest changes, &c., but to collect all useful information practicable in regard to its mineral wealth, fisheries, timber-growth, and other natural resources.

It may safely be stated there is not a single vessel in the revenue marine which is properly built and large enough to enter upon a lengthened cruise in Alaskan waters. If the Treasury Department is to alone exercise control and jurisdiction over Alaska, necessity exists for the immediate construction of a suitable steamer.

As I have made the whole subject a study for years, it has occurred to me the presentation of my views might have some weight with the Department and Congress, especially with the delegation from this coast. Personal presence in Washington would, in my judgment, be of practical benefit, hence I have the honor to submit most respectfully to the honorable Secretary the propriety of directing me to report there in person for that purpose.

There are also many other matters touching department affairs on this coast which I am satisfied a visit from myself to the seat of government will improve and better the interests of the public service. A precedent for this was established while Secretary Boutwell was in office. He ordered my immediate predecessor, C. A. Morrill, special agent, to report in person at Washington for consultation in reference to customs matters on the Pacific coast.

My address will hereafter be San Francisco.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Hon. John Sherman,
Secretary of Treasury, Washington, D. C.

To which the department made this reply:

Treasury Department, Office of the Secretary,
Washington, D. C., February 12, 1878.

Sir: Your letter of the 9th ultimo was duly received, in regard to matters in the Territory of Alaska, and suggesting that some additional legislation is needed for the better protection of that Territory.

For the purpose of more thoroughly explaining your views in regard to matters within the Territory of Alaska, you request permission to report to this department in person.

I have given the subject-matter of your letter due consideration, and can see no practical good to be accomplished by your personal visit beyond that which could be accomplished by a statement of your views in writing.

I have therefore to suggest that whatever views or considerations you may have to urge upon the department in the matter may be submitted in writing and forwarded at an early day.

Very respectfully,

John Sherman,
Secretary.

William G. Morris, Esq.,
Special Agent, Treasury Department, San Francisco, Cal.
In conformity with these instructions, I at once proceeded to compile the material on hand and gather all available information which could be ascertained without personal visit to Alaska, and so notified the department on March 14, 1878. While so engaged, I received an important report from the deputy collector at Wrangel, which was immediately transmitted to the department, with a strong endorsement to the effect that Mr. Dennis "be sustained in his manly and energetic efforts to enforce peace, law, and order." Said report is in the words and figures following, to wit:

**CUSTOM-HOUSE, WRANGEL, ALASKA,**

*Deputy Collector's Office, February 23, 1878.*

_Sir:_ In reply to your letter under date of the 26th ultimo, I have the honor to say that the condition of affairs here is daily growing worse.

As set forth in a former report, I have inaugurated a war of extermination on whisky makers and law breakers. I have not taken this step willingly, neither without careful consideration of the consequences. Circumstances forced me to assume authority, and, having assumed authority, I propose to have the same respected and obeyed. The liquor business here has brought whites and Indians to that point wherein bloodshed was apprehended and feared. Both white men and Indians appealed to me to act, and I did so. The destroying of liquors and stills found among the whites I can do without any help outside the customs force; but to attend to the vast numbers of Indians that are now here and who are daily arriving I had to have assistance. Several of the Stickine Indians volunteered to help me, and I accepted their services, giving them the authority to search for and destroy liquor whenever found among Indians. The authority vested in these (my policemen, as they are termed) caused jealousy among the non-church going Indians and liquor makers. A great howl and commotion was kicked up whenever they attempted to search for liquor, and in many instances threats were made and resistance shown.

When I commenced the war on whisky, I informed all Indians that in future the guilty should be punished, and that whoever interfered or resisted the authority of those who I had authorized to assist me would also be punished. On January 24 twenty canoes loaded with Indians arrived at this port from Tar-koo; in one canoe was found a half gallon of whisky, the owner of which I fined two blankets, which was paid. On February 1 a Stickine Indian interfered with my policemen. I cited him to appear at my office and he refused. Therefore I have him booked, and whenever I have any backing I am going for him. Shustack, a chief of the Stickines, and a very bad Indian, talked of shooting in case his premises were searched. I politely informed him that I could not be bluffed, and if he desired to make any disturbance I was ready at any time; that I would search his premises whenever I suspected he has liquor, and so I will, be the consequences what they may.

There is a lot of contemptible white men here who are inciting the Indians to resist my authority, thinking thereby they can scare me off the track, but they have mistaken their man.

These same contemptible curs will soon be on their way to the mines; and if they could cause a conflict between me and the Indians that would bring blood, they would exult over the same.

On February 18, while I was at Sitka, nine canoes arrived at this port from Auk. In one canoe was found a half gallon of whisky, and the owner was fined by Mr. Militich, the inspector, two blankets, which was paid.

While my policemen were searching the canoes a Tar-koo Indian came out of his hut and attempted to kill one of the policemen. He snapped the cap twice, and the gun would not go off. Mr. Militich cited the offender to appear before him, and as a punishment demanded his canoe. This he refused to surrender, whereupon he was informed that he would be tied to a post. Not relishing the idea of being tied up, he said he would surrender his canoe, which was done. On my return from Sitka I cited this Indian to appear before me, and he refused to appear, sending word that if I desired to see him I could call at his house. I thereupon sent him word that his canoe is forfeited. He said he would come and take it away, and I notified him that I will shoot the first Indian that attempts to touch it, and so I will.

While I was at Sitka another thing occurred at this port that puts to shame anything that has happened heretofore. A gang of rowdies and bummers have, for the past three months, been in the habit of getting on a drunken spree, and then at midnight going about the town making most hideous noises imaginable, disturbing everybody, and insulting those who complained of these doings. On the night of February 16 the incarnate devils started out about midnight, and, after raising a commotion all over town, visited a house occupied by an Indian woman, gave her whisky that made her beastly drunk, and then left. Shortly after their departure the house occupied by the woman was discovered to be in flames, and no assistance could
be rendered the poor woman was burned to death. The burning house being so near to the custom-house, the people had great difficulty in preventing it from being burned.

Now, sir, unless we have some power here very soon that will drive terror to the hearts of all contemptible white men and insulting Indians, trouble will occur of a serious nature.

At present there are about two hundred and fifty white men here awaiting the Stickine River to become good traveling; and unless it should grow colder than it has been thus far the ice will not become good, and miners will have to wait till the opening of the river, which will be two months. In such an event nearly a thousand men will be congregated here, and they, mixing with two thousand Indians, with plenty of whisky, what may we expect?

Is it policy for me to let white men and Indians understand that I have no legal right to interfere in the liquor traffic? No, sir; that would be the worst thing that ever happened. Should I stop raiding on whisky-makers, in twenty-four hours thereafter the town and Indian village would be flooded and — would be to pay. In the absence of all law and order, when the people were excited and crazed with liquor, and when we all expected a conflict between bad white men and law-abiding Indians, at the request of a few good citizens and Indians, I stepped to the front and announced that I could and would preserve peace and good order in defiance of all opposition. Notwithstanding the slurs, insults, and vile abuse heaped upon me by a set of bummers, and notwithstanding the resistance shown by Indians to my authority, I have not weakened, but become more determined. All I ask is that I may be supported in my efforts by whatever assistance or authority that is sent here. I have taken the names of all Indians that have bucked against my authority, and I expect them to be punished in some way. If not, then there is no use for me to try to execute the laws, for if an Indian resists my authority in one instance he will in another.

One of the Indians who has interfered with my efforts to stop the liquor traffic has in his house two bales of English blankets that he smuggled into this port last summer. Have I not the authority to seize them? Whenever a war vessel or other power comes here I intend to make a raid for blankets unless otherwise directed. If you think it advisable, I will take them at any time, war vessel or no vessel.

Another thing I think would be advisable for the department to do in case a war vessel comes here, and that is to compel all bad Indians who are located here temporarily to pull up stakes and go to their own homes. There are plenty of Indians here that belong to other tribes, and who are staying here solely for the purpose of trafficking in liquor. They should be sent away, and informed that if they return they will be punished.

The fines that I have imposed on Indians I propose to turn over to the mission school at this place to be used for church purposes, unless the department should disapprove of my actions and order them refunded. In such an event, I would be compelled to resign my position, inasmuch as I nor any man can, under the present state of affairs, execute the customs laws faithfully without assuming certain authority not conferred by the statutes. The policy of the government towards Alaska has been a disgrace.

Instead of encouraging immigration and a development of the resources of this country, the policy has been to discourage enterprise and keep capital from being invested in the Territory. I trust, however, that Alaska's darkest days are past. The present prospects bespeak a bright future. Moneyed men have at last come to the conclusion that Alaska is a good field to operate in, and her resources will the coming season receive a thorough test. A company, with a capital of $100,000, has located at Clawock, and have commenced erecting buildings necessary for a large canning establishment.

The steamer California this last trip landed for the company at Clawock 120 tons of freight, and has contracted to land there within the next three months 300 tons more. Among the freight landed this last trip were 50 tons of tin. All of which looks like business. At Sitka, the quartz mines look well and encouraging. I understand that mills have been ordered for these mines, and that work will commence in earnest as soon as spring opens.

At Schuck, in Alaska, 70 miles up the coast from this port, are placer gold mines, that gave employment last season to about thirty men, who all make good wages. At the present time there are about twenty men there at work, and more will go thither soon. Aside from the placer mines in the Schuck district, rich veins of quartz have been found and are now being tested. With all these facts before us, is it strange that we demand law and order to be extended over this country?

The people who are now endeavoring to develop the resources of this Territory demand that they be protected in life, property, and their lawful pursuits. It remains to be seen what will be done in the premises by Congress.

I have to lay before you the following: Mr. Millitch, the deputy who was stationed at Tongass, being ordered to this port, the place was unoccupied by any one. This office has been informed that a trader from Naas River, British Columbia, by the
name of Snow, has located at Tongas and is doing quite a trade with Alaska Indians, getting his supplies from Fort Simpson, British Columbia. Should a cutter visit this district, it will be advisable for her to call at Tongas. Blankets, silk handkerchiefs, beads, red cloth, and guns are the chief articles that find a ready sale at Tongas.

At Sitka all was quiet, except a little trouble among the Indians. Whisky flows there as free as water. Appearances seemed as though everybody was making and selling it.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

I. C. DENNIS,
Deputy Collector of Customs.

Maj. Wm. GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,
Special Agent Treasury Department, Port Townsend, Washington Territory.

To which the following reply was made by me:

OFFICE OF SPECIAL AGENT OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Port Townsend, Wash. T., March 16, 1878.

SIR: I am in receipt of your communication of February 23, touching the unfortunate condition of affairs at your port, and shall transmit it by the next mail to the department, with a strong indorsement that you be sustained in your manly and energetic efforts to enforce peace, law, and order.

My letter of January 26, in reply to yours of the 15th of that month, was not in any manner intended to find fault with the course which the evident necessity of events has been forced upon you. I sent a copy of that letter to the department.

I fully realize the position in which you are placed, and assure you that you have my sincere sympathy in the difficult and exceeding dangerous rôle you have to play, and I will stand by you both officially and privately to the last.

I am myself placed in a very delicate position in regard to your district. Its abolition having been recommended by the honorable Secretary is the reason, I presume, why our reports and communications have not been acted upon promptly by the department.

I have no general or specific instructions from the Secretary touching the policy to pursue, hence I must exercise extreme caution in giving you any instructions. Whatever I may say should be more strictly construed as suggestive. You are on the spot, and certainly must be the best judge of what emergency may dictate.

From the fact that the department has recently sent to the Senate a new nomination as collector of the district of Alaska, I infer it is by no means certain the district will be abolished.

The Secretary has written me a letter, signed by himself, directing I report fully, and at an early day, "whatever views or considerations I may have to urge upon the department in the matter." I am now compiling the data, and shall get the report to Washington as soon as practicable.

In regard to the seizure of the two bales of English blankets you knew to have been smuggled last summer, and now in the house of an Indian, you undoubtedly have the authority, and it is manifestly your duty, to seize them. Whether it is prudent to do so now, you must be the judge, bearing in mind if the seizure is deferred the merchandise may be surreptitiously gotten out of the way.

I certainly do not deem it advisable, under existing circumstances, for you to make a general raid for smuggled goods. Better wait until you have an armed force at your back. I feel certain you will have a revenue-steamer sent you as soon as the authorities at Washington can act upon your report and the recommendations I shall make.

In the mean time the notices I have prepared for you, touching the speedy advent of such vessel, may have the effect of intimidating the lawless hordes of white and copper-colored vagabonds by whom you are surrounded. The giving publicity to the speedy arrival of a revenue-cutter is of course left to your own judgment. If you think it will interfere with any seizures which might be made at Tongas or Wrangel, perhaps it would be better it should not be made known. If necessary to enforce your authority, use it by all means.

I cannot properly advise you upon your proposed disposition of the fines you have levied. They certainly do not belong to the customs. Would it not be well to wait until we can have departmental action in this matter?

Do not contemplate resigning for one moment. Like yourself, I am satisfied Alaska has seen her darkest days, and I trust I may be able to impress upon the department that your Territory is not an elephant upon its hands, and only fit for polar bears to live in.

I note what you say about the illicit trade at Tongas, and shall make special mention of it in my report. It only goes to show how utterly the department lacks proper information upon the necessary points in your district where customs officers should be stationed.
In all probability I shall be ordered in the cutter and charged with the inspection and investigation of all matters in your district. I shall avail myself of your suggestions and experience, and shall take pleasure in making your personal acquaintance.

In regard to the seizure of giant powder, I will write you hereafter.

I shall send this to Victoria, to be forwarded by the Otter, should she sail before the California.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. GOVERNEUR MORRIS,
Special Agent.

I. C. DENNIS, Esq.,
Deputy Collector of Customs, Wrangell, Alaska.

In order that the situation of affairs may be more readily understood, the following correspondence is here inserted:

CUSTOM-HOUSE, WRANGEL, ALASKA TERRITORY,
January 15, 1878.

SIR: Yours of the 5th instant, with inclosure, received. I was greatly surprised at not meeting Colonel De Alrna on arrival of the California. I have transmitted to the Sitka office all collections made up to 1st January. In future I shall retain, for safe keeping, all moneys received, unless otherwise directed.

Regarding the state of affairs at this port, I have to say that at present all is quiet. But during the holidays serious trouble almost occurred. Whisky-making by white men and Indians had become so common, and the amount of liquor smuggled into this port being so great, the consequences were that all our hoodlums and loafers were engaged in the traffic. Many men became drunk and riotous, and with difficulty the customs force, aided by a few citizens, prevented bloodshed.

One John Petelin, a Russian by birth, sold to an Indian some whisky of his manufacture, which caused a drunken row among the Indians, in which several got seriously hurt. On the following day the “church Indians” (those who attend school and church here) concluded to make an example of somebody; therefore they marched to the Russian’s house, seized his still and liquor, and, with him in custody, marched to the ranch. Coming to me for instructions, I advised them to tie the culprit to a post for one hour; which was done. This act created considerable excitement among the bad white men, for they did not know when their turn might come.

For two years I have endeavored to prevent the manufacture of liquor here by advising. But talk won’t do; punishment must be inflicted in order to drive terror to the hearts of the guilty.

Seeing that something must be done to prevent a conflict between law-abiding Indians and bad white men, I, with Mr. Millitch, deputy collector from Tongas, made a raid on the town and Indian ranch. Result, 21 stills, several gallons of “hootzenoo,” and mash sufficient to make liquor enough to demoralize all the Indians in Alaska, were found and destroyed.

The destroying of stills and liquor won’t accomplish anything, only for the time being, unless punishment follows.

I have controlled the Indians thus far by threatening what will occur unless they quit their unlawful traffic.

I have white men here who are far worse than the Indians, for they are not intimidated by threats. As they have always got clear on their liquor transactions, they think there is no punishment that can be inflicted for manufacturing and selling liquor in Alaska.

I desire to know whether the department wishes the manufacture of liquor by whites and Indians in Alaska stopped, and whether the courts have jurisdiction and will punish all found guilty. Further, does the department consider it my duty to search the dwellings of white men and Indian ranches for distilleries and liquor? As to any trouble arising from the Indians on account of anything I may do towards stopping the liquor traffic, I have nothing to fear. A majority of the Indians here are law-abiding, and will act with me in trying to preserve good order. We have here several white men who need the strong arm of law to keep them quiet.

I am no coward, but I detest having revolvers drawn on me, for fools sometimes shoot accidentally.

Should you deem it advisable to have the liquor dealers at this place prosecuted, please so inform me, and I will soon get a case. Also instruct me if I have any power or right to admit liquor for medical purposes to be landed at this port.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

ISAAC C. DENNIS,
Deputy Collector.

Maj. WM. GOVERNEUR MORRIS,
Special Agent Treasury Department, Victoria, B. C.
OFFICE OF SPECIAL AGENT OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
PORT TOWNSEND, WASH. T., JANUARY 26, 1878.

SIR: I am in receipt of your interesting report of the 15th instant, touching the condition of affairs at the port of Wrangel, and will take pleasure in transmitting it to the department, in order that certain inquiries made of myself shall be directly submitted to the Secretary.

The Secretary having recommended the abolition of the customs district of Alaska, and not being made aware of the present policy of the department towards Alaska, I cannot assume the responsibility of advising you upon the subject of stopping the manufacture of liquor, or whether it is your duty to search the dwellings of white men and Indian ranches for distilleries and liquor. These are questions which present a side issue, and not directly involved in the collection of the revenue, and can only be determined by the Secretary himself.

The courts of Oregon have held as follows (see decision of Mr. Justice Deady in the case of the United States vs. Terena Savaloff): That the jurisdiction of the district court for the district of Oregon over offenses committed in Alaska is conferred by section 7 of the act of July 27, 1868, and by such section confined to violations of that act and the laws relating to customs, commerce, and navigation, and therefore it has no jurisdiction over the crime of distilling spirits therein without paying a tax therefor.

Section 2141 Revised Statutes makes it the duty of every superintendent of Indian affairs, Indian agent or subagent, within the limits of their agency, to destroy and break up any distillery of ardent spirits found therein.

My own opinion is, that a customs officer should be very careful how he assumes any such responsibility; it is certainly not to my knowledge conferred by any statute of the United States. It is a mere individual act; and whilst the results of your action may prove, and doubtless will, highly beneficial, I would in future be very careful how I proceeded in like cases.

Congress has been appealed to, time and again, to enact suitable legislation for the government of your Territory, and has neglected to frame suitable laws. You are living in a state of chaos, and under all the circumstances, I presume frequently for the safety of your own lives, are compelled to make laws for yourselves. It was different when Alaska was under the control of the War Department, for its officers are authorized to perform many acts which are not delegated to a mere civilian.

These views are submitted as the result of my own convictions, and are not intended in the light of instructions, nor to be construed as any reflection whatever upon the course you have seen fit to pursue; in fact, the absolute seeming necessity which has existed for your prompt and decisive action, in my judgment, should act as an incentive to Congress to take up at an early date the subject of Alaskan government and provide some suitable protection for its citizens and punishment for crime.

As said before, the honorable Secretary must be fully advised in this premises for his guidance; this agency can only instruct you upon what legitimately comes within the law and regulations touching the collection of the revenue.

The law unquestionably confers upon the War Department the exclusive authority for the introduction of spirituous or vinous liquors into the Territory of Alaska.

Since the withdrawal of the troops General Howard has refused to issue any permits for such introduction. I am, therefore, clearly of the opinion that unless a shipment of ardent spirits or wines to Alaska is sanctioned by the military authorities, you have no authority to permit the introduction, either for medicinal purposes or for any purpose whatever, and you should seize all such merchandise.

The shipment of liquors to Alaska has recently been made the subject of a report from this agency to the department; when reply is made thereto you shall be duly advised.

I note what you say in reference to the retention of all collections for the future, for safe-keeping, unless otherwise instructed. When allusion was made to this in my letter from Victoria, of the 5th instant, it was merely intended as suggestive, and I see no objection, under the condition in which your district has been left, for you to pursue, in reference to your money collections, such course as may seem best to yourself. Doubtless instructions will soon be sent from Washington upon this subject.

Please, until further advised, address me at Port Townsend, and let me hear from you frequently, and any assistance I can render you in any way will be cheerfully accorded.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,
Special Agent.

I. C. DENNIS, Esq.,
Deputy Collector of Customs, Wrangel, Alaska.
Following the letter of February 23; came the following from Mr. Dennis:

PUBLIC SERVICE AND RESOURCES OF ALASKA.

SIR: In reply to your letter of 4th instant, I have the honor to state that, under date of 23d ultimo, I addressed a letter to you, in which the condition of affairs at this port were freely set forth. The said letter I forwarded per steamer Otter, and beyond doubt you have received it ere this.

At present writing all is quiet at this port. The Indians and white men who have been endeavoring to create trouble have come to the conclusion that it won't do to fool with me.

I have in my previous letter advised you of my taking a canoe from an Indian who attempted to shoot one of my Indian policemen. Finding that I would not return to him his canoe without paying a fine he commenced making threats of what he would do. Seeing that talk would not frighten me he concluded to test me further, and a few days after our "talk" fourteen large buck Indians came to take the canoe. I happened to step from the office just as they had picked up the canoe and were walking off with it. Telling them to let the canoe alone, and finding no attention paid to my demand, I stepped into my office, got my rifle, rushed out, and told them to drop the canoe or I would kill the whole lot of them. Seeing that I meant business they put the canoe back. On investigating the matter they told me that a white man told them to come and take the canoe, and that I would not dare to interfere.

A few days after this occurrence the Indian came and wanted to know on what conditions I would let him have the canoe. I told him that if he paid me $25 he could have the canoe, otherwise he could not. After a long pow-wow he paid the amount, or rather the equivalent in blankets, &c. I told him that if he in future interfered with my authority I would hang him, and his reply was, "You have made a good Indian of me, and in future I will behave myself."

As I have said before, when you touch an Indian's pocket you touch his heart; at least such has been my experience with the Indians of Alaska, and it proves the fact that by extending civil law over this Territory the Indians can be controlled better than by any other mode.

The want of law here is daily more keenly felt. I am annoyed continually by Indians and white men who come to me to settle disputes. What can I do? In many instances the charges are so aggravating that I must act in order to prevent bloodshed.

I am becoming so disgusted with the state of affairs that I am most tempted to leave the country in disgust: while, on the other hand, I believe that affairs can't get worse, and there are prospects of their becoming much better. That the present Congress will legislate on Alaska, is my humble prayer.

From present appearances the Stickine River will be open to navigation by the 10th of April, if not sooner. Many miners are here, unable to get up the river on account of the ice being dangerous to travel.

I have to inform you that Mr. Snow, the trader at Tongass, has been importing merchandise from Fort Simpson, British Columbia, without entering the same at this office and paying duties on the same. He has written me that he will be at this port in May next, and will pay duty on what he has imported. Can I permit him to make entry of goods thus introduced into this district, by him producing what he claims to be true invoices of all goods imported by him?

Trusting that I may hear from you regarding this matter by return steamer,

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant.

I. C. DENNIS, Deputy Collector.

Maj. WM. GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,
Special Agent Treasury Department, Victoria, B. C.

Up to the time of my leaving Alaska no instructions had been received by Mr. Dennis touching the course to be pursued by him, nor has the department intimated to me in any manner whatever what policy to adopt.

The department acted upon the letter of February 23 without delay, and telegraphed as follows:

WASHINGTON, April 10, 1878.
(Received at Townsend, 11, 1878—9.30 a. m.)

To H. A. WEBSTER,
Collector of Customs, Port Townsend:

Direct Captain Selden to place Wolcott in readiness, take on necessary supplies, and proceed with command to Wrangel and Sitka, Alaska, remaining in those waters.
On the 13th of April, I was directed by telegraph to take passage in the Wolcott, and on the 15th was again telegraphed to proceed, and my instructions were enlarged, and full power given me to use my best judgment in acting upon everything which came before me.

At 4 a.m. April 16 we weighed anchor and sailed from Puget Sound.

The first part of this report will be devoted to a description of and examination proper of

THE CUSTOMS DISTRICT OF ALASKA.

The examination of the district begins with the 1st day of May of the last fiscal year, and goes back prior to the Congressional organization thereof; so that its trade and commerce, past, present, and future, can be seen at a glance.

The collection district of Alaska was established July 27, 1868, and embraces the whole of the Russian purchase, with its ports, harbors, bays, rivers, and waters. The port of entry was designated at or near the town of Sitka, or New Archangel; a collector authorized to be appointed at an annual salary of $2,500, in addition to the usual fees and emoluments of the office; maximum compensation fixed at $4,000.

The following discloses the receipts and disbursements of the district, since customs collections were first made at Sitka, as far as can be ascertained from the records of the office, which are incomplete prior to July 1, 1869. Previous to this time the office was not supplied with the proper forms and books. The amount of duties collected prior to July 1, 1869, can only be approximately ascertained. Nothing can be gleaned from the records of the several sums collected as hospital moneys, tonnage tax, and fines, penalties, and forfeitures before July 1, 1869, embracing the administrations of Collectors Dodge, Ketchum, and Falconer. Neither are there any data or memoranda of expenses incurred during this time for collecting the revenue.

Previous to Congress making permanent provision for a customs-district in the Territory, the department, acting under the power to make regulations to carry out the revenue laws, and actuated by a desire to accommodate the inhabitants and promote the public welfare, determined temporarily to permit the importation of foreign merchandise, and accordingly, in August, 1867, William S. Dodge was appointed by the Hon. Hugh McCulloch, then Secretary of the Treasury, a special agent and acting collector for the district of country ceded by the Russian Government to the United States, and charged in conclusion of his letter of instructions by the Secretary in the following language:

You will, by a careful perusal of your instructions, which have been approved by the Solicitor, and an attentive examination of the accompanying papers, scarcely fail to comprehend the requirements of your position, and by your urbane and upright department in so doing materially serve to draw in closer bonds of sympathy the people thus newly incorporated into our Union.

It will be observed that no mention is made of the amount of official fees collected. This would entail much and unnecessary labor, and would be of no practical benefit, for the reason that all such fees go to swell the salary of the collector, and the United States derives no benefit from them whatever, save when they exceed the maximum compensation allowed by law to the collector. In no instance has this happened in any year, and they are therefore omitted. It may be remarked,
however, that the fees of the office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1878, will not amount to over $500.

Before presenting the figures, the following remarks of Hon. W. S. Dodge, the first collector, delivered at Sitka, July 4, 1868, showing the condition of the port at that time, are here reproduced:

Upon the assumption of Federal authority in this Territory came the establishment of customs regulations, and this place was declared a port of entry. Immediately upon the raising of the stars and stripes was unfurled the revenue-flag, declaring commerce open to all the world, subject to national laws. The first thing was to change the nationality of all the vessels belonging to the country, thereby adding to the American merchant service. This is being done as fast as opportunity offers, and to-day the port of Sitka alone presents a creditable amount of shipping. There are belonging to us four steamers, one ship, two barks, three brigs, and four schooners, making 2,220 tons, aggregate measurement. And notwithstanding all the disadvantages under which we labor, the commerce of this port has been considerable. From the collector’s office I have gathered the following official statement. It covers six months, from January 1 to July 1, 1869.

During that period the amount of imports admitted and paying duty were valued at $26,661.52; the export trade reached the sum of $277,954.67. Nor has the coastwise trade been at all insignificant. During the same time there were entered at this port stores and trading goods valued at $91,413.97. There was also cleared for domestic ports, below and along the coast of Alaska, merchandise to the amount of $59,781.81.

Nor do these statements include any stores entered for the use of the Army and Navy, either here or at other points along the coast. The local trade is also of importance. From estimates furnished by the merchants, the trade with the whites, American and Russians, will average $70,000 the present year. The trade with the Indians—the Sitkas, encamped near us—will fully equal if it does not exceed $50,000.

The following are the figures:

**Duties collected prior to July 1, 1869** .......................................................... $21,490 69

**Duties collected from July 1, 1869, to May 1, 1878, embraced as follows:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month Range</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1869, to December 31, 1869</td>
<td>$984 88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1870, to December 31, 1870</td>
<td>449 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1871, to December 31, 1871</td>
<td>783 98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1872, to December 31, 1872</td>
<td>288 95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1873, to December 31, 1873</td>
<td>155 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1874, to December 31, 1874</td>
<td>639 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1875, to December 31, 1875</td>
<td>874 94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1876, to December 31, 1876</td>
<td>724 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1877, to December 31, 1877</td>
<td>991 05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January, February, March, and April, 1878</td>
<td>23 79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total collections for duties to May 1, 1878** .............................................. 27,465 72

**Tonnage tax.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month Range</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1869, to December 31, 1869</td>
<td>$158 88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1870, to December 31, 1870</td>
<td>871 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1871, to December 31, 1871</td>
<td>139 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1872, to December 31, 1872</td>
<td>58 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1873, to December 31, 1873</td>
<td>126 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1874, to December 31, 1874</td>
<td>303 72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1875, to December 31, 1875</td>
<td>322 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1876, to December 31, 1876</td>
<td>693 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1877, to December 31, 1877</td>
<td>545 27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total to May 1, 1878** ............................................................................ 3,118 25

**Marine hospital collections.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month Range</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1869, to December 31, 1869</td>
<td>$29 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1870, to December 31, 1870</td>
<td>208 67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1871, to December 31, 1871</td>
<td>247 78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1872, to December 31, 1872</td>
<td>419 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1873, to December 31, 1873</td>
<td>299 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1874, to December 31, 1874</td>
<td>177 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1875, to December 31, 1875</td>
<td>276 77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1876, to December 31, 1876</td>
<td>331 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1877, to December 31, 1877</td>
<td>336 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January, February, March, and April, 1878</td>
<td>18 79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total to May 1, 1878** ............................................................................ 2,335 32
PUBLIC SERVICE AND RESOURCES OF ALASKA.

Fines, penalties, and forfeitures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1869, to Dec 31, 1869</td>
<td>$3,065 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1, 1870, to Dec 31, 1870</td>
<td>8,843 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1, 1871, to Dec 31, 1871</td>
<td>3,925 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1, 1872, to Dec 31, 1872</td>
<td>2,921 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1, 1873, to Dec 31, 1873</td>
<td>5,814 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1, 1874, to Dec 31, 1874</td>
<td>824 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1, 1875, to Dec 31, 1875</td>
<td>241 63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1, 1877, to Dec 31, 1877</td>
<td>0 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total to May 1, 1878</td>
<td>24,545 66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DISBURSEMENTS.

The following expenses for collecting the revenue are derived from inspecting the record of Treasury drafts received for this purpose:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1869, to Dec 31, 1869</td>
<td>$11,463 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1870, to Dec 31, 1870</td>
<td>13,665 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1871, to Dec 31, 1871</td>
<td>13,510 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1872, to Dec 31, 1872</td>
<td>16,417 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1873, to Dec 31, 1873</td>
<td>14,358 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1874, to Dec 31, 1874</td>
<td>18,737 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1875, to Dec 31, 1875</td>
<td>5,814 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1876, to Dec 31, 1876</td>
<td>11,195 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1877, drafts received during the year, only part payment</td>
<td>5,931 00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The amount estimated for salaries and for expenses for collecting the revenue for the remainder of the year 1877, to May 1, 1878, is as follows:

Salaries of deputies         $4,504 35
Office expenses at different ports         479 50

This would make the total amount of disbursements from July 1, 1869, to May 1, 1878, a period of nine years nearly, reach the sum of $116,074.87.

The following recapitulation will be more easily understood, embracing all collections, save fees, from July 1, 1869, to May 1, 1878:

Recapitulation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Revenue</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Received from duties</td>
<td>$27,465 72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received from tonnage tax</td>
<td>3,118 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received from marine hospital collections</td>
<td>2,335 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received from fines, penalties, and forfeiture</td>
<td>24,545 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>57,464 95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add duties collected at Wrangel for January, February, March, 1878, not reported to Sitka office</td>
<td>89 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Showing an excess of disbursements over receipts from July 1, 1869, to May 1, 1878, in the sum of $58,520.72, or about 100 per cent. increase.

In the expenses incurred in the district of Alaska no mention is made for the maintenance of vessels of the revenue marine. That cannot strictly there be chargeable to the expenses of collecting the revenue. The revenue cutters in Alaskan waters perform multifarious duties; in fact, they have been the safeguard and life of the Territory, and if there was not a single custom-house in the whole of Alaska, just as many cutters would have to be employed as have been and are necessary at the present day for the protection of the lives, liberty, and property of its inhabitants, irrespective of customs law, revenue, and exactions to the contrary notwithstanding; unless naval vessels should be employed for a like purpose; and it would be just as sensible to charge a portion of the naval appropriation expended by naval ships cruising in Alaskan...
waters to expenses collecting the revenue, as to charge any part of the
appropriation for the revenue marine to the expenses of the port of Sitka
and other ports in the district because the cutters perform duty in those
waters.

THE COMMERCE OF THE PORT

of Sitka has dwindled to almost nothing within the past few years. No
stately ships now ride in that beautiful harbor, and, save the monthly
trips of the steamship California, carrying the mail, and the occasional
visit of an armed vessel or some small coaster, the quiet of the place is
undisturbed by any vessel of any nation.

The following is the list of vessels documented at the port:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Tons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under permanent register, sail</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>80.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under permanent register, steam</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>45.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under temporary register, sail</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>29.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>License under 20 tons, sail</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>34.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td></td>
<td>180.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The decline of trade has been gradual but sure since the purchase by
the United States. Here the Russian American Fur Company had their
headquarters, with numerous employés and retainers; a large number
of troops were quartered in the barracks, and it was the grand centre
of trade and commerce of the whole territory. Sitka at this time had,
probably, a population of 2,500 or thereabouts.

None of their large fleet of steamers and other vessels are docu-
menced here, and very seldom visit the port. They have virtually aban-
donned Southeastern Alaska, and have no direct or pecuniary interest in
that portion of the Territory.

The presence of the military, to some extent, kept up the business of
the port; but since the withdrawal of that arm of the public service the
harbor of Sitka presents the appearance of Goldsmith's deserted village.

The following figures will give a more accurate idea of the state of
the case. The time selected for an average exhibition of the collections
is the beginning of the term of Collector De Ahna, October 22, 1877,
and ending on the morning of the first day of my inspection, May 1,
1878:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collections</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fees</td>
<td>$216.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duties</td>
<td>158.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital collections</td>
<td>84.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>459.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of which the port of Kodiak must be credited with $103.77, and
Wrangel with $43.53. It may be stated, however, that during the sum-
mer months these receipts are somewhat larger, owing to the direct
trade between Wrangel and Victoria, British Columbia, and the in tran-
sit trade with the Cassiar mines in British Columbia.

Total amount of imports into Alaska Territory for the twelve months end-
ing March 31, 1878 ........................................ $3,295.00
Total amount of domestic exports for the same period ................. 27,175.00
Foreign exports for the same period ................................ 15.00

This does not include the fur-seal trade nor the trade in peltries on the
main-land, statistics of which are not attainable at Sitka.
One of the most vexatious questions the customs authorities have to deal with is the Indian trade with British Columbia. The currency of the country, as far as Indians are concerned, is "blankets." Almost invariably those of Hudson's Bay are worth at Sitka $3 apiece. It is not an infrequent thing for Indian traders to have a large number on hand, carefully cleaned and piled in their houses, and not in bales or original packages.

When a chief desires to distinguish himself, he will give a feast or "potlatch," and invite the principal men of the neighboring tribes for hundreds of miles around. These are the scenes of great festivities, drinking, dancing, riot, and debauchery. Gifts are distributed and much money spent in feasting, speech-making, &c. Oftentimes slaves are killed and others set free. In the fall of 1877, a potlatch was given at Sitka by Jack, chief of the Sitkas, and it is estimated correctly he gave away on that occasion 500 blankets, of course old and new.

This question has been before the Treasury Department several times, and in Treasury letter June 28, 1875, Secretary Bristow writes to the collector of customs at Helena, Montana Territory, relative to furs brought by Indians from British North America and sold to traders in the United States, and after reviewing section 105 of the act of March 2, 1799, as reproduced in the Revised Statutes—see section 2515, and article 471 of the customs regulations issued in pursuance thereof—after giving certain general instructions, uses the following language:

"Beyond this, the department can give no definite instructions, but must leave you to the exercise of a sound discretion under law and regulations, including the general views of the department as above set forth."

The language of the statute is as follows:

Sec. 2515. That no duty shall be levied or collected on the importation of peltries brought into the territories of the United States, nor on the proper goods and effects, of whatever nature, of Indians passing or repassing the boundary line aforesaid, unless the same be goods in bales or other large packages unusual among Indians, which shall not be considered as goods belonging to Indians, nor be entitled to the exemption from duty aforesaid.

There can be no question but a very large trade is carried on by the Indians in this merchandise. It is almost next to an impossibility to watch or keep track of their innumerable canoes, and that bales of new blankets, in "original packages," are constantly smuggled is well known to the customs officers, who are powerless to prevent it with the present force at their command. My examination discloses, as a rule, that the various customs officials have exercised a suitable discretion, but instances have arisen when authority has been stretched to too fine a tension. It is a grave question, for a large amount of duties are purposely evaded by the Indians, and blankets of American manufacture are literally driven out of this market; but if the line is too closely drawn it will be productive of trouble, and as the collector is powerless to enforce his authority, the red man will in the end get the best of it. It is purely one of "sound discretion," and there we will have to let it remain until the collector is invested with some authority to enforce his decrees.

There is probably no portion of the United States where more essential requisites for a collector are required than in Alaska. He must be well versed in the whole organic law of the land, as well as those for the collection of the revenue, of sound and discreet judgment, willing, whenever the necessities of the case demand, to assume responsibility; in fine, he must be a man equal to the occasion, and, above all things, neither
a moral or physical coward; if the latter, the Indians, quick witted and of keen observation, will readily "twig" it, and his mission is ended.

There have been since the district was established, July 27, 1868, no less than seven different collectors who have held office.

THE METHOD OF DOING BUSINESS

will compare favorably with other small ports of the nation as a rule. Great difficulty, however, is experienced in having communication with most of the outside ports. Returns from Ounalaska, 1,000 miles distant, are not oftener than twice or thrice in a twelvemonth, and then through vessels of the Alaska Commercial Company, via San Francisco; likewise with the office at Kodiak, 600 miles off. The practice heretofore has been for the deputies at these two ports to make return of their collections and retain the same, the collector deducting from the salary of each the several amounts so withheld, sending them as opportunity may present a check on the assistant treasurer at San Francisco for the remainder. Payments necessarily are made with great irregularity.

The collector, upon receiving drafts for expenses for collecting the revenue, deposits them without delay with the assistant treasurer at San Francisco. There were no funds of this character on hand May 1, 1878. On the contrary, the salaries of deputies were greatly in arrear, and the expenses of the different ports had not been settled for a long time. This no doubt was partially owing to the district having no collector and for other unknown reasons.

I found the following state of affairs:

The subordinate officers of customs had received their salaries up to and including the dates set opposite their names, as follows:

Isaac C. Dennis, deputy collector, Wrangel, September 30, 1877.
John H. King, deputy collector, Kodiak, December 31, 1876.
Leroy Woods, deputy collector, Ounalaska, September 30, 1877.
Alex. Milletich, deputy collector, Tongas and Wrangel, September 30, 1877.
Edward G. Harvey, deputy collector, Sitka, October 22, 1877.

Mr. Harvey was paid in full to his voluntary retirement from office. When De Ahna assumed the office, he appointed as his deputy Edward H. Francis, esq., who continued to act as deputy until December 3, 1877, when De Ahna became functus officio, by reason of the Senate not confirming his nomination. He then became acting collector, and was performing such duties on May 1, 1878. He had been paid nothing for his services.

The department was suitably notified by me of this condition of affairs. After Collector Ball entered upon the duties of his office, I communicated with him upon this subject, and append his reply:

CUSTOM-HOUSE, SITKA, ALASKA, Collector's Office, August 9, 1878.

Sir: Before leaving Washington I made a requisition for funds to pay salaries of deputies as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Port</th>
<th>Nine Months Salary</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wrangel</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>$1,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitka</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kodiak</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ounalaska</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In each case to June 30, 1878.

The amount of this requisition was approved and forwarded me by draft.

On arriving here I learned that there was nothing on file in this office to show that the deputy post at Tongas had been abolished, which I was informed at the department...
had been done, but of which neither Major Berry, former collector, nor Mr. Francis, last acting here, had ever heard. Further, I learned that the salary of the deputy at Kodiak for 1877 had not been paid, and I found an official oath of Mr. Alfred Greenham, taken on the 25th of May, 1878, before Treasury Agent J. M. Morton, at Onalaska, with a statement that he had been discharging the duties of deputy at that post since October 8, 1877, when he was left in charge by Deputy Collector Woods on his departing on the voyage from which he never returned.

In this state of facts I wrote at once to the department, setting everything forth fully, and requesting to be instructed as to what amount was due, and to whom and how I was to pay them. I omitted to state above that Mr. Alexander Milletich I found at Wrangel, having been acting as inspector there since the department declined to pay for rent at Tongas, and claiming pay as deputy. This was also stated.

A letter arrived from Mr. King, deputy at Kodiak, directing his full salary for 1877 to be paid to the order of a San Francisco house, for which reason I mailed him by the cutter a draft for his pay for the first six months of this year only. Mr. Francis desired his to be withheld till I could hear from the department as to his status here while acting as collector and the full compensation due him. Mr. Dennis has arrived by the steamer, and upon a final statement of his accounts will be paid the sum I have drawn for that purpose.

This is all the information I can give you upon the subject you inquire of in yours of July 23, received today. I trust it may answer fully the purpose for which you desired it.

Yours, respectfully,

Maj. WILLIAM GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,
Special Agent Treasury.

M. D. BALL, Collector.

This is all the information I have upon this subject, save the case of Alexander Milletich, the particulars of which I am thoroughly familiar with. This officer, a native of Austria, was appointed a deputy collector and inspector of customs August 1, 1874, at a yearly salary of $1,200. His station was Fort Tongas.

On May 22, 1877, I was furnished by the department with a list of buildings rented throughout the United States for customs purposes, and was instructed to make a careful inspection of each of the buildings named in such list within the customs district under my charge, and also directed to report whether the occupation thereof was necessary.

On June 25 following I notified the department I did not deem it necessary to occupy longer the building at Tongas, and that I had written to the collector at Sitka, directing him to discontinue the lease. On the same day I notified the collector. He replied as follows:

CUSTOM-HOUSE, SITKA, ALASKA,
Collector's Office, July 14, 1877.

SIR: Your letter dated June 25, 1877, Portland, Oreg., has been received, and in reply permit me to state that, regarding customs station at Tongas, there are no buildings on the island excepting that occupied as customs-house, and certain barracks, all belonging to the same parties, Kosland Bros., Portland, Oreg., and an Indian town. Had it not been for the restraining influence exercised by a deputy collector over the Indians at that point, I should have asked the Secretary of Treasury to abandon the post two years ago. Should a cutter be sent here to cruise these waters, then it would be economy to dispense with that post.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. P. BERRY,
Collector, &c.

Hon. W. G. Morris,
Special Agent United States Treasury; Post Townsend, Wash. Terr'y.

The department sustained my action, and the collector at Sitka was so informed, but there is no record on file at that office of the discontinuance of the office at Tongas, and I am assured by Maj. M. P. Berry, late collector, and his special deputy, Edward G. Harvey, esq., that no such instructions were ever received at that office.

On July 1, 1878, the department discontinued the lease at Tongas, and so notified the collector at Sitka. In September following, Col-
lector Berry ordered Milletich to duty at Wrangel, there being a necessity for an additional officer at that point. He repaired thither, and has continued to exercise his duties until relieved by the present collector.

In my opinion, he is clearly entitled to his salary, equally so with every other officer in the district who has been paid by Collector Ball, if the department did abolish him, certainly the head office at Sitka nor himself have ever received any such advices, and it appears (without explanation) there has been an error in his case.

The expenses of the offices at the different ports, as disclosed May 1, have been settled as follows: Sitka to June 30, 1877; Kodiak to June 30, 1877; Ounalaska to July 1, 1874; Wrangel to June 30, 1877; Tongas to June 30, 1877.

Owing to the anomalous condition of affairs in the district, I found no money accounts had been rendered to the department since the incumbency of Collector De Aluia, or any other papers pertaining to the current business of the office. Suitable instructions were given the acting collector as to their rendition, which have since been complied with, all the papers passing through this agency.

There was no money on deposit with the assistant treasurer at San Francisco, although De Aluia had been advanced by the department, previous to leaving Washington, the sum of $1,250 on account of expenses for the collection of the revenue.

All collections are first entered on the blotter, afterwards journalized, and then transferred to a ledger, which is made to correspond to the book of "daily register of receipts from all sources." Balances, owing to the trifling nature of the collections, are ascertained without difficulty. The book-keeping of the early collectors was very primitive in style, and it required the faculties of an Egyptian Sphinx to decipher the riddle of complicated entries and figures, and unravel the mystery of the hidden meaning of what was intended by their appearance.

The rules regarding the deposit of coin, as well as other collections, have not heretofore been regularly complied with. At the close of the term of Maj. M. P. Berry, collector, in October, 1877, he had on hand in coin and currency some $4,000 or thereabouts. This was the accumulation of years. It was taken by sea to California by Mr. Harvey, the special deputy, and there deposited with the assistant treasurer. On October 10, 1877, I called the attention of the department to the insecure condition of these funds, and also to the statement made to me by Major Berry, who was then lying sick at Victoria, that "the department had been fully advised of the retention of his collections and why he had made no deposits." Aside from the irregularity of this course, it should never be permitted again, on the ground of safety alone. Surrounded by a tribe of Indians over 1,000 strong, whose village is within a half mile of the custom-house, it is quite probable an unexpected raid might be made when influenced with drink.

All duties, fees, and other collections are entered in the daily blotter at the time of transactions, and in all cases duties are paid at the time of entry. Checks, drafts, and other representatives of money are not received.

All entries are accompanied by invoice. No weighing is done. There are platform-scales and gauging instruments, however, at the port. No laborers are employed. Occasionally a temporary inspector is needed when a steamer is discharged. There are no regular inspectors and none required. There are no warehouse transactions here, although the United States own a suitable building for that purpose. So few importations, that sampling is seldom ever done except at the port of

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Wrangle, where the in transit trade requires the examination of merchandise, and also to see that no spirituous or vinous liquors are introduced. No drawbacks whatever. Records are kept of seizures made and sold. They are reported to the Commissioner of Customs monthly. There are no seizures on hand. Where a large seizure has been made, it has usually been sent to Portland, Oreg., or San Francisco, for condemnation. When liquors are seized, they are generally sent out of the Territory, to be sold in another customs district. Records of abstracts of enrolled and licensed vessels are properly kept and records of surrendered papers. Bonds for documenting vessels are executed before issuing marine papers in all cases, and records are made of documents before certificates are issued. The indexes are complete. Bills of sale, mortgages, and other conveysances are properly recorded.

Abstracts of tonnage-dues, hospital tax, and steamboat inspection fees are correctly kept. All current daily transactions are recorded with regularity and promptness. Original certificates of tonnage tax are taken up in all cases. The correctness of the seaman’s time-book and the report of hospital dues is verified by the master before the deputy collector when he collects the tax.

It sometimes happens that vessels licensed here, under 20 tons, will have their papers expire at Kodiak Island, 600 miles distant. Communication to have them renewed in time is impossible. They are renewed as regularly as circumstances will permit. For this reason no fines are levied for the non-surrender of license.

The general manner of doing business is commendable and needs no correction, save as before indicated.

The collector has charge of all the public buildings, property, &c., of the abandoned garrison. The number of buildings turned over by the military authorities was 42. These he has to watch, to prevent them from being plundered by Indians and other bad characters.

I find some looseness has prevailed in the making of estimates for the expenses of the different ports. Fair economy can materially reduce these expenses. An error has, I think, crept into the management of the office by not sufficiently scrutinizing the accounts of the outside deputies in respect to fuel, lights, &c.

The deputy collector at Kodiak Island has charge of the public buildings at that post, which were vacated by the military September 10, 1870, one of which is used as a custom-house. He is also charged with the care and custody of the quarters and other buildings at Fort Kenai, Cook’s Inlet, about 160 miles distant. The abandoned buildings were transferred to the custody of this office by the War Department April 2, 1875.

The United States owns its custom-house at Ounalaska, recently repaired at a cost of $250.

I found the wharf at Sitka very much out of repair, the piles being much ravaged by the attacks of the Teredo navalis. Prompt action was necessary, else the whole end would have tumbled into the water and great damage ensued. The deputy collector had in his custody $39.40, which had been collected by the military as a wharf fund. This I directed to be used in repairs, and directed Mr. Francis to co-operate with the steamship officers and merchants, and at once put the wharf in proper condition, not, however, binding the United States in any sum whatever. I established rates for wharfage, which will create a sufficient wharf fund to keep the wharf in repair and pay all costs to be incurred. The present collector, Colonel Ball, has carried out these views and improved upon them. To have lost this wharf would have been a piece of carelessness unpardonable.
It must be observed this district has not been inspected by a special agent of customs since Col. Frank N. Wicker, present collector of customs at Key West, Fla., left in the summer of 1869, and, while the legitimate customs business proper has been fairly conducted, there has been altogether too much extravagant waste and expenditure in the management of public affairs. But this is more properly chargeable to the War than the Treasury Department.

It is respectfully submitted the visits of an officer of this agency should be more frequent to Alaska. Clothed with more powers and generally specially instructed, he can readily put a stop to existing abuses and suggest and direct measures of economy and reform for the future. He can be of great assistance to the customs officers, and can, provided he studies carefully the character of his mission and the nature of the country and its inhabitants, and, if a suitable officer, be of great aid to the department in the management of the affairs of this Territory.

The following comprises a list of the officers and employés and their compensation, as furnished by the present collector. It will be perceived an entire change has been made since the present incumbent has entered upon the duties of his office. Attention, however, is not directed to this in any spirit of complaint, for in the main the changes made are not unacceptab le, and I have reason to know the late principal deputies did not desire re-appointment.

**LIST.**

M. D. Ball, collector, $2,500 per annum and fees. Maximum compensation, $4,000.
R. D. Crittenden, deputy collector, Wrangel, $1,500 per year.
U. H. Dulany, deputy collector, Sitka, $1,200 per year.
Louis S. Craven, deputy collector, Ounalaska, $1,200 per year.
Peter Kastramitinoff, janitor, Sitka, $72 per year.

It will thus be perceived the sum total of all the salaries paid to officers is only the sum of $7,672 annually. This is not excessive, and the number of officers are not greater than the requirements of the service.

**NAVY COAL DEPOT.**

The Navy Department have upon Japonsky Island, a short distance from and immediately opposite Sitka, about 900 tons of anthracite coal, delivered there at great expense. A portion is stored in a dilapidated shed. It has been there since February, 1875, and has become greatly deteriorated by exposure to the weather. It has been subject to the action of the elements. In a short time it will become wholly useless for steaming purposes. A shed or temporary covering could have been erected at the time the coal was landed for $500 or less, and this great waste prevented. It would be economy even to erect it at this late date. It is of no use whatever to the Indians, nor can it be burned in the stoves at Sitka; still for years an agent has been employed to watch it at a compensation of $50 per month. On November 2, 1877 the incumbent, William Phillipson died, and at present the collector exercises over it such supervision as is necessary without any cost to the government.

**MARINE HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATIONS.**

There are no accommodations of this kind in the district, and none nearer than the contract hospital of Dr. Thomas T. Minor, at Port Townsend, in the district of Puget Sound. When Sitka was garrisoned by
troops, marine patients were admitted to the military hospital upon paying $1.50 per diem. There is no correction needed in this respect at present. The volume of commerce is small, and but very few sick sailors.

STEAMBOAT INSPECTION SERVICE.

The details of this service are lengthy and embrace many needful changes, which are exclusively matters of department action. The steamer Rose, of Sitka, was last inspected at Seattle in March, 1873. In 1874 and 1876 the owners tried to have the boat inspected without success. This vessel has not been running regularly, but would if business should offer. At my suggestion, the acting chief engineer, M. G. Marsilliot, and Lieut. S. E. Maguire, of the Wolcott, made an examination of her condition. I append an extract from the log-books of the cutter:

Inspected the boat as far as practicable and found her hull, boiler, engines, and dependencies in a very fair and safe condition; also found her supplied with boats, life-preservers, &c., in accordance with law.

At the request of A. T. Whitford, Esq., of Sitka, her owner, I wrote him the following letter:

Office Special Agent Treasury Department,
Sitka, Alaska.

Sir: You having complied with the law in reference to the steamer Rose, and done all in your power to have her inspected, you are at liberty to continue running such steamer until the supervising inspector makes arrangements to have her inspected. I have duly reported all the facts to the supervising inspector at San Francisco. Should you at any time be boarded by an officer of the revenue marine, you will submit this letter to him, in the absence of your regular inspection certificate.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

William Gouverneur Morris,
Special Agent.

A. T. Whitford, Esq.,
Sitka, Alaska.

And also notified Charles C. Bemis, esq., supervising inspector at San Francisco, of the facts. The Rose was afterwards chartered by a party of miners on a prospecting tour, and I so informed Mr. Bemis, July 1, 1878.

A similar case occurred at Wrangle. The American-built steamboat Beaver, running between Wrangel and Glenora Landing on the Stikine River, came all the way from Wrangle to Seattle, in 1877, to be reinspected. Her certificate expired April 9, 1878. The owners exhausted every avenue of compliance with the law. To have gone again to Seattle would have been extra hazardous, besides losing the spring passenger trade, &c., on the Stikine. The same officers of the revenue marine examined her carefully, but no hydrostatic test was made. They reported her motive-power safe, hull in good condition, sufficiency of boats and life-saving apparatus, and vessel fit to carry passengers.

Mr. Bemis was duly notified by me of all this April 27, 1878. This boat was subsequently totally wrecked in the Stikine Rapids, and I so informed Mr. Bemis on the 1st day of July last.

The American steamboat Nellie has, however, supplied the loss of the Beaver, and is now running on the Stikine River, having been taken there from the district of Puget Sound. The same question will arise when her present certificate expires.

LIGHT HOUSES.

There is not a single light-house in the whole district. The Russians formerly had a sort of light, with a silvered glass reflector in the cupola
of the castle, a large building erected upon the hill overlooking the town, at an elevation of 110 feet above the water-level. It was an oil lamp of small capacity, but could be distinguished ten miles at sea. It has now gone entirely to ruin.

In the event that Alaska should become thickly settled, and the mines turn out as rich as expected, the commerce of the district will become greatly enlarged, and of necessity lights will have to be created. There should be erected outside from Cape Fox, which is near the boundary-line between British Columbia and Alaska, a first-order light at Cape Chacon, on the south end of Prince of Wales Island, being the south entrance to Duke of Clarence Straits, which are the straits which lead to Wrangel and all the inland country adjacent. This light would only be of value to inland navigation.

Cape Bartolomo is the entrance to Bucarelli Sound, at the head of which is situated the Klawack fishery. It is frequently frequented by whalers, who lay in wood and water before proceeding to the Arctic. This is an important point for a light, as it would be the first light made by a vessel going outside from San Francisco to Sitka.

Another very important place is the Hazy Islands, situated off the entrance to Christian Sound and likewise off the northwest entrance to Clarence Straits. Vessels passing into all the inland waters east of Sitka must pass in the vicinity of this light. These islands are situated fifteen miles south of Cape Ommaney and five west of Coronation Island. The Hazy Islands are right on the coast route, and necessarily will have to be made by a vessel going north. A light placed on Biorka Island, the entrance to Sitka Sound, will command all the entrances to the harbor.

On Yasha Island, off the entrance to Prince Frederick Sound, is a very desirable location for a light for inland navigation; it commands Prince Frederick Sound, Christian Sound, and Chatham Straits.

It may be proper to state the reason for volunteering these remarks about the location of lights. Certainly when the time comes for the erection thereof, the proper division will have full charge. But it must be remembered that the country spoken of is almost an entire terra incognita to navigators, as will be more fully explained hereafter.

Contemporaneous testimony of experienced persons should always be preserved as a guide, not only for the Light-House Board, but for future Congressional legislation. Hence, I have consulted J. W. Keen, the revenue marine pilot attached to the Wolcott, the most experienced and accomplished pilot in Alaskan waters, brought up in his profession from boyhood in the service of the Hudson’s Bay Company, and, since the Russian purchase, almost continuously in the service of the United States. The foregoing are his views, and, from his long experience and mature judgment, they are entitled to much weight and consideration.

The United States have lost two ships of war in Alaskan service, the Suwanee and the Saranac. Pilots for these waters are very rare, and any reliable information obtained from them now is worthy of preservation.

MISCELLANEOUS.

There being no law in the Territory for the recordation of documents, &c., there is a book kept at the custom-house, in which are recorded all mining claims, deeds, mortgages, conveyances, powers, &c. Edward H. Francis is the recorder. While it cannot have any legal force or significance, still it may be very useful hereafter as secondary evidence in the adjustment of disputes.
The collector has in his custody 50 Springfield rifles and three thousand rounds of ammunition. A portion thereof is suitably distributed among the white residents, to be used in case of an uprising by the Indians.

ADMINISTRATION OF COLLECTORS.

Those of Collectors Berry, De Ahna, and Ball will be only directly reviewed, beginning with the time of the contemplated withdrawal of the troops from Alaska, and my connection therewith.

The following communication is referred to here:

Office Special Agent Treasury Department, San Francisco, Cal., April 14, 1877.

Sir: The honorable the Secretary of War, having directed the General of the Army to vacate the garrisons in Alaska Territory and order the troops therein to other posts in the Division of the Pacific, thus withdrawing entirely military protection in that quarter, I am induced to present to the department some facts for consideration, as coming within my own knowledge and as given by those familiar with the situation.

It is with some feelings of delicacy this subject is approached, in the absence of any opinion being requested; but, as Alaska is embraced within the jurisdiction of my district, and having given that Territory and everything connected therewith much attention, and made it my especial study for the past two years, it is deemed proper at this time to give the result of such experience and observations.

The telegraph states that simultaneous with the withdrawal of the military a revenue-cutter will be ordered to Sitka. It is, of course, conceded that some adequate force must be supplied when the troops abandon the Territory, in order to fully carry out our treaty stipulations with Russia and afford protection to our resident citizens there. The revenue steamer Richard Rush is now preparing for sea, but her cruise and destination is not yet known here. It is conjectured she will proceed to the Seal Islands or to Sitka; possibly her cruise may extend to both places.

General Howard, U. S. A., commanding the Department of the Columbia, has telegraphed to the division commander urging vigorously that a gunboat be dispatched to Sitka, or that the force on the revenue cutter be sent there. The Navy has no "gunboat" available in these waters; hence the revenue marine must for the present be charged with this duty.

The Rush carries 6 commissioned officers and a crew of 30 men all told, including seamen, petty officers, stewards, cooks, and boys. Her armament consists of 2 20-pound rifle Dalghren bronze howitzers, small-arms, 12 Ballard's breech-loading rifles, 12 revolvers, and 12 cutlasses. It is submitted this is not sufficient force to take the place of the garrison at Sitka; no assistance could be rendered the inhabitants on shore. There is a custom-house and other government buildings and property of value, all of which might be sacrificed if too small a display of force is made at the outset when the change is made. In fact, if trouble should arise with the Indians, it is of this I now propose to speak; and will take the armament and complement of officers and men of the Rush as an example, as applying to other vessels of her class in service on this coast. The Navy has no "gunboat" available in these waters; hence the revenue marine must for the present be charged with this duty.

Captain John W. White, of the cutter Wyanda, visited Alaska, and in an able and elaborate report made that year to the department thoroughly discussed this subject. Attention is respectfully invited to his suggestions and recommendations.

It is submitted that two steamers will of necessity have to be sent to Alaska this season. The one destined for the Westward, i. e., the Seal Islands, will be required there as soon as the sealing season commences, now close at hand. These islands are distant from Sitka full 1,200 miles, and to go there via Sitka is a very roundabout way. See my report before mentioned. When the garrison at Sitka is withdrawn,
A cutter will have to be substituted in lieu thereof. I would recommend her supply of small-arms be added to, her crew increased at least ten able seamen, a surgeon and additional engineer ordered to the vessel, and that she be liberally supplied with shot, shell, and fixed ammunition. Immediate steps should be taken to establish a coal depot at Sitka.

The Puget Sound cutter cannot with safety to the revenue be spared for so long a time from her station. This cutter is constantly cruising in the Sound and in British waters, and is absolutely essential to prevent wholesale smuggling in that quarter. The frontier is remote, adjacent to foreign territory, and must be carefully guarded. In the winter season her services are constantly in demand to aid vessels in distress; she does more work and effective service than any other vessel of her class on the coast.

The Thomas Corwin, now being completed at this port, is a staunch new vessel, and, when finished, will be in perfect condition; the whole work on her should be done by the 15th of May next. In every respect she will be more suitable for service in Alaskan waters than any vessel here. She was originally intended for the Columbia River station, but as it is only 24 hours' steaming from Puget Sound to Columbia River Bar it is submitted the Oliver Wolcott can in an emergency do all the duty of both stations, until other vessels can be constructed or sent here. More vessels are certainly required on this coast, and I had this in view when treating this subject before.

The change as adopted by the administration is fully in accordance with the views in my published report, but I doubt the wisdom of the policy in ordering the troops away before proper provision is made to replace them, and especially at this time breaking up the post at Wrangel Island. This point is distant 160 miles from Sitka, and is the depot of supplies for the miners on the Stikine River, and at Cassiar, in British Columbia. Our coast steamers touch here and land their passengers for these mines. Miners, traders, packers, &c., congregate at this point in the spring and await transportation. In the fall they return from the mines and frequently are delayed here several days. At this point a collision with the natives is greatly to be feared. This is the season of the year when the government should have sufficient force on hand to suppress broils, protect the Indians from assaults of the whites, prevent the latter from obtaining liquor, and keep them in a proper state of subjection. In the winter season no such necessity exists, for the few whites remaining on the island have such close relations with the natives that no danger is apprehended. However, if the sale of liquor is to be unrestricted at Wrangel Island, the miners will winter there to a large extent and trouble will assuredly be the result. During the summer season the Alaskan coast swarms with small vessels and canoes, navigated by desperate and lawless men, bent upon smuggling, illicit barter, and that especial curse to the natives, trading in ardent spirits. A deputy collector is stationed at Wrangel, but he will be utterly powerless to enforce the revenue laws and stop the smuggling from British Columbia. The sale of liquor will be had right under his nose and he cannot stop it.

If the company of soldiers now at Wrangel Island can be kept there until the miners have returned from the far north and gone into winter quarters at Victoria, Vancouver Island, it would, in my opinion, be a wise course for the War Department to pursue. Until the Thomas Corwin is ready for sea, the removal of the companies from Sitka would, I think, be premature.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. M. GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,
Hon. John Sherman,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

This letter was referred by the honorable Secretary to the War Department, who sent it to Major-General McDowell, U. S. A., commanding the Division of the Pacific, who subsequently referred it to Brig. Gen. O. O. Howard, U. S. A., commanding the Department of the Columbia, for his opinion. General Howard indorsed my report favorably.

It was also transmitted to Maj. M. P. Berry, collector of Alaska, who wrote to the Secretary as follows:

CUSTOM-HOUSE, SITKA, ALASKA,
Collector's Office, July 13, 1877.

Sir: Department letter of June 8, 1877, "H. B. J." and "S. J. K." asks for report on condition of affairs in this place and Wrangel since the withdrawal of the United States troops. Having anticipated the demand of this letter in report forwarded by this mail, I will nevertheless take this one up and answer in detail.

Paragraph 1, department letter. The cutter Rush came into this port May 19, 1877. Captain Bailey informed me that on the finish of his cruise to the westward he should
return to San Francisco. I asked him to come in here in September if he could, giving my reasons therefor. He informed me that his orders did not contemplate other movements than to return to San Francisco direct.

Paragraph 2. Special Agent Morris's report I am forced to confirm. The Secretary of War has been misled by the report of his officers, just as I have been myself. I have the best of reasons for believing, that if there is not a vessel dispatched at a very early day to this port, this people have been handed over bodily for slaughter to the Indians. Permit me to state that I watched and studied these Indians for three years. Their seeming desire to be on good terms with the Americans, their adaptability to our method of working, their cupidity, connected with many other things, completely misled me. Therefore it becomes my duty to say that there is danger for this community; I might say great danger. The property was received, as will be seen by other reports per this mail.

Paragraph 3. The preservation of peace, &c. If peace is to be preserved, there must be a vessel stationed at this port. From Chilcat to Tongas are the fierce people. The whole voyage of nearly 500 miles is in inside waters. The western people, or I might say those after leaving Behring's Bay, do not seem to be at all belligerent.

Liquor.—There is no necessity for using vigilance to prevent the landing of liquor; the Indians make all they want; and in town here I have been informed that there are two discharged soldiers and eight different Russians running stills. There are probably four or five Americans and two or three Russians who would purchase good liquor in small quantities for their own use.

Paragraph 4. In the first part of this report I have written of the Rush, because the captain was so positive about his destination.

Regarding a cutter to visit Wrangel when the miners are on the move, at that time Wrangel is perfectly safe. British Columbia tolerates no cutting and shooting, and it soon tames our pistol and bowie-knife gentry, when they have one or two seasons under the English law. It is at Sitka where the vessel's presence is needed, and that for a while. At Wrangel, when the miners are moving through the country, the Indians are the supply agents. They smuggle, to sell to the whites, English liquors; and when they desire a drink, they either make or purchase from other Indians liquor of their own manufacture.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. P. BERRY,
Collector.

Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

The following from Deputy Dennis at this time is also given:

CUSTOM-HOUSE,
DEPUTY COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
Wrangel, Alaska, July 14, 1877.

Sir: In reply to yours under date of 29th and 30th ultimo, I have the honor to state that, since the withdrawal of the troops from Alaska, the Indians at this place and vicinity have made no hostile demonstrations toward the lives of the whites. But in regard to property, they have. Like all Indians, they love to appropriate to their own use that which belongs to others, and small thefts are of frequent occurrence.

The taking from here by Lieutenant Humphreys, as a servant, a woman who was held as a slave, and claimed by several Indians as their individual property, came near causing trouble, but I, with others, finally pacified the claimants—not, however, till after one of the parties demanded that I should go to Port Townsend and bring the woman back.

The Indians here, representing tribes from all parts of the Territory, are continually having quarrels among themselves, which originates from the use of liquor that is manufactured by them and that which they smuggle into this port from British Columbia via Stickeen River.

The Indian population of this place, including transient Indians, is always at least five hundred, and frequently reaches one thousand. Our permanent white population during the mining season is about one hundred, and during the winter months it reaches three hundred.

Now, in the absence of all law whereby offenders against the laws may be tried and punished, with a population as above stated, is it not reasonable to suppose that difficulties will arise?

Notwithstanding the stringent laws relating to the introduction of liquor into this Territory, and with a garrison of troops stationed here, smuggling and the manufacture of it could not be prevented, and hence whisky at this port has always been plentiful.

Under military rule here, white men, being drunk, have frequently knocked down
Indians for pastime, and the assaulted look to the military for protection and justice. But now, in case the like occurs, before whom must the aggrieved come and ask protection, there being no one empowered to administer justice? Is it not safe to predict that all, both whites and Indians, when aggrieved, will embrace the first law of nature; and such being the mode of seeking satisfaction, how long can the peace and quietness of the place be assured?

It is utterly impossible for me either to prevent the introduction of liquor into this port or the manufacture of it by the Indians, and with plenty of liquor circulating among whites and Indians, who commingle together, I apprehend trouble.

A gunboat or revenue cutter has a pacifying effect upon both whites and Indians, and the presence of one in these waters occasionally would have more effect toward suppressing the liquor traffic and preserving order and quiet than forty regiments of troops without means of transportation.

Economy being the policy of the government, in my opinion the best way to govern Alaska is to attach it to Washington Territory for judicial purposes, with a justice's court in which minor offenses against the laws might be tried.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

I. C. DENNIS,
Deputy Collector

Upon my reaching Portland, Oreg., about the last of May, 1877, I called upon General Howard for information relating to Alaskan affairs, and was handed the following order:

[General Orders No. 13.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
Portland, Oreg., May 23, 1877.

In compliance with instructions from the Secretary of War, and the major-general commanding the division, announced in General Orders No. 1, Headquarters Military Division of the Pacific and Department of California, April 23, 1877, the companies of the Fourth Artillery garrisoning Sitka and Fort Wrangel, Alaska Territory, will be withdrawn by the first steamer leaving for Portland after the arrival at Sitka of the revenue-cutter under orders for Alaska.

Companies G and M, at Sitka, will proceed, the former to Fort Canby, Wash. Ter., and the latter to Fort Stevens, Oreg., and be reported to the respective post commanders.

Company A, at Fort Wrangel, will proceed to Fort Townsend, Wash. Ter., and be reported to the commanding officer for duty.

Instructions have already been issued for the removal by the May steamer of surplus serviceable public property.

So much of the public property in charge of the military officers as cannot be removed will be transferred, at Sitka, to the collector of customs, and at Wrangel to the deputy collector of customs, officials designated by the Secretary of the Treasury to receive and receipt for it.

In addition to the receipts required by the officers in the settlement of their accounts, duplicate receipts, one for department and one for division headquarters, will be taken by them for all the public property, including lands and buildings now in their charge, transferred to the customs officials. The condition of the property will be noted on the receipts.

The lists of public buildings transferred will include, at Sitka, not only those in actual occupation by the garrison, but also all other public buildings, including those of which Col. Jefferson C. Davis repossessed the government.

Asst. Surg. William R. Hall and Acting Asst. Surg. William D. Baker will accompany the troops, the former reporting to the commanding officer, Fort Stevens, as post surgeon; the latter reporting in person to the medical director.

Ordnance Sergeant Glockel and Commissary Sergeant Brown will report to the post commander, Fort Townsend, and Commissary Sergeant Burrows to the commanding officer, Fort Stevens.

The chiefs of staff departments will issue such detailed instructions concerning the interests of their respective departments in connection with the abandonment of these posts as may be necessary to carry into execution this order or orders from superior military authority.

The post records, securely packed, will be forwarded to the assistant adjutant-general.

The post commanders and chiefs of staff departments concerned will make full report to department headquarters as to the time and manner of executing this order.
Upon the departure of the troops, Sitka and Fort Wrangel will be discontinued as military posts, and "all control of the military department over affairs in Alaska will cease."

By command of Brigadier-General Howard.

H. CLAY WOOD,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

I at once informed General Howard no cutter had been permanently ordered either to Sitka or Wrangel or any portion of Southeastern Alaska. That the vessel referred to by him in his order was the revenue-steamer Richard Rush, then en route, by virtue of special act of Congress, to the Seal Islands, for the protection of the fur-seal fisheries. That she would probably touch at Wrangel and Sitka, but would remain at neither point. The following telegram was then immediately framed and sent from General Howard's headquarters:

SECRETARY TREASURY, Washington, D. C.:

PORTLAND, OREG., May 28, 1877.

General Howard, expecting the cutter Rush would remain at Sitka, so interpreted order of Secretary of War as to order military away. Subsistence, ordnance, and quartermaster stores have already been brought down. Steamer sails for Sitka June 2 to bring troops under this order. General Howard desires vessel designated, in order to complete order; will leave detachments there in charge of public property until its arrival. Please answer immediately.

WM. GOVERNEUR MORRIS,
Special Agent.

And answered as follows:

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 31, 1877.

Rush has probably left Sitka en route for Seal Islands. No other cutter can be sent.

JOHN SHERMAN,
Secretary.

I subsequently made report as follows:

OFFICE SPECIAL AGENT TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Portland, Oreg., June 23, 1877.

Sir: I have the honor to inform the department on the 14th instant the whole of the military were withdrawn from Sitka, and such public property as was not sold or taken away by order of the War Department duly turned over to the collector of customs.

After leaving Sitka the transport touched at Wrangel and took on board the garrison at that point. On the 26th of May I notified the honorable Secretary, by telegraph, that General O. O. Howard, U. S. A., commanding the Department of the Columbia, would leave detachments of troops in charge of public property until the arrival of a revenue-cutter, and asked the vessel be designated. This telegram was written in General Howard's presence and sent at his request.

I inclose copy of General Order No. 13, dated Headquarters, Department of the Columbia, Portland, Oreg., May 23, 1877, for the movement of the troops from Alaska. This order was based upon the supposition that the cutter Richard Rush was the vessel alluded to in the letter of the honorable the Secretary of War addressed to the General of the Army, and dated War Department, Washington City, April 10, 1877.

When General Howard ascertained that the Rush was intended for service at the Seal Islands, he directed that detachments be left in charge of the public property.

On the 1st of June I sent to Col. H. Clay Wood, U. S. A., assistant adjutant-general of this department, a copy of the telegram of the Secretary of the Treasury to myself, dated Washington, D. C., May 31, that the Rush had probably gone from Sitka to the Seal Islands and that no other cutter could be sent. The steamer sailed for Sitka June 2, the order for detachments to be left still in force. A member of General Howard's personal staff went to Alaska on this steamer.

Upon arrival there, in pursuance with previous orders to dispose of all surplus subsistence stores, it was found that the order had been so literally complied with as to leave nothing whatever for the subsistence of the men to be left there, such order not being contemplated by General Order No. 13.

The same condition of affairs was found to exist at Wrangel. Accordingly General Howard's staff officer directed all the troops to be immediately removed; which was done, and they arrived at this place on the morning of June 20.
It will thus be perceived that "all control of the military department over affairs in Alaska" has ceased.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. GOVERNEUR MORRIS,
Special Agent.

Hon. John Sherman,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

While at Port Townsend, on Puget Sound, the mail steamer California arrived from Sitka, bringing alarming intelligence, and I immediately telegraphed the department as follows:

Port Townsend, Washington Territory,
July 23, 1877.

SECRETARY TREASURY, Washington, D. C.:

Collector Berry has left Sitka very sick. Is now at Victoria for medical advice. He reports to department: "I have the best of reasons for believing that if there is not a vessel dispatched at a very early day to this port (Sitka), that this people have been handed over bodily for slaughter to the Indians." Captain Bailey, cutter Rush, informed Berry he should return to San Francisco direct from Seal Islands, according to department instructions. Captain and officers of mail-steamer California much alarmed and anticipate immediate trouble. All reports confirmatory of danger. Cutter Volcott will not finish repairs for three weeks. Tubes for boilers have to be supplied from New York.

WM. GOVERNEUR MORRIS,
Special Agent.

And supplemented it with the following letter:

SPECIAL AGENCY OF TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Port Townsend, Washington Territory, July 23, 1877.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit a copy of a telegram this day sent to the department upon the present existing state of affairs at Sitka, Alaska.

On the 27th of June last I wrote from Portland, Oreg., to Collector M. P. Berry, at Sitka, requesting from him a statement of the status of affairs since the departure of the troops, and asking the reply to be sent me at this port.

On yesterday the mail-steamer California arrived here, bringing me a letter from Mr. Berry, inclosing a copy of his report to the department, dated Sitka, July 13, and also another, informing me of his presence at Victoria. I deem the report of sufficient importance to telegraph an extract to the department without delay and state other coherent information in the dispatch.

In a conversation had yesterday with Capt. Charles Thorne, master of the steamer California, he expressed to me grave fears of a general uprising of the Sitka Indians. These Indians belong to the Kolosh tribe, and about one thousand are now absent engaged in fishing. Sitka Jack, a noted chief, informed Captain Thorne that about one thousand of his tribe were absent fishing and hunting, and when they returned they intended to seize all the government buildings and other valuable property at Sitka; that the country and everything in it belonged to his tribe.

Captain Thorne further states, the Indians, contrary to when Sitka was garrisoned by troops, thronged his vessel while at the dock, and were generally haughty, insolent, and overbearing in their manner; that the citizens had a ball in the house known as the "Castle," and during the festivities the Indians entered the stockade and obturated themselves upon those present, rendering themselves peculiarly disagreeable and obnoxious. It is his opinion, and that of the officers of his ship, that an outbreak is not far distant, which will result in the destruction and plunder of private property, and, if the whites make any demonstration of resistance, a wholesale massacre will ensue. The Russian priest has already sent his family to Nanaimo in British Columbia, and general consternation and terror prevails among the whole white inhabitants.

Collector Berry has written me, requesting my presence at Victoria, which place I shall visit on the 26th instant, en route to San Francisco, and confer with him.

Not being able to make personal inspection of this portion of my district, I cannot of my own knowledge present such an array of facts as might be considered incontrovertible; but I have sought every available and reliable source of information, and have no hesitation in saying that the outlook in Alaska is exceedingly dangerous and alarming. All concurrent testimony points to a speedy outbreak and resultant bloodshed by the warlike tribes, unless restrained by the strong arm of the government;
that an armed vessel either of the Treasury or Navy Department is absolutely needed in the Sitka archipelago without delay.

I very much question whether the vessels of the revenue marine on this coast are suitable for this duty, and either in armament or crew will prove themselves equal to the service which may be demanded of them. They carry too few men and are not equivalent to a gunboat, which is the proper class of vessel for this dangerous and delicate service.

These views have heretofore been frequently expressed, and any further repetition would be unnecessary verbiage. I merely report such facts as are collated upon this frontier, and respectfully present them for the consideration and action of the department.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

William Gouverneur Morris,
Special Agent.

Hon. John Sherman,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

I then addressed the following letter to the commander of the cutter Wolcott:

Office of Special Agent
Of the Treasury Department,
Port Townsend, Washington Territory, July 24, 1877.

Captain: The news brought from Sitka by the steamer California on Sunday last is of an alarming character, and only confirms my belief in the expectation of serious trouble with the Kolosh Indians in that quarter.

The collector of Sitka, M. P. Berry, Esq., has left there sick and is now at Victoria. He has furnished me with a copy of a recent report made by him to the department, which I deemed of such importance as to telegraph a synopsis yesterday to the Secretary.

It is not improbable but that the vessels of the revenue marine on this coast may at once be called into active service; at all events, they should be held in readiness to comply with immediate sailing orders.

I would be pleased if you will inform me when the repairs to your vessel will be completed, and how long it will be before you can be ready to proceed to Sitka. I have no advices from the department which authorize me to indicate that you will receive orders to proceed to that quarter, I am merely anticipating an emergency likely to arise at any moment.

I have good reason however to think the department will send a cutter very soon to visit Sitka and other adjacent points, irrespective of probable Indian troubles, and it has been supposed the Rush would touch there in September, homeward bound from the Seal Islands. This is a mistake.

Collector Berry informs the department that when the Rush was at Sitka, he had a conversation with Captain Bailey, who informed him after his cruise at the Seal Islands terminated, he should proceed direct to San Francisco from Ounalaska.

Will you please inform me of the character of the armament of your vessel, and the number and pattern of small-arms you have on hand and their condition; also what supply of ammunition you have, character, and caliber, and condition.

My own conviction is, that you are neither sufficiently manned or armed to perform any effective service, or operate offensively against the hostile tribes which inhabit the Alaskan coast, and before you should be sent there, your officers and crew should be strengthened as far as the size of your vessel will admit, and you should be supplied liberally with arms and ammunition.

Will you let me have your views upon this suggestion, and in fact I think you had better make me a very full report upon the subject-matter of this letter, as I desire to communicate with the department without delay.

I shall leave here on Thursday, the 26th instant, for Victoria, to sail there on Monday, the 30th, in the City of Panama, for San Francisco.

Please write me by return mail and address your letter to me at Victoria, care of the American consul.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant.

William Gouverneur Morris,
Special Agent.

Capt. James M. Selden,
United States Revenue Marine,
Commanding Steamer Oliver Wolcott,
Seattle, Washington Territory.
Captain Selden replied as follows; the original letter was at once transmitted to the department:

UNITED STATES REVENUE STEAMER WOLCOTT,
Seattle, W. T., July 25, 1877.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 24th instant, informing me that the alarming reports brought from Alaska, by the steamer California, of serious trouble with the Kolosh Indians, and wishing to know when the repairs to the Wolcott will be completed, and how long before the vessel will be ready for service, besides wishing to know the character of the vessel, armament, number of small-arms, quantity of ammunition, &c., and my views as to the fitness of the vessel for service in Alaska.

The time set to complete the work by the parties making the repairs was the 10th day of August, and, judging from present appearances, it will not be completed before the 15th; all that would be necessary after that would be to coal and provision the vessel, and she would be ready for service. The vessel has one 24-pounder boat howitzer (Dahlgren), old pattern smooth-bore. The follow-gun was thrown overboard in February, 1876, when we got ashore at Cape Mudge, to assist in lightening the vessel. In a letter to the department, dated January 31, 1877, I called their attention to this matter, and asked to be furnished with a new battery similar to the pattern furnished other cutters in the service; to that letter I never received any reply. There are 30 rounds of fixed ammunition on board for this gun.

The vessel has fifteen rifles, nine Ballard and six Spencer; they are now being overhanded by a practical gunsmith, and will be in serviceable condition when finished; and there are 1,500 cartridges for these rifles, but are not reliable, as a large percentage of them we have found to miss fire. We have seventeen Colt's navy revolvers in fair condition, and have just received, per steamer Panama, 1,000 rounds of ammunition for them. Nine cutlasses complete the small-arms. We have powder enough on hand to fill about thirty cartridges.

In relation to your paragraph in regard to the strengthening the force of the officers and men, and increasing the armament of the vessel, I agree with you as to its necessity, should the department decide to send her to Alaska, but in my opinion she is entirely unfitted for that service. A vessel going to Alaska on that duty should not have less than seventy men, four broadside guns, two Gatling guns, and rifles and pistols sufficient to arm the entire crew besides furnished with good boats and a steam launch. This launch is imperatively necessary, for often she will be required to pursue Indians into channels and inland streams, where the vessel could not go. This number of men at first may appear large, but when it is considered that frequently we may be called upon to send away boats and to play for the protection of settlers, the number left to protect the vessel would be none too great. Moreover, the vessel should be furnished with an additional lieutenant, engineer, and surgeon.

In view of the facts above stated, it will be seen that the Wolcott is entirely unfitted for this service. In the first place she does not carry coal enough (only 60 tons). Secondly, she is too small to quarter the men and officers and stow provisions necessary for them. Again, with her high, long house on deck, which covers one-third of her length, and prevents her from carrying the necessary armament and effectively working it. Her quarter-deck is wholly unprotected, having no bulwarks or rail around it, exposing the entire persons of men and officers to the fire of hostile Indians, who may secrete themselves along the banks of narrow streams and pick us off.

The boats belonging to this vessel are old ones, transferred from the Lincoln and Wayanda to this vessel. I quote my statement made to the department in the report, June 30, about them: "The boats are old and seen much service, and are not considered safe for rough weather. The dingy and second cutter especially will not hold together much longer, as the wood will not hold the fastenings at present."

As I am writing in a hurry, to enable me to send this to you by to-night's mail, I have to omit many suggestions that I might make, showing the unfitness of the Wolcott or any other vessel of her class for the Alaska duty. You and others may perhaps think that in raising these objections I am actuated by personal motives. I assure you it is not so. My opinion is based on my own experience in Alaska, and that of many others who have been there. If it is my luck to be sent there, I sincerely hope I will be furnished with a more suitable vessel for the service.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. SELDEN,
Captain United States Revenue Marine, Commanding Wolcott.

WILLIAM GOVERNEUR MORRIS, Esq.,
Special Agent of the Treasury, Victoria, British Columbia.
The following telegraphic correspondence was then had:

**COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS,**
**Port Townsend:**

How soon can steamer Wolcott make cruise to the northward? Do you hear any reliable information about trouble at Sitka?

R. C. McCORMICK,
Assistant Secretary.

**PORT TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON TERRITORY,**
**July 26, 1877.**

**JOHN SHERMAN,**
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.:

Captain Selden informs me Wolcott cannot be got ready before September 1. Information brought by the master and passengers of the mail steamer from Sitka justifies the belief that the white citizens of that place are in danger, consequent upon the withdrawal of troops.

HENRY A. WEBSTER,
Collector.

**PORT TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON TERRITORY,**
**July 26, 1877.**

**SECRETARY TREASURY,**
Washington, D. C.:

Captain Selden states Wolcott in no condition for Alaskan service. I start immediately for Victoria and will forward written report from San Francisco. No cutter should be dispatched without largely increased force and medical officer. Gatling gun required.

WM. GOVERNEUR MORRIS,
Special Agent.

**WASHINGTON, D. C.,**
**July 24, 1877.**

M. P. BERRY,
United States Collector of Customs for port of Sitka, Alaska,
Victoria, Vancouver Island, B. N. A.:

Morris reports danger at Sitka unless cutter is dispatched at once. Telegraph whether you are of same opinion.

H. F. FRENCH,
Assistant Secretary.

**VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA,**
**July 26, 1877.**

**JOHN SHERMAN,**
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.:

Your telegram of the 24th received. It is my opinion that unless an armed vessel is dispatched without delay to Sitka and waters adjacent thereto, the people there will be massacred.

M. P. BERRY,
Collector District of Alaska.

Before leaving Victoria I wrote this letter to the department:

**OFFICE SPECIAL AGENT TREASURY DEPARTMENT,**
**Victoria, British Columbia, July 28, 1877.**

Sir: I have the honor to transmit certain correspondence between Capt. James M. Selden, of the revenue marine, commanding steamer Wolcott, and myself, touching the condition of his vessel for Alaskan service.

On the 25th instant, the collector of Port Townsend, Wash., received your telegram asking "how soon can steamer Wolcott make cruise to the northward." At my suggestion, Captain Selden, who was at Seattle, superintending the repairs of his vessel, was telegraphed for, in order he might personally be consulted. On the 26th he made his appearance at the Port Townsend custom-house, and in reply to your question, answered, "Not before September 1st," which reply was at once telegraphed you by Collector Webster. Captain Selden then read to us his reply to my letter of July 24, and reiterated personally the views therein expressed; whereupon I sent the following telegram to the department:

"Captain Selden states 'Wolcott in no condition for Alaskan service.' I start im-
mediately for Victoria and will forward written report from San Francisco. No cutter
should be dispatched without largely increased force and medical officer. Gatling
gun required.

Captain Selden stated to me, as I was leaving Port Townsend, he would address me
another communication upon the subject to San Francisco.

The situation at Sitka is now changed. A vessel stationed there may have sharp
work to do. For mere intimidation the Wolcott would be an admirable scarecrow;
but if there is any fighting to be done, or offensive operations to be conducted, then a
vessel of a different class must be selected. My views on this subject were fully set
forth in my report of April 14 last, when discussing the armament and crew of the cut-
ter Rush.

Collector Berry is very earnest in his statement of the defenseless condition of our
citizens, who have been left wholly unprotected and liable at any time to be mur-
dered by the savage tribes. He does not concur in views of the department, that "an
occasional visit of an armed vessel is deemed all that is necessary," and I am constrained
to agree in this opinion.

A cutter should be stationed permanently at Sitka, unless it is determined to, aban-
don that portion of the territory altogether, and she should be provided with a steam-
launch, as Captain Selden suggests.

Let a vessel go there now, and possibly everything at the surface might appear to
be calm, and the officer making the inspection might call those who have agitated
this question "alarmists"; but this will not do. The inhabitants of Sitka are slum-
bering upon a volcano, as it were, and some day it will belch forth and engulf them.
It is a question of slow growth, but many of these Indians have wrongs to redress
and injuries to be made good, inflicted upon them while the country was in the hands
of the military.

Major Berry says the destinies of the whole town are in the hands of a single chief,
who, if he says "kill," not a white man will be left alive.

I cannot speak from my own personal observation, but for three years past I have
given this northwest coast patient study and investigation. It is my firm conviction
the department does not realize the situation, and the sooner it recognizes fully the
importance, condition, and responsibility of the legacy bequeathed to it by the War
Department, so much the sooner will it become convinced of what is requisite to be
done, and that speedily. Some sort of government must be had; and as, to my mind,
the Treasury being the most proper bureau for its administration, should at once
enter upon the task and evolve some kind of order out of this impending trouble and
present chaos.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. GOVERNEUR MORRIS,
Special Agent.

Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

On August 4, off Chetko River, Oregon, I spoke at sea the revenue-
steamer Thomas Corwin, Capt. John W. White commanding, en route
to Alaska. This officer remained some time in those waters with his vessel,
and although during his stay the Indians made no signs of violence, I
am satisfied his visit had a very healthy effect and quieting influence
upon the natives, and prevented any outbreak, as portended by Major
Berry. One thing must be continually borne in mind, that the Indians
are not going to begin hostilities while a gunboat is lying right before
their villages. They will make all manifestations of good conduct,
even if they contemplate throat-cutting and blood-letting as soon as the
vessel is out of sight.

Major Berry continued to grow worse at Victoria, and, being at the
point of death, his resignation was accepted by the department and
successor appointed. When his special deputy, Mr. Harvey, reached
Portland, Oreg., I had an interview with him and advised him by all
means to proceed to San Francisco and make settlement with the depart-
ment, and deposit his funds with the assistant treasurer of the United
States. He left by the first steamer for that purpose. I advised him
also to seek the advice and assistance of the accomplished auditor of
the San Francisco custom-house, J. Frank Miller, esq., in the prepara-
tion and rendition of the final accounts of Collector Berry.
This gentleman entered upon the discharge of his duties in July last, and is bringing to the task ability and judgment. My correspondence with him has been of a satisfactory character, and in a recent interview with him at this port, on his return to Alaska, I am convinced he fully understands the gravity of the position in which he is placed and the responsibilities of the office he has assumed.

One great trouble in enforcing the revenue laws properly in Alaska and maintaining order is the insecurity of the term of public officials. No sooner has a man mastered our intricate customs revenue system, or at least become tolerably conversant with its practical workings and numerous contradictions, than he is supplanted, made to walk the plank, and politely invited to step out and make room for his successor.

In older communities this, per se, does not invariably cause loss to the revenue or bring about the pernicious state of affairs which advocates of civil-service reform are wont to preach, for the reason, sufficient experienced clerks and deputies are retained to carry on the public business properly. But in Alaska, when the fountain-head departs, it usually results in a clean sweep of subordinates. Aside from the mere routine of collecting the revenue, the collector of customs and his deputies, as matters now stand, are the only semblance of or really the de facto law in the Territory.

These reflections do not apply to the present collector, who legitimately succeeded to a vacancy caused by resignation, nor to his deputies, for reasons before given. If they prove equal to the occasion, it is to be hoped more stability than heretofore will be had in their case.

THE PORT OF WRANGEL.

Wrangel, or more generally known as Fort Wrangel, is situated on the north end of Wrangel Island. Illustration No. 1 will give a correct idea of the present appearance of the place. The view is presented from the harbor directly in front of the town, with the cutter Wolcott in the distance.

The military post at Wrangel was established in 1867, and abandoned in 1870. This garrison cost many thousands of dollars; it had a large hospital, good quarters for officers and men, guard-house, bakery, store-houses, post well stockaded, stables, and such other buildings as are usually found at a one-company post. The erection thereof was necessarily most expensive, yet, notwithstanding the immense sums of money expended, the War Department in 1870 disposed of the whole thing for the insignificant sum of $500 or thereabouts. The purchaser was William King Lear, esq., sutler and trader at the post and village. Soon after the troops left, at the request of Mr. Lear, the deputy collector then stationed there vacated the miserable shell of a building then occupied as a custom-house and moved into one of the buildings of the fort. This building was used and occupied as a custom-house and warehouse, free of rent from the year 1870 to 1874, at which time the discovery of gold at Cassiar, in British Columbia, caused houses at Wrangel to become valuable and in demand. Mr. Lear, in consideration of the fact he had furnished for a period of four years a whole building rent free for government purposes, asked that he be allowed compensation for the use of one room. Upon the representation of Collector Berry, the sum of $30 per month was paid.

In January, 1875, the War Department re-occupied Fort Wrangel and stationed troops there, taking possession of all the former buildings and
allowing Mr. Lear the sum of $80 per month rent, which he continued to receive under protest until the final abandonment of the post in July, 1877. Illustration No. 3 shows the fort as vacated by the troops.

When the military regarrisoned the post the deputy collector was directed to surrender his room, which was done. Upon the requisition of Major Berry the department authorized an allowance of $200 to put the old custom-house in a habitable condition. This was done in February of that year, and it has ever since been used for customs purposes. It is the property of the United States, is in full repair, and answers all requirements for office business, but it is at an inconvenient distance from the only wharf and warehouse at the village.

Finding the Indians made a thoroughfare of the premises to and from their village, and were stopping constantly in throngs in front of the building, intruding their filthy persons and stench even inside the office, and impeding the public business, I directed Mr. Dennis to construct a cheap fence of palings and logs and inclose the lot, which has been done.

There is a great lack of warehouse facilities at this port. The United States own no building which can be used for this purpose, and the trade at present will not justify the erection of one. It was a great mistake this random sale of government property. Had these buildings been turned over to the Treasury Department, like those at Fort Kenai and Kodiak Island, we should now have abundance of warehouse accommodation.

The present and only warehouse at the port cannot be bonded, for two reasons:

1. Because the entire building cannot be had.
2. It being the only warehouse in the place, the owners would not consent to part with it for this purpose.

Merchandise which goes into bond now in transitu is destined for the Stikine River in British Columbia, and only remains a few days. It is piled up indiscriminately, domestic and foreign merchandise all in one conglomerate mass.

Illustration No. 2 gives the location of the warehouse and wharf. The building in the distance is the old United States hospital. The two canoes lying at the dock are the first which were loaded during the present year with merchandise for the head of navigation on the Stikine. The merchandise consisted of portions of the machinery for the first steam engine at the Dease Lake Cassiar mines, and after disembarkation from the canoes was packed on the backs of mules for 150 miles.

Owing to the very shallow state of water this year in the Stikine, early in the season all the freighting was done by canoes. It is estimated there were 125 thus employed, requiring nearly 600 Indians to navigate them. A canoe will carry about two tons weight.

Nearly the whole of the customs business is transacted at this port. Two lines of Canadian steamers run regularly to and fro from Victoria, and American steamers likewise from Oregon, Puget Sound, and British Columbia. This is the depot where all goods are landed in order to be transported up the Stikine River to the Cassiar mines.

In order to convey some idea of the country and mineral resources which is supplied with goods via Wrangel, the following extract is made from a report upon the mines and minerals of British Columbia by George M. Dawson, Assoc. R. S. M. F. G. S.:

The Cassiar district is the latest and most northern discovery on the auriferous belt of British Columbia, being situated about north latitude 59°, and separated from

S. Ex. 59—3
Omineca by over 300 miles of rough country, unknown geographically, and scarcely, if at all, prospected. Gold has long been known on the lower part of the river stikine, by which Cassiar is approached from the coast; but it occurs there in light, scaly particles, like those obtained on many of the bars of the Fraser. The rich deposits lately discovered lie on the sources of the river Dease and about Dease Lake, the upper end of the latter being separated by only a few miles of low country from a part of the Stikine. The Dease empties into the Mackenzie, and thus passes to the Arctic Sea. The discovery of this district is due to Mr. Thibert and a companion who reached it from the east in 1872, after three years spent in trapping and prospecting. Mr. Good, in the report already referred to, states that the area of the Cassiar gold-field, as at present developed, comprises a tract of country of at least 300 square miles. The number of miners employed during the summer of 1875 was over 800, and the gold obtained is estimated at a little less than a million of dollars. In 1876, according to the report of the minister of mines of British Columbia, the estimated gold yield was $556,474, and 1,500 miners and others visited the mines. The yield for 1877 is estimated by Mr. Vowell, gold commissioner, at $499,237. The number of men at the mines, exclusive of Indians, is said at no time to have exceeded 1,200, of whom 300 to 400 were Chinese. Dease and McAlpine Creeks, the two most important in the district, are about 100 miles apart, while discoveries have been pushed northward and eastward on river systems connected with the Dease to a distance estimated at 370 miles, in a region which probably lies beyond the Province of British Columbia, and in the as yet unorganized northwest Territory. A promising quartz vein, containing gold, silver, and copper, has been discovered on McAlpine Creek, and a lode of argentiferous galena on the river Francis or Deloire.

Mr. Arthur W. Vowell, gold commissioner and stipendiary magistrate, also uses this language regarding these mines, for the year 1877, in his report to the provincial secretary:

Considering the many difficulties which have beset the miners, and the fact that there have not been as many engaged this year, I think that, on the whole, the results for 1877 are not unfavorable, but rather go to prove that Cassiar stands to-day a mining district second to none in the province as regards the number of men it employs, its great extent, its prospects, and the fact that it is as yet, except as regards a very limited portion of it, undeveloped.

The miners who have already returned in October of the present year report the discovery of new very rich diggings. They were only discovered a short time before the season became too far advanced to work, but during the short time they were worked the yield was enormous.

Here the miners congregate in large numbers, from 1,500 to 2,000 at certain seasons of the year, the number increasing each year, going and coming. A large number of them go into winter quarters with Indian women, hibernate, play cards, and drink whisky until the ice melts in the spring, when they return to the mines and try their luck again.

The impetus given to Indian labor by employing them and their canoes in the transportation of merchandise has had a very beneficial effect and added no little to the prosperity and trade of the place, for the Indian generally spends every dollar earned by him.

The price on the steamers from Wrangel to Glenora Landing, 150 miles, is $40 per ton measurement, whereas the Indian takes it for $30 per ton weight. They deserve to be encouraged in their enterprise, and nothing will go farther to render them docile and tractable than the very fact of their being dependent upon the white man for employment. These canoes are regularly cleared by the deputy collector, who personally takes an account of every portion of their cargo. This necessitates his being absent from his office, very often for days at a time. One officer at this port is insufficient; there should be, as said before, another assigned here.

It frequently happens an inspector has to be sent to Karta Bay, Klawack, and other points, and the interests of the government are always in jeopardy if temporary inspectors are selected from the lazy, good-for-nothing, loafing class of men who are hanging around the waterfront waiting for an odd job.
The foreign steamers have to be discharged by an inspector; the deputy collector cannot attend to this. They have to be watched at night as well to prevent the illicit importation of foreign merchandise as to guard against the surreptitious landing of alcoholic liquors from our own ports.

The public business, if attended to at all, should be done properly, and the volume here is such that, if not strictly looked after, loss to the revenue must necessarily ensue.

Mr. Dennis had his office in good order, and his books, papers, and accounts disclosed strict fidelity and attention to business. An examination of his collections showed him accountable for the sum of $131.83 in fees and duties. The cash on hand was: Gold, $10; silver and currency, $121.83. As remarked previously, an iron safe is absolutely needed at this office.

Coastwise merchandise, which is first landed at Victoria and subsequently shipped in foreign bottoms to Wrangel, is identified as follows: Merchandise of this description passes through Victoria in transitu, and such an entry is made at Wrangel, and certificate of landing is signed by the deputy, which is afterwards returned to the custom-house at Victoria. The entry specifies packages, with weights and values. This is kept on file at the Wrangel office. The town of Wrangel contains several stores, restaurants, hotels, &c. The buildings are for the most part, however, small. The Indian village will be described hereafter. Statistics regarding the trade of Wrangel will more fully appear in a petition subsequently incorporated in this report, of its citizens to Congress praying for some mode of civil government.

**COAL DEPOT.**

Wrangel Island should be made a government coaling station; it is far more central than Sitka, and is 180 miles nearer to the Nanaimo coal-mines, in British Columbia, where all steamers bound to the northward take in their supply of coal. It is also more central for vessels to coal here bound to the Aleutian and Seal Islands. A large vessel loaded with coal at Nanaimo could be towed up by a revenue-cutter by the inside passage, and after discharging could likewise be towed to sea, thus materially reducing the cost of transportation. A fine site is presented for a location, the point of land occupied by Shasta Hauck (Shustack). There is abundance of ground without trenching upon the space occupied by his lodges and buildings. A small wharf can be constructed at small expense, and all the facilities can be had for discharging and loading coal. This is a very important question to be decided by the department without further procrastination. It is a screaming farce to send these small cutters to Alaska with only sufficient coal to take them there and return, making no allowance or provision whatever for bad weather or accidents. An appropriation should be had this year of at least $10,000 for sending a cargo of coal to Southeastern Alaska, for the use of revenue-marinve vessels cruising there. The reason for appropriating so large an amount at one time is, that by sending a large cargo the cost of transportation is reduced. It will cost more in proportion to send 500 tons of coal than 1,000.

The time is not far distant, however, when Alaska will furnish her own coal, and the great expense of transportation will be thus avoided.

**SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS.**

The following papers were, on April 1, 1876, sent by the department to Special Agent S. D. Mills, at that time in charge of the district, for
WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, March 4, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose copy of letter of January 12, 1876, from the com­manding officer of Fort Wrangel to the collector of customs at Sitka, forwarding a sworn statement of T. J. McCully, charging one Baronovich, a trader, with smuggling dutiable goods into Alaska from British Columbia.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. M. ROBESON,
Acting Secretary of War.

M. P. BERRY,
Collector of Customs, Sitka, Alaska.

S. P. JOCELYN,
Captain Twenty-first Infantry, Commanding.

Personally appeared before the undersigned, a commissioned officer of the United States Army, and commandant of the military post of Fort Wrangel, Alaska, one Thomas J. McCully, who, being duly sworn, deposes as follows, viz:

From March 12, 1875, to about December 1, 1875, I resided at the trading post of Charles V. Baronovich, Karta Bay, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, being in the employ, as cooper, of said Baronovich. About June 25, 1875, the said Charles V. Baronovich brought, or caused to be brought, from Fort Lapwai, in British Columbia, to his store at Karta Bay, in Alaska, a lot of English-made blankets, in number sixty, more or less. About August 1, 1875, the said Charles V. Baronovich brought, or caused to be brought, from Fort Simpson, in British Columbia, to his store at Karta Bay, in Alaska, a canoe load of hard bread, flour, and blankets, the said cargo consisting of ten sacks of flour, four boxes of hard bread, and a lot of English blankets, not less than one hundred in number. About September 1, 1875, the said Charles V. Baronovich brought, or caused to be brought, from Fort Simpson, in British Columbia, to his store at Karta Bay, in Alaska, sixty English blankets.

Of this last lot I am exact as to the number, as the blankets were wet during the voyage, and I counted them as they were exposed in the air to dry.

I am less positive as to the precise dates, as I made no memorandum at the time, but all the articles enumerated were brought from Fort Simpson to Karta Bay during the time I was employed by Baronovich, i.e., between March and December, 1875.

I am positive that the United States import duties were not paid by the said Charles V. Baronovich, or other person, upon any of the blankets, hard bread, or flour mentioned in this statement, as the said Baronovich frequently informed me that the said duties had not been paid, but that the fact of importation had been concealed from the customs officials, and he, the said Baronovich, often remarked to me that a man was a fool to pay duties in Alaska, as goods could be just as readily smuggled, and so much saved.

THOMAS J. McCULLY.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, at Fort Wrangel, Alaska, this 12th day of January, 1876.

S. P. JOCELYN,
Captain Twenty-first Infantry, Commanding.

I certify that in taking the above affidavit paragraph 1031, Revised Army Regulations, 1863, has been complied with.

S. P. JOCELYN,
Captain Twenty-first Infantry, Commanding.
I found the complaining witness, McCully, at Wrangel, who substantiated verbally to me everything contained in his affidavit, but seemed unwilling to testify against Baronovich. Upon further questioning him, I ascertained that Baronovich had paid him the greater portion of the sum claimed by him, and I shrewdly suspect this affidavit was made more to compel a settlement than for any great zeal for the welfare of the public service. At all events, I found that McCully would prove a most unwilling witness.

Subsequently I took the Wolcott and steamed for Karta Bay, where the trading post of Baronovich is situated. I read to him the charges, which he indignantly denied, interlarding his conversation in broken English with oaths and expletives. The antecedents and previous character of this man are bad, and I have no doubt but that he has been a systematic smuggler for years.

I made thorough examination of his store and stock of goods on hand, and found no other evidences of smuggling. He has sold nothing to speak of for two years, his fishery has been closed, and he has done no business of any kind worth mentioning. He is deeply in debt and very poor.

In addition to this, the man is so badly paralyzed and is a helpless cripple, he can barely speak distinctly and can hardly get about. In fact his system is so broken that in my opinion he cannot live long.

A party of San Francisco capitalists have purchased his copper mine, and from the high character of the gentlemen composing the company, I feel assured there will be no more smuggling at this point if they can prevent it. Baronovich has made his last cruise, his sands of life are nearly run, and no longer will his pirate craft thread the water of Karta Bay and adjacent archipelago laden with contraband goods.

In order to prosecute him, it would be necessary to have him indicted either in the courts of Oregon or Washington Territory, at great ex-
pense, and in view of the time that has elapsed, the difficulty of obtaining testimony to convict, and all the circumstances of the case, and feeling satisfied there will be no repetition of the offense, I respectfully recommend no further proceedings be had, and the papers in the case are herewith returned.

EXPEDITION OF THE REV. MR. DUNCAN, MISSIONARY, TRADER, MAGIS TRATE, ETC., AT METLACATLAH, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Among other matters which have laid dormant for two years, awaiting an opportunity for personal investigation, has been the following correspondence submitted to me by the department:

CUSTOM-HOUSE, SITKA, ALASKA,
Collector's Office, June 15, 1876.

Sir: I have the honor to lay before you the following. During the afternoon of June the 7th, while at Port Wrangel, I received per hands of an Indian the following dispatch from Deputy Collector Milletich, stationed at Tongas:

"CUSTOM-HOUSE, TONGAS,
May 28, 1876.

"Sir: I have just been informed by a reliable party that Mr. Duncan, missionary of Metlacatla, British Columbia, is now fitting out four large canoes, with goods consisting of blankets, silk goods, ammunition, guns, and molasses, &c., to the amount of five or six thousand dollars, and intends in a few days to send the canoes, with Indians of that place, to the Chilcat country, A. T., to trade those goods. I understand that Mr. Duncan makes a business of sending goods to Alaska; he has been smuggling goods in Chilcat and other places in Alaska Territory for a great number of years. Had I any facilities at hand, I should have endeavored to capture the smugglers, but I am alone on this island, and cannot get any Indians for a crew, they being absent from their village. I would further inform you that about the 18th instant three canoes, from Sitka and Tacou, called at this port on their way to Fort Simpson and Skeeva River, British Columbia. I understand that they left the latter places loaded with molasses which they purchased there, and are now on their way home.

"I am, sir, very respectfully, &c.,

"A. MILLETICH,
"Acting Deputy Collector and Inspector."

While reading the above communication a fleet of eight canoes have in sight of the custom-house, ten or more miles to the westward, heading north through Duke of Clarence Straits. Believing it to be a "Hydah fleet on their way to Wrangel, but little attention was paid to their movements for the space of an hour, when finding that only one, the leading canoe, headed toward the port, I concluded that it was the smuggling fleet, and thereupon proceeded to inaugurate a chase with such means as I could command.

There being no steamer of any kind in the harbor, I went to the Stickine Indian town, and, after two hours' delay, succeeded in employing a canoe to chase. After waiting an hour for the head Indian to collect a crew, he refused to go. Another hour was spent, and I succeeded in employing a canoe with twelve paddles and steersman, and got them off with a guard of troops furnished by Captain Jocelyn, commanding post at Wrangel, and Deputy Collector Dennis, under orders to follow the fleet to the Northwest Stickine Sands, and if finding that the fleet had entered and was any distance out in Prince Frederick's Sound, to abandon the chase, for the reason that the canoe was too light to venture. My only hope was to catch them on the sand, waiting for the flood tide to get over into the sound, or that they might go into camp, but in neither instance was I right; the tide was a neap or half tide, which left the channel open, and, with a half gale, they pushed on.

The elements seemed to conspire against my success, because, in less than ten minutes after leaving Wrangel, a strong wind, rain, and fog came in from the west, which operated seriously against the expedition, which, by the peculiar configuration of the islands, made it favorable for the smugglers. Nevertheless, against the storm, the canoe traveled about twenty miles in less than two hours. Finding it impossible to overtake the running fleet in less distance than one or more hundred miles, Mr. Dennis gave up the chase.

In conclusion, I must say that it was only by arousing the cupidity of the Indians
that I was enabled to get a canoe at all; viz, I paid them $26 to run out, and agreed to pay for the capture of one canoe $100, and for the fleet $500 cash.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. P. BERRY,
Collector.

Hon. B. H. Bristow,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

[Endorsement.]

JULY 28, 1876.

Respectfully referred to Special Agent W. G. Morris, San Francisco, Cal., for such investigation as he may be able to make and report of result of same.

GEO. F. TALBOT,
 Solicitor.

I personally interviewed Major Berry and Mr. Dennis upon the subject matter of this communication. They pointed out the spot to me where the canoes first hove in sight, and their avenue of escape, and it was very plainly seen how easy it was to prevent capture under the circumstances.

The trade with the Chilkat Indians has until within a very few years past been most valuable, they having the richest, most costly, and valuable furs of any tribe in Southeastern Alaska. Latterly it has not been so much sought after, owing to the low price of furs.

Our British neighbors have always been keenly alive to the value of this trade, and have reached out for it and brought it past our own doors to British Columbia, several hundred miles to the southward.

It is a source of unpleasant feeling to be compelled to admit that I have no good reason to doubt the accuracy of the statement of Major Berry, in reference to the complicity of the Rev. Mr. Duncan in the above smuggling case. Indian testimony upon this point is conclusive. He may not have been directly interested pecuniarily in the success of the venture, but that he sold the goods to the Indians cannot be a matter of doubt. Again, he is missionary, civil magistrate, Indian agent, trader, and justice of the peace, and it cannot be disputed that these Indians could not have departed upon this expedition with canoes heavily laden without Mr. Duncan being cognizant of the whole transaction.

It may be said, however, in extenuation, but not in justification, of his course, that Mr. Duncan has been on this coast trading with the Indians for over twenty years; that it has been the custom of the country and the whole coast, for a hundred years or more, for the different tribes in Russian America (Alaska) and British North America to barter furs and exchange commodities; that they have never been interfered with by the customs authorities of either nation.

There does not seem to be any moral responsibility attaching to the residents of Alaska and country adjacent thereto in regard to illicit trade. The ports of entry are few and no cruising cutters to look after canoes and boats, and trade is carried on now as it has been for a half century past. That the United States loses much revenue can easily be seen.

Mr. Duncan is an Episcopal minister, a missionary, but is not under the jurisdiction of the lord bishop of British Columbia, and acknowledges no allegiance, spiritual or temporal, to his lordship. He runs a sort of independent diocese of his own at Metlakatlah; and, to use an expression made to me concerning him by a contemporary, "He combines the cause of religion with the sale of cotton shirts"—quite a natural thing under all the surroundings. He has been the instrument of a great deal of good. His mission school is a great success. He has done wonderful
work in christianizing and civilizing the Indians with whom he has come in contact. He has induced them to take great interest in the construction of their dwellings. In fact, he has completely metamorphosed their condition. A high compliment is paid him and a description of his labors given in the interesting report of Mr. Vincent Colyer, special Indian commissioner to Alaska in the year 1869. Judge Swan in his report likewise speaks highly of his efforts (see Appendix No. 1), and also in his letter to myself, which appears hereafter.

While according to this gentleman everything which is claimed for him by his friends and impartial observers, it must be conceded that measures must be taken to prevent any recurrence of any like expeditions in the future. The Chilcat trade is too valuable to permit it to be the source of clandestine importations from a foreign province. It belongs of right to our own citizens, those of Alaska and elsewhere; it should be fostered and encouraged, and our own traders and merchants should be protected in taking their goods, wares, and merchandise to exchange for the choice furs and peltries of that region.

Mr. Duncan will either have to enter his goods at our custom-houses, and prevent his Indians from a repetition of this offense, else there will be some seizures, and perhaps bloodshed, in Alaskan waters.

In October, 1879, there is to be given in the Chilcat country a grand poulatch. Preparations for it will have consumed two years by the time it is had. Large quantities of rich and valuable furs and peltries of all kinds will be traded and given away. The usual amount of Hoochenoo will be consumed. This will be a rich field for the Metlacatlah Indians to work in, and unless we have a revenue-cutter there at this time, the coast will be swarming with Hudson's Bay blankets and other foreign goods.

This very fiasco of a chase demonstrates the necessity of steam-launches in these waters. If there had been a cutter cruising in the Alexander Archipelago the Indians would not have dared to attempt a voyage of the kind. A steam-launch could have easily overhauled them and thousands of dollars worth of goods confiscated.

For some unexplained reason, the accounting officers of the department disallowed the sum, $26, paid by Collector Berry for the hire of the canoe, and he was compelled to pay for the luxury out of his own pocket. He supposes it was upon the Mongolian principle of "no catchee, no pay." At all events, such rigorous stoppages are not conducive to zeal upon the part of customs officers, and this example before them will cause them to pause before they again incur a like expense.

ABOLITION OF THE CUSTOMS DISTRICT OF ALASKA.

The discussion of this question is approached with no little delicacy, inasmuch as the honorable Secretary, in his annual report at the commencement of the second session of the Forty-fifth Congress, used the following language:

Since the withdrawal of the troops from Alaska last spring, the management of the Territory has practically devolved upon the Treasury Department. The only officers who could exercise any authority were the collector of customs at Sitka and his deputies stationed at other points within the Territory, the duties of the officers at the seal islands being confined exclusively to the protection of the seal interests. It was feared that the sudden withdrawal of the troops might result in a conflict between the whites and the Indians; but thus far little disturbance has occurred. The white population at Sitka is very limited, and the expense of maintaining customs officers there
ILLUSTRATION No. 3.

FORT WRANGL, ALASKA.
and at other points within the Territory has aggregated, within the past two years, $17,418.32, while the receipts from customs have, during the same period, been very much less. It is, therefore, recommended that the port of Sitka be abolished.

It is known by me, however, that De Ahna, after one day's experience as collector of this district, did make a report to the department recommending the district be abolished, and that the honorable Secretary indorsed the report favorably. I have seen a telegraph from Governor McCormick to De Ahna to this effect.

This political gasconade, De Ahna, puffed up with his own swelling self-conceit, knows as much about the collection of the revenue in the district of Alaska as Sitting Bull does about the Sermon on the Mount.

It has been previously shown that the collections made in the district since its establishment have been about one-half of the expenses of running it, and it is respectfully urged that this district must not be considered as one of revenue, but essentially as one of protection.

It is evident this recommendation of the honorable Secretary was made on the score of economy, but it is difficult to conceive what particular saving can be made. The Alaska officers do not now receive greater compensation than their services are worth; in fact, I think all the deputies are much underpaid. A residence in this Territory at present is a banishment from all the refining influences of civilized life, and especially at the western ports amounts almost to a condition of servitude. Men in the search of gold will brave any danger and submit to any hardship, but for the meager salary paid a customs official, it does not warrant the exposure to the vicissitudes of the elements or the pleasant prospect at times of being scalped by savage tribes.

Where the pruning-knife is to be displayed in the abolition of the district I cannot see, for it certainly was not the intention of the honorable Secretary to abolish ipso facto all collections of the revenue in this quarter of the globe. It was evidently his intention to have it discontinued as an independent collection district, and have it attached to some other district for collection purposes. The same number of officers would be required as at present, there not being a surplus official in the Territory at present.

It has been suggested to attach it to the district of Puget Sound. This, in view of the fact of the additional 20,000 miles of sea-coast to look after, added to the grave difficulties which now surround the rigid enforcement of the revenue laws in that district, would, in my opinion, make the new district too large and unwieldy, and could not be productive of any beneficial result. It would impose upon the collector being responsible for the conduct of subordinate officers thousands of miles away, and very much destroy the harmony, symmetry, and efficiency which now prevail in the Puget Sound district.

I think the better policy would be to let the boundaries remain as now constituted, and continue the collection district. It is not deemed necessary specially to pursue this question further, as the whole tenor of this report goes to establish the fact that the collector and his deputies govern the whole Territory, and are the only law of any kind those benighted people have.

BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN ALASKA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

I regard this unsettled question between the United States and Great Britain as one of great gravity and momentous interest, calculated, if left in its present state of abeyance, to produce confusion, bad blood, and bitter feeling.
The recollection of the San Juan Island controversy is still fresh in our memories, and how near we came to having a serious rupture with our English neighbors.

The case at bar is of equal importance, and can easily be disposed of at the present time by negotiation and joint commission, but if left to abide the result of chance and time, unforeseen complications may arise which may result in serious international dispute.

This boundary line has never yet been definitely determined, and never will be until surveyed and located by a joint astronomical party of the two governments. The language of the treaty whereby we secured the Alaska purchase leaves this question in doubt, being a verbatim copy of the convention between Great Britain and Russia, signed at St. Peters burg February 28, 1825, which is in the words and figures following, to wit, taken from page 671, Revised Statutes of the United States, volume of Public Treaties:

**RUSSIA, 1867.**

**CONVENTION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA, FOR THE CESSION OF THE RUSSIAN POSSESSIONS IN NORTH AMERICA TO THE UNITED STATES, CONCLUDED AT WASHINGTON MARCH 30, 1867; RATIFICATION ADVISED BY SENATE APRIL 9, 1867; RATIFIED BY PRESIDENT MAY 28, 1867; RATIFICATIONS EXCHANGED AT WASHINGTON JUNE 20, 1867; PROCLAIMED JUNE 20, 1867.**

The United States of America and His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, being desirous of strengthening, if possible, the good understanding which exists between them, have, for that purpose, appointed as their Plenipotentiaries, the President of the United States, William H. Seward, Secretary of State; and His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, the Privy Counsellor Edward de Stoeckl, his Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States;

And the said plenipotentiaries, having exchanged their full powers, which were found to be in due form, have agreed upon and signed the following articles:

**ARTICLE I.**

His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias agrees to cede to the United States, by this convention, immediately upon the exchange of the ratifications thereof, all the territory and dominion now possessed by his said Majesty on the continent of America and in the adjacent islands, the same being contained within the geographical limits herein set forth, to wit: The eastern limit is the line of demarcation between the Russian and the British possessions in North America, as established by the convention between Russia and Great Britain, of February 28-18, 1825, and described in Articles III and IV of said convention, in the following terms:

"Commencing from the southernmost point of the island called Prince of Wales Island, which point lies in the parallel of 54 degrees 40 minutes north latitude, and between the 131st and 133d degree of west longitude, (meridian of Greenwich,) the said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland Channel, as far as the point of the continent where it strikes the 56th degree of north latitude; from this last-mentioned point, the line of demarcation shall follow the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the coast, as far as the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude, (of the same meridian;) and finally, from the said point of intersection, the said meridian line of the 141st degree, in its prolongation as far as the Frozen Ocean."

**IV.** With reference to the line of demarcation laid down in the preceding article, it is understood—

1st. That the island called Prince of Wales Island shall belong wholly to Russia [now, by this cession to the United States].

2d. That whenever the summit of the mountains which extend in a direction parallel to the coast from the 56th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude shall prove to be at the distance of more than ten marine leagues from the ocean, the limit between the British possessions and the line of coast which is to belong to Russia, as above mentioned (that is to say, the limit to the possessions ceded by this convention), shall be formed by a line parallel to the winding of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of ten marine leagues therefrom."
The undetermined limits and location of this boundary line have at times been near bringing about serious disputes. Sir Edward Behring, in his voyages, relates the following:

In 1834 an expedition was fitted out (from Fort Vancouver) to establish a trading-post on the river Stikine, which falls into Clarence Straits, and is situated in 56° N., 131° 10' W.; but the Russians, having notice of their intention, had erected a blockhouse, and placed one of their corvettes at the mouth of the river, to prevent their effecting their object.

By the treaty of 1825 (vide appendix) completed with the Russian Government, articles 3, 6, 7, and 11, it was agreed that the Russians were to occupy from their outward boundary, viz, 54° 40' N. and 131° to 133° W., a parallel band of thirty miles, above 54° 40' N., but clearly reserving the right on the part of the British traders to "freely navigate all the rivers which crossed the line of demarcation." And as it was, moreover, a prominent feature of that treaty that neither party, under any circumstances, should have recourse to force without first transferring the dispute to their government, a formal appeal was made to Baron Wrangel, at that period governor of Sitka, but without success.

It is probably fortunate that this article tied the hands of our spirited Northwesterners, or the question of blockade would have assumed a very different feature. By this occurrence the loss to the company was assumed at £20,000, but as the Russian Government disapproved of the conduct of their governor, I am informed the question was satisfactorily concluded and expenses recovered.

Major Berry when at Sitka imparted to me the following information:

In 1862, when the gold mines on the Stikine River were first discovered, the Russian authorities dispatched an officer of engineers in a whale-boat to the Stikine to see whether the miners were taking gold from Russian territory. Having ascertained the miners were at work 10 marine leagues inland, he returned and so reported.

Prof. William P. Blake, in his journal of an exploration of the Stikine, uses the following language:

Under the orders of Admiral Popoff, of His Imperial Russian Majesty's navy, an expedition for the survey of the Stickeen River was organized by Lieutenant Bassarguine, commanding the corvette Rynda, when at Sitka in 1863.

The corvette steamed from Sitka to a convenient anchorage a few miles below the mouth of the Stickeen, and near the south shore of its broad estuary. The party detailed consisted of Lieutenant Pereleshin, Mr. Andreanoff, a Russian engineer in the service of the Russian-American Company, six Russian sailors, expert oarsmen, and the writer, who accompanied the party as a guest, for scientific purposes. The commander's gig, a boat sharp at both ends and modeled like a whale-boat, was selected as best adapted for the purpose, and was fitted out with mast and sail, a long line for towing, and was provisioned for two weeks. An Indian, named Jack, accompanied us as a guide.

I infer these two expeditions must have been one and the same, and that some confusion exists in regard to the date.

In 1867, before the cession of Russian America to the United States, the Hudson's Bay Company, learning that the sale was about to take place, employed Professor Leach to establish the line where the ten leagues ended, and had at that time nearly completed building a trading-post at Warm Springs Creek, about 35 miles up the Stikine, direct. Professor Leach went farther up the river to a place called Berry's Bar, which he fixed as the termination of the ten leagues. The Hudson's Bay Company stopped building immediately at Warm Springs, and moved their post to Berry's Bar. This man Berry died of small-pox in 1862, and was buried; and when Leach fixed the boundary line he found his grave to be one-half in Russian America and one-half in British Columbia.

This was the accepted boundary until the discovery of the gold mines of Cassiar, some four years since, when the Canadian authorities sent a customs officer to control the trade of the Stikine, who located the custom-house in the Hudson's Bay Company buildings near Berry's Bar, they having abandoned that trading-post.
By consent of the collector of customs of the district of Alaska, he moved his office down the river about 25 miles, to a point some two miles below the mouth of Warm Springs Creek, at the foot of the great glacier. This was done for the sake of comity, the Canadian deputy promising to inform the deputy at Wrangel of smuggling of liquor into Alaska by Indians, &c.

He remained there only one year, and then moved his custom-house to Glenora Landing, about 160 miles from the mouth of the Stikine River.

During the year the custom-house was located at the foot of the great glacier, the gold commissioner of Cassiar, a factor of the Hudson's Bay Company and an English surveyor, located a town site at the head of tide-water on the great bend of the Stikine, claiming it was in British Columbia, made application at the land office at Victoria, and entered it.

The following correspondence is now inserted as bearing directly upon the subject-matter:

CUSTOM-HOUSE, SITKA, ALASKA,
Collector's Office, June 15, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that the Canadian customs authorities have removed their flag and office up the Stikine River to a place known as Glenora Landing, the same being above the supposed boundary line some sixty miles, and about ninety miles from and above the post of last year.

One A. Choquette, alias "Buck," last year settled and built a trading post some two miles above the customs post, which is undoubtedly in the Alaska line. The person referred to is believed to sell liquor to Indians, and is the source from which the Alaska Indians derive large supplies of foreign goods. He pays his revenue to the Canadian authorities.

1. Shall I notify Choquette that if he remains where he is located that he must pay duties on his foreign invoices and be subject to the restrictions that other merchants in Alaska are subject to?

2d. Shall I seize him without preliminaries?

3d. Or notify him and give him a fixed time to move his merchandise farther inland, then seize him at the expiration of the date?

Having had conversation with him, I am under the opinion that nothing will be effected unless I am ordered to act advisedly, therefore would request that my orders on the subject be clear and positive.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

Hon. B. H. BRISTOW,
M. P. BERRY,
Collector.

SECRETARY OF THE TREAURY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

To which the department replied as follows:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., July 14, 1876.

SIR: Your letter of the 15th instant is received, in which you inform the department that one A. Choquette, alias Buck, has established a trading-post within the limits of the Alaska purchase, and there furnishes goods to the Indians of Alaska, and is supposed, also, to sell them liquors. This post was first set up some two miles above the customs office of the Canadian authorities; but you state that these authorities have removed their flag and office up the Stikine River to a place known as Glenora Landing, which is supposed to be 60 miles above the boundary-line, and 90 miles above their post of last year.

The position of Choquette's trading-post, therefore, falls within the recognized limits of the Territory of Alaska, and you inquire whether you shall notify Choquette of his obligation to pay duties on his goods, if he remain where he is, or direct him to leave within a certain time, and make seizure of his goods if the removal is not effected.

You are advised to notify the trader to pay duties on his goods, or to remove them within a definite time without the Territory. As, according to your report, all his goods are a foreign importation, if the duties on them are not paid, or if the goods are not removed from the Territory within a reasonable time, it will be incumbent upon you to make seizure.

Very respectfully,

M. P. BERRY, Esq.,
Collector of Customs, Sitka, Alaska.

LOT L M. MORRILL,
Secretary of the Treasury.
Mr. Hunter is connected with the Canadian Pacific Railway survey. He is a gentleman of repute, and is represented to be well versed in his profession. This survey was made early in the spring of 1877, Mr. Hunter having ascended the Stikine on the ice, the river not being open to navigation that year until May 27. I met him subsequently in Victoria, and conversed with him in reference to the nature and result of his survey. He was unable in advance of making his report to his government to place me in possession of any facts I could put to public use.

Hon. Amor De Cosmos, member of the House of Commons of Canada from Victoria district, at the last session of Parliament called for the Hunter report, but it has not been published, and Mr. De Cosmos, in a letter to myself, dated at Victoria, October 1, says: "Mr. Hunter's report has not yet come to hand—possibly will not until after Parliament shall have met. As soon as I receive a copy I will forward it."

This is no new question. Brig. Gen. O. O. Howard, U. S. A., in his report of a tour of inspection of Alaska, made to the headquarters of the Military Division of the Pacific June 30, 1875, used the following language:

EXPEDITION UP THE STICKEEN—CUSTOM-HOUSE; ITS LOCATION—BOUNDARY-LINE IN DOUBT—GLACIERS, ETC.

The next day, by the courtesy of Captain Irving, the owner of the small river steamer Glenora, having arranged to pay merely the extra expense of fuel, I took our party up the Stickeen River as far as the boundary between our territory and British Columbia. No building is yet erected for the custom-house. The place for the English custom-house officers' tents is supposed to be selected within the British line. Some of our shrewd frontiersmen say that it is not ten marine leagues from the sea, as it should be, there being really doubt as to the summit of the Coast range of mountains. I took a copy of the statement of the boundary line as published in an English journal. It seems now to an observer of little consequence among these rough mountains where the exact line of division really is; but remembering the trouble the settlement of the channel question gave us at Vancouver Island, I deem it of sufficient importance to recommend that the attention of the proper department be called to the existing doubt, not plainly settled by the treaty, that the line may be definitely fixed.

I submit a tracing of a map (illustration 4) of the line as we understand it, copied by permission of General Howard from the official files at the headquarters of the Department of the Columbia.

Our provincial friends in British Columbia are deeply interested in the prompt settlement of this vexed matter, and their representatives in Parliament have more than once debated the question. Inserted now will be found the report, as copied from the Hansard, of a debate in the House of Commons at Ottawa in 1875, which is peculiarly interesting, showing the lively interest taken by those cognizant of the principal facts:

Mr. Roscoe moved an address to his excellency the governor-general, praying him to call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the necessity of having the boundary line between British Columbia and Alaska as soon as possible defined and surveyed.

Mr. Roscoe said if he was to move the resolution, of which he had given notice, merely with the remark that the commercial and other interests of British Columbia required the boundary line between that province and Alaska to be defined and settled as soon as possible, he did not suppose there would be any opposition to the motion; but he thought he might fairly assume that the house would wish, if not expect, to
be informed, firstly, as to the nature of any questions which may arise or have arisen concerning that boundary line, and, secondly, as to what had occurred which, in his opinion, rendered an immediate settlement of that question necessary. If the map of North America be referred to, it will be seen that the territory of Alaska consists chiefly of that part of the continent lying to the west of the 141st degree of west longitude, and also of a narrow strip of the coast extending from the 60th to the 56th degree of north latitude. As the 60th degree is the boundary line between British Columbia and the Northwest Territory, the only part of the boundary line of Alaska to which his motion had reference is the boundary line of this narrow strip. This was settled by the treaty between Great Britain and Russia of 1825. Previous to that date there had been endless disputes between the various fur companies, which represented the interests of their respective countries in this part of the world, and when a settlement was made in 1825, it was found that, while the Russian-American Fur Company had made various settlements along the coast, the British companies had acquired the whole interior of the country. A settlement of the boundary line was therefore made on the understanding that Russia should keep a narrow strip of the coast, the boundary of which was defined to be the range of mountains running parallel to the coast, but it is further stipulated that wherever this range of mountains is at a greater distance than ten leagues from the coast, then the boundary line shall run at this distance. In 1867 this territory was sold by Russia to the United States, but of course in any question concerning the boundary line, we have to go back to the original treaty of 1825. It is doubtful, however, whether this question would have arisen but for the discovery of gold in this part of the Dominion. As long ago as 1863 gold was found in the Stikine River, and since that time there have been prospecting parties in search of diggings in this region, and two years ago these were discovered at a place called Deas Lake, situated about 80 miles east of the head of navigation on Stikine River.

Last year upwards of 2,000 miners were engaged in these diggings, which were found to be both rich and extensive, and in future we may look forward to a large immigration to this region. The only practicable way of getting to these new diggings was by ascending the Stikine River, of which we have free navigation, and in regard to this I would remark on what appears to me a somewhat remarkable fact. By the treaty of 1825 we had given to us forever the free navigation of all rivers which may cross the line of demarcation referred to, yet in the treaty between the United States and Russia no reference whatever is made to this clause, and I fail to understand how Russia could have sold this territory to the United States unless subject to any rights acquired by any third parties, and, if this was so, he also did not understand why it was thought necessary in the treaty of Washington to concede the navigation of the rivers Stikine, Porcupine, and Yukon in the British territory, in return for the free navigation of these rivers while flowing through the United States territory, if we possessed this right before. As soon as the trade up the Stikine began to assume some proportion the officer commanding at Fort Wrangel, in whom it appears is invested the government of the Territory, measured a distance of 10 leagues from the coast, and placing a post there, declared this to be the boundary between British Columbia and Alaska. In consequence of the windings of the river, it seems that this point is between 60 and 70 miles up the river. Now, if the statements of the traders and others going up the Stikine are correct, it appears that the range of mountains which really defines the boundary line crosses the Stikine at a point only 15 miles from the coast. He would point out how important the possession of the river between these points would be, especially to his constituents, the merchants of Victoria. It appears that above the present boundary line the Stikine is so shallow that no steamers which could go there could go out to sea. Goods, therefore, have to be sent from Victoria to Fort Wrangel, and transferred there to the river steamer, and it has been found that this has been accompanied with much annoyance, risk and expense; and after the goods are placed on the steamer, a custom-house officer is placed on board, who supervises the steamer as long as she is in American waters, or what the officer commanding at Alaska is pleased to consider American waters, the expense being borne by the steamer.

There was also another grievance which he was sure the honorable member for Vancouver would appreciate. As soon as he comes on board this officer locks up the bar, puts the key in his pocket, and during the voyage the unfortunate diggers cannot get a drink. Now, if the boundary line were placed where we conceive it ought to be, a steamer would probably be able to run from Victoria to a point on the river above the boundary line, or, at all events, a steamer which could run there would also be able to run out to sea to Fort Simpson, and goods could therefore be transferred on British territory. The great annoyance and expense of transferring goods on United States territory would thus be obviated. These were the reasons why this boundary should be fixed as soon as possible. It was said that important discoveries of silver and gold bearing quartz mines have been made in the disputed territory, and until it is settled in which country these mines are, these sources of wealth will probably remain undeveloped. There may also arise some unpleasant complications in consequence of per-
ons settling in what they consider British territory and resisting by force any attempt made to remove them. Since he had put his motion on the paper he noticed in the estimates a sum of $100,000 for this survey, but from what he had stated it would be seen that this was not merely a question of theodolites, but that an important question as to the interpretation of the treaty had to be settled first. The honorable member concluded by moving adoption of motion.

Mr. De Cosmos rose to concur in the remarks of his honorable colleague, who had explained the difficulties interposed by the American authorities to our trade in that part of the Dominion, but he believed that the wiser course would be, if the Governments of the Dominion and Great Britain could agree with the United States Government on the subject, to sell to Canada that portion of Alaska stretching from the 141st meridian west to the 131st meridian west. There was a territory there including an archipelago, 11,000 islands running along the main land of the territory three or four hundred miles, the strip measuring in English statute miles from the coast about 34 miles. The whole of this territory measures about 25,000 geographical miles; if our government would pay a reasonable sum for this territory, we would obviate all the difficulties now existing, and which must continually exist in the future if that region were habitable. So far as the population of that belt was concerned there were about 6,000 Indians; and not more, he believed, engaged in the fur business along that coast than two or three hundred persons, perhaps less. The United States has bought the Alaska Territory, containing 550,000 square miles, for about $7,200,000, and he saw no reason why, considering what the United States itself had given, we should not be able to induce them to cede that portion of their territory to Great Britain for a million dollars.

Hon. Mr. Blake. Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. De Cosmos said the honorable gentleman from South Bruce, who had recently pronounced in favor of nationality and a new departure, ought to be willing to make a new departure in the interest of Canada to enlarge our dominion and get more land by which the nationality could be extended.

Hon. Mr. Blake. What about the people?

Hon. Mr. De Cosmos said the people would soon be added, if we had the land. By the plan he proposed there would be no divided sovereignty. He believed, when we looked at the mountainous character of the belt, that it would cost nearly as much to make a survey of it, to both governments, as it was practically worth at present. When they came to ascend mountains 3,000, 5,000, and 14,000 feet high to form a boundary, it would be found most expensive. With reference to the convention between Russia and Great Britain of 1825, and the subsequent treaty of Washington giving the free navigation of the Stikine River, he would remark that there were two other rivers, the Yako, and Chilcot, which might yet be found useful as a means of carrying the mineral wealth of British Columbia north of the 300-mile belt out to sea. And it will be necessary in the interest of British Columbia to enter into further negotiations with the United States in order to define our rights. In addition to that, if mineral discoveries should be made in any part of this belt, and from the geological formation there seemed to be no doubt such would be made, it would be found that American claims on the Alaska side would run into Canadian territory, causing endless disputes. He moved in amendment to the resolution before the house that after the word "survey" be struck out, and the following added: "and the desirability of acquiring that portion of the territory of Alaska extending northwardly from 54° 40' north latitude to the meridian of Mount Saint Elias."

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie said it was all very well for his honorable friend to bring the subject up. It was one of very great interest, and had engaged the attention of the government for some time. Negotiations had already been had through the proper official channel with the Government of the United States on this subject. It was one, however, that would not be promoted by the passage of his honorable friend's motion here, and the amendment by the honorable member behind him (De Cosmos) was, of course, entirely inadmissible. A motion of that kind could not seriously be proposed in the house. He (Mr. Mackenzie) was quite aware that the real difficulty at present was the Stikine River. Under the convention of 1825 the boundary had in the plans exceeded a distance of ten leagues from the coast, and the real difficulty existed in taking these ten leagues from the mouth of the river instead of following the ridge of hills to a point where it strikes the river. If that point were once determined no serious inconvenience would arise anywhere else, and to get that point determined at as early a period as possible the government had already been directing their attention. He hoped his honorable friend would be satisfied with this explanation and withdraw his motion. As for the amendment it was quite inadmissible.

Mr. Bünster said that having heard a good deal from the miners with regard to that region, he claimed to have some knowledge on the subject before the house. He was sorry to see the honorable gentleman from Victoria move an amendment which the premier had declared to be inadmissible, because the honorable gentlemen (De Cosmos) considered him a constitutional authority. He claimed that this vexed question
which interfered with the development of the rich mines of that country, should be settled. The hardy miners had discovered and developed exceedingly rich mines at Cassiar. They had been badly treated by unprincipled American officers, who had taken and seized their boats while sailing under the Dominion flag. They had been obliged to pay heavy tolls, amounting to four or five thousand dollars, for which tolls no returns were made to the American Government. That was a matter which required to be looked into by the administration of the day and which should be brought under the notice of the American authorities. The official to whom he had alluded was now undergoing a trial in Oregon for fraud on the American Government, which, he thought, was sufficient proof that he had wronged those Canadians who had gone to the expense of constructing a boat for the navigation of the Stikine River. The sooner this vexed question was settled the better.

Mr. THOMPSON (Cariboo) did not wish to make any remarks after what had been said by the premier. He was well aware of the great importance of having this question settled as soon as possible. During the ensuing season, perhaps, a much larger number of miners would go to the Stikine River than the two thousand spoken of by the mover of this resolution, and should these vexatious annoyances continue to be imposed, the more excitable among them, though they might be generally peaceable, might resent such interference, and thus bring about complications between the two countries. There was another question which had recently been brought before his notice. The Indians did not understand the divided jurisdiction. They were very numerous, and spent the winter months on the coast, and during the summer fished in the Skeena River, working also for the miners. These Indians had been accustomed to roam at large over that country, whether by water or by land, and they could not understand the divided jurisdiction when told by American officers they were on American soil and by British officers they were on Canadian soil. In order to prevent collision with those Indians who are usually peaceable, but when under the influence of liquor were very excitable and disposed to quarrel with the whites. Although the liquor traffic was nominally prohibited by the American authorities, the Indians could get all they wanted in Alaska, and if they could not they were ingenious enough to make it themselves. They made rum from molasses with nothing but a tin kettle and a coil of sea-weed. By fastening the sea-weed to the spout of the kettle, they were able to distill liquor. This proves the advancement of civilization among the untutored savages on that coast. He had no doubt the resolution and amendment would be withdrawn. At the same time he thought it had done good by bringing this question before the notice of the house and opening the eyes of members to the vast capabilities of our great Northwest.

Hon. Mr. DE COSMOS withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Roscoe. As the government have stated that they intend to do all that is necessary in this matter, I will willingly, at the request of the honorable premier, withdraw my motion.

The resolution was withdrawn.

But the subject was not permitted to lie dormant subsequently; hence we find the following proceedings, which are taken from the Port Townsend Weekly Argus of May 3, 1878:

MORE ABOUT ALASKA—WHAT OUR COVETOUS BRITISH NEIGHBORS THINK.

We quote the following from the last issue of the Victoria Weekly Standard. It is from the proceedings of the House of Commons, and shows that the ideas we have heretofore expressed relative to Alaska's real value are indorsed and shared by others to whose opinions a great deal of weight must be attached:

"Mr. DE COSMOS moved for a copy of the report, with accompanying map, of the engineer who was employed last year in determining the probable boundary line between British Columbia and Alaska, and also a copy of his instructions, with a copy of the treaty or convention between Great Britain and Russia respecting the said boundary. He said he considered that his information ought to be placed in the sessional papers, to give every honorable member of this house a clear idea of our relation with the United States, so far as the boundary line of Alaska was concerned. It was necessary that this boundary should be defined to prevent a conflict in the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the two countries. There was at this moment a great excitement in British Columbia with respect to mining, and valuable quartz lodes had been found on the Alaska side of the boundary. If, at any time hereafter, quartz lodes were found near the supposed boundary, it might create more or less excitement of an unpleasant character between the two countries. It was necessary that, in connection with the boundary, on the Stickeen River more particularly, an arrangement should be made between the two governments to determine a certain point as the limit of their respective jurisdictions. He was assured that at the American town of Wrangel, situated..."
opposite the mouth of the Stickeen River, in Alaska, sales were made to men employed on the British side of the Stickeen during the year to the amount in round numbers of $100,000 worth of merchandise. When he drew the attention of the government, and especially of the honorable the minister of customs the other day, to the duties paid at Stickeen, it was with the view of ascertaining whether some evidence could be obtained to corroborate the statement made to him by steamboat captains as to the trade on the Stickeen. By the non-definition of the boundary, even temporarily, by the two governments, this trade was thrown into American hands instead of into British Columbia hands. He was assured that, if the boundary proposed by Mr. Hunter, who was sent there by the government last year, were adopted, and a custom-house station placed there, Canadian steamships would proceed there, and the miners who visited them during the winter season would make their headquarters on the British side of the line. As the matter was now, they were really contributing to build up the American side and to the support of American steamers passing from Portland to Alaska and carrying Oregon produce, instead of British steamers which might pass the mouth of the Stickeen into British Columbian territory. He hoped the government would bring down Mr. Hunter's report and maps, and any additional information which would show the outline of Alaska in front of British territory, the inland included.

"Mr. Bunster, in rising to second this motion, said it would have afforded him much greater pleasure if the motion had been for the purchase of Alaska. Honorable gentlemen might laugh, but looking at the matter from a national point of view, he fully meant what he said from his knowledge of the country, that the Territory of Alaska possessed a more genial climate than Ottawa, notwithstanding its latitude, while its natural resources and capabilities were more valuable than people had any idea of. As early as the months of January and February, gardening operations were commenced. He questioned very much if they could do that in Ottawa. Vegetation was rapid during the summer season, but he must acknowledge not so rapid as here at the capital. When honorable members of this house sneered at Alaska, he had a right to speak from his own personal knowledge and tell them they were mistaken; and the day was not far distant when, from the geographical position of this country, they would see the force of his remarks on this subject. They could not but recognize the great fact that British Columbia was the center of the British Empire, between Australia, Europe, and Canada. Hence he felt that the province occupied a proud position; and that it was the duty of every British Columbian to keep his fellow-countrymen here well informed on British Columbia. He remembered when Sir John A. MacDonald brought British Columbia into the Union, much to her detriment, because the contract was not carried out, that it was considered a foolish bargain, but to-day the Americans felt proud of their Alaska bargain. Seven millions in cash were paid for that, but not a dollar was paid for British Columbia. Let the house contrast the difference, and see what a mistake Canada made during the Crimean war in not laying hold of the country. The lease of Alaska was more than enough to pay one million dollars annually. It was the best investment the United States had ever made."

From the debates and letters produced it will evidently be seen what importance is attached to this question by Canadian legislators and others familiar with the situation.

A case arose while the Hon. David Eckstein, now consul at Amsterdam, was our representative in a similar capacity at Victoria.

One Peter Martin, a graceless vagabond, had been tried in the courts of British Columbia, before one of the puisne judges, Hon. H. P. P. Crease, for felony, was duly convicted, and sentenced to a term of imprisonment in Victoria jail. While being transported in custody of two British constables he made his escape from the canoe in which he was confined, coming down the Stikine, and jumped ashore. Seizing a gun, he proclaimed himself on American soil and a free man, and defied the authority or power of the officers to convey him any farther. The constables, doubtless reverting in their own minds the uncertainty of this boundary-line question, gave their government the benefit of the doubt and incontinently knocked the prisoner down, ironed him, and landed him in quod at Victoria jail. He was subsequently tried for this attempted escape, convicted, and sentenced to an additional term of imprisonment. Mr. Eckstein handled the case in an able manner, and it was the subject of much diplomatic correspondence. The ground assumed by Consul Eckstein was that the sovereignty of the United States
had been invaded, and although it was really a matter of doubt as to whether the territory where Martin jumped ashore was actually a part of the United States, still, in view of the fact that it had generally been considered as such (this being before the Hunter survey), the Canadian authorities gracefully surrendered the malefactor, and he was set at large.

Doubtless this case influenced the mind of the Hon. Mr. De Cosmos when he used this language: "It was necessary that the boundary should be defined to prevent a conflict in the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the two countries."

Aside from any conflict of jurisdiction, the interests of law and order, society, good morals, and safety of the public weal, as well as the preservation of the peace, demand that no such state of uncertainty shall hang upon the border of the two countries as regards the punishment of crime. Every rascal and thief in the country will avail himself of this state of affairs; and while the action of Consul Eckstein in the Martin case was praiseworthy and that of the Canadian authorities to be commended, there was turned loose upon both communities one of the most desperate men on this whole northwest frontier. His career of crime, however, has been temporarily checked, for he is now incarcerated at the territorial penitentiary at McNeill's Island, under sentence of a twelve-month, for the crime of smuggling distilled liquors from British Columbia into the district of Puget Sound.

It is deemed unnecessary to pursue this subject to any greater extent, or to express any opinion pro or con as to the merits of the case. The facts are patent, and are respectfully presented for the consideration of the department.

It may be proper to add, however, that there is now in possession of Mr. Justice J. Hamilton Gray, of the supreme court of British Columbia, presented to his father by Louis Philippe when in America, a rare map, which may throw some light upon the elucidation of this question.

In order, however, to give some idea of the practical working of this condition of uncertainty on the Stikine, the following letters are given:

**GLENOA, STICKINE RIVER, July 6, 1878.**

Sir: Inclosed please find copy of instructions lately received by Mr. R. Hunter, deputy collector of customs at Glenora, Stikine River, British Columbia, which, as you will see, places certain restrictions on United States steamers navigating the Stikine River, which, up to the receipt of the enclosed instructions, have been alike free to both nations. The steamer Beaver, an American steamer, although really owned by British subjects, exercised all the rights of free navigation for the past two years.

In addition to the instructions of which you have inclosed a copy, Mr. Hunter, the deputy collector above named, has notified us that we will not even be allowed to land freight and again bring it forward from any point above a certain post about twenty miles from the mouth of the river, which they claim as the boundary line, but which is clearly 10 or more miles below the real boundary line. An American steamer is thus forbid by a Canadian official, under penalty of seizure as soon as she arrives at the Canadian custom-house, for landing freight on American soil and again bringing it forward to the Canadian port of entry. In regard to the last-named restrictions, the deputy collector, Mr. Hunter, declined furnishing a copy of his instructions, but gave notice verbally in the presence of witnesses.

The steamer Nellie, of Port Townsend, came to Wrangle in June last for the purpose of plying, for freight and passengers, between Fort Wrangle and Telegraph Creek, her owners believing, and still believing, that they have the same rights as Canadian vessels. The restrictions placed on her by the Dominion authorities will virtually drive her, as well as every other American vessel, from the Stikine River. In navigating the Stikine River vessels clear from Fort Wrangle for Glenora, where the Dominion custom-house is stationed, and where all duties on foreign goods are collected. Twelve miles above this point, at Telegraph Creek, is the head of navigation, where nearly all the goods that come up the Stikine River are landed and forwarded thence to the Cassiar Mines by pack-trains. The river is difficult of naviga-
tion from Glenora up to Telegraph Creek, and again quite easy. When navigation was difficult, it has heretofore been customary to store freight at Glenora and forward by small boats, or take it up by steamer when the river was more favorable, or to land part of the cargo so as to lighten the vessel, and after proceeding to the higher point and landing the cargo, returning to Glenora and reloading the freight that had been previously landed, and again proceeding to the higher point. The Stikine is a river of strong current and somewhat difficult of navigation, and unless all the advantages pertaining to the navigation of such waters, such as carrying heavy loads up the lower part of the river, and when the difficult waters are reached unloading part and proceeding with the remainder, repeating this lightening in some cases for three or more trips, and then bringing forward what had been so left, the right to navigate is of no value. The whole distance from Fort Wrangle to Glenora is about one hundred and fifty miles.

You will please lay our grievance before our government at once, meantime taking such steps as you may deem proper to protect us in the enjoyment of our rights as citizens of the United States.

Your obedient servants,

JOHN C. CALLBREATH,

BENJ. STRETCH,

CHAS. H. LOW,

Owner of the Steamer Nellie, of Port Townsend, Wash. Ter.

Maj. W. G. MORRIS,


P. S.—No charge is made of an attempt to evade revenue or port regulations, or that the Dominion Government is wronged in any way. It is simply a move to drive American vessels from the river.—J. C. C.

FORT WRANGLE, July 11, 1878.

DEAR Sir: I will take it as a personal favor if you will bring this matter to the notice of our government as soon as possible, and if possible to get instructions so as to send by the next California. Of course this can only be done by using the telegraph. As soon as the water falls, the restrictions imposed upon us will drive everything but Canadian vessels from this river. Of course this is the object of the Dominion authorities. I think our government might at least demand a suspension of the restrictions until the matter can be discussed, as the full and unrestricted right has been heretofore enjoyed by American vessels coequal with Canadian. By attending to this you will place me under renewed obligations.

Yours, truly,

JOHN C. CALLBREATH.

Maj. W. G. MORRIS.

No. 1. File 329 of 1878.

OTTAWA, May 18, 1878.

Sir: In reply to your letter of the 25th instant, I beg to inform you that it is contrary to the coasting regulations for United States steamers or vessels to unload part of their cargo at the first Canadian custom station on the Stickine River, and after going higher up and landing the remainder to return again and reload what has been unladen and return therewith to the higher point. This course is not allowed to Canadian vessels in any similar circumstance in the United States. The steamer might properly take freight for the two points, and be allowed to land the quantity consigned to each; but no foreign vessel has the right to reload freight once landed in Canadian territory for delivery anywhere else in the Dominion, and if that practice has really been allowed by the custom officials, it must be discontinued at once.

The general question to the right to navigation by both nations is not open to question, but that right must always be exercised with due regard to customs laws and regulations.

I have the honor to be, yours, &c,

J. JOHNSON,
Commissioner of Customs.

Office Special Agent of the Treasury,
Portland, July 23, 1878.

Sir: I am in receipt of your communication, signed also by Benj. Stretch and Capt. Chas. H. Low, dated Glenora, July 6.

I fully appreciate all the difficulties under which you labor and the obstacles which are being placed in your way by Canadian customs officials in the prosecution of your business. I can see, however, no way to relieve you. The rule laid down by Mr. Johnston, the Canadian commissioner of customs, is the law. The treaty of Washington guarantees to the subjects of Her Britannic Majesty and to the citizens of the United
States the free navigation of the Stikine River, "subject to any laws and regulations of either country within its own territory not inconsistent with such privilege of free navigation."

The Dominion Government has its own laws governing its coasting trade, and we cannot directly or indirectly violate them. Mr. Johnston is correct when he says the privilege you seek would not be accorded Canadian vessels by the United States.

Our customs regulations relating to the coasting trade are very rigid, and under no circumstances would a foreign bottom be permitted to engage in the trade you desire.

The only way out of the difficulty is for you to transfer the title of your boat to a British subject. This, however, should be done with caution, for should the Stikine trade die out, you would not be able to again procure American papers for your boat without a special act of Congress.

The verbal instructions of Mr. Hunter in regard to the point on the river where freight must be landed involves quite a different proposition.

The boundary line between Alaska and British Columbia is the same as laid down in the convention of 1825 between Russian America and British North America. It is vague and undetermined, and will always remain in dispute until the respective governments settle the question by joint commission and survey.

I have devoted no little time and attention to this matter, and shall devote a large portion of my forthcoming report upon Alaska to its discussion, and endeavor to impress upon Congress the necessity of immediate action.

I presume the point settled upon by Mr. Hunter is that located by Mr. Hunter, the railway engineer, in his recent survey. The report of the latter has not yet reached me, but I learn casually he has run the line much farther down the river than has heretofore been supposed to be the boundary line.

When the Dominion Parliament was prorogued on the 10th of May last, Lord Dufferin used the following language: "I am happy to be able to state that, pending the final settlement of the question of boundary, a conventional line has been adopted by my government and the Government of the United States between Alaska and British Columbia on the Stikine River."

Whether this is in accordance with the Hunter survey I am unable to inform you, but will write to Washington for information, and when reply is received will duly notify you.

As you have specially asked me to lay your grievances before our government, I shall this day send your correspondence and a copy of my reply direct to the Secretary of the Treasury.

I have given you my view of the case, and in the meantime would advise you to let matters remain in statu quo, until the department can be heard from.

Your suggestion about using the telegraph is impracticable; the department would not act unless the whole case was properly presented, and this can only be done by transmitting all the papers.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,
Special Agent.

John C. Callbreath, Esq.,
Wrangel, Alaska.

On July 24, I transmitted originals and copies of the whole of this correspondence to the department, and requested that I be informed of the nature of the "conventional line" alluded to by Lord Dufferin. Up to the present date no answer has reached me, and I have been informed by Captain Stretch that nothing has been received in Alaska from the department.

I close this part of the report with the earnest hope that Congress and the English Government may both realize how important it is to determine this controversy as soon as practicable. A more kindly feeling toward our Canadian neighbors has never animated the breasts of the American people than at the present time, and the following graceful tribute, paid by the Earl of Dufferin, in the concluding remarks of his farewell address to the people of the Dominion, shows how amicable are our relations and how so eminent and educated a man regards our nation, with whom he has been so prominently and socially connected for the past four years. Lord Dufferin said:

However earnestly I may have besought you to be faithful to your native land and to estimate at its proper value your birthright as Englishmen, it is almost with equal persistence that I would exhort you to cultivate the most friendly and cordial relations
with the great American people. A nobler nation, a people more generous or more hospitable, does not exist. To have learned to understand and appreciate them I esteem as not least of the many advantages I have gained by coming to Canada. Of my own knowledge I can say that they are animated by the kindliest feelings toward the Dominion, and I cannot doubt but that the two countries are destined to be united in the bands of an unbroken friendship. Nor can I conceive a more interesting or delightful task in store for the philosophical historian than to record the amicable rivalry of such powerful and cognate communities in the path of progress; the one a republic, indeed, but where the authoritative pre-eminence assigned to elect of the people and the comparative freedom of the executive from parliamentary control introduces a feature akin to personal government; the other a monarchy, but to which the hereditary principle communicates such an element of stability as to render possible the application of what is really the most popular and democratic political system to be found on this continent, which both combine, each in their respective spheres, to advance the happiness of mankind and to open up a new and fresher chapter of human history.

THE PORT OF TONGAS.

Tongas is an abandoned military post, and is the first port in Alaska met with after leaving British Columbia. It is situated on one of the coast islands near the Portland Canal, the boundary line. It is a place of no commercial importance. Since the military left and Mr. Millitech, the deputy collector, was transferred to Wrangel, an English subject by the name of Snow has taken up his quarters there, and established a trading-post for barter with the Indians at that point. The tribe is small, and the peltries they obtain few in number and inferior in value. There can be no question but that Snow smuggles all his goods from the Canadian side. He is, however, a man of limited capital, and the loss to the revenue is small. He promised deputy collector Dennis to visit Wrangel in May last and make entry of all imported merchandise. I have not heard of his so doing. I wrote him from Tongas advising him as to his future course. He has maintained a dignified silence.

I do not deem the presence of a customs officer here necessary on account of the operations of this individual. We will some day pounce down upon him in a revenue cutter and seize his stock in trade. Being a British subject, I presume his person and liberty will be regarded as more inviolate than were he one of the cultus Americans who seek these isolated places for illicit deeds and trade.

When Snow went to Tongas he found there some ten cords of wood, left there by Mr. Millitech, which he appropriated to his own use. He refuses to pay for it, and I know of no law or power to compel him.

SMUGGLING AND COMPENSATION TO INFORMERS.

The Indians carry on a large smuggling trade in blankets, liquors, &c., from the adjacent province of British Columbia. It is a well-known fact, if you wish to procure at Wrangel a bottle of fine old Hudson's Bay brandy, there is no trouble in finding an Indian to produce it, provided you will pay the price demanded for it—usually about $4. Blankets are the Indian currency of the country. They are brought over in canoes to Wrangel, and successful landing and distribution is made during the night. The only way to break it up is to enlist the services of Indian informers; but here comes in the trouble—after the tragedy comes the farce. The repeal of the moiety act by Congress in 1874 might well be classified as "An act to encourage smuggling, and prevent the collection of the revenue."

I found at Wrangel a very intelligent Indian who detailed to me the modus operandi of smuggling, and when I proposed to him to turn informer, he very naively asked how much he would be paid. Without
going into details, which his uneducated mind could not comprehend, I endeavored to explain to him that would depend upon what the Tyhee (the Secretary of the Treasury) would allow him. The next question was: *When* he would be paid? This was a poser, but I endeavored to impress upon him that pay some time or other was sure. The expression of countenance of this untutored savage was the greatest commentary upon Congressional legislation that could be conjectured or invented, and I only regret I have not a photograph to illustrate the gravity and comicality combined of the situation. He quietly informed me he could make better terms with the smugglers, *and I thought so, too.* As the law now stands, suppression of illicit traffic among the Indians is wholly inoperative.

**COAST SURVEY CHARTS, AND LOSSES BY SHIPWRECKS, ACCIDENTS, ETC.**

The want of reliable charts is the great drawback to Alaskan navigation: From the boundary line north, Cape Fox, to the head of inland navigation, including the coast to Behring Bay, the Russian and American charts are entirely unreliable. The English have published no charts North of 54° 40'.

The Coast Survey have published some harbor charts to the westward, which I believe can be depended upon, but as for coast charts, they are among the things that are to be. Even the best pilots in these waters are continually finding unknown rocks, and if a man goes a few feet sometimes out of the track he is liable to fetch up.

The Coast Survey chart of 1868 is of no practical value for inland navigation, because it has not one-fourtieth part of the rocks and shoals on it, and several of the channels and courses indicated by the compass cannot be steered.

The captain of the steamer Newbern, belonging to the Quartermaster's Department U. S. A., wrote as follows, in 1869:

> **ON BOARD THE STEAMER NEWBERN,**
> Merry Island, Alaska Territory,
> November 1, 1869.

**Sir:** I find you using charts of three different nationalities for your guidance on the coast of Alaska—American, English, and Russian. Which of these three is the most reliable?

**Answer.** The English; though these are taken from Vancouver's survey and from the Russian charts. I have an American chart issued from the Hydrographic Office of Washington, called Sheet No. 2, published in 1868, purporting to be "from the most recent British and American surveys"; but I find it to be incorrect, as, for example, in latitude 59° 26', longitude 146° 05' west, there is an island named "Middleton" on the English admiralty chart of the Arctic Ocean published in 1853, and on the Russian chart published in 1847, which is wholly omitted on the American chart. The island is about ten miles long and five miles wide, and lay directly in our course from an anchorage south of Montagne Island to Cape Edgecombe, Sitka Harbor. On my recent voyage, if I had had the corresponding sheet, with Sitka on it, I should have used the American chart, thinking because it was published officially by my government in 1868 it was to be relied on. If I had done so, I should have lost the vessel, as the island lies low and the night was dark.

**Question.** Are the Russian or English charts sufficiently accurate for safe navigation in these seas?

**Answer.** They are not as accurate as other charts on well-surveyed coasts. With caution they can be used successfully. The English charts are chiefly taken from Vancouver's survey in 1792, corrected from the Russian charts.

W. FREEMAN, JR.,
Commanding United States Quartermaster Steamer Newbern.

Vincent Colyer thus writes of the Newbern after leaving Wrangel:

As we were leaving Wrangel Harbor, coming home, the wind increased to a gale, and we had promise of what sailors call a "dirty night." We turned into our berths with serious misgivings of danger. The straits in which we were tossing were narrow,
the vessel high out of the water from lack of cargo, and night pitch dark. We
forgot it all, however, in sleep, when suddenly we were awakened by the ship
to a full stop, a tremendous crash against a rock, which nearly threw us out of
berths. A brief prayer, a quiet putting away in dressing of all gold, watches,
other heavy things that might encumber us in the water, and we went on deck.
A storm was raging wildly; the rain and sleet swept horizontally past us; the roar
of the breakers could be heard all about us, but we could see nothing. We had
hundred souls aboard, and not enough small boats to carry fifty; nor would they
been of much use if we had more. The pilot said the water was coming in the
rapidly, but that so far the pumps were keeping pace with it. So we went down be-
low, out of the way of the faithful officers and men who managed the ship.
The storm lasted two days, and then the captain said he would have to beach the vessel at Fort
Simpson, and while she was being repaired I would have time to visit Mr. Duncan's
Indian mission at Metlakatlah.

The following disasters are also chronicled. The Russians lost a
steamer off Niltouska, Chatham Straits. The schooner Growler was lost
with all hands on board off the south end of Prince of Wales Island.
The steamers Constantine and Gussie Telfair were constantly ashore.
The tragic loss of the steamer George S. Wright is already fresh in
the minds of the reader, with several officers of the Army on board.
When last seen she was at Cordova, Prince of Wales Island. I have seen
the place, Devil's Reef, in Sea-Otter Group, where she is supposed to have
struck, and it is a fearful looking spot.
The revenue steamers Lincoln and Wayanda never made a cruise to
Alaska without striking. The United States steamer Saginaw struck
several times while in Alaskan waters. The Alert, an English man-of-
war, struck going into Sitka Harbor. Most of these vessels touched on
rocks that are not laid down on the charts. The schooner Roscoe, in
going to Klawack, struck an unknown ledge and came near being a total
loss. The schooner Northwestern struck a rock in Clarence Straits,
and was beached to save the lives of passengers and crew. The schooner
Louisa Down, in Lynn's Canal, likewise shared a similar fate. The
schooner Langley struck a reef in Chatham Straits and was a total loss.
Report says that in October, 1878, the British steamer Otter struck a
rock in Queen Charlotte Sound. The mail steamer California, which for
years has made monthly trips to Wrangel, Sitka, Karta Bay, Klawack,
&c., has frequently touched and been ashore. I was on board of her
myself when she grounded on a rock coming out from Klawack.
These are a few of the accidents I have been able to gather which
have happened to vessels in the inland sea in Southeastern Alaska. I
know nothing of the navigation to the westward save that it is exced-
ingly hazardous and dangerous.

THE LIQUOR TRADE IN ALASKA.

This is an intricate and difficult question to discuss in all its proper
bearings, and will cover a large field of investigation.
The law governing the introduction and sale of spirituous liquors is as
follows (section 1055 Revised Statutes):

The President shall have power to restrict and regulate or to prohibit the importa-
tion and use of fire-arms, ammunition, and distilled spirits into and within the Terri-
tory of Alaska. The exportation of the same from any other port or place in the
United States, when destined to any port or place in that Territory, and all such arms,
ammunition, and distilled spirits exported or attempted to be exported from any port
or place in the United States and destined for such Territory, in violation of any regu-
lations that may be prescribed under this section, and all such arms, ammunition, and
distilled spirits landed or attempted to be landed or used at any port or place in the
Territory, in violation of such regulations, shall be forfeited; and if the value of the
same exceeds four hundred dollars the vessel upon which the same is found, or from
which they have been landed, together with her tackle, apparel, and furniture and
cargo, shall be forfeited; and any person willfully violating such regulations shall be
fined not more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned not more than six months.
Bonds may be required for a faithful observance of such regulations from the master or owners of any vessel departing from any port in the United States having on board fire-arms, ammunition, or distilled spirits, when such vessel is destined to any place in the Territory, or if not so destined, when there is reasonable ground of suspicion that such articles are intended to be landed therein in violation of law; and similar bonds may also be required on the landing of any such articles in the Territory from the person to whom the same may be consigned.

I had occasion, when in Oregon last year, to bring this question directly to the attention of the department, and reviewed the law and orders upon the subject in a communication written at that time. I made careful preparation of this individually, being familiar with the law and the facts. My associate, Mr. Evans, being with me at the time, at his suggestion I made the report a joint one, and he also volunteered to sign it. I reproduce it here, as it contains as good a résumé of the present condition of affairs as can be offered:

OFFICE OF SPECIAL AGENT OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Portland, Oreg., December 4, 1877.

Sir: The course to be pursued by collectors of customs in regard to the clearance of vessels having on board spirituous or vinous liquors to be landed in the Territory of Alaska, since the withdrawal of the troops, is one that requires immediate presentation to the department.

Congress, on March 3, 1873, by special enactment, extended over the Territory of Alaska sections 20 and 21 of the Indian intercourse act of 1834, and the Attorney-General, in an opinion rendered to the Secretary of War, dated Washington, November 13, 1873, in reply to the question, "Whether the War Department had authority to exercise control over the introduction of spirituous liquors into that Territory," after reviewing the law upon the subject, concluded by saying: "My opinion, therefore, is that, as to this matter, Alaska is to be regarded as 'Indian country,' and that no spirituous liquors or wines can be introduced into the Territory without an order by the War Department for that purpose."

Furthermore, antecedent to this, the Secretary of War inquired of the Attorney-General as follows: "Has this department authority to permit the introduction of spiritous liquors or wines into the Territory of Alaska when the liquors and wines are not for the use of officers of the United States or troops of the service?"

The Attorney-General, in reply, cited the concluding paragraph of the act of February 13, 1862, which was an amendment of section 20 of the Indian intercourse act of 1834, which is in terms:

"Provided, however, That it shall be a sufficient defense to any charge of introducing or attempting to introduce liquor into the Indian country, if it be proved to be done by order of the War Department, or of any officer duly authorized thereto by the War Department," &c.;

And decided that the effect of this amendment was "to invest the War Department with a jurisdiction over the introduction of spirituous liquors or wine into the Indian country at its discretion," and consequently held that it was not confined "to the officers of the United States and troops of the service."

This seems, however, to be definitely settled, aside from this dicta, for by the act of Congress approved June 22, 1874 (the Revised Statutes of the United States), in which act the amended section is re-enacted, the phrase "except such supplies as shall be necessary for the officers of the United States and troops of the service" is omitted. (See section 2139.)

During the occupation of Alaska by the military no spirituous or vinous liquors were cleared for that Territory from ports in California, Oregon, or the district of Puget Sound, unless a permit was exhibited to the collector of these ports for such shipment, showing it was by the authority of either the division or department commander. On April 10, 1877, the Secretary of War issued the order for the abandonment of Alaska by the forces of the United States. Brig. Gen. O. O. Howard, U. S. A., commanding this department, in his order dated Headquarters Department of the Columbia, Portland, Oreg., May 29, 1877, concluded in the following language: "Upon the departure of the troops, Sitka and Fort Wrangel will be discontinued as military posts, and all control of the military department over affairs in Alaska will cease."

Since the withdrawal of the military and the immediate jurisdiction exercised by the Treasury Department, applications have been made to the collector of this port for a clearance of spirituous liquors, &c., to Sitka and Wrangel, and have been referred to General Howard, the department commander, who absolutely refuses to have anything further to do with the matter whatever, holding that the power invested by Congress in the War Department was only delegated to him while Alaska was a portion of the military department, and that he has no jurisdiction in the premises.
The question now arises: Under the present law, can any such shipments be authorized to be made to Alaska, without authority of the War Department being delegated to a military officer to permit such shipments? If no construction to the contrary can be found in the statutes as they now stand, then Congress will have to be asked to legislate upon the subject.

Section 2139 Revised Statutes contains the provision before cited by the Attorney-General, to wit: "The acts charged were done by order of or under authority from the War Department, or any officer duly authorized thereunto by the War Department." If it is considered that the War Department can delegate this power to an officer of the civil service (and he should belong to the customs), then the question is one of easy solution. In the event such construction is had, then undoubtedly the collector of customs of the district of Alaska, and his deputies at other ports in his district, are the proper persons to regulate such shipments. The customs authorities elsewhere cannot be supposed to judge understandingly of the quantity of liquors to be shipped, or of the proper persons to be intrusted with the sale or consumption thereof. Necessary instructions should be framed upon the subject. The permit, in all cases, to be issued before the contemplated shipment is made, and to be produced to the collector before clearance to Alaska.

The collector of this port is very rigid in his construction of what constitutes "spirituous liquors or wines," and has refused to clear a consignment of "Plantation Bitters." It is deemed he is correct in his view, for these bitters are evidently not exported for medicinal purposes, but simply to be consumed as a beverage for the amount of alcohol therein contained.

Observation denotes that the total exclusion of alcoholic stimulants from Alaska is not productive of those beneficial results which the object of the prohibitory legislation was intended to effect. The natives manufacture by distillation from molasses a vile, poisonous, life and soul destroying decoction, called "Hoochenoo," which saps the very essence of the human system, producing crime, disease, insanity, and death. When drunk and crazed from the deleterious effects of this accursed drink, the natives, Aleuts, half-breed Russians, and mongrel population, are in a condition bordering upon phrensy, and at this time is to be dreaded the perpetration of outrage and outbreak which will surely be the result if this infamous traffic is continued.

The steamer which carries the United States mail from this port to Sitka and Wrangell is the principal common carrier of most of the molasses which is converted into rum. The custom-house records show that during the months of August, September, October, November, and December of the present year, there was exported in this steamer from this place to Sitka 4,889 gallons of molasses, and to Wrangell for the same period 1,635 gallons, nearly all of which it may safely be said has been manufactured into "Hoochenoo," gallon for gallon.

If any inhibition can be made upon the exportation of this article of commerce no time should be lost in stopping its wholesale introduction into a region which, like a smouldering volcano, is likely at any time to break forth in eruption.

Stop this distillation of Hoochenoo, and the fears of an Indian massacre will be greatly lessened. It is the primeval cause of all the trouble and danger to be apprehended.

Wrangell Island, a port where a deputy collector is stationed, is the point of embarkation of miners, traders, packers, &c., bound up the Stikine River for the Cassiar and other valuable gold districts in British Columbia. Hundreds go and come every year, and the number is constantly increasing. It is fast becoming an important station for the purchase of supplies, &c. When the miners return from the gold-fields for the winter, many of them remain at Wrangell until spring. If the introduction of spirituous liquor is made absolutely prohibitory in Alaska, smuggling from British Columbia will be extensively resorted to in Indian canoes, and the "Hoochenoo" will be resorted to.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that it is far better for the health, comfort, sobriety, and good morals of these people that the trade in alcoholic stimulants be encouraged under suitable restrictions. Whoever is charged with this regulation should put himself also in communication with the American consul at Victoria, Vancouver Island, who should be instructed not to affix to any shipment of spirituous or vinous liquors his consular certificate without first having produced to him the permit for such exportation duly signed by the proper officer.

We are, respectfully, your obedient servants,

J. F. EVANS,
WM. GOVERNEUR MORRIS,

Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

Special Agents.

The department did not answer this communication, and the question is still in as great doubt and uncertainty as ever.
Early in the present year I addressed the following letter to the department:

OFFICE SPECIAL AGENT OF THE TREASURY,  
Port Townsend, W. T., February 1, 1878.

Sir: The collector of this port has been applied to for a clearance to Alaska of certain merchandise, which is specifically described by the label of the bottle, which reads as follows:

“New York  
Calmuser,  
Well known in Europe as the best and most stimulns  
Root bitters.  
No household should be without it.  
Theo. Lux,  
New York.  
Established 1865.”

Under my advice the collector refused the clearance, it being clear, upon examination of the compound, it was intended not for medicinal purposes, but to serve the purpose of alcoholic stimulant.  
The attention of the department was called to a similar attempted shipment from the district of the Willamette, by letter dated Portland, Oregon, December 4, 1877.  
The collector here is desirous of knowing what course the department hereafter will indicate in reference to the shipment of alcoholic and vinous liquors to Alaska.  
I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. GOVERNEUR MORRIS,  
Special Agent.

No reply has ever been received to this. I have advised the collectors at Portland and at Port Townsend to rigidly enforce the law in the absence of any instructions to the contrary. When at Wrangel, I seized six cases of whisky for illegal importation, and reported all the facts to the department. Instructions have been received to proceed against the merchandise according to law, and have it sold in the district of Puget Sound.  
Careful observation convinces me that immediate department action should be had in the regulation of the liquor traffic. If the conclusion is reached that the War Department alone has exclusive jurisdiction over the introduction of alcoholic and vinous liquors into Alaska, then the sooner Congress legislates upon this subject the better.

Alaska is not a penal colony; and because one lives in that country it is no reason he should be punished and deprived of the comforts or necessities of life. It may seem paradoxical to classify spirituous liquor as necessary to a man's existence; but it is sometimes so as a medicinal remedy. As for comfort, let one sojourn for any length of time in that humid climate, and if his bones all the way up to his throat don't ache to distraction for a drink I am no judge of human nature.

As matters now stand, not a drop of liquor or wine can be imported into Alaska for culinary, table, or medicinal purposes. A discharged hospital steward has recently established a drug store at Wrangel. He applied to me for permission to send to Portland or Victoria for a small amount of brandy and whisky for sale to the sick. He also requires alcohol in his business. I did not choose to assume any responsibility; supplied him, however, with plenty of prohibitory law and stringent orders, and left him to his only resort, that of buying such quantities as needed when and where he could, irrespective of customs laws, rules, and regulations; for have it he must, and have it he will, and there will be no trouble in his getting all he wants; the Indians will supply him and laugh at Uncle Sam's officials.  
I think it best to again bring forward a report made from Oregon, showing how careful an officer must be in the performance of his duty.
This suppression of the liquor traffic has to be very gently handled, if there is any prospect of an officer being brought up standing before Mr. Justice Deady.

Let an officer arrest a blackleg for selling ardent spirits and be sued in civil damages by the card sharp, the jury who will try the case against him will be informed by Judge Deady that "he is the peer of any man in his court seeking justice, and his profession as a gambler does not prevent him from standing upon the same plane as any citizen who has been subjected to illegal arrest." This is all very fine, but if I find it necessary ever in Alaska to take any responsibility for the preservation of life, property, or the prevention of murder, rapine, and bloodshed, or a wholesale Indian massacre, I am thereafter going to give Judge Deady's court a wide berth.

If Congress will only pass the necessary laws, Judge Deady will enforce them, and I know of no more potent reason for their prompt action than the ruling of the judge in the case of Major Campbell, reported as follows:

Office of Special Agent of the Treasury Department,
Portland, Oreg., June 26, 1877.

Sir: I have the honor to call the attention of the department to a case lately tried in the circuit court of the United States for this circuit, in which one Hugh Waters is plaintiff, and Brev. Maj. Joseph B. Campbell, captain Fourth United States Artillery, is defendant.

The question involved in this case is one of considerable magnitude. The trial of the cause occupied one week, during which time I was in constant attendance at court watching every phase of the case.

In August, 1874, Major Campbell, who was then commanding the post at Sitka, sent an officer to Wrangel with a file of soldiers, with instructions to arrest whomsoever might be found engaged in selling intoxicating liquors. In pursuance with this order, Lieutenant Dyer, the officer charged with this duty, did arrest the plaintiff Waters, confine him in the guard-house at Fort Wrangel till the mail steamer touched at that place on route to Sitka, when the prisoner was duly put on board of said ship and delivered to Major Campbell at the latter post. He was not sent back on the same trip of the steamer which took him to Sitka, and ordered to be conveyed within the jurisdiction of the proper court for trial, which would by law have cognizance of the case, but was detained at Sitka a prisoner at the military guard-house until Major Campbell could report the arrest to the general commanding the department, headquarters at Portland, and ask what disposition should be made of the prisoner. Owing to the inclemency of the elements and condition of the mail steamer, she did not return to Sitka for more than two months, during which time Waters was kept in confinement. No other opportunity was afforded Major Campbell to send the prisoner to Portland, no vessels of the United States having touched at that port in the mean time.

This arrest was authorized by the provisions of section 2150 of the Revised Statutes, giving to the President the right to employ the military forces of the United States, under such regulations as he may direct, in the apprehension of every person who may be in the Indian country in violation of law.

In the year 1873, Congress by special enactment extended over the Territory of Alaska sections 20 and 21 of the act of June 30, 1834, entitled "An act to regulate trade and intercourse with Indian tribes, and to preserve peace on the frontiers." Section 20 of said act was extended as the act existed or read March 3, 1873. This section forbids the introduction into the Indian country of any spiritsuous or vinous liquors, and provides the penalty for a violation thereof. Waters being detected violating this act, and Alaska being "Indian country," was arrested.

The case at bar is an action for false imprisonment of the plaintiff by the defendant, and the damages are laid at $25,000.

The evidence disclosed that Major Campbell acted in pursuance with orders in making the arrest, that no more force was used than necessary, and that the prisoner received wholesome rations and medical treatment while in confinement; but there was some testimony going to show that Waters was compelled to perform manual and servile labor. It was also shown he was a gambler by profession, and was selling intoxicating liquors and dealing faro at Wrangel.

Major Campbell was represented by Mr. Rufus Mallory, United States attorney for this district, and Judge W. W. Upton, special counsel employed by the United States.

I have deferred reporting this case in the expectation that the charge to the jury of Hon. Matthew P. Deady, United States district judge, would be published, and it
could be transmitted for the information of the department. Possibly it may here- after be published by the military authorities, but I learn no copy will be given to the press.

The charge was directly adverse to the defendant, and the jury were pointedly instructed to find for some sum in favor of the plaintiff. The court justified the arrest, but held that the subsequent course of Major Campbell was not warranted by law, relying in support of this doctrine upon section 2151 Revised Statutes, which provides that "no person apprehended by military force under the preceding section shall be detained longer than five days after arrest and before removal. All officers and soldiers who may have any such person in custody shall treat him with all the humanity which the circumstances will permit."

The court held that Major Campbell, in detaining Waters over one steamer, or, in fact, keeping him in confinement more than five days, violated the statute, and was clearly responsible in damages. The judge further instructed the jury that compelling Waters to work was unlawful; that the law only contemplates the restraint of liberty, and that citizen-prisoners were not to be treated like those confined for military offenses.

Some instructions were given upon the measure of damages, not necessary to recapsitulate; the above two points being the gist of the charge and fatal to the defense. The jury after two hours' deliberation found a verdict in favor of the plaintiff in the sum of $3,500.

Plaintiff's counsel will move for a new trial; this being denied, the case will be appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Such is in brief the history of one of the most extraordinary verdicts ever rendered in a court of justice. Granting, for the sake of argument, the charge of the court to be the law, the plaintiff proved no special damage, and his personal character and standing did not warrant any such fabulous verdict.

A very serious question now arises as to the government of this Territory, and by whom the laws of the United States are to be enforced. All control of the military department over affairs in Alaska having ceased, what department and what officers are to be charged with the preservation of the public peace, and what is available or will be used as force to carry out any action which may be found necessary to be taken in executing the laws?

Judge Deady's decision has practically nullified the remedy provided by the Indian intercourse act, for the simple reason, if a prisoner can only be held in custody for five days before removal, there is no use whatever in making the arrest.

How is the sale of ardent spirits to be restricted, and what is there now to prevent the wholesale introduction of spirituous liquors into the whole length and breadth of Alaska? Nothing that I can see. No officer having the verdict against Major Campbell staring him in the face, with all the expensive costs of litigation added, will tread in that path again.

The people on this coast have always regarded Alaska as a kind of natural incongruity, and many, I regret to say, regard her very much in the same light as the freebooter does his prey, or the cut-purse his victim.

The ports of Alaska may now be virtually considered open to smugglers, and the traffic in domestic liquors can be carried on without interference. To my mind there will be only one solution to all this. It cannot but result in a collision between the settlers and native tribes; but upon this subject I have already reported at length.

Congress will have to legislate for this country and provide some form of government, if we expect to hold it without an Indian war on our hands. If it is to be under the sole control and jurisdiction of the Treasury Department, then we need more cutters to enforce the laws. If the officers of these vessels are to be the conservators of the public peace, and are to be charged with the prevention of the introduction of ardent spirits or vinous liquors, into that Territory, then the law must be changed in conformity with the character of the country and means of communication, if the position assumed by Judge Deady is correct.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. GOVERNEUR MORRIS,
Special Agent.

Hon. John Sherman,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

The introduction of good liquor being absolutely prohibited, we will now proceed to discuss the vile stuff manufactured by the natives, and known as HOOCHENOO OR HOOTZENOO.

Molasses rum, or hootzenoo, is made by the whites and Indians in Alaska in the following manner: An empty five-gallon coal-oil can is procured,
on one end of which and about the center is made a nozzle about three inches in diameter, and which projects about three-fourths of an inch. A cap or cover for the nozzle is then made, the cap having a hole in the center about one inch in diameter. A worm six or seven feet in length, sometimes straight, but usually zigzag, is made of tin about one inch in diameter, one end of which is fastened by soldering to the cap that fits the nozzle of the can. The still is now complete. The mash is made generally by the following recipe: One gallon of molasses, five pounds of flour, one-half box of yeast-powder; add sufficient water to make a thin batter; place the mixture alongside a fire, and when it has fermented and become sour, fill the can three parts full and begin boiling. The worm being fitted to the nozzle of the can, then passes through a barrel of cold water, and the steam from the boiling mixture passing through the pipe or worm, on reaching the cold pipe in the barrel, condenses and appears again at the end of the worm beyond the barrel in drops, and which the Indians drink while warm. One gallon of the mixture will make three-fourths of a gallon of hootzenoo, and the three-fourths of a gallon will craze the brains of ten Indians. This is about the most infernal decoction ever invented, producing intoxication, debauchery, insanity, and death. The smell is abominable and the taste atrocious. Previous to the arrival of the military its manufacture was unknown to the Indians, but no sooner had the soldiers made their appearance in Alaska than the detestable traffic commenced. And from the first sergeant of a company down to the drummer-boy, it may be safely said, a large number were either directly or indirectly interested in some soul-destroying still.

When the Indians become crazed with this devilish drink, they lose all reason and become raving maniacs, carouse, indulge in the most lascivious and disgusting immoralities, frequently ending in death, murder, and suicide.

One of the direct evil results of this detestable vice has been the debauchery and degradation of the native women by a licentious soldiery. Never particularly noted for an excess of virtue, they have become victims to their appetite for strong drink and inordinate lust, and they have fallen victims to the general contagion and ruin. I am aware this charge will provoke adverse criticism in certain quarters, and it is more particularly attributable to the years immediately succeeding the Russian purchase, with the advent of our troops, than when later garrisoned. But successful contradiction is invited. The facts are too naked to bear the light of investigation.

Following in the steps of the troops, come the miners, who seem to have emulated the sons of Mars in the prosecution, performance, and mad riot of the quintessence of vicious enjoyment. A whole race of prostitutes have been created, and the morbus indecens of the Latins, which the Roman doctors declined to treat, is found in full feather and luxuriant blossom. To-day there is not a single surgeon or physician in Southeastern Alaska, and when a victim becomes infected with the lues venerea, his fate can be predicted. Syphilitic diseases are the great bane of the country; but few of the women who indulge in promiscuous intercourse are free from the poisonous taint.

This is a sad and lamentable picture; but it is too true. It cannot wholly be eradicated, but it can be substantially checked, and to this end are the efforts of the Christian missionaries now being devoted.

The other results following the introduction of hoocheneo will be discussed in their appropriate place.
Deputy Collector Dennis, without any law, warrant, or authority, has done more than any single individual in Alaska to break up this traffic. Unaided by any authority he has made law unto himself, and what is more, has successfully enforced it; and whatever quiet and good order exists in the settlement at Wrangel, is due directly to his unsustained individual efforts. He has arrested and fined Indians in the act of distilling, destroyed their stills, emptied the liquor on the ground, and has very largely contributed to the cessation of its manufacture in his immediate vicinity. It seems almost impossible to stop the manufacture altogether; the natives have once conceived the taste, and it seems, like all drunkards, they will have the means of satisfying their appetite.

In February, 1875, Mr. H. Gaston, of Victoria, wrote to Col. J. W. Powell, commissioner of Indian affairs for the province of British Columbia, a letter relating to the manufacture of liquor by Indians, in which he says: "The soldiers stationed in Sitka, being unable to procure liquor, commenced to make it for themselves, and taught the secret to the natives." Colonel Powell, in his report to the honorable minister of the interior at Ottawa, makes the following suggestion:

No doubt, however, exists, should the anticipations of Mr. Gaston prove correct as to the general and indiscriminate manufacture of spirits by Indians themselves, that it will revive the important question, which has been heretofore debated with much force and argument in political circles, as to whether it might not be prudent to legalize the traffic under certain restrictions, since its suppression would seem to be so difficult, if not impossible.

I think the views of Colonel Powell are well worthy of consideration. Mr. Alexander Caulfield Anderson, author of "The Government Prize Essay on British Columbia, 1872," holds the same views, saying:

A second fertile cause has been doubtless the supply of intoxicating liquors—deleterious if not positively poisonous compounds—by unscrupulous men of the lowest and the laziest class. The laws established for the prevention of this offense, both within the province and in the adjacent territory of the United States, are stringent, and every effort is made to enforce them; nevertheless constant evasions occur, and it has been seriously mooted whether, if it be found impracticable to suppress the nefarious traffic entirely, it might not be prudent to legalize it under due restrictions. A third and last cause may be only passingly adverted to—the physical contamination which a degraded and licentious intercourse carries with it, against which no laws can provide.

The above remarks were drawn forth while discussing the diminution of the Indian tribes since their contact with Europeans.

THE IMPORTATION OF FIRE-ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

I find some doubt exists in the minds of collectors as to whether should only be excluded from importation into Alaska breech-loading fire-arms and fixed ammunition. When at Portland this matter was brought to my notice, and I wrote the deputy collector at Wrangel, who replied as follows:

CUSTOM-HOUSE, WRANDEL, ALASKA,
Collector's Office, August 13, 1878.

SIR: Your communication of July 29 in reference to the shipping of powder and percussion-caps is at hand. I know of no instructions from the department since the withdrawal of the military. The practice has been to exclude fixed ammunition only. I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. D. CRITTENDEN,
Deputy Collector.

WM. GOVERNEUR MORRIS,
Special Agent of the Treasury, Portland, Oreg.
I inclosed this with the following letter to Maj. A. H. Nickerson, U. S. A., assistant adjutant-general of the Department of the Columbia, who returned it with an indorsement and certain papers, as follows:

Office Special Agent of the Treasury,
Portland, Oreg., August 22, 1878.

Sir: I have the honor to inclose copy of a letter recently received from the deputy collector at Wrangel, Alaska, upon the subject of the shipment of ammunition to that Territory.

When the California was sought to be cleared for Alaska, on the 31st of last month, the collector called my attention to a shipment of percussion-caps and certain kegs of rifle-powder destined for Wrangel. This was permitted to go forward, and the deputy at Wrangel written to, asking what had been the practice at that port since the withdrawal of the military.

I am desirous of knowing what construction was placed upon the law respecting the importation into the Alaska of ammunition by the military authorities.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,
WM. GOVERNEUR MORRIS,
Special Agent.

Maj. A. H. NICKERSON, U. S. A.,
Assistant Adjutant-General,
Headquarters Department of the Columbia, Fort Vancouver.

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
Fort Vancouver, W. T., August 30, 1878.

Respectfully returned to the Hon. WM. Governeur Morris, special agent of the Treasury, Portland, Oreg., inviting attention to inclosed circular of November 7, 1872, and copies of letters.

By command of Brigadier-General Howard.

A. H. NICKERSON,
Major and Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
Portland, Oreg., October 21, 1875.

Sirs: On July 3 last, in accordance with the provisins of section 2132, a circular approved by the President of the United States was addressed by the Treasury Department to collectors of customs, forbidding "the importation of breech-loading rifles and fixed ammunition suitable therefor into the Territory of Alaska, and the shipment of such rifles or ammunition to any port or place in the Territory of Alaska, and collectors of customs are instructed to refuse clearance of any vessel having on board any such arms or ammunition destined for any port or place in said Territory."

The department commander, therefore, you will perceive, has no authority or discretion in the premises, nor does he desire any.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
H. CLAY WOOD,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

J. C. MERRILL & CO.,
204 and 206 California Street, Post-Office Lock-Box 2240, San Francisco.

Official:
A. H. NICKERSON,
Major and Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
Portland, Oreg., September 6, 1876.

Sir: Your communication of July 2 last, addressed to the assistant adjutant-general at division headquarters, San Francisco, stating that "the two companies doing business in this district annually receive from San Francisco, rifles, caps, powder, bullets, and lead, and by bonds filed with collector at San Francisco the shipments are delivered to me." I find that when this place was occupied as a military station, permits were given by the then commanding officer to said companies, for small shipments of arms and ammunition to their different stations, and as I have no instructions in the matter, have pursued a similar course, "in respect to the shipment of arms and ammunition to trading stations in Alaska" of the department commander, and requesting him to "issue such instructions in respect thereto as you (he) may consider proper."

Accordingly the department commander has instructed me to inform you that there are no existing permits or authority from these headquarters or superior military
authority for the importation into Alaska of rifles, powder, bullets, and lead, of any manufacture or description whatever, or for their shipment to the different stations of the companies referred to.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

II. CLAY WOOD,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

JOHN N. KING, Esq.,
Deputy Collector of Customs, Kodiak, Alaska Territory (via San Francisco, Cal.).

Official:
A. H. Nickerson,
Major and Assistant Adjutant-General.

[Circular.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
Portland, Oreg., November 7, 1872.

The following executive proclamation and the Treasury regulations thereunder, relating to the collection-district of Alaska, are republished for the information of all concerned:

"TREASURY DEPARTMENT, February 8, 1870.
"The attention of collectors and other officers of the customs is directed to the following executive order:

"EXECUTIVE MANSION,
"Washington, D. C., February 4, 1870.
"Under and in pursuance of the authority vested in me by the provisions of the second section of the act of Congress, approved on the 27th day of July, 1868, entitled "An act to extend the laws of the United States relating to customs, commerce, and navigation over the territory ceded to the United States by Russia, to establish a collection-district therein, and for other purposes," the importation of distilled spirits into and within the district of Alaska is hereby prohibited, and the importation and use of firearms and ammunition into and within the islands of Saint Paul and Saint George, in said district, are also hereby prohibited, under the pains and penalties of law.

"U. S. GRANT,
"President.

"In conformity with the foregoing order of the President, and to insure its faithful execution, collectors of customs are hereby instructed to refuse clearance to all vessels having on board distilled spirits for ports, places, or islands within the territory and collection-district of Alaska.

"Vessels clearing for any port or place, intending to touch, trade, or pass within the waters of Alaska, with distilled spirits, or fire-arms and ammunition, on board, will be required to execute and deliver to the collector of customs at the port of clearance a good and sufficient bond in double the value of the article so laden, conditioned that said spirits, or any part thereof, shall not be landed upon or disposed of within the Territory of Alaska, or that said arms and ammunition, or any part thereof, shall not be landed, disposed of, or used upon either the islands of Saint Paul or Saint George, in said district.

"GEO. S. BOUTWELL,
"Secretary of the Treasury.

By command of Brigadier-General Canby:

LOUIS V. CAZIARC,
First Lieutenant Second Artillery, Aid-de-Camp, Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

The following is the latest upon this subject:

[General Orders No. 72.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE.

The following circular from the Treasury Department, relative to the importation of breech-loading rifles, and fixed ammunition therefor, into the Territory of Alaska, is published for the information of the Army:

"TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
"Washington, D. C., July 3, 1875.

"To Collectors of Customs:

"The importation of breech-loading rifles, and fixed ammunition suitable therefor, into the Territory of Alaska, is hereby forbidden; and collectors of customs are instructed to refuse clearance of any vessel having on board any such arms or ammunition destined for any port or place in said Territory. If, however, any vessel intends
to touch or trade at a port in Alaska Territory, or to pass within the waters thereof, but shall be ultimately destined for some port or place not within the limits of said Territory, and shall have on board any such fire-arms or ammunition, the master or chief officer thereof will be required to execute and deliver to the collector of customs at the port of clearance a good and sufficient bond, with two sureties, in double the value of such merchandise, conditioned that such arms or ammunition, or any part thereof, shall not be landed or disposed of within the Territory of Alaska. Such bond shall be taken for such time as the collector shall deem proper, and may be satisfied upon proofs similar to those required to satisfy ordinary export bonds, showing that such arms have been landed at some foreign port; or, if such merchandise is landed at any port of the United States not within the limits of the Territory of Alaska, the bond may be satisfied upon production of a certificate to that effect from the collector of the port where it is so landed.

Approved:

"U. S. GRANT,
"President."

By order of the Secretary of War:

THOMAS M. VINCENT,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

I have no knowledge of there having been any exportation of breech-loading arms to Alaska since the withdrawal of the military, save an occasional rifle in the hands of miners, and I cannot see how this can well be prevented. It would be well for some modified regulation to be issued upon the subject, but I do not wish to be understood as favoring a change of policy. The views of Major-General Schofield are, I think, eminently correct and should be carried out.

I think it was the intention of the department only to exclude shipments of fixed ammunition, but our collectors do not so understand it, for Colonel Wood, in his letter to the deputy collector at Kodiak, says: "There are no existing permits or authority from these headquarters, or superior military authority, for the importation into Alaska of rifles, powder, bullets, and lead, of any manufacture or description whatever."

The Indians must have powder, lead, and shot to use in their smooth-bore guns and Hudson Bay muskets; so must the whites for hunting; and if they can't import it from the United States they can readily smuggle all they want from British Columbia.

Does the department mean to absolutely prohibit an individual emigrating to Alaska from taking with him for his own personal safety and convenience a breech-loading rifle, and the necessary ammunition for his own personal use?

Again, if a man is found upon an American steamship with such a weapon in his possession, what course are the customs authorities to adopt?

I ask these questions because such a state of facts is constantly arising, and the customs officers are in doubt what course to pursue. As said before, the whole subject needs revision, and the sooner it is done the better.

I have no accurate means of ascertaining the approximate number of breech-loading arms in possession of the Indians in Alaska. They have a few Henry rifles, most of the old pattern.

Shasta Hauck, chief of the Stikines, has mounted at his place two four-pound boat swivel-guns of no value, supposed to have been purchased from the Russians or Hudson Bay Company.

Occasionally an Indian will purchase from a miner in British Columbia a repeating rifle, but instances are not of an alarming character, as far as I know.
These subjects embrace a wide discussion, and I have thought best to limit them to one comprehensive title.

It is exceedingly difficult to approximate with any great degree of accuracy the number of natives in Alaska. The divergence of opinion is great. I will proceed to enumerate a few of the estimates by quoting, first:

[From Major-General Halleck’s report to the Secretary of War, 1869.]

**NAMES OF TRIBES AND THEIR NUMBERS.**

**Indian population.**—Most writers make four general divisions of the natives of Alaska: 1st, the Koloshians; 2d, the Kenaians; 3d, the Aleutes; 4th, the Esquimaux. These are again subdivided into numerous tribes and families, which have been named, sometimes from their places of residence or resort, and sometimes from other circumstances or incidents.

1. **The Koloshians.**—This name is given by the Russians to all the natives who inhabit the islands and coast from the latitude 54° 40’ to the mouth of the Atna or Copper River. The Indians of the northern islands and northern coast of British Columbia belong to the same stock, and their entire population was estimated by the early explorers at 25,000. The Koloshians in Alaska at the present time have been subdivided and classed as follows:

- **The Hydas,** who inhabit the southern part of Alexandria or Prince of Wales Archipelago. They have usually been hostile to the whites, and a few years ago captured a trading vessel and murdered the crew. They number about 600. These Indians are also called Kaktogans and Kliarakans; the former being near Kaigan Harbor, and the latter near the Gulf of Kliarakan. In the same archipelago are the Hennegas, who live near Cape Polo, and the Chatsinas, who occupy the northern portion of the principal island. They are said to be peaceful, and to number about 500 each; in all about 1,000.

- **The Tougas,** who live on Tougass Island and on the north side of Portland Channel. A branch of this tribe called the Foxes, now under a separate chief, live near Cape Fox. The two branches together number about 500.

- **The Stikine,** who live on the Stackine River and the island near its mouth; although represented as at the present time peaceful, a few years ago they captured a trading vessel and murdered the crew. They number about 1,000.

- **The Kaks,** or Kakes, who live on Kuprinoff Island, having their principal settlement near the northwestern side. These Indians have long been hostile to the whites, making distant warlike incursions in their canoes. They have several times visited Puget Sound, and in 1857 murdered the collector of customs at Port Townsend. They number altogether about 1,200.

- **The Kons,** who have several villages on the bays and inlets of Koo Island, between Cape Divinity and Prince Frederick’s Sound. They are represented as generally unfriendly to our people. They are dangerous only to small unarmed traders. They number in all about 800.

- **The Chilkats,** living on Lynn Channel and the Chilkaht River. They are warlike and have heretofore been hostile to all whites, but at present manifest a disposition to be friendly. They must number about 2,000.

- **The Huu-kna-hoos,** who live near the head of Chatham Straits. There are also small settlements of them near Port Frederick and at some other points. They number altogether about 1,000.

- **The Sittkas or Indians on Baranoff Island,** who were at first opposed to the change of flags, but have since become friendly. These are estimated by General Davis at about 1,200.

2. **The Kenaians.**—This name derived from the peninsula of Kenai, which lies between Cook’s Inlet and Prince William’s Sound, has been applied to all the Indians who oc-
occupy the country north of Copper River and west of the Rocky Mountains, except the Aleutes and Esquimaux. The employés of the telegraph company represent them as peaceful and well disposed. They, however, are ready to avenge any affront or wrong. I have not sufficient data to give the names, locations, or numbers of the several tribes of these people. Their whole number is usually estimated at 25,000.

3. The Aleutes.—This term more properly belongs to the natives of the Aleutian Islands, but it has been applied also to those of the Shumagin and Kadiak groups, and to the Southern Esquimaux, whom they greatly resemble. They are generally kind and well disposed, and not entirely wanting in industry. By the introduction of schools and churches among these people, the Russians have done much toward reducing them to a state of civilization. As might be expected from the indefinite character of the lines separating them from the Esquimaux, the estimates of their numbers are conflicting, varying from 4,000 to 10,000. Probably the lowest number would comprise all the inhabitants of the Aleutian Islands proper, while if we include the other groups and the peninsula of Alaska, and the country bordering on Bristol Bay, the whole number may reach as high as 10,000.

4. The Esquimaux.—These people, who constitute the remainder of the population of Alaska, inhabit the coasts of Behring's Sea and of the Arctic Ocean and the interior country north, and including the northern branches of Yukon River. The Khenians are said to hold the country along the more southerly branches of that river. The character of the Alaskan Esquimaux does not essentially differ from that of the same race in other parts of the world. They are low in the scale of humanity, and number about 20,000. These estimates make the entire Indian population of Alaska about 60,000.


INDIANS LIVING ON AND NEAR THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE RUSSIAN-AMERICAN TERRITORY RECENTLY CEDED TO THE UNITED STATES.

Chimpsains.—Living on Chimpsain Peninsula. Their principal village is at Fort Simpson, where a Hudson Bay post (the largest on the coast) has been located for some thirty years. There are about 900 Indians at this point, living in large, strongly-built lodges. About 600 of this tribe are at Metlakatla, a missionary and trading village about 15 miles to the southward of Fort Simpson, on Chatham Sound. Fort Simpson is a large stockade fort, armed with eight 4-pounder iron guns, but there are now but three or four whites at that station.

Naas River Indians.—Naas River empties into Portland Channel at about 55° north latitude and about 30 miles to the northward and eastward of Fort Simpson. Mr. Cunningham (the Naas River trader for Hudson Bay Company) was at Fort Simpson while I was there, and kindly furnished such information as I possess in reference to tribes on that and Skeena River. He estimates the total number of Naas Indians at 2,000. The Kakes, Foxes, Hydahs, Tongas, and Stikeens trade on the Naas for ooliceen oil and other articles. The Naas Indians go into Portland Channel, near its head, to catch salmon, which are said to be very abundant. There is a tribe of about 200 souls now living on a westerly branch of the Naas near Stikine River. They are called "Lackweips," and formerly lived on Portland Channel. They moved away in consequence of an unsuccessful war with the Naas, and now trade exclusively with the Stikeens. The Hudson's Bay Company is making strong efforts to reconcile this feud, in order to recover their trade. (I embrace under this heading all Indians who are within easy access to Portland Channel, coming there to trade, &c., or within an area of 60 miles north and south of that inlet.)

Skeena River Indians.—Skeena River empties into Fort Essington, about thirty-five miles below Portland channel. Its source is not far from the headwaters of the Naas. The total number of Indians on the river and its tributaries is reliably estimated at 2,400, namely:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tribe</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kitasals</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitawingahs</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitapuychs</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitasgas</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitagichus</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hagulkets</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitawincholds</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The last-named tribe live between the Naas and the Skeena. They are represented as very superior race, industrious, sober, cleanly and peaceable.

Kitasals.—Living on the islands in Ogden's Channel, about sixty miles below Fort Simpson. They number about three hundred persons and are not considered very trustworthy. These people trade at Metlakatla.

Hydahs.—This name is given to the Indians on the northern shores of Queen Charlotte's Island and to all of our Indians on Prince of Wales Islands, except the Herme-
gas and Chatsinahs. The British Indians living along the shore from Virago Sound to North Point and Cape Knox number 300. Those at Masset’s Harbor are also estimated at 300. The American Hydahs are called Ky-gainies or Klawakans. They number about 600 souls, and are scattered along the shore from Cordova to Touvel’s Bay. Quite a number of the men from these tribes are employed about Victoria, and in the sawmills on Puget Sound. A few years ago some British Hydahs captured the schooner Blue Wing, off Seattle, Washington Territory, and murdered all the crew and passengers, some five or six persons.


tongas.—Not many years ago this was a warlike and numerous tribe and now number not more than two hundred souls. They hunt, fish, and trade among the islands and on the northern shores of Portland Channel. Their principal village is on Tongas Island, to which reference is made elsewhere.

There is no Indian bureau with attendant complications. There is no pretended recognition of the Indian’s “title” in fee simple to the lands over which he roams for fish or game. Intoxicating liquors were not introduced among these people so long as the Hudson’s Bay Company possessed the monopoly of trade. Prompt punishment follows the perpetration of crime, and from time to time the presence of a gunboat serves to remind the savages along the coast of the power of their masters. Not more than two years ago the Fort Rupert Indians were severely punished for refusing to deliver certain criminals demanded by the civil magistrate. Their village was bombarded and completely destroyed by Her Britannic Majesty’s gunboat Clio. As the result of such a policy we find trading posts well stocked with everything tempting to savage cupidity safely conducted by one or two whites among distant and powerful tribes. There is not a regular soldier in all British Columbia (excepting marines on shipboard and at equipment), and yet white men travel through the length and breadth of the province in almost absolute security. Yet the total number of Indians in the colony is estimated at 40,000, and there are not more than 8,000 whites. Dr. Tolmie informed me that Captain Howard, of our revenue service, had stated in Victoria that no one would be allowed to sell arms or ammunition to the Indians in our Territory. This policy, provided it could be carried out, would simply deprive these people of the means of gaining a livelihood. They must have guns, not only to get food, but to secure the furs, skins, &c., of the northwest trade. But these Indians will get arms and ammunition. If our own traders are prohibited from furnishing them they can and will get them from British Columbia, and in this event they would naturally look upon the British as their best friends. The consequence of such a state of feeling, as affecting our trade and intercourse with them, may readily be imagined, inasmuch as most of our trading intercourse with Alaska will be by small vessels, running through what is called the inside passage along the coast of British Columbia. I deemed it advisable to collect such information as could be obtained in reference to Indians living on and near that route for convenient reference.

I submit herewith a copy of the letter of instructions received from Major-General Halleck (inclosure A).

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT N. SCOTT,
Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel and A. D. C.

Brevet Maj. Gen. JAMES B. FRY,
Adjutant-General Military District of the Pacific.

Vincent Colyer says:

Major-General Halleck’s nomenclature I have already given. His estimate I believe to be nearest correct of any. In all cases where I counted them the number exceeded the published estimates.

Col. H. Clay Wood, U. S. A., assistant adjutant-general of the Department of the Columbia, in a report made to General Howard on the liquor traffic, remarks:

There are upward of 60,000 Indians in Alaska Territory, dispersed in numerous tribes and bands.

Special Agent Elliott estimates as follows:

The number of Indians now living in the Territory is, according to best authority and my judgment, between eighteen and twenty thousand. Of this number, between ten and twelve thousand belong to that district bounded on the north by Cook’s Inlet and south by Fort Simpson; the remainder inhabit that stretch of country reaching from Bristol Bay to Kotzebue Sound, and back into the far interior, where there are several tribes supposed to be quite numerous, about which very little is known even by the traders.
The present Commissioner of Indian Affairs reports under the following date:

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 1, 1877.

The Indians of Alaska, numbering over 20,000, being within the jurisdiction of the United States, have at least a moral claim upon the government for assistance in the way of civilization. Under the policy of letting these tribes alone, Indians who are as yet without the influence of either the virtues or vices of civilization will gradually become victims to the practice of whisky-drinking and other deteriorating influences; those whose contact with whites has already resulted in demoralization will become still more degraded; and those who, under Russian rule and influence, became partially civilized, will, by the withdrawal of the restraints and protection of Russian law, and the failure to substitute the authority of the United States Government, relapse into barbarism.

The fact that these tribes are not dependent on the government for subsistence, and are not occupying lands which United States citizens covet, should not serve as an argument for leaving them without law, order, or civilizing influences. Unless it is the intention of the government to abandon Alaska altogether, some plan for bringing these Indians under civilizing control of the government should be adopted at an early day, especially for furnishing them educational facilities. I would recommend the appointment of a special agent, whose duty it shall be to ascertain their condition and wants and make report thereon, to be the basis of future action.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. A. HAYT,
Commissioner.

Desiring to have the views of the Hon. James G. Swan upon the number of Indians in Alaska and how they should be managed, I addressed him a communication requesting he would at length prepare a statement for me. This he has done in a very able and interesting manner, and it is now presented. Judge Swan has had much experience with the Indians on this coast. I have great respect for the views he advances, and rely very much upon his judgment:

NEEAH BAY, W. T., October 19, 1877.

MY DEAR MAJOR: I will now endeavor to reply to your letter of the 12th, in which you request me to give you "the estimate of the number of Indians in Alaska, and where located," and also "to offer any suggestions or remarks I may desire to make concerning those Indians and their future management." I therefore respectfully submit the following:

First, as to their number. The only information I have which may be considered as reliable, because it is official, is contained in Dall's Report on the Tribes of the Extreme Northwest, which is published in vol. 1 of Contributions to North American Ethnology, by Maj. J. W. Powell, by instructions of the Department of the Interior, 1877. In this interesting and valuable report you will find all the information that has been published to the present time respecting the Alaska Indians, which he classes as "Oriarians," or tribes living on the seacoast (although he does not give his reason for using the term "Oriarians," a word I do not know the meaning or application of), and Indians, and gives the whole number as—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Alaska Indians</th>
<th>11,660</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Alaska Oriarians</td>
<td>14,054</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total native population

| Total native population | 25,704 |

The Oriarians are, 1st. The Inunuits; 2d. The Aleuts.

The Inunuits are the most western tribes, and are classed by Dall with the tribes of the adjacent coast of Asia. The whole number of the Inunuits he places at 11,600. The Aleuts are the eastern, or Unalashkans, and the western, or Atkans. Of these there are 2,454, making a total of Oriarians, 14,054.

The Indian tribes of Alaska are divided by Dall into two groups, the Tinnet and Rlinkets. The former are the more northerly tribes, from Cook's Inlet and Copper River north, and the latter are the tribes from Cook's Inlet to the southern borders of Alaska, and are the tribes more particularly met with by travelers to Sitka, Wrangel, and the Prince of Wales Archipelago.

The Tinneh number

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<th>The Tinneh number</th>
<th>6,100</th>
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<td>The Flincket</td>
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Making a total of Alaskan Indians

| Making a total of Alaskan Indians | 11,660 |
But, in speaking of the native population of Alaska, it is proper to call them all "Indians" to prevent confusion. Dall adds to this whole number of natives, which, as before stated, is 25,704, as follows: e.g., Russians, 50; half-breeds, or creoles, 1,500; citizens, including military, 250 = 1,800; making the total population of the Territory, 27,504.

The military have been removed since Dall's estimate was made, but the addition to the population since the canneries at Sitka and Klawock have been established, and the influx occasioned by the mineral discoveries, will make the total for the whole population at the present time not far from the amount estimated by Dall.

The second question, "As to the best method of managing the Indians of Alaska," is one of deep interest; one which requires much study and careful consideration; and no conclusions should be hastily made. In accepting your kind invitation to express myself on this momentous question, I shall have to ask your permission to allow me to state how I have acquired the information requisite to enable me to advance an opinion upon so grave a subject as the management of Indians.

Since 1852, at which time I first came to this Territory (then a part of Oregon), I have devoted a considerable portion of my time to the study of Indian habits and customs, to ethnology, archeology, and all matters pertaining to the history of this people, especially the natives of the northwest coast. In 1855 I was with the late General Isaac I. Stevens, when, as governor of Washington Territory and superintendent of Indian affairs, he made treaties with the several tribes west of the Cascade Range, and subsequently was with him in Washington as his private secretary at the time he, as Delegate in Congress from this Territory, aided in having those treaties confirmed by the Senate. The subject of those treaties was the topic of our frequent conversation, and no man knows better than myself what Governor Stevens's true intention was concerning them; and I can safely and truly state, that had the treaties he made been carried out in the spirit and intent with which he made them, much good would have been effected with the Indians, and it is the non-fulfillment of those treaties which has been the prime cause of all the trouble we have had with the Indians in this Territory. I was then, and am now, opposed to any or all treaty-making with the natives, and I published my views in a work entitled "The Northwest Coast," which was issued by Harpers in 1857. On pages 349 and 350, and from the last paragraph on page 357, my views are freely expressed. (If you have not a copy of the book, you can obtain one either at Mr. Webster's or Dr. Minor's.)

My observation and experience since then have proved to me that my views as there expressed are correct; that it is folly to think of making any more treaties with Indians, and, so far as Alaska is considered, I see no object to be attained by repeating a worn-out farce of treating with a people who are living in a territory which we have acquired the fee-simple of by the purchase the United States made of Russia, in which purchase no mention is made of any reserved rights of Indians or any other people. The land belongs to the United States, and no treaties are necessary to extinguish Indian titles.

We must, therefore, meet this Alaskan question other than by the time-honored custom of making a solemn treaty with a horde of breechless savages in the same formal manner and with more imposing ceremony than we are wont to do with such great nations as Great Britain, France, Germany, and Russia. What, then, shall be that method, and how can it be carried into effect, is the subject which your letter invites me to discuss.

I think that the Indians themselves can give us some useful hints regarding the manner of treatment which would not only be acceptable to them, but would, in my judgment, lead to the happiest results.

In 1875 I had the honor of being appointed as a special commissioner of the United States for procuring articles of Indian manufacture for the National Museum, to be exhibited at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, and proceeded, in the United States revenue steamer Wolcott, to Alaska, in a cruise during the months of June and July of that year.

During that cruise we stopped at many of the villages of various tribes, and whenever we had any conversation with the Indians it was the universally expressed wish that the government would send them teachers and missionaries, as the English had sent to the Indians of British Columbia, and they particularly referred to the missions at Fort Simpson, and at Metlahcutla, British Columbia, the former under the charge of Rev. Mr. Croshy, of the Wesleyan Methodist Society of Ontario, Canada, and the latter under charge of Rev. Mr. Duncan, of the Episcopal Missionary Society of London, England.

Fort Simpson, being one of the principal trading posts of the Hudson's Bay Company, and situated but a few miles from the southern boundary of Alaska, is the place where a great many of the Alaskan tribes resort to sell their furs, and have there seen for themselves the superior condition of the Tsimsian Indians, both at Fort Simpson and Metlahcutla, and it was undoubtedly a jealous spirit, induced by the unfavorable comparison of their own uncivilized state, in contrast with the great improvement of...
the Tsimseans, which caused them to be so unanimous in their applications to us for government aid in sending teachers to them.

In a report made by me to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on my return, which was also published in the Fort Townsend Argus, September 3, 1877, I dwelt at length on this subject, and strongly recommended that our government adopt towards the Alaska Indians a similar policy to that so successfully enforced in British Columbia, at the two missions of Metlakatla and Fort Simpson, a short account of which will serve to explain the method which I would suggest our government adopt in its future management of the Alaskan tribes.

In October, 1857, Mr. William Duncan, a missionary, schoolmaster, and catechist, and graduate at Highbury Episcopal Training College of the Church Missionary Society of London, was selected to fill the post of teacher and missionary at Fort Simpson, and, with no other aid than the stipend paid him by the society and occasional donations from charitable persons in England and in Victoria, he has succeeded in making the Indians under his charge a self-sustaining people, and their settlement is a model which many of our pioneer communities might emulate with profit.

In May, 1860, Mr. Duncan, finding the locality of the post at Fort Simpson unsuited to his purpose, removed to his present place at Metlakatla, some twenty miles south, where he established a town. Here, acting in turns as minister, schoolmaster, physician, builder, arbitrator, magistrate, trader, and teacher of various mechanic arts, he has labored so successfully that they now own a schooner trading regularly to Victoria; they have a fort stock trading-house, a market-house, a soap-manufactory, blacksmith-shop, saw-mill, an octagon-shaped school-house, which cost nearly $4,000, a building 90 feet by 30, used as a court-house, for public meetings, and to accommodate strangers, a mission-house 64 feet by 32, containing seven apartments on the ground-floor, a spacious dormitory above, and outbuildings. Also a church, a woolen factory, where they weave blankets and common flannel on a machine supplied them by the proprietors of the Mission Mills at San Francisco, a rope and twine factory, a tannery, a boot and shoe factory, and a variety of other useful things impossible for me here to particularize.

The British Government recognizes Mr. Duncan’s great work, and directs all its officials in the navy and army, who may be on the coast of British Columbia, to render him such aid as he may need. But there his connection with his government ends. He has done this work with the voluntary aid and contributions of the Indians, and is by their help rendered independent of any outside support to carry on the mission work. There are no paid officials, no annuities, no treaties, and no thieving Indian agents, but the whole is managed just as any community of white people manage their town affairs.

After Mr. Duncan left Fort Simpson, he was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Crosby, of the Wesleyan Mission. What I have written of Mr. Duncan can be said of Mr. Crosby. Both these gentlemen are doing a great and marked good in their respective missions and the only way in which the Dominion Government of Canada takes care of them is through its efficient Indian commissioner, Dr. John W. Powell, of Victoria, who annually visits those missions and all the coast tribes in the Dominion steamer Sir James Douglas, and who is ready at all times to co-operate with Messers. Duncan and Crosby in enforcing the laws of the Dominion relative to Indian affairs.

The coast tribes of British Columbia are quite as savage as those of Alaska. They all have trade and intercourse with each other, and their manners and customs are identical, and, as the Alaskan Indians are desirous of having schools and teachers as the British Columbia Indians have, it seems to me to point out the true method by which our government can manage those natives.

I am averse to all treaties and reservations, with their expensive machinery of agents and employees paid by the government, and of paying annuities to Indians to encourage them in idleness. That policy has been the ruling one since the days of George Washington. We all have seen the great error and the little good of that policy, but have been unable to avert or amend it. But Alaska is an exception to our Indian population. Separated from the States and Territories by British Columbia, her Indian tribes have no affinity with or knowledge of the working of our treaty system, and they present a fresh field of operation.

I respectfully suggest that the British Columbia plan, which has proved so eminently successful, be adopted. I would recommend that the various religious denominations send out missionaries, so that every tribe may be supplied. In order to do this, a commission should be sent to Alaska to ascertain just where and how many of these missions should be established, and then each missionary society be invited to select and send men fitted for the work, who would go in the same spirit, and with the same capacity, executive, ministerial, and financial, that Messrs. Duncan and Crosby have, and the whole to be under charge of one general superintendent, who, like Dr. Powell, should visit every mission once or twice each year, and report to the government in Washington. Such missions should be aided by the government to enable them to
start in a proper manner, but there would be no necessity for any great appropriation, for, as at Metlakatla and Fort Simpson, the missions should be self-supporting.

From my own knowledge and experience and long observation, I feel justified in asserting that the Alaskan Indians are now just in that state in which they would receive teachers most cordially, and would do as much as the Tsimseans have done for the missions at Fort Simpson and Metlakatla. This plan is no theory of mine, nor is it a new thing. It is a plan which has been in successful operation in British Columbia for many years, and is one peculiarly adapted to the Indians of Alaska, one which many of them have seen in successful operation, and one which they heartily endorse, and wish introduced among them. On the score of economy, it is eminently superior to any system we now have regarding Indian management, and, as regards benefiting the Indians in every respect, we have only to refer to the missions I alluded to for proof of its excellence. But above all things, this system is to be recommended for its freedom from change.

The question is often asked, and never with more pertinence than at the present time, when the subject of turning over the Indian Bureau to the War Department will be a leading topic in the next Congress, "What good has been done to the Indians by the peace policy, and why do we not see better results?" The answer is apparent to the most casual observer: it is the constant change of agents and the constant change of policy of every new incumbent in the office of Indian Commissioner. What is wanted more than anything is permanence of plan; and to accomplish this, a policy should be adopted of having new good men like those I have named remain in position during good behavior, or so long as they are accomplishing good and beneficial results. This cannot be done under our present system, where every Indian agent feels that his appointment is only for four years and a change of administration is sure to turn him out of office. It is this change, more than anything else, which has induced so many men of weak moral stamina to pay more attention to enriching themselves, rather than to do their duty and carry out treaty stipulations. This change has more to do with our Indian troubles than most people are aware of. The Indian mind is not given to change, least of all sudden changes of policy; he may change his habitation and roam about, but his mind is stoical and fixed; and it is only by a long series of years, and the most careful and discreet exercise of judgment by those placed over him, that he can be induced to give up the wild legends and traditions of his forefathers and to adopt the manners and customs of civilized life.

The records of the Indian Bureau are full of accounts of frequent changes of agents and changes in administrative capacity. The Indian is told at the time of making a treaty what the government will do for him, and he places faith in the promise; but when such promises, solemnly made by a great nation, are so frequently and ruthlessly broken, he loses all faith, and considers the Great Father in Washington as a myth, whose name is synonymous with that of the "Sultan" of the Turk.

I am now writing at the Makah Indian Agency, instituted by the treaty of Neeah Bay. This agency was inaugurated under Agent Henry A. Webster, whose wise policy was being understood and accepted by these Indians, who were being gradually drawn from their savage ways and induced to look upon civilization in a more favorable light. The improvements he caused to be made, in erecting good and substantial buildings, in fencing, and clearing land, in making good roads, in raising great crops of potatoes, which were all distributed among the Indians, and in causing whole villages to assume an appearance of neatness, in his encouragement of their industries, and in the education of their children, was not lost upon the Indian mind; but he was relieved from the position, and since then four other agents have been in charge, each of whom had different views, and to-day I see the very improvements which I assisted to make while Mr. Webster was agent have been allowed to become dilapidated, and show evidence of utter shiftlessness and neglect. Buildings out of repair, roads impassable, fences covered with moss and rotting down, and not one acre of land cleared in addition to what we cleared during Mr. Webster's agency. The Indians see this, and daily I hear the remark that Mr. Webster was the best agent they ever had, and they ask to have the old policy restored. I can see and understand if Mr. Webster's plan had been continued to the present time, the great amount of good which would have resulted. But, instead, I find these Indians, with but few exceptions, and those principally of the school children, the same breechless savages they were when I first came here as an employé in 1862, an appearance which so disgusted Colonel Watkins, the Indian inspector, who was here a year ago, that he pronounced them the dirtiest set of savages he had ever seen on the whole continent.

Now this state of things has been simply the result of a continued change of agents. I do not make these remarks to reflect upon their present agent, who has been in charge only a few months, but small means to work with, whose plans and views seem to be similar to those of Mr. Webster, but simply as an illustration of the remark I have made, of the bad effects on Indians of repeated changes.

The policy I suggest will find but little favor in the eyes of those persons who are
deep in the hidden mysteries of Indian rings, as there will be no great amount to be distributed among Indians by underpaid agents, and no prospective profits to loom up in the distant horizon of fraudulent contractors, by this policy; but if you, as the agent of the government, could visit Metlakahatla and Fort Simpson and see the working of this mission system, and visit the various Alaskan tribes as I did, I am confident you would pronounce my statement correct.

I would not presume to offer any views about the detail or the working of this plan; that is a matter for the investigation of commissioners, who, by conferring with Indian Commissioner Powell in Victoria, and going personally to Metlakahatla and Fort Simpson and to the various Alaskan tribes as far as Sitka, could be better able to state what, in their opinion, would be the best course to pursue. A commission could easily and economically be sent to Alaska from Port Townsend, who could visit every place I have named and be able to report before the adjournment of the present Congress. I can only say that the winter is the best time for such visits to be made, as the Indians would all be at home in their winter quarters, and if I can aid in any way or assist in developing this plan, even though it should not be ultimately adopted by Congress, I shall feel that I have been engaged in a good work for the red men of Alaska.

I am aware that these views of mine will be met with the statement, that the religious denominations have already, under the peace policy, furnished Indian agents, and that in very many instances their selections have proved failures. But simply being a professor of religion, or a minister of the gospel, does not prevent those who have an inborn cupidity from using their religion as a cloak under which they have carried out their thieving propensities. But in this place there is nothing to excite the cupidity of theological mawworms or Aminadab Sleeks; they are the very last people who would seek for an opportunity to do true missionary work as is done in British Columbia; and when we reflect that there are no soldiers, or Indian agents, or Indian treaties in all that country like we have in the United States, that they have no Indian wars as we have, and that Commissioner Powell, by the aid afforded him of the use of the naval vessels at Esquimault, has been able to suppress revolt, and keep all the coast tribes, under his jurisdiction, quiet, and at a trifling expense, it seems to me that it would be the part of wisdom if our government would at least inquire into this system before resorting to old, wornout theories, or attempting untried new ones.

There is much more to be said in favor of this proposition, but I fear I have already been too prolix. I will, however, assure you that I am ready, and shall be glad if I can be of any further service to you on the subject of the Indians of Alaska.

Very respectfully and truly yours,

JAMES G. SWAN.

Maj. WM. GOVERNEUR MORRIS,
Port Townsend, W. T.

This idea of having a commission visit Alaska for the purpose of location, &c., of mission schools is to my mind the best practical method for the accomplishment of the undertaking. It will be observed the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs recommends the appointment of a special agent for this purpose. The composition of such commission as Judge Swan suggests, in my judgment, should consist of three persons—an officer of the Army, an officer of the Indian Bureau, who should be a minister of the gospel, missionary, or teacher, and an officer of the Treasury Department.

I think the sending of a commission there during the coming winter would not be opportune. While it is true, as Judge Swan states, that all the Indians will be found at their respective camps at this time of the year, still, in view of the fact of the season being already so far advanced, before such commission could be organized, means provided for their expenses and transportation, the tour of inspection made and report ready for transmission to Congress, that body will have adjourned.

The better plan, I am satisfied, would be to send the commission to Alaska not later than the first of next April, with full authority to visit every available point in the Territory and the British missions at Fort Simpson and Metlacaklah, and inquire into everything connected with the subject-matter with which they are charged. This report should be ready to be presented to the Congress which meets in December, 1879,
ILLUSTRATION No. 5.

WESLEYAN MISSION CHURCH AT FORT SIMPSON, BRITISH COLUMBIA.
and the present Congress can make the necessary appropriation for the work.

As this is an entire new feature in the management of Indian tribes of the United States, it is one which should not be the result of hasty action, but should be discreetly dealt with, and Congress should be in possession of all the facts and experience of other nations before entering upon the task.

General Howard has for years been urging the establishment of schools and advising Christian ministers devoting themselves to missionary work in Alaska. I am happy to say there are now already in the Territory good and worthy pioneers in this religious work, who are meeting with the most sanguine success. On my way down from Wrangel I stopped at Fort Simpson and visited the Rev. Mr. Crosby, and had a long conversation with him upon the subject of his mission. He informed me the Alaska Indians at Tongas, a very short distance off on the other side of Portland Canal, the dividing line, were very anxious to have a school and church there, and that when opportunity afforded he should go over there and preach to them.

Illustration 5 will give an idea of the Crosby mission.

In Alaska this beginning has been made under the direct control and auspices of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions, and I learn the Hon. William E. Dodge, of New York City, is lending his means and executive ability to the success of the undertaking.

Vincent Colyer speaks as follows:

To sum up my opinion about the natives of Alaska, I do not hesitate to say that if three-quarters of them were landed in New York as coming from Europe, they would be selected as among the most intelligent of the many worthy emigrants who daily arrive at that port. In two years they would be admitted to citizenship, and in ten years some of their children, under the civilizing influence of our eastern public schools, would be found members of Congress.

Hon. William S. Dodge says:

I can speak generally from actual observation; and, in brief, none of the tribes in that section of the country, which I consider Indian, are at all to be compared with any of the tribes inhabiting the interior of our country, or even with those bordering the great lakes. One peculiar characteristic of the Alaska tribes, such as the Hydahs, Stikines, Sticks, Kakea, Kootznoo, and Sitkas, is their individual intelligence. It is true they live to a great extent on fish and game, but these are to their taste, the crops of grain and corn, &c., to the former. For half a century educated into traders by the Russian, American, and Hudson Bay Companies, as well as by small traders, who trade contraband, they have become keen, sharp-witted, and drive as hard and close a bargain as their white brothers, and since the Federal occupation of the country this fact is more apparent. They are of a very superior intelligence, and have rapidly acquired many of the American ways of living and working. Their houses are universally clustered into villages very thoroughly and neatly built, and far more substantial and pretentious than the log houses usually constructed by our manly backwoodsmen.

I noticed with pleasure at Miss Kellogg’s school the great progress made in a very short time by several of the Indian pupils, especially two boys, who evinced rare intelligence and docility.

In all my conversations held with the Indians through interpreters, I have invariably found them quite up to the mark in asking and answering questions, displaying a great deal of tact, ingenuity, and shrewdness. To my mind they are far more intelligent than any Indians I have ever met on this continent, the Seminoles alone excepted.

I was perfectly astonished at the marked improvement in the Indian village at Fort Simpson, all due to the direct efforts of Mr. Crosby. New houses made of sawed lumber and neatly roofed, covered with shingles, all the labor of the Indians, have taken the place of their former wretched huts. They have modern doors and windows, and look like civilized
dwellings. In fact their town will very favorably contrast with many of those primeval settlements, reared by white men and met with in California, Oregon, and Washington Territory. They are improving their streets and taking down their carvings, posts, and images, and in a few years, with a little whitewash, it will be a very attractive place.

As a marked contrast to this march of civilization, the reader is shown illustration 6, the Indian village at Sitka. It is a very wretched place. The graves will be perceived in the rear. It is customary with all the Alaska Indians to bury their dead above ground, with all their valuables, money, and personal effects of all kinds. These graves are generally small houses, some of them boasting of a pane or two of glass, others a whole sash, where the relatives of the departed brave can look in upon him during his final slumbers. They very much resemble dog-kennels.

It is customary when a chief or principal man of a tribe dies to lay him out in Indian costume, surrounded by all his arms, accouterments, trophies of war and the chase. Frequently much hoochenoo is consumed, and the howlings and orgies very much resemble an Irish wake. Illustration 7 is a very correct representation of a scene of this kind. The dead warrior is Shaks, a chief of the Sitkine tribe at Wrangel, which occurred while I was in Alaska. He claimed to be the last hereditary chief of his race, dating back through a line of noble ancestors of two hundred years' standing. It is asserted they have been the head chiefs of the Sitkines for this period. It was once a powerful tribe, but now the numbers are insignificant.

Shaks was duly buried with every valuable he had. He was a bad Indian, and his spiritual travel to the happy hunting-grounds of his forefathers is a cause of great gratulation to the white citizens of Wrangel. He did everything in his power to thwart the efforts of Mr. Dennis in the suppression of hoochenoo manufacture, sneered at the "Church Indians," and scoffed at the missionary school.

The following letter from Surgeon Baily, U. S. A., discloses the state of affairs existing in Alaska at that time. It only goes to confirm my own impressions and experience formed many years later. Dr. Baily earnestly recommends schools as a curative for existing evils:

SITKA, ALASKA TERRITORY,
October 25, 1839.

MY DEAR SIR: I inclose for your information the report of Acting Assistant Surgeon John A. Tonner, U. S. A., in medical charge of the Indians in this vicinity, in conformity to instructions given him by me. A copy of the same is inclosed.

This report is instructive, and contains important suggestions, which, if carried out, would go far towards improving their condition.

I am satisfied that little or nothing can be done until they are placed under better and more favorable influences. A greater mistake could not have been committed than stationing troops in their midst. They mutually debauch each other, and sink into that degree of degradation in which it is impossible to reach each other through moral or religious influences.

Whisky has been sold in the streets by government officials at public auctions, and examples of drunkenness are set before them almost daily, so that in fact the principal teaching they are present are receiving is that drunkenness and debauchery are held by us not as criminal and unbecoming a Christian people, but as indications of our advanced and superior civilization.

These Indians are a civil and well-behaved people; they do not want bayonets to keep them in subjection, but they do want honest, faithful, and Christian workers among them; those that will care for them, teach and instruct them in useful arts, and that they are responsible beings. I look upon the different military posts in this department as disastrous and destructive to their well-being; they are not, and can never be, of the least possible use; they are only so many whisky fonts, from whence it is spread over the country. If we ever have trouble with them and become involved in war, it will be found to arise from these causes. From the nature and character
of the country, posts never can render the least influence—afford protection against contraband trade; this can only be done by armed vessels, in command of choice men. To go into detail on all points would require pages. You have seen enough to satisfy yourself, and in giving you the inclosed report I only want to add my testimony against what I conceive to be a most grievous error in the management of the Indian affairs in this Territory.

When you go home, send us honest, faithful, Christian workers; not place-seekers, but those who want to do good work for Christ's sake and kingdom. Send men and women, for both are wanted. When you can do away with the evils spoken of, and which are so evident, and adopt this latter course, then there will be hope, and not until then.

Sincerely, your friend,

E. J. BAILY,
Surgeon, U. S. A., Medical Director Department of Alaska.

Hon. Vincent Colyer.

In order more fully to understand the establishment of the Alaska missions and how far the work has progressed, I make the following extract from the published proceedings of the missionary board:

MISSIONS UNDER PRESBYTERY OF OREGON.

At a meeting of the Presbytery of Oregon, in session at Astoria, April 3, 1878, it was ordered that a committee of three be appointed to draw up a minute embracing the facts in connection with the history of the development of missions under the care of presbytery, having special reference to the work in Alaska; and that the same be forwarded to the secretaries of the Board of Home Missions. Said minute, when approved by presbytery, to be engrossed on the records.

In accordance with the foregoing, the following is an official statement:

In the year 1869, when Secretary Seward was returning from his visit to Alaska, Rev. A. L. Lindsay, D. D., of the First Presbyterian church of Portland, Oreg., met him at Victoria, and by careful inquiry gained much information concerning the social, moral, and religious condition of the resident Indian tribes.

From the time of this interview Dr. Lindsay made persistent efforts to secure the establishing of evangelical missions among this neglected people. Frequent interviews were held with government officers and officials, in order to secure protection for teachers and school. In 1872 General Canby expressed a favorable opinion of the proposed work, and promised his influence in securing government aid. In 1875 General O. O. Howard rendered valuable assistance, and by co-operation with Dr. Lindsay urged the matter before public attention by newspaper articles and much correspondence. The boards of the church were importuned, but found no one to undertake this work. An overture was carefully prepared and sent up to the assembly of 1877, in which the interests of this mission field were urged upon the attention of this body, but through the advice of "friends" it failed to come formally before the assembly, and so proved abortive. Up to this time failure seemed to attend every effort, although "the appeals which had come from civilians, military officers, and the aborigines were" very urgent.

In the spring of 1877, the Board of Foreign Missions commissioned Mr. J. C. Mallory, jr., for the work among the Nez Perce Indians of Idaho, but that field was supplied when Mr. Mallory reached Portland. This seemed a providential opening of the way for beginning active work in Alaska. In May, at Dr. Lindsay's expense, Mr. Mallory was furnished with necessary means to enter the field at once, explore the ground, and take charge of a small school already opened at Fort Wrangel. He visited Sitka and Fort Wrangel and the intervening regions, and very industriously prosecuted the work. He assumed the responsibility of the school, and employed Philip Mackay, a native convert, to assist. The work was progressing encouragingly when Mr. Mallory, having accepted a government appointment in Arizona, was obliged to leave the ground. Mrs. McFarland, a member of the First Presbyterian church of Portland, a woman of "large and successful experience in frontier work," was secured to fill the vacancy; and she carried on the work without serious interruption. On the eve of Mrs. McFarland's departure for Alaska, Dr. Sheldon Jackson, having arrived at Portland on a visit, and being desirous of seeing the regions beyond, acted as an escort, going up and returning by the same trip of the mail-steamer. Under Mrs. McFarland's supervision the school became very prosperous. In a short time it doubled in numbers; larger accommodations were necessary, and the success of the mission proven. Up to October 22, 1877, about $300 of necessary expenses had been incurred in assuming the payment of salaries, house rents, school furniture, and fitting out the parties engaged in the work—all of which was undertaken by individual enterprise, and without the aid of the boards of the church, the pastor of the Presbyterian church at Portland assuming the entire responsibility.
At this point, when the enterprise was established, the Board of Home Missions assumed the charge and the money expended.

The committee cannot refrain from calling the attention of the secretaries of the board to a quotation which appeared in the Presbyterian Monthly Record of December, 1877 (top of page 356), by which it appears to the public an easy thing "to pass on to Alaska and locate a mission at Fort Wrangel." In the cause of justice to all parties concerned two things ought not to be overlooked: First, the mission was already located at Fort Wrangel when the above-mentioned passing on took place; and, second, the locating of this mission is the result of several years of weary watching and waiting, amid persistent effort, fervent prayers, and a strength of faith that was manifest in no small amount of expended dollars and cents.

E. N. CONDIT,
Chairman of Committee.

SITKA, ALASKA.

The California arrived here at 11 p. m., April 11, and left the next afternoon. I sent you a letter, and also the letters which I wrote to Mr. D. and Mr. J. I mailed these all to Dr. Lindsley, and requested him to send them on without any delay after he had read them. I thought it would be well for him to have all the information possible. He wrote me that Rev. Mr. Young would be sent here this summer, and that he would probably reach Portland in May. I told the people at Fort Wrangel that they might expect their minister in June. I need not repeat what I wrote about the necessity of having a permanent man at Wrangel. He will need all the summer to prepare for the return of the people from the mines.

Dr. L. sent word by Miss Kellogg, and not any written papers, that we had permission to use the government buildings. I told this to Mr. Francis, the deputy collector, and he let me have the keys to the officers' headquarters. This is a large house, having seven rooms on the lower floor and four in the half-story above. [On the morning I proposed to Miss K. to procure some furniture for her from Mr. Whitford, who keeps store here, and who bought up every old trap when the soldiers left, and fit up one of the rooms for her; that I would rent a cooking-stove and the like, and that we would cook our own meals, which we could eat, and that she could get the eldest daughter of Mr. Cohen to stay with her by night. This was agreeable to her. And Saturday was a very busy day for me. I hired the following articles from Mr. Whitford: a bedstead, six chairs, cooking-stove, pot, steamer, frying-pan, two buckets, two baking-pans, tea-kettle, ax, saw, hammer, rolling-pin, and potato-masher, and some big spoons. Miss K. bought some cotton stuff and made a bed tick, and Mr. Whitford had a boy to fill it with hay for her. Mrs. Cohen lent her some bed linen, and she made another tick and filled it with feathers which she bought of Cohen. I bought a cord of dry wood for $2.25; six cups and saucers, $1.80; six plates, $1.20; one knife and three forks, 60 cents; two bowls, 30 cents. I bought some Indian mats from Wrangel. I borrowed a couple of tables from one of the government buildings. Fortunately Sitka has a baker-shop, and the people buy bread at 10 cents per loaf. Miss K. brought some canned coffee and other things in her lunch-basket. I finally heated up the stove, and in a short while we were eating our first meal.

George Kastrometinoff has fixed up a bed in his parlor for me, and every night at ten o'clock I am there. The boy, Miss K., and Miss Cohen sleep in the house. We buy our food and eat together. This state of affairs will last only till the steamer arrives on her May trip. The collector may come with his family; at any rate, Miss K. will receive her trunk and other goods, and will then be better able to take care of herself.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

Sunday was a beautiful day, and all the scenery was unveiled, for there was scarcely a cloud to be seen. I told the Indians that we should meet in the castle at eleven o'clock. I was much worried with my boy, for when I began to read a few verses, that he might translate them, and become familiar with them before speaking to the Indians, he became sullen and would not open his mouth. I coaxed and persuaded, but all was vain. He was like an old ox or balky horse. I had to send for George Kastrometinoff and the Russian half-breed who acted as interpreter for the Russian American Fur Company. We sang many of the Moody and Sankey hymns, and this drew in the people. The castle has been stripped of everything, and there was not a bench nor seat of any kind. The Indians stole in a few at a time. Some with their faces painted black, or black and red, or with the whole face black, and just one eye painted red, as if in imitation of some clown. Nearly all wore blankets, and were in their bare feet. They squatted around the wall and listened attentively to all that was sung and said. Several of the white men were present. Mr. Francis and four or five others—even Mr. Cohen took an interest in the service, for he went and hunted up the old interpreter for me.

I tried to explain to them the advantage they would have if they knew how to read. I showed them a number of books with illustrations of animals, &c., and told them...
that if they would learn to read they could then know all about the lion and elephant and the like. I then told them of God's written book; how I wished them to read it with their own eyes, for it tells us how to live here in this world and how to prepare for an unending life in the world to come. I held my Bible in my hand, and ran over the leaves and talked to them of God.

I told them about the school which we should open in the coming week. They paid close attention to all that was said. Sitka Jack was chief speaker. He used to interpret for the Hudson Bay Company, but one can't make much out of his English. He said that they were all pleased with what I told them; they would come to church and school, and try to be good; they were poor, and had blankets only, and no clothes nor shoes. I told them that they must come if they had not even a blanket; that all we asked was that they should try to be clean.

Annah Hoots, the war chief, also made an emphatic speech of approval. He and Jack were dressed in some pretty old clothes of officers who were here. Once in a while we would sing them a hymn. During the service the people kept coming in, and at the close there were 125. Jack asked the people if they liked what we told them, and if they would send their children to school. After a little talking among themselves, they answered: "Ah, yes." After more singing, a prayer and the benediction, we left the castle. Cohen and the miners were not prepared to see the Indians assembled so heartily to what we proposed to do for them. I felt very much encouraged, for God is surely opening the door to let these people enter.

I have just seen the old Russian Indian, and agreed to pay him $5 per month to talk for me. He is really an educated man. I have a Russian New Testament and Psalms. I tried him and he read it right off without any trouble. He was educated by the Russian-American Fur Company for a priest to the natives, and, on account of something which he had done, was turned out of the church, but his name is still on the parish-roll. I shall get a boy who can speak English and Russian, and there are several. I believe that old Kushoff will be of great service to us. He was interpreter twenty-five years for the Russians. He is now destitute of everything. He knows all the habits, superstitions, &c., of the Indians, for he is a half-breed himself, and used to wear a blanket when a boy in the ranch. On the last Sabbath in April we had so many Indians at both services that we could not accommodate them in our school-room. Those that could not obtain seats sat on the floor and in the hall about the door. Whitford, Francis, the miners, and several of the citizens were present. Their coming is a good example to the natives. I bought fifteen more benches of Whitford, and on last Sunday we went into the large room B. Jack tells me that when the people come down from the north that both floors will be filled. Last Sabbath was a very bad day, and but a comparative few were out in the morning. The people are thinly clad, and they do not care to come out when it is cold and rainy. In the evening the room was well filled. In the morning the pilot, first lieutenant, and second lieutenant were present.

**SCHOOLS.**

Notice was given that school would be opened on Wednesday morning, in the soldiers' quarters. I spent Monday in fixing things around the house in which we live. I hired three Indians on the next day to help me clean out the barracks, which had been heaped in litter. Dick, Bob, and Jack were their names, and I paid them 75 cents, 35 cents, and 50 cents, respectively. We all worked hard and by dark we had things in shape to begin school.

I have determined to fulfill every promise which I make to an Indian. Well, when Wednesday morning came, Miss K. was sick and unable to leave her bed. The school was opened at the appointed time, with about fifty of all ages and sexes present. After asking God's blessing upon this new work I began to teach ABC. Now, I can't make you realize the mental vigor of these people. They take right hold and are quick and full of life.

As I write, it is April 27, and we have held school nine days; during this time, a dozen have learned their letters and are now reading in the primer. Dick, a bright young man, could spell a few easy words. He is now reading and can do sums in addition. His brother Bob has learned both his large and small letters, can make all the figures, and is beginning to add. They have learned "Come to Jesus," "I need thee every hour," and "Hold the fort." When the Indians meet in the streets in groups or in the stores they go over their letters or sing the tunes. The miners and citizens have expressed to me their astonishment at these people. The attendance has varied from 45 to 75. On Sabbath morning we had 110 present and in the evening 75. Many of the Indians have gone north to trade and to hunt, and there is no way to obtain the correct number of those who live in the ranch. There are fifty large houses, and it will be safe to reckon twenty to each.

**Thursday, May 9.—**Since writing the above, the revenue cutter Oliver Wolcott, from Port Townsend, has paid us a visit. She brought up Maj. William G. Morris, who is special Treasury agent for a large part of this coast. I became acquainted with him.
as I was on my way from Port Townsend to Victoria. He is to make an extended report on the condition of Alaska. He requested me to write a statement of my views. I did so, and in pretty strong language too. I confined myself to Wrangel and Sitka, showed what was the probable population, the abundance of food, climate, vegetable products, &c. I asserted that the withdrawing of the troops, and leaving no civil authority in this country to protect the lives and property of those who remained, was simply criminal, and to leave the people for another year without any means of settling difficulties would be extremely culpable. The Major is a friend of the Territory, and says that he has stood up for it when Secretary Sherman talked of abolishing it.

The officers visited our school, and paid their compliments to Miss K. They seemed to be well pleased with all they saw, and some of them spoke words of encouragement to the Indians. I spoke to the Major about our occupying the government buildings. He said that Mr. Francis had charge of these, and that he presumed there would be no trouble whatever. He and the others invited us on board to dinner last Saturday afternoon. This was a real treat for us. They left here Monday night to return to Wrangel through Peril Straits, on the north end of Baranoff Island. She was not large enough to carry coal for the trip to Kodiak. She is too small even for this service, for they had to pile the coal in sacks on the quarter-deck.

**DRUNKENNESS.**

The great trouble here with the Indians arises from the use of "hooch enoo." I visited Jack and found two of his stills in operation. This drawing will give you a fair idea of their manner of making this liquor. The can C is a five-gallon coal-oil can, which is placed on some iron dogs. To this is attached a tin tube, which bends and runs through a barrel of cold water, B. The liquor is caught in a tin cup, M. They sour the molasses with yeast, apples, and the like. When they can't buy molasses they purchase sugar, and if they fail in procuring that they use berries or potatoes for a mash. They were taught this by the soldiers. I have noticed that when an Indian drinks he stays in the ranch, and does not venture out in town. In their own quarters they are fighting almost daily.

**CREMATION.**

A few days ago I witnessed a sorry spectacle, viz, the cremation of a woman who had been drowned. She and her husband and child were lost in a canoe. The latter two were not found. They kept the body several days, and made diligent search for the others. When the burning began I heard a low, plaintive wail and the shrieks of the women. There were four dry logs, eight inches in diameter, placed side by side on the ground. The body was placed on these, and then side and end logs built up and covering the top. Light, dry kindling set this pile all in a blaze. I noticed that one woman threw on several blankets. Eight men sang, and beat time with long sticks which they struck upon the ground. Women were squatted promiscuously around, with their elbows planted so as to rest their heads in the palms. The relatives were near the fire. A man and woman kept dealing out bottle after bottle of hooch enoo. This was given to but a few. I noticed that one old woman took glass after glass, and she must have drunk over a quart while I was standing. One young man would vomit and then down with another glass. The singers were not offered any. They were hired, and were to be paid in blankets also. They kept this ceremony up for half a day, going through all their superstitious rites. I went away feeling sad, and prayed that such sights might not be witnessed very often in the future.

May 14, 1878.—The steamer arrived this morning at 7.30 a.m. and brought no letter from you. I have spent about all the money that I started with. I want my next
quarter without failure. Please don't disappoint me. Three hundred dollars will, I believe, last me the rest of the year. You know my situation here. I need ready money more than a man who is permanently situated. It will cost me considerable to make the contemplated trips to the Chilkats, Kootsnoo, and other tribes, and I shall be obliged to borrow if I start before July. I shall expect a remittance on the July steamer. Send to Dr. Lindsley, and he will send up by the purser. If you contemplate visiting Alaska, I hope that you will give the matter attention before leaving. I shall do as I did last mail, send your letter and the one to Dr. Lindsley.

A remarkable scene took place on the wharf this morning. A San Francisco firm is about to start a cannery here under the care of Mr. Hunter. He came up with lumber and apparatus and twenty Chinamen. The Indians were not going to let the Chinese land, because they wanted to do the work themselves. One chief pointed to a lad who was dressed in a shabby blanket. He said that if the Chinamen were allowed to come he would soon have no blanket. The Indians themselves wanted to catch the fish and do the canning and what money there was to spend in wages. Mr. Hunter told them that if they learned to do the work well he would send back the Chinamen. I believe the Indians were right in their demands, for they will do the work as well as the Chinese. I don't care to see many of this race enter this Territory at present. Sitka Jack assured Mr. Hunter that if an Indian could make a hoochenoo-still he could make a can to hold fish.

JOHN G. BRADY.

I also append the following, from pages 11 and 12 of the eighth annual report of the Ladies' Board of Missions, whose appropriate motto is "The Field is the World":

ALASKA.

To our other work, we have this year added Alaska. And where is Alaska? At the southern end of the Alexander Archipelago, with its hundred islands and its volcanic mountains, beautiful beyond description—its name, a corruption of Al-ak-shah, meaning the great land. And it is that great land which in 1867, with its native population of twenty-five thousand souls, was turned over by Russia to the United States.

The Greek Church had maintained some missions there, mostly for its own people, but these were removed with its own population; and now that ten years have elapsed since the acquisition of Alaska, thousands are still growing up in ignorance and superstition, and yet it devolves upon the American Church, as a sacred duty which God has laid upon it, to take charge of this large native population, and give them the gospel of Christ along with secular education.

And what is being done? And what shall we say of the noble woman who found herself alone at Alaska, the first woman missionary, and the only missionary there? "I came," she says, "at four days' notice, with Dr. Jackson, and when he left I was alone. There is a young Indian here from Fort Simpson, Philip McKay, the Tsimp­shecan evangelist, who was raised up from among a degraded fetish-worshiping people to preach the gospel to his own people." But soon after Mrs. McFarland's letter he was removed by death, and everything was thrown into her hands. "In addition to my school," she says, "I have to attend to the Sunday-school services, to visit the sick, and act as counselor to the Indians in all their troubles. As there is no law of any kind, nothing to restrain the people from evil doing, I am called upon to settle difficulties continually, and they are generally willing to abide by my decisions."

As we were the first to enter New Mexico, so are we now the first woman's society to enter Alaska, and to take the first missionary there, a woman. Mrs. McFarland, too, is a link to our earliest work in home missions, her husband having been the first missionary who went to Santa Fé, N. Mex., in 1866. And it seemed fitting that now she should come back to our care, as did Mrs. Menaul, at Laguna, who was our first teacher in the school at Santa Fé. Thus the chain broken for a time is again linked in their present work with us.

General Howard speaks as follows:

As the military authority is now held responsible for Indian affairs in Alaska, I have thought it best to make a full statement of my observations, with the hope that speedy legislation may be had to give to our Indians there, as well as others, already said to be in advance of others in point of intelligence, certainly as good opportunities in the way of government and instruction as those have in contiguous British territory.

It is with feelings of great pleasure that I, as an eye-witness, can bear testimony to the zealous efforts of Mr. Brady, and the fidelity and zeal with which both Miss Kellogg and himself are endeavoring to engrave upon these heathen savages the benefits of Christian education.

S. Ex. 59—6
Their vocation in the clime and station selected by them presents no attractive features, save the consciousness of self-imposed duty. The task is a hard one and presents naught but a field of self-sacrifice and unremitting toil. They are bringing, however, to their work, endurance, patience, and fervid Christianity, and every effort they have made is deserving of the greatest commendation; and the prediction is confidently made that the fruits of their efforts cannot be but satisfactory and of lasting benefit to the instructed people, and they are in my opinion, with Mrs. McFarland, the pioneers of an undertaking which sooner or later must work a radical change in the condition of the natives of Alaska, and the solution of the ever-vexed Indian question, as far as these coast tribes are concerned.

Judge Swan has fully described the school of Mrs. McFarland, and I can indorse all he says; and attention is here called to the articles written from Wrangel and found in the Appendix, taken from the Port Townsend Argus. These christianized Indians referred to are her pupils, and every particle of their inspiration has been drawn from her. She is a lady of great worth and experience, and fully equal to the herculean task she has assumed.

Congress can, in my humble judgment, enact no wiser legislation than by appropriating a suitable sum to aid these Christian denominations in this all-important work. The field, as Judge Swan properly represents, is not inviting; nothing but privation and hard labor can for many years be the lot of a missionary in Alaska, and the reward for a life spent in such service as this is not to be found on this terrestrial sphere. It is elsewhere it must be looked for, and where the result is certain and election sure.

SITKA AND WRANGEL—RUSSIAN INHABITANTS, CREOLES, INDIAN POPULATION, ETC.

The following letter from the Rev. Mr. Brady explains itself. Being desirous of getting at the approximate population and nationality of the inhabitants of Sitka and Wrangel, I asked him to write me the result of his observations.

I must not be charged with indorsing the last clause of Mr. Brady's letter imputing to the Administration culpable negligence. I merely give letters and opinions of others who are on the spot, and in a lengthened report of this character many expressions may creep in which would perhaps be considered as intrusive and impertinent from an officer charged with duty like mine.

It has been thought best to give quotations in full, and to reproduce many letters of my own, in order that the Treasury Department may have a succinct and reliable account of the condition of the Territory since it assumed over it exclusive control:

SITKA, ALASKA, May 6, 1873.

DEAR SIR: You have asked me for my views of the eastern part of Alaska.

First, as to the population of Wrangel and Sitka. The native population at Fort Wrangel may be safely reckoned at 500. This last winter, 250 miners built huts and remained for the season. The roll of the Greek Church in Sitka for 1876 has the names of 136 males and 140 females; all other whites in the town number 60. This gives a total of 336. The native population of the place will amount to 1,000, for there are fifty large houses, and it is quite safe to count 20 to each one.

The sea is the great store-house for the majority of these people. Game is abundant. Several gardens have been successfully cultivated in Sitka. Cabbage, cauliflower, potatoes, carrots, leeks, celery, and peas yield well. Mr. Smeigh, of this place, has raised a cabbage which weighed 27 pounds. Though Alaska is no agricultural country, yet there is plenty of land for growing vegetables for a vast population.
This can be easily cleared and cultivated. The food of this coast is secure unless the Pacific current changes and rain ceases. Perhaps there is not another spot on the globe where the same number of people do so little manual labor and are so well fed as in Sitka.

The property at these two places amounts to considerable. Fort Wrangel is the depot for the supplies which go to the Cassiar miners, amounting last year to 1,500 tons. Two stern-wheel steamers run from there upon the Stikine River; two British propellers ply between there and Victoria, and California stops there with the mails, passengers, and freight. There are several stores there which carry stocks of goods amounting to many thousand dollars. In Sitka there are nine stores, each one having a considerable quantity of goods.

In the face of these facts, the conduct of the government for the past year toward this country is simply criminal. When the troops were withdrawn there was no authority of any kind left to protect the lives and property of the people. Indian girls of tender years have been bought by white men in Wrangel; yea, they have been raped and torn asunder without the culprits being brought to justice. The sending of the soldiers to this country was the greatest piece of folly of which a government could be guilty. It will require twenty years to wipe out the evils which were brought to the natives. They knew nothing of syphilis, nor did they know how to make an intoxicating liquor from molasses; but now they are dying from these two things.

The schools which we have opened prove to us demonstratively that these people have good minds, and are susceptible of a high state of culture. They possess the right sort of tact and ingenuity for a manufacturing people. They are eager to learn, and do whatever a white man, who gains their confidence, has to teach them.

Many sensible miners with whom I have conversed, and who have had great experience with the Indians of the plains, have no hesitation in pronouncing the Alaska Indians much superior to our western tribes. They are self-supporting, and are always ready to do the hardest kind of labor. They consider the white man a superior being, and they are always on the watch to see how he does things. When they can get citizens' clothes they wear them. The island system of this coast will at once show any thoughtful man that there is no need of soldiers to keep the natives subdued. The Indians here build their houses close to the water. Destroy their houses and canoes, and they are left helpless. They know this well. There is no reason why these natives should not be made citizens of the United States, when they become as enlightened as they are at Tongas, Fort Wrangel, and Sitka.

For the present, a justice of the peace at this place and one at Fort Wrangel, and a gunboat to cruise about and ready to enforce the civil authority, would be sufficient to protect life and property. It is wrong to regard Alaska as a white elephant. For the Administration to refuse some kind of civil authority before the miners return from Cassiar, would be a piece of the most culpable negligence.

Most respectfully, yours,

Maj Wm. G. MORRIS.

JOHN G. BRADY,
Missionary to Alaska.

The natural surroundings of Sitka are beautiful in the extreme, and equal to the Bay of Naples. There are three well-defined entrances to the harbor, all studded with islands, and the scene vividly represents a Grecian archipelago. It is situate far above the sea-level, and with a commanding view of the bay and expanse of the broad Pacific.

Many of the old Russian buildings are in a fair state of preservation, but the whole appearance of the place indicates gradual decay. The stockade which formerly separated the garrison from the Indian village is fast rotting away. In some instances the Indians have pulled up some of the palisades and used them for firewood. The abandoned buildings have in many cases been plundered of doors, windows, locks, lead pipe, &c. It is hardly to be considered that anything else could happen. These Indians are petty, pilfering thieves, and when the troops were withdrawn it was like turning loose a lot of unruly school-boys for vacation. They could not comprehend the changed condition of affairs, and naturally helped themselves to what they wanted, in no greater degree, however, than did the white people and "greasers" living in the vicinity of Camp Verde, Texas, when that post and all the public buildings were abandoned by the United States. No very great amount of actual damage has been done. Sons of the first citizens of a country
village have been known to break with stones stained glass windows of churches not occupied; hence we cannot expect too much from these half-naked savages. In fact, under all the circumstances, I do not think they have stolen any more than the same number of white men and boys would.

The great thing to be feared in permitting petty thieving and intrusion of this kind is that it emboldens the Indian to greater outrage when he becomes intoxicated, for he attributes his immunity from punishment to fear of him by the white man. An Indian never credits us with any magnanimity of feeling for not punishing him with death and perpetrating upon prisoners all sorts of barbarities and atrocities. These exemptions and the rules of civilized warfare all are summed up by the Indian in one word—fear.

Illustration 8 gives a very fair idea of the present custom-house, with flagstaff and troops drawn up in front. This is a very commodious and comfortable building, far better than in one-half of the small ports of the country; is in pretty good repair, and will be occupied by the collector and his family. To the right are the barracks formerly occupied by the troops and now used for school purposes. In the rear of the custom-house, on the summit of the hill, will be seen a front view of "The Castle." This was the residence of the Russian nobility, and here resided for many years Prince Maksoutof, who dispensed true princely hospitality. The ball and reception room bears evidence of having at one time been tastefully decorated and a very grand affair. The foundation of the building is fast giving way.

Illustration No. 9 presents the rear view of the Greek church and front view of the old Russian club-house. Illustration No. 10 gives a front view of the church and Main street and a portion of the old military parade-ground. No. 11 shows a group of Indians on the rocks at Sitka.

The Greek church is now under the charge of the Rev. Nicholas I. Metropolisky, a Russian priest. It was, until quite lately, the cathedral church of the Pacific coast. It is cruciform in architecture and is in a good state of preservation. The interior bears evidence of wealth and taste. There are several rare and valuable paintings on the walls. One beautiful representation of the Madonna peculiarly attracted my eye. The decorations of the altar are rich and the carvings are creditable. Valuable silver ornaments exist and the church service is expensive. The sacerdotal vestments are of heavy cloth of the finest texture and tastefully embroidered in gold. A beautiful hat, worn by the archbishop, attracted my attention, having an exquisite malachite cross of rare value in front. All the surroundings have been supplied at great expense. When Sitka was in the height of her glory this sanctuary was thronged by officers of the army and navy, government officials and some of Russia's proudest nobles; but now a general gloom pervades her church property as well as the whole place.

The condition of the Russians and their descendants to-day in Sitka is truly lamentable. They exist in a most pitiable state of poverty; in fact, most of them are in absolute want. They are subjected to all kind of ill treatment and contumely by the Indians. They have no means of livelihood save what the sea brings forth and small patches of cultivated ground. There are no enterprises which furnish employment for their labor, and save a few who are working in some of the mines, and others who have means, the majority are in a state of starvation.

These people are, at least, entitled to protection. There are a few who are in better circumstances and who own property and are in busi-
CUSTOM-HOUSE AND FRONT VIEW OF THE CASTLE, SITKA.
ILLUSTRATION No. 9.

REAR VIEW OF THE GREEK CHURCH AND FRONT VIEW OF THE OLD RUSSIAN CLUB-HOUSE AT SITKA.
ILLUSTRATION No. 10.

FRONT VIEW OF THE GREEK CHURCH AND MAIN STREET AT SITKA, ALASKA.
GROUP OF INDIANS ON THE ROCKS AT SITKA.
ness and trade. They are respectable and worthy people and should be protected in their lives and property. They are entitled to this by the terms of the treaty, and I learn that lately a petition has been forwarded to the Emperor of Russia, stating how utterly the United States have failed to fulfill their treaty stipulations.

The third article of our treaty concerning the cession of the Russian possessions in North America contains the following, relative to subjects of Russia:

The inhabitants of the ceded territory, according to their choice, reserving their natural allegiance, may return to Russia within three years; but if they should prefer to remain in the ceded territory, they, with the exception of uncivilized native tribes, shall be admitted to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages, and immunities of citizens of the United States, and shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property, and religion.

When the Russians owned the country they held the Indians in subjection and protected her citizens by soldiery and naval vessels. But to-day there is absolutely no protection whatever for those who have elected to remain in Alaska; they have the barren terms of the treaty to chew, and that is all. It can hardly be contended we have fulfilled these treaty stipulations. Since the withdrawal of the troops from Alaska there has absolutely been "free enjoyment" of nothing.

When in Victoria, B. C., during February last, the community were very much excited over the condition of affairs in Eastern Europe, and the prospect of impending war between the mother country and other European powers. To add fuel to the flame, without any premonition whatever, with top-gallant masts down and in fighting trim, a Russian corvette anchored abreast of the naval dock-yard. This gave rise to much comment, and a reason was sought for this unexpected appearance at that critical time. The Russian commander was fully equal to the occasion, and with a great deal of sang froid informed his questioners that he had sought the harbor temporarily, his vessel being in distress, having carried away some of the head-gear, &c. That the reason for his being in these latitudes was, he was en route to Sitka to examine the condition of the Russians there, who were represented to be in a deplorable condition. That the United States had violated its treaty with Russia, and that he had been directed by his Emperor to make full report with a view to holding our government to a strict accountability. Be this as it may, it had for its foundation a most plausible theory, and the Victorians could believe it or not as they pleased. This vessel did not go to Sitka as represented, but returned direct to San Francisco, the commander on his arrival at the latter port claiming that the weather was so tempestuous he deemed it prudent to postpone the voyage to Sitka to a more pleasant season of the year. Both hypotheses are acceptable. He might have been ordered to do just what he states, and the stress of heavy weather justified his return without visiting his port of alleged destination.

The following extract from a letter written by a correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, dated San Francisco, Cal., January 28, is herewith given:

In regard to the removal of troops from the Territory; General McDowell, than whom there is no more conscientious, high-minded officer in the service, sufficiently refutes the charge of conspiracy against the Alaska Company to accomplish that end. I do not claim to report the exact language of the general, but in substance he said: "The removal of troops from Alaska was at my own suggestion, and was done purely on the ground of economy. I am aware that certain parties had personal interests in having the troops left there, especially those who would be benefited by transporting them thither and return, and of furnishing and transporting supplies; but, as far as the Alaska Commercial Company is concerned, all the gentlemen of that company
with whom I talked seemed supremely indifferent whether the troops were removed or allowed to remain. The company's interests lie nearly a thousand miles west of Sitka, at Saint Paul and Saint George Islands, and are wholly unaffected by the troops one way or another."

The general proceeded to say that as a citizen of the United States he was opposed to the purchase of Alaska from the first. He considered the acquisition of detached territory a detriment rather than a benefit to our country, especially a region of such little value as Alaska, separated from the States by such a long stretch of dangerous sea. The general has never been there in person, but, from such information as he has at hand, he regards the Territory as of little value commercially; and he stated that he would consider the United States Government doing a wise thing to dispose of it; even giving it away, if no purchaser could be found, to some country that would guarantee the inhabitants the protection which, under the treaty with Russia, they have an undoubted right to demand of us. And right here, said the general, was a point which had escaped his attention when he recommended and secured the withdrawal of the troops; that is, that our government owes protection to the dozen or more whites and several hundred scrawny half-breeds, who were there at the time of the purchase; and in that view of the case, viz, that the United States bound itself to afford these people protection, he had already recommended again that troops be returned. Not that there was any especial danger to fear from the Indians more than from the whites toward each other; but as there was no civil law whatever in the whole region, embracing an area about one-sixth the size of the United States and Territories, it seemed right that a sufficient military force should be at hand to enforce the authority of the government if necessary to do so. About three companies, he thought, would be required for that purpose. "But on the whole," reiterated the general, "I consider it would be better for the government to dispose of it to some country that is ambitious to acquire more territory." So much for General McDowell.

If General McDowell is correctly reported, it seems he discovered at a very late day these people were entitled to protection, and there is no disguising the fact such is his belief at present. Major-General Schofield, in commenting upon a case which arose in Alaska, used the following language:

I do not think it incumbent upon me to even express an opinion upon this subject; but I have no hesitation in recommending that Congress provide by law for the Territory of Alaska a government suited to its condition.

It is a matter of surprise that so eminent and highly educated a man as General McDowell should be quoted as having declared in favor of abandoning the country; and the only reasonable hypothesis for his giving vent to such an extraordinary opinion is contained in the information furnished by the reporter, that he (General McDowell) has never been to Alaska.

This is the great trouble in regard to the Territory. There has been such willful, deliberate, and persistent lying about it by penny-liners and magazine writers, and other itinerant scribblers who seem to take a satanic delight in decrying and writing it down, that it is no wonder that as educated and intelligent a man as General McDowell should be misled.

General Howard thinks differently. In his report he says:

I wish to renew my earnest recommendation that, by proper and speedy legislation, Alaska be attached as a county to Washington Territory, or in some other way be furnished with a government as the treaty with Russia, in the transfer, plainly contemplated.

It must be remembered that I am confining my remarks to South-eastern Alaska. I now quote from Hon. W. S. Dodge upon the question of citizenship of the Aleuts who reside to the westward. Of the Aleutian Islanders and their prospective rights under our government, Mr. Dodge says:

There are, as statistics from the Russian records fully show, 7,000 Aleutian and 3,000 creole population. "But," say our enemies, "the Aleutians are Indians, and not entitled to citizenship." Let us see.

The treaty of cession between Russia and the United States guarantees, in article third, that "the inhabitants of the ceded territory, according to their choice, reserv-
ing their natural allegiance, may return to Russia within three years; but if they should prefer to remain in the ceded territory, they, with the exception of uncivilized native tribes, shall be admitted to all the rights, advantages, and immunities of citizens of the United States, and shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property, and religion."

Then, again, in the same article, it says: "The uncivilized tribes will be subject to such laws and regulations as the United States may, from time to time, adopt in regard to aboriginal tribes of that country."

Thus, in the treaty, it is clearly manifested that a distinction in government was to be made, and it shows that the Russian Government observed jealous care in securing to all but the savages the rights of American citizenship. And the distinction between the civilized and uncivilized is most positively indicated in the "Russian memorandum marked A," drafted by Mr. Seward at his request, of August 6, 1867, by the Russian minister of foreign affairs at St. Petersburg, August 31, 1867.

The Aleutian population, who are mostly inhabitants of the islands of Alaska, are of Asiatic origin. The Asiatic race is always classed among the civilized nations. These people reside in towns, and live principally from the products of the fur-seal, sea-otter, and fox. They have a language of their own, but, from long association with the employes of the Russian-American Company, they nearly all talk the Russian tongue. They have schools and churches of their own. Nearly all of them read and write. Around their homes, in their churches and schools, are seen many if not all the concomitants of ordinary American homes. Many among them are highly educated, even in the classics. The administrator of the fur company often reposed great confidence in them. One of their best physicians was an Alutian; one of their best navigators was an Alutian; their best traders and accountants were Alutians. Will it be said that such a people are to be deprived of the rights of American citizenship?

The Rev. Bishop of the Greco-Russian Church has kindly furnished me with the information that there were in Alaska, up to January 1, 1869, 12,140 Christians. During the years of 1867-'68 there were confirmed in the rites of the church 2,384 men and 2,191 women, making a total of 4,575. There were also professors of the Greek faith, but not then confirmed, 82 men and 23 women. The number of professing children is quite large, 773 boys and 716 girls.

This question of government for the Territory will be more fully discussed hereafter.

SLAVERY IN ALASKA.

Doubtless it will create surprise when the statement is advanced that human beings are at the present time held in bondage in Alaska; yet such is the naked, unvarnished truth. Indian slaves, male and female, are owned by chiefs and the principal men of the different tribes. I saw two slaves at Tongas, the property of the chief Kinnecook, and there are others at Wrangel, Klawack, Sitka, and all along the coast, and likewise in the interior.

When a "potlatch" is given, the acme of enjoyment appears to be human sacrifice. The Indian who gives a "potlatch" sometimes kills a slave. This is looked upon as a grand thing. Sometimes they are manumitted, which is likewise regarded as an act of extraordinary virtue and magnanimity, but the killing is generally more relished by the banqueters, it being more in accordance with their barbarian tastes.

While lying in Shushart Bay, British Columbia, in the Wolcott, we were visited by "Cheaps," a Nawitta chief, and his klootchman (wife), "Tuster Aise." They complained that some years since a party of Sitka Indians had stolen from one of their villages a "tenas man" (boy), and they had recently learned he was held in slavery at Sitka. They were exceedingly anxious for his return. Both Captain Selden and myself promised to inquire into the matter. While at Sitka I sent for "Jack," who is a Cross Sound Indian, but very influential with the Sitkas, because he can talk a little English, and is supposed to be conversant with the laws of the white men, and questioned him. He informed me he had owned the boy as a slave for many years, but had set him free at the "potlatch" given by him in 1877; that the boy was then at one of the villages of the Awk tribe. I subsequently learned he had been seized
by way of reprisal by an Awk for a debt due him by Sitka Jack. A few days after this Jack came voluntarily and informed me that the Awk who held the boy was in town. I sent for him to report to me at the custom-house. He came very unwillingly; but the brass throats of a cutter's guns have a very pacifying effect upon the worst of these red devils.

Had there been a photographer at Sitka, I would have preserved the features of the low-bred, inborn cunning, so prominently delineated upon the countenance of this dusky rascal. He never allowed himself to be thrown off his guard for one instant. Our pilot, Mr. Keen, acted as interpreter, speaking Chinook to Jack, who subsequently repeated it in the Awk language.

This Indian would sometimes sit quietly reflecting for full five minutes before he would reply to a question, and then mutter a few garbled words, which being translated, a very thin, transparent lie would appear. I worked with him for a long time; it was diamond cut diamond, but finally seeing he could not hoodwink me, he took another tack, and almost virtually asked me “What are you going to do about it?” and this after acknowledging he had the lad at his home. I could not order him to give up the boy, because I had not the authority to enforce such order, and of this fact I verily believe the rascal was as fully conversant as myself; for his whole demeanor showed defiance, contempt, and malignity.

I asked him how he would like “a man-of-war”—the usual term applied to a revenue-cutter or gunboat among the natives—to appear off his village and shell it, if he did not give up the boy. A quiet smile of ironical contempt came over his face when he replied he would not like it; the boy could come away whenever he wanted.

To my telling him he must bring the boy back to Sitka, he positively refused. At last I told him this boy was not a Boston (American) but a King George (English) Indian; his demeanor instantly changed. I found I had at last struck the key-note, and that, while I could not command his respect, I could play upon his fears. For the Stars and Stripes he evidently, though he did not outwardly manifest it, had the most unmitigated scorn, but for a British man-of-war he had a holy horror. He did not want an English gunboat near his village. He never knew before the boy came from British Columbia—a lie, of course—and promised to deliver up the boy at an early date—another lie. I arranged with the steamship company for his free passage to Victoria, and informed Colonel Powell, Indian commissioner, of what I had done. The colonel promised to send the boy to his tribe. This was in May, and the Nawitta “tenas man” has not yet put in an appearance, and my firm belief is that Awk scoundrel will murder him before he will give him up. If this had occurred on British soil, he would have been free long since or the village laid in ashes.

It is the easiest thing in the world to extinguish slavery among the coast Indians, but in the interior it will be different. Construct the cutter hereafter proposed to be built, and there will be no difficulty in setting free every slave in Southeastern Alaska, and that without bloodshed. The very presence of such a vessel will have the required effect.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND CLIMATE.

So much has been said about the soil and climate of Alaska, and so widely different are the statements, that this subject must be approached with caution, for when the public mind has, through a series of years, been educated to believe the unreliable and irresponsible stories which
have been scattered abroad and retailed in print, it is proper, when refutation is made, to present facts from personal observation and indubitable testimony, so as to invite criticism and challenge contradiction.

It is unnecessary, when writing about a country as naturally inhospitable as Alaska, to depreciate it. The truth is sufficient to demonstrate that the whole face of the Territory is most uninviting, but as there is no excellence without labor, and the agricultural and mineral resources, fisheries and timber, cannot be developed and made useful and profitable to mankind without hard labor, the investment of capital, and wear and tear of brain and muscle, it can safely be advised, those who do not feel equal to the certain prospect of hard work, energy, and industry ahead, to stay away and believe implicitly all the trash they read and hear about the country, promulgated by those who are seeking to retard its settlement.

No man of sane mind would ever pronounce Alaska an agricultural country, that is a simple reductio ad absurdum, and requires no demonstration, but that there are portions of the country where successful experiments have been made in raising hay, garden vegetables, and other produce, is as plain as a nose on a man’s face, and no good reason can be assigned why these experiments, if they are to be designated as such, cannot be carried on upon a larger scale.

In the November number of Harper’s Magazine, 1877, appears an article entitled “Ten years’ acquaintance with Alaska, 1867–1877.” The authorship is correctly ascribed to Mr. Henry V. Elliott, now connected with the Smithsonian Institution in some subofficial capacity. This gentleman was formerly a special agent of the Treasury Department, under a special act of Congress approved April 22, 1874, appointed for the purpose of ascertaining at that time the condition of the seal fisheries in Alaska, the haunts and habits of the seal, the preservation and extension of the fisheries as a source of revenue to the United States, with like information respecting the fur-bearing animals of Alaska generally; the statistics of the fur trade; and the condition of the people or natives, especially those upon whom the successful prosecution of the fisheries and fur trade is dependent.

This report of Mr. Elliott will be further noticed hereafter, and upon the threshold of criticizing anything he has written upon Alaska, occasion is here taken to give him full credit for his valuable contribution in regard to fur-seals. It is to be regarded as authority and well conceived. The views of Mr. Elliott, however, in reference to other matters of moment in the Territory, are so diametrically opposed and antagonistic to my own, that I feel constrained to review some of his statements, glittering generalities, and the wholesale method with which he brushes out of existence with his facile pen and ready artist’s brush anything of any essence of value, light, shade, or shadow in the broad expanse of Alaska that does not conform precisely to the rule of investigation and recital laid down by himself, and which contradicts his repeated assurances that, outside of the Seal Islands and the immediate dependencies of the Alaska Commercial Company, there is absolutely nothing in Alaska.

This magazine article bears a sort of semi-official indorsement; its authorship is not denied, and with this explanation for using the name of Mr. Elliott in connection therewith, a few of its crudities and nuditics will be noticed.

He discourses thus:

And so we took Alaska ten years ago, just as a big boy takes a strange toy, full of great satisfaction, and fired with an intense desire to investigate its inner workings, and, like the boy, we have made the examination, and we have laid the toy aside.
How we pitied the ignorance of our Russian friends, who declared, in response to our call for information regarding its natural resources, that they had been so engrossed in the one idea of getting furs that they really "did not know of anything else;" and after ten seasons of careful inquiry we find, too, that we to-day "don't know of anything else."

However, though we have lost the wild apples at Sitka, and have failed to see the shimmer of golden fields of corn at Kodiak, yet we have much to please and far more to interest us in Alaska. It is a paradise for the naturalist, a happy hunting-ground for the ethnologist, a new and boundless field for the geologist, and the physical phenomena of its climate are something wonderful to contemplate. It is, and will be for years to come, a perfect treasure-trove for these gentlemen; but, alas! it bids fair, from what we now know, never to be a treasure-trove for the miner or the agriculturist.

A direct issue is here made touching the "natural resources" of the country and the result of "ten seasons of careful inquiry." It shall be my patient effort to endeavor to disclose in what respects Mr. Elliott has been mistaken in reference to Southwestern Alaska; for it will be observed he makes no distinction between any portions of the purchase, but makes one clean sweep of the whole Territory in his work of demolition.

At Wrangel and vicinity many of the most hardy vegetables, such as potatoes, turnips, cabbage, carrots, parsnips, radishes, lettuce, celery, cauliflower, and pease, have been grown, of excellent quality, size, soundness, and flavor. Oats and barley will mature, but whether they will prove a profitable crop remains to be determined. The other vegetables already mentioned, especially potatoes, cabbage, and turnips, have been successfully and profitably grown. It has been incorrectly stated that nowhere in Alaska will the cereals come to maturity. Results point directly to an opposite conclusion.

Timothy and clover grow to perfection. A species of red-top grows on the marsh lands and makes excellent hay. Twenty tons of this were cut and cured last year and found a market at Wrangel. It will be observed that this is the point where are gathered the pack-trains for the Cassiar mines, and where the cattle and sheep are landed from Oregon and British Columbia which go up the Stikine River, and pack-trains frequently winter at Wrangel.

With a comparative small amount of labor hundreds of acres of land in the vicinity of Wrangel could be drained and brought under cultivation, on which vegetables could be grown to supply the wants of a large population. I have seldom seen finer soil; it is rich, black, and alluvial, and will not wear out. It seems admirably adapted to the production of all kinds of roots for feeding cattle, and in my opinion the large red and white beet for feeding stock would grow here to an immense size, and would not be lacking in nutritious and saccharine matter.

The Indians inhabiting the many islands about Wrangel, and to the southeast and southwest, annually raise many tons of potatoes and turnips for their own consumption, and last fall sold to the merchants of Wrangel and traders over ten tons of potatoes and turnips, which they retailed to their customers at 3 cents per pound.

These Indians are not pastoral in their pursuits or inclined to agriculture. They are a different race altogether, living by fishing and the profits of the chase; hence they only cultivate as much land as will afford them the vegetables they require for their own consumption.

Captain White, of the revenue marine, an accomplished officer of undoubted veracity, who has seen much service in Alaska (see his views in the Appendix), says:

On Oonalaska the grass is 6 to 8 feet high and so thick that it must be parted to get through. It is so on Kodiak. The small Russian cattle that live entirely upon it are as fat as seals. They live on it all the year, needing no shelter but the ravines. The wild pea-vines grow 6, 8, and even 12 feet long, furnishing choice food for stock.
Again, in speaking of the country to the westward, he says:

The region is chilly, even in summer, in the ravines hid from the sun; but parts open to the sun, though frosts and snow are on the mountains, produce luxuriant vegetation, and fruits like blackberries larger than the Lawton, and whortleberries abound in their season.

While at Klawack, Prince of Wales Island, on the 12th of May last, I beheld a herd of cattle and milch-cows grazing in the bottom, close to the salmon cannery. They were fat and in good condition, and I was informed by the manager that they had run out the whole of the previous winter, and supported themselves entirely without extra feed, save the usual amount given in all climates to cows milked daily. A large meadow furnishes all the hay which is needed, and there is land enough cleared in the vicinity and available to produce hundreds of tons of red-top hay if required. The gardens are productive, and the soil is of the best description. Poultry thrives and does well.

Klawack is a most beautiful and romantic spot, situate upon a handsome and perfectly land-locked bay, surrounded by mountains covered with snow, with the most exquisite scenery and vegetation below. It must be seen to be thoroughly appreciated. No description or brush of the artist can do it justice, and to use the words of Mr. Oakford, a journalist who has lived many years in England, and who accompanied me on my visit, “There are many English noblemen who would cheerfully give £100,000 to have 200 acres of that landscape, water, mountain, valley, and all transferred bodily to their estates.”

The officers of the Army and enlisted men were always well supplied with vegetables from the post gardens on Japonsky Island, opposite Sitka. These gardens I have visited, and found them well situated, with a southern exposure. The soil of excellent quality.

Judge Swan and the Rev. Mr. Brady both speak, from experience, of the excellence and size of the vegetables grown in the vicinity of Sitka.

To be sure, no great attention has been paid to agriculture since our acquisition, and the reasons for this are so very obvious that it is hardly necessary to enumerate them. With a scant population, unaccustomed to agricultural pursuit, a forbidding country, no grist mills, and a thousand reasons why importations of breadstuffs should not be had, is it to be wondered that no very favorable results have been had and but few trials made?

It is not necessary that a country must excel in agricultural products to be great. Look at all New England; epitomize every ton, pound, and ounce of grain of all kinds raised, and see what it amounts to. Take, for example, one single State, Massachusetts, which in the year 1876 produced in wheat only 17,500 bushels, of the value of $22,750. This cereal is selected, as we are informed it will not grow in Alaska. How much bread would that yield furnish?

It matters not whether Alaska can succeed in successfully maturing the principal cereals, if she produces from her mines, fisheries, and forests the wherewithal to pay for them. The rich fields of California, Oregon, and Washington Territory are near at hand to supply her, as they are now doing the old countries of Europe and the world at large.

It is useless to decry the country because imagination condemns it as wholly unproductive. Sufficient testimony has been adduced to demonstrate that in Southeastern Alaska, at least, the contrary is diametrically the case.

For further information in regard to Western Alaska, I will here quote from the report of Capt. William H. Dall, of the United States Coast
Survey, made to the Commissioner of Agriculture in the year 1867. Captain Dall, in speaking of the Yukon territory, says:

It is quite possible to conceive of a locality depressed, and so deprived of drainage, that the annual moisture derived from the rainfall and melting snow would collect between the impervious clayey soil and its sphagnous covering; congeal during the winter, and be prevented from melting during the ensuing summer by that mossy covering, which would thus be gradually raised. The process annually repeated for an indefinite period would form an ice layer which might well deserve the appellation of an "ice cliff," when the encroachments of the sea should have worn away its barriers and laid it open to the action of the elements.

The lesson that the agriculturist may learn from this curious formation is, that a healthy and luxuriant vegetation may exist in immediate vicinity of permanent ice, bearing its blossoms and maturing its seed as readily as in apparently more favored situations, and hence that a large extent of northern territory long considered valueless may yet furnish to the settler, trader, or fisherman, if not an abundant harvest, at least a very acceptable and not inconsiderable addition to his annual stock of food, besides fish, venison, and game.

He also writes thus of the fodder, cattle, and fruits produced:

**FODDER.**

The treeless coasts of the Yukon territory are covered, as well as the lowlands of the Yukon, with a most luxuriant growth of grass and flowers. Among the more valuable of these grasses (of which some thirty species are known to exist in the Yukon territory) is the well-known Kentucky blue grass (Poa pratensis), which grows luxuriantly as far north as Kotzebue Sound, and perhaps to Point Barrow. The wood meadow-grass (Poa nemoralis) is also abundant, and furnishes to cattle an agreeable and luxuriant pasturage.

The blue-joint grass (Calamagrostis canadensis) also reaches the latitude of Kotzebue Sound, and grows on the coast of Norton Sound with a truly surprising luxuriance, reaching in very favorable localities four or even five feet in height, and averaging at least three. Many other grasses enumerated in the list of useful plants grow abundantly, and contribute largely to the whole amount of herbage. Two species of Elymus almost deceive the traveler with the aspect of grain-fields, maturing a perceptible kernel which the field-mice lay up in store.

The grasses are woven into mats, dishes, articles of clothing for summer use, such as socks, mittens, and a sort of hats, by all the Indians, and more especially by the Esquimaux.

In winter the dry grasses, collected in the summer for the purpose, and neatly tied in bunches, are shaped to correspond with the foot, and placed between the foot and the seal-skin sole of the winter boots worn in that country. They serve as a non-conductor, keeping the foot dry and warm, and protecting it from contact to an extent which the much-landed moccasins of the Hudson's Bay men never do. In fact, I believe the latter to be, without exception, the worst, most uncomfortable, and least durable covering for the foot worn by mortal man.

Grain has never been sown on a large scale in the Yukon territory. Barley, I was informed, had once or twice been tried at Fort Yukon, in small patches, and the grain had matured, though the straw was very short. The experiments were never carried any further, however, the traders being obliged to devote all their energies to the collection of furs. No grain had ever been sown by the Russians at any of the posts. In the fall of 1867 I shook out an old bag, purchased from the Russians, which contained a handful of mouse-eaten grain, probably wheat. The succeeding spring, on examining the locality, quite a number of blades appeared, and when I left Nulato, June 2, they were two or three inches high, growing rapidly. As I did not return, I cannot say what the result was. Turnips and radishes always flourished extremely well at St. Michael's, and the same is said of Nulato and Fort Yukon.

Potatoes succeeded at the latter place, though the tubers were small. They were regularly planted for several years until the seed was lost by freezing during the winter. At St. Michael's they did not do well. Salad was successful; but cabbages would not head.

The white round turnips grown at St. Michael's were the best I ever saw anywhere, and very large, many of them weighing five or six pounds. They were crisp and sweet, though occasionally a very large one would be hollow-hearted. The Russians preserved the tops also in vinegar for winter use.

**CATTLE.**

I see no reason why cattle, with proper winter protection, might not be successfully kept in most parts of the Yukon territory. Fodder, as previously shown, is abundant. The wild sheep, moose, and reindeer abound, and find no want of food.
A bull and cow were once sent to Fort Yukon by the Hudson's Bay Company. They did well for some time, but one day, while the cow was grazing on the river bank, the soil gave way, and she was thrown down and killed. Due notice was given of the fact, but for a year or two the small annual supply of butter in the provisions for Fort Yukon was withheld on the ground of there being "cattle" (to wit, the bull) at that post. Finally the commander killed the animal, determined that if he could not have butter he would at least have beef. It will be remembered that this point is north of the Arctic Circle, and the most northern point in Alaska inhabited by white men.

FRUITS.

There are, as might be supposed, no tree fruits in the Yukon territory suitable for food. Small fruits and berries are there in the greatest profusion. Among them may be noted red and black currants, gooseberries, cranberries, raspberries, thimbleberries, salmonberries, blueberries, kellijinik berries, bearberries, dewberries, twinberries, service or heath berries, mossberries, and roseberrries; the latter, the fruit of the Rosa cinnamomea, when touched by the frost, form a pleasant addition to the table, not being dry and woolly, as in our climate, but sweet and juicy.

All these berries, but especially the salmonberry, or "morosky" of the Russians (Rubus chamaemorus), are excellent anti-scorbutic. They are preserved by the Esquimaux in large wooden dishes or vessels holding five gallons or more; covered with leaves, they undergo a slight fermentation, and freeze solid when cold weather comes. In this state they may be kept indefinitely; and a more delicious dish than a plateful of these berries, not so thoroughly melted as to lose their coolness, and sprinkled with a little white sugar, it would be impossible to conceive.

The Russians also prepare a very luscious conserve from these and other berries, relieving the sameness of a diet of fish, bread, and tea with the native productions of the country.

Furthermore, Captain Dall is quite pronounced in regard to the Aleutian Islands, and uses the following language:

There is no timber of any kind larger than a shrub on these islands, but there does not appear to be any good reason why trees, if properly planted and drained, should not flourish. A few spruces were, in 1805, transplanted from Sitka, or Kadiak, to Unalaska. They lived, but were not cared for, or the situation was unfavorable, as they have increased very little in size since that time, according to Chamisso. The grasses in this climate, warmer than that of the Yukon territory, and drier than the Sitkan district, attain an unwonted luxuriance. For example, Unalaska, in the vicinity of Captains' Harbor, abounds in grasses, with a climate better adapted for haying than that of the coast of Oregon. The cattle were remarkably fat, and the beef very tender and delicate; rarely surpassed by any well-fed stock. Milk was abundant. The good and available arable land lies chiefly near the coast, formed by the meeting and mingling of the detritus from mountain and valley with the sea sand, which formed a remarkably rich and genial soil, well suited for garden and root-crop culture. It occurs to us that many choice sunny hillsides here would produce good crops under the thrifty hand of enterprise. They are already cleared for the plow. Where grain-like grasses grow and mature well, it seems fair to suppose that oats and barley would thrive, provided they were fall-sown, like the native grasses. This is abundantly verified by reference to the collections. Several of these grasses had already (September) matured and cast their seed before we arrived, showing sufficient length of season. Indeed no grain will yield more than half a crop of poor quality (on the Pacific slope), when spring-sown, whether north or south.

The Russians affirm, with confirmation by later visitors, that potatoes are cultivated in almost every Aleutian village; and Veniaminof states that at the village in Isanotsky Strait they have raised them and preserved the seed for planting since the beginning of this century; the inhabitants of this village by so doing having escaped the effects of several severe famines which visited their less provident and industrious neighbors.

Wild pease grow in great luxuriance near Unalaska Bay, and, according to Mr. Davidson, might be advantageously cultivated. This species, the Lathyrus maritimus of botanists, grows and flourishes as far north as latitude 64°. The productions of all the islands to the westward resemble those of Unalaska.

In September, says Dr. Kellogg, the turnips here were large and of excellent quality; carrots, parsnips, and cabbages lacked careful attention, but were good. Wild parsnips are abundant and edible through all these islands.

From the reports of Dr. Kellogg and others there appears to be no doubt that cattle can be advantageously kept in the Aleutian district providing competent farmers will take the matter in hand. Hogs were placed on one of the islands near Chamisso's Strait in 1835, and fattened on the wild parsnips and other native plants, multiplying rapidly. They were afterward destroyed.
It is not considered necessary to pursue this inquiry further, for sufficient has been shown at least to have put Mr. Elliott upon his guard before he launched forth such a wholesale invective against the agricultural resources of Alaska. If ever Alaska does become settled, and the population demand the necessaries as well as the luxuries of vegetable life, ready and willing hands will be found forthcoming to produce them.

Since the foregoing was written I have been visited by Major Berry, late collector at Sitka, who has been cruising around the coast of South-eastern Alaska during the past summer, and obtained from him the following information:

In August last, while exploring Chichagoff Island, he discovered a river, and following it toward its source he came across a large body of prairie land, at least 25,000 acres in extent; grass was growing upon it five feet high, and it was covered with berries and other luxuriant growth. He also found alder-trees three feet in diameter and full thirty feet high before a branch appeared.

This spot is about 80 miles north of Sitka. The river runs through the land, having its source in the mountains adjacent, and empties into Chatham Straits.

CLIMATE.

Some idea of the climate of Alaska necessarily must have been formed from reading the foregoing pages upon the agricultural prospect of the Territory. Mr. Elliott very naively remarks:

We have learned enough of the country and climate by this time to know that the lands and fishing waters now occupied by the natives of Alaska will never be objects for the cupidity of our people.

We have learned nothing of the kind; and it is a piece of intense supererogation to advance any such wholesale proposition. It has been frequently stated that, with the country to the westward, embracing the Aleutian Islands and the whole of Western Alaska, extending as far as Behring Sea, I have no personal knowledge, but in regard to South-eastern Alaska I do profess to know something from personal observation as well as carefully gathered concurrent testimony.

Mr. Elliott sweeps over the whole breadth and expanse of Alaska in his work of havoc, sparing no portion thereof, and he cannot complain if he is taken to task for what he so deliberately and frequently enunciates. Mr. Vincent Colyer referred to this as follows:

To give you an idea of the climate of Alaska, I inclose you a copy of meteorological register, given by Dr. Tonner, of the Indian Hospital at Sitka. By that record you will see that there were but 7 days of snow in 1888, while there were 100 days fair, 100 days rainy, and the remainder cloudy. The thermometer at no time was lower than 110° above zero in winter, nor higher than 71° Fahrenheit in summer.

You will perceive that the thermometer varies much less than with us, and that, though there is much rainy weather there, there are also many clear days. And Sitka, where this record was kept, is the most subject to rains of any place in the Territory.

The rain-fall at Sitka annually is about the same as that at Astoria, Oreg., Neh Bay, and Fort Canby, Washington Territory, situated at the mouth of the Columbia River.

No one will pretend to deny that the climate of Alaska is inhospitable; the logic of its geographical position naturally suggests such a fact to be patent; but that it is so severe and rigorous in Southeastern Alaska during the winter season as to prevent the working of its mines and the following of other industrial pursuits is persistently negativated. This will be further noticed when the mineral resources are descanted upon. As for the fisheries, such a statement is simply absurd and pre-
posterous. The Newfoundland fisheries, which produce fish similar to Alaska, are not carried on during the winter; nowhere in the same parallel of latitude or degrees of latitude are fisheries conducted during the winter months; hence a statement of this kind is only calculated to mislead the reader, and expose the imperfect knowledge of the author.

The climate of Prince of Wales Island, Wrangel Island, in fact on all the islands in the Alexander Archipelago, and all along the whole coast from the Chilcat country, 200 miles to the north of Sitka, and extending south as far as Fort Simpson, British Columbia, is not intensely cold in winter; on the contrary, it is far milder than in many of the New England States, and the reason is simply due to the analysis given by Professor Lyall, which is readily accorded by the savants of the Smithsonian Institution, but stoutly denied by Mr. Elliott, the reason for which can only be matter of conjecture.

The following extract taken from Dr. Lyall's report, to be found in the Geological Survey of Canada, 1875-'76, discourses thus in reference to the "Kuro Siwo" or Japanese Gulf Stream:

An examination of a map of the world will show the close relationship existing between Western Europe and Western America in the same parallels. A warm current of water flows down the coast of the latter, while the shores of the former are bathed in the tepid waters of the Gulf Stream. Both regions have their shores deeply indented by inlets, "Fiords" in the one case and "Canals" in the other. The oak and pine forests of the British Isles and Norway are simulated by the oak and fir forests of British Columbia. In both, the moist climate is caused in the same way. The vapor rising from the warm sea-water is blown inland, and becoming condensed by the cooler air over the land, falls in rain or fog upon the slopes and valleys. The old forests of Great Britain and Ireland, including those of Norway, were a product of the Gulf Stream, while the mighty forests of our western province, including Queen Charlotte Islands, are as certainly a product of the "Kuro Siwo." It only remains for me to add that as years roll on, and our possessions become developed, the value of this second Britain will come so vividly before our people that men will ask with astonishment why such ignorance prevailed in the past.

MINERAL RESOURCES.

But little has been done toward either the discovery or development of the hidden mineral wealth of Alaska. It is not worth while to stop to discuss why this is the case. We have only to point to the long delayed finding of the Comstock lode at Washoe, and the important results which have followed in California and Nevada within the past few years, where inhabitants are plenty, capital forthcoming, labor abundant, and a large mining population at all times willing to prospect for unknown lodes.

As long as placer diggings existed in California, and were not worked out, miners turned but little attention toward quartz, but as soon as the placer mines became exhausted, and their means depleted, they struck out for unknown fields of discovery, and the fabulous wealth of the Nevada mines is the direct result of their hardy and untiring efforts.

This is the history of all mining countries. A mining population is invariably first attracted to some particular locality by the finding or re-
ported finding of gold in the beds of rivers, streams of small size, gulches, canyons, ravines, &c. These are denominated by the usual term “placer mines.”

The gold is obtained without any great effort by first collecting the dirt and gravel which contains it, and then it is washed out in pans, rockers, long-toms, sluices, &c.

These placer diggings are always the avant courier in bringing to light the concealed treasures of a mining country; the richer they prove, so much the greater is the influx of population, and the longer they last before being worked out, so much the more does it serve to create a tendency for such population to remain in the country. Miners, naturally improvident, seldom lay by anything for a rainy day; hence if bad luck, sickness, or reverses overtake them, they have to depend upon the storekeeper and boarding-house to keep them afloat until they “can make a raise.” When the miner gets down to “bed rock,” financially, it is the time when he gets trusted for such additional tools and provisions as he may need, and strikes out boldly into the mountains to prospect for quartz.

It is my purpose to endeavor to present such reliable information in regard to the mineral resources of Alaska as will put miners and capitalists upon inquiry. Nothing will be given in exaggeration, and no means exerted to place in anything but a true light the real facts.

First, however, we will take up the converse of the proposition by quoting Mr. Elliott, who says:

If gold or silver is discovered in Alaska, it must be of unusual richness or it will never support any considerable body of men up there, so far away from the sources of necessary supply. The reputed Alaska gold mines are not in Alaska at all, but on the Stikine River in British Columbia, being over one hundred and eighty miles to the eastward of the boundary between the two districts; but as the Stikine River, to reach the Pacific with its rapid flood, has to pass through thirty miles of Alaskan soil and rock, so the miners visit Alaska in this way only, as they go up and down the river from Cassiar to Victoria, the Sound, and California every spring and fall.

This statement betrays the most inexcusable ignorance upon the part of Mr. Elliott in regard to mining matters. The bare idea that mines in Alaska must be of “unusual richness” in order to make them pay, is as farcical as some of his other statements.

I venture to assert, if there can be found any well-defined quartz lode within twenty-five miles of Sitka, readily accessible to wood and water, and adjacent to the coast, which will yield ore that will mill $25 in gold, net, per ton, it will be one of the richest mines on the Pacific coast. I select Sitka because it is the focal point at present, the greater portion of whom are old miners who own claims and work them as long as they can each year, and return every year to complete the work and search for new diggings. The prediction is ventured there will at no very distant day be discovered in Alaska full as rich diggings as now exist in Cassiar. The formation of the country is similar, and no valid reason can be given why such deposits do not exist.

Mr. Elliott speaks of the Cassiar mines being known as the “reputed Alaska gold mines.” This is the first intimation I have ever heard of any such misnomer. Any boy twelve years of age on the Pacific coast knows to the contrary, and it smacks very much as if it was spread out thus diligently for Eastern consumption.

But little has been done in placer mining in Alaska. Prospectors are
afraid to venture into the interior in the present unsettled condition of affairs. The coast islands are not the spots where large surface deposits are expected to be found. These will be discovered on the mainland. There are several streams which debouch from the Great Yukon to the eastward, through Alaska and into British Columbia, draining a vast expanse of country; and experienced miners are convinced that rich placer deposits cannot fail to exist.

In May last I met, at Sitka, a party of hardy and well-known miners, Rath Brothers, of Victoria, and Mr. Bean, of California, men of means and intelligence, who were fitting out an expedition for prospecting the interior of Alaska. They had everything essential for a successful voyage—well supplied with tools, provisions, arms, and money. They chartered the steamboat Rose to convey them from Sitka to the Chilcat village at the head of Lynn Canal, which was to be their starting-point for the interior. Upon arriving there they found the Indians so opposed to their proceeding farther, and had so many obstacles thrown in their way, they deemed it prudent to postpone their expedition to some more prudent and auspicious occasion, and returned to Sitka.

I was afraid of this when I saw them fitting out, and would have gone in the Wolcott to the Chilcat villages, and warned the chief against any molestation of this or any similar expedition, but the Wolcott had no more coal than would safely take us back to Puget Sound, and Captain Selden could not venture to make the trip. Had it been possible to have taken the cutter and interviewed the Chilcats, I am satisfied they would not have dared to have acted as they did. For want of a proper vessel, it will thus be perceived, this party has been stopped by Indians, in an American Territory, from pursuing their legitimate occupation, and a year lost at least.

This is, however, no new thing; for as far back as 1869 the Hon. W. S. Dodge remarked as a peculiarity of the Indian tribes:

They never allow the upper country Indians to come to the white settlements to trade with the Chilcats and Tarkens; death would follow the attempt. Hence is evinced a monopoly powerful and extensive in character. Nor will the coast Indians permit any white man to pass to the upper country to trade; the penalty they threaten is the same. All trade must be made with and through them.

Mr. Frank Mahoney writes to Vincent Colyer:

Nothing is known of these interior Indians, only that the coast Indians say that they are called “Si-him-e-na” or “Stick Indians.” They will allow no whites to pass up the rivers.

And, again, Mr. F. K. Louthan, in writing in 1869, uses the following language:

At the head of the Chatham Straits, almost due north from Sitka two hundred and twenty miles, are the Chilcats, at least ten thousand strong. They are a brave and warlike people “more sinned against than sinning.” I have had much to do with them, and ever found them honest, faithful, and kind. Their villages extend from the mouth to a distance of seventy-five miles up the Chilcat River. Coal and iron abound in inexhaustible quantities; huge masses of iron can be found among the boulders almost anywhere along the banks of the noble stream. The Indians state the existence of gold in the mountain passes of the river. The “color” has been found near the mouth. On every hand can be seen quartz cropping boldly out from a width of from one to twenty feet. Nothing is known of its character or value. These Indians are among the richest, if not the wealthiest of our coast Indians. Large quantities of the most valuable furs are annually gathered and sold by them. They are in every way independent.

But a very limited amount of prospecting has been done on the coast. About 70 miles from Wrangel, at a place called Schuck, placer gold has been found in paying quantities, and the diggings were worked last summer.

S. Ex. 59—7
Capt. J. W. White, United States Revenue Marine, in his report to the department, says:

With regard to the resources of that portion of Alaska which we have visited, I would mention the recent discovery of gold on the several streams of the mainland, between the parallels of 57° 10' and 58°, emptying into Stephen's Passage; some thirty or forty white men and as many Indians being now engaged in mining there, making $5 to $10 a day. We had passed through Stephen's Passage to the southward before learning this fact, otherwise we should have stopped and communicated with some of the miners. I saw at Sitka very rich specimens of gold-bearing quartz and silver ore which had been obtained from lodes on Baranoff (Sitka) Island; also very rich specimens of copper-ore and galena found on other islands of the archipelago. I feel assured that when this portion of the country is thoroughly prospected very rich mineral deposits will be found. The waters of the archipelago abound in food-fish, a source of prospective wealth which it needs only capital and enterprise to develop.

A strange find has lately been had at Cassiar. On the top of a high mountain a man out prospecting came across a small gulch abounding in the richest specimens of placer gold. He at once staked out a claim, and was followed by all Cassiar who could get there. The time for working, however, was almost over, owing to the rapid advent of snow, but in the short time allowed, however, the yield was incredible. One man dug up a nugget weighing 30½ ounces of pure gold, and several other large nuggets were found. The yield per day to the hand was very large; every one made money rapidly, and all who had the good fortune to get claims have done well. These miners will return in the spring to work again their claims. Heretofore placer mines have always been found in the beds of streams, in the valleys, &c. The idea of finding surface diggings on the top of a mountain over a thousand feet high never occurred to a mining prospector. If this is the case at Cassiar, why should not the like follow in Alaska? No tangible reason can be given in the negative; on the contrary, everything points to the same conclusion. The upheaval in this volcanic region seems to have been greater than on any portion of the Pacific coast, and discoveries have already been made in California which set the laws of geology at defiance, and it is fair to infer that in curious, indescribable, and unknown Alaska, the scientific and civilized world will yet stand aghast at the astounding results which will be produced from the most singular of all discoveries and unaccountable formations.

Some little attention, however, has been paid to quartz mining. First will be noticed the Stewart ledge, which was discovered and located whilst the military were at Sitka. A company has been formed for working it composed of leading and influential citizens of Oregon. The following is copied from one of the company's official letter-heads:

**ALASKA GOLD AND SILVER MINING COMPANY.**

Incorporated January 30, 1877.

Location of mines, Baranoff Island, Alaska Territory.

Capital stock, 300,000 shares; par value, $1 each.

**Directors.**

C. A. Alisky, of Alisky & Hegle, Wholesale Confectioners.
S. Farrell, of Everding & Farrell, Commission Merchants.
E. H. Stoltz, of Buchtel & Stoltz, Photographers.
S. O. Hersely, Proprietor Aurora Restaurant.
Dr. S. J. Barber, of Barber & Nicklin, Dentists.
George Woodward, of Woodward & Connell, Brokers.

W. T. Bodley, Sect'y.

PORTLAND, OREGON, 1877.
Last spring Mr. C. L. Wolter, a practical mining engineer, was sent to Sitka by this company to examine their ledge and make a report. The following is the statement made by him:

This mine (commonly called the Stewart tunnel) is situated about 14 miles southeast of Sitka, 800 feet above the level of the sea, and about a mile and a quarter from deep water, where the largest ship may come in safety. The ledge is well defined, runs east and west, and is about 15 feet wide, with a fissure vein from 3½ to 4 feet in width. The rock is bluish gold-bearing quartz, and lies in a slate formation, between a good foot and hanging wall. About 250 tons of rock have already been taken out, averaging from $12 to $15 a ton, some of which, however, runs as high as $30 to $35 a ton. The rock will have to be crushed by the wet process, concentrated, and sulphuric acids roasted, and passed through chloridation, in order to separate the gold from the sulphuric acids. This process costs $4 a ton, and will leave a nice profit. The tunnel has been run in 160 feet, and has cut through two bodies of fine ore, the first body being 60 feet long and the second 17 feet long. These two bodies are about 9 feet apart, with good traversings between them, showing that both bodies are coming together at a short depth, which will give a slope of 86 feet. Three shifts of men have been set to work and are at it night and day in order to get 100 feet down the shaft. When this is accomplished the mine will be opened, and a 20-stamp mill can be kept constantly working. Water-power sufficient to run an 80-stamp mill can be had at an expenditure of $400. A tramway has to be built a mile and a quarter in length, for the purpose of carrying machinery, &c., to the mines, and will cost from $1,400 to $1,600.

Sutherland, a correspondent of the Portland Standard, visited this mine last spring, and this is his opinion:

The mine of most interest to Portland is the Alaska Gold and Silver Company, situated but a few miles from Sitka and almost in view, owned principally in our city. The company is making preparations to begin work in earnest in the spring; a large amount of mining implements arriving on the last steamer. They are tunneling into the hillside with the purpose of tapping the lead from the bottom, with every indication of a rich strike. A man named Haley, connected with this mine, with an ordinary pestle and mortar, crushed out about $5.25 a day of gold from thirty to forty pounds of rock. A practical mining engineer, named Wolter, who is at present visiting Sitka, says that the Sitka quartz is ten to one richer than the Cariboo, and can be much more easily worked. The sulphuric acids from Cariboo are red, which color is not necessarily a sign of gold, and does mean that expensive chemicals must be used in their working, while the black sulphuric acids of the Alaska ledge are an infallible sign of gold and that the quartz can be worked at little expense.

There is water-power near the mines sufficient to run sixty stamps, and wood in abundance, should steam be desired. The assays of the rock vary from $10 to $1,000 a ton, and in many instances gold is plainly visible to the naked eye. There are eight well-defined ledges of rich rock near Sitka, which undoubtedly will yield immense fortunes, and be the means of saving this principal city of Alaska from "ruin and dull decay." A Russian engineer, who visited the mines, gives a very favorable report of them, stating that they will pay $32 to the ton. With all the modern improvements for separating gold from rock, it now costs but $3.50, or thereabouts, a ton to work it; so, even if the quartz is worth only $10 a ton, a handsome margin of profit is left. I am not engaged to write "up" these mines, nor do I own a dollar's worth of stock in any of them (wish I did), and hope I may be considered honest in my opinion that they are rich—extremely rich—and in my prophecy that, when once developed, they will rival the Comstock lode in its palmiest days.

This can fairly be considered as the pioneer mining venture of any magnitude in the Territory, and a satisfactory result is eagerly looked after. Silver Bay is accessible to the largest ship that floats, and the Great Eastern can lay alongside the bank at the foot of the mine and receive the ore from it direct.

In communicating with one of the directors and largest stockholders of this company, he replied as follows:

I am glad you are going to report on Alaska. Please so report as to give to that God-forsaken land a government of some sort. Every feeling of humanity in our being cries out for law and its stern enforcement in that Territory. All interests are jeopardized and life there uncertain. We desire to put up a mill at our mine, but the risk is too great as matters are now. I think with a mill dividends would be returned within thirty days.

Since this was written the Wolcott has been to Sitka, and the company have taken the chances, gone ahead, built a road to the mine,
erected a five-stamp mill, constructed a flume, and will soon commence crushing ore.

About half a mile below the Stewart tunnel, running east and west, is located another ledge, known as the Haley and Milletich, which shows some very fine ore. Three shifts of men have been working steadily driving a tunnel. This mine has been either sold in part or bonded to a party of rich San Francisco capitalists, who intend to thoroughly test its value.

There is also on Baranoff Island, about 10 miles distant from Sitka, a mine known as "The Francis Lode," discovered some years ago by the Francis family. Hon. Allen Francis, the present American consul at Victoria, British Columbia, is a part owner. This mine is only waiting for capital for its development. I have seen some good specimens of auriferous-bearing quartz from this mine.

Recently a quartz ledge has been found by a man named Dickinson, near Tongas Narrows, well defined and rock abundant. An assay has been made with the following extraordinary result per ton:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Pounds per Ton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>37.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper, per cent</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The mines on Bald Mountain, Baranoff Island, about four miles above the Stewart tunnel, are attracting attention. The specimens from that locality are very rich in sulphurets, some carrying free gold. When the snow melts next spring this belt will be thoroughly prospected, and several men have announced their intention to this effect.

These few examples are given of results already determined as far as the finding of ledges is concerned. That the whole country is full of mineral is the united testimony of all experienced miners who have visited it, and the day is not far distant when will spring up in South-eastern Alaska one of the greatest and wildest mining excitements of the next decade.

Prof. William P. Blake, in his notes upon the geography and geology of Russian America, written in 1868, advances the following proposition:

The stratified formations of the archipelagoes along the coast are not favorable to the existence of gold-bearing veins, for the metamorphosing agencies which usually accompany the formation of mineral veins do not appear to have acted upon the rocks with sufficient strength.

This theory of Professor Blake remains to be practically tested. It is indisputable that rich mines of gold and silver have been found upon Baranoff Island, but whether the ledges will last as the shafts are sunk and levels opened is a question which can only be determined by working the mines. It is impossible to tell by merely scientific conjecture whether mineral will be found at any very great depth, and whether the ledges may not soon run out.

It must, however, be confessed there are others, and among them practical miners, who share the doubts and opinions of Professor Blake, and I would not like to be included among those who wholly disagree with him. Still, from the developments already indicated on the coast islands, the ore is so rich, easy of access, and readily milled, that a thorough test should be made of the value of the discoveries before leaving them to search elsewhere.

The principal point of disagreement between Professor Blake and those who contend that true veins will be found on the islands seems to be the difference of opinion as to their formation. Professor Blake contends these islands are not formed of volcanic rocks, but consist of strat-
ified formations, chiefly sandstone and shale. The popular opinion is, and is so stated by some writers, they are of volcanic origin, and to a layman this would seem a most plausible theory, for in cruising among these twelve hundred islands in the Alexander Archipelago the belching forth of latent fire is the first thing which suggests itself to the non-professionals, and how they are formed and how they got there is well exemplified in the familiar quotation:

Pretty in amber to observe the forms
Of dirt and grass, grubs and worms;
Not that we think them either rich or rare,
But wonder how the devil they got there.

I have always thought, and am more firmly convinced, the great “Bonanza Mines” of Alaska must be found in the interior, in the range of mountains which run parallel to the coast. Professor Blake says:

East of the islands, however, and in the range of mountains of the mainland, the conditions are different. The rocks are changed in mica slate, gneiss, and granite, and are traversed by quarry veins which are presumed to be gold-bearing. However this may be, it is certain that extensive sources of gold exist in the interior, for the sands of the streams that descend to the coast all contain gold.

Gold has for many years been known to exist upon the Stikine, the Takon, and the Nass Rivers. It has since been reported from many others places widely separated. Upon the Stikine considerable mining has been carried on by both United States and English miners, who followed the gold-bearing zone from Frazer’s River northwards. It is to these miners that we are indebted for the discovery of the metal in paying quantities upon these streams and for much of our geographical knowledge of the interior.

There is every reason to believe that this gold region of the interior extends along the mountains to the shores of the icy sea, and is thus connected with the gold regions of Asia.

At the time of my visit to the Stickeen River, in 1863, an account of which is annexed, there was conclusive evidence of the existence of a gold-field of considerable extent in the so-called “Blue Mountains,” at the sources of the rivers mentioned. It is probable that there are zones of gold-bearing veins in those mountains which supply the gold to the detritus of the rivers.

It is very difficult to give an accurate or comprehensive idea of the mountainous country on the mainland along the coast. The formation is very much similar to that of British Columbia; in fact, the mountains in Alaska are but a continuation of the same range, and the following extract from the geological survey of Canada is given, as applicable to the mountainous range running northwest and southeast and situate in Alaska:

Beyond the elevated western margin of the Great Plains, and intervening between it and the Pacific Ocean, is a region which may be characterized as one of mountains and disturbed rock formations. This runs northwestward and southeastward, with the general trend of the coast, and is divided into two subordinate mountainous districts by an irregular belt of high plateau country running in the same direction. South of the forty-ninth parallel, this region, from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific, in various parts of its length, has been found to contain valuable metalliferous deposits of many kinds, and already appears to be the most important metalliferous area of the United States. In the Province of British Columbia are included over 800 miles in length of this mountain and plateau country, with an average breadth of about 400 miles. North of the forty-ninth parallel the Rocky Mountains are now known to extend to the Peace River, and even further northward, to near the mouth of the Mackenzie, and to maintain throughout much the same geological character with that of their southern portion. The Purcell, Selkirk, Columbia, Cariboo, and further north the Ominica, Mountains, may be taken collectively as the representatives of the Bitter Root Ranges of Idaho.

The interior plateau of British Columbia represents the great basin of Utah and Nevada, but north of the southern sources of the Columbia this region is not self-contained as to its drainage, but discharges its waters to the Pacific. The Cascade or Coast Range of British Columbia, though in a general way bearing the same relation
to the interior plateau country as the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California and the
Cascade Mountains of Oregon, forms a system distinct from either of these. The main
period of uplift of the Sierra Nevada in its typical region probably antedates that of
the British Columbia mountains, while the Cascade Mountains of Oregon are described
by Professor Le Conte and others as chiefly composed of comparatively modern vol­
canic materials, which scarcely occur in the main ranges of the west coast of British
Columbia. The parallel ranges of Vancouver and the Queen Charlotte Islands may,
as far as their structure is yet known, be included with the Coast Range of the main­
land.

In British Columbia a belt of rocks, probably corresponding more or less completely
with the Gold Rocks of California, has already proved to be richly auriferous, and I
think it may be reasonably expected that the discovery and working of rich metallif­
erous deposits of other kinds may follow. Promising indications of many are already
known. With a general similarity of topographical features in the disturbed belt of
the west coast, a great uniformity in the lithological character of the rocks is found
to follow, so that while in a comparatively short distance from southwest to northeast
considerable lithological change may be found, great distances may be traversed from
southeast to northwest and little difference noted. In British Columbia, so far as
geological explorations have yet gone, they have tended to show a general resem­
blance of the rocks to those of the typical sections of California and the Western
States; and though metalliferous veins, individually, are very inconstant, as compared
with rock formations, belts characterized by metalliferous deposits, and dependent on
the continuance of some set of beds, are apt to be very much more constant.

At Karta Bay, on Prince of Wales Island, about two hundred miles
from Sitka, there exists a very valuable mine of bronze copper, formerly
owned by Charles Baronvich, who has lately disposed of it to a San
Francisco company of large wealth. I learn it is the intention of the
company to work it without delay. I have seen sacks of this ore and
can safely pronounce it of uncommon richness. The company alluded
to, before purchasing, had the merits of the mine thoroughly tested
by practical experts, and are satisfied they have acquired a valuable
property. This company is composed of gentlemen of rank, wealth, and
experience, and I regard it as a most fortunate thing for Alaska that
they have invested their means in the Territory, for their position and
influence are such that they will speedily make themselves heard in the
halls of Congress on two propositions:

1. That they shall be permitted to acquire an indefeasible title
to the property they have purchased.

2. That they shall be protected in the quiet enjoyment of such prop­
erty.

The Mackenzie or Copper River flows through a rich copper region,
and when the geological resources of that particular portion of Alaska
are defined, it is confidently predicted it will rival Lake Superior in the
production of that metal.

Some of the early writers mention the existence of this metal in this
locality, and Mr. Louthan says:

The early Russians told fabulous stories of the existence of both gold and copper
on this river, which is proved by the fact that the Indians are at times seen to use
these metals in their ornaments.

Professor Blake remarks:

It has long been known that large masses of native copper are found along Copper
River, which flows into the Pacific between Mount Saint Elias and the peninsula of
Kenai. Some of these masses, shown to me by His Excellency Governor Fournhelm,
at Sitka, very closely resembled the specimens formerly picked up on the shores of
Lake Superior. From all the information which I received, I am inclined to believe
that a copper-bearing region, similar to that of Lake Superior, exists in the interior.
It is interesting that large masses of native copper have recently been found in North­
ern Siberia. A large mass was exhibited at Paris, in the Exhibition, from the Kirghiz
steppes. It contained native silver, in isolated masses, identical in its appearance
and its association with the singular masses of Lake Superior native copper, associ­
ated with silver; this appears to be a characteristic mineral of the northern regions of
both continents.
I have recently been reliably informed that large deposits of petroleum have been found on Copper River. As this river is in the interior, its treasures will be of no benefit to civilized man until the miner and capitalist can go thither, fully protected by the nation in the legitimate pursuit of mining industry.

At Katmay, situate on the peninsula of Alaska, opposite Kodiak Island, petroleum has also been found; and in the year 1869, specimens were sent to the Smithsonian Institution by Dr. Thomas T. Minor, now marine-hospital surgeon of the collection-district of Puget Sound.

COAL.

Alaska is full of coal; it can be found cropping out all along the coast islands and in the interior. Professor Blake is authority for the following, taken from his report upon the mineral resources of the Territory in 1868:

Coal-beds have been worked by the Russians at several points, but chiefly at Kenai, on Cook's Inlet. The quality, however, is not equal to that of the coal from Nanaimo, on Vancouver's Island, to the southward.

It is here important to note that the many islands along the northwest coast, from Vancouver's northward, are not formed of volcanic rocks, as is generally supposed and stated by some writers, but that they consist of stratified formations, chiefly sandstones and shales, which are favorable to the existence of coal-beds, indications of which have been found at various points.

It is probable that the formations of Baranoff or Sitka Island, and of Prince of Wales Island—indeed, of all the islands of that extensive archipelago—are equivalents in age of coal-bearing strata of Vancouver's Island and Queen Charlotte's Island. On the latter the existence of beds of a very superior quality of anthracite coal has lately been made known, and samples of it have been tested in San Francisco with satisfactory results. The extent and value of these beds have not been ascertained, but their existence is a most significant fact, and suggests that a continuation of them may be found in the prolongation of the same formation in the islands to the northward, within the limits of the recently-acquired territory.

The points at which I made an examination of the stratified rock formations were at Sitka and the adjoining islands and at the mouth of the Stickeen River. At these places they consist of sandstones and shales regularly stratified, and passing in some places into hard slates, which project along the shores in thin knife-like reefs. All these strata are uplifted at high angles, and they give the peculiar saw-like appearance to the crests of the ridges. Some of the outcrops are so sharp that they have been used by the savage Koloshes as saws, over which their unfortunate captives were dragged back and forth until their heads were severed from their bodies.

Coal has been noted upon the island of Ounga, on the west side of Takharooskai Bay, in two places. The beds are horizontal, and are probably lignite. Vancouver noted coal on Cook's Inlet. The miners who worked for gold upon the upper part of the Stickeen River in 1862-'63, reported coal as existing there, but no satisfactory description of it has been obtained. Coal of superior quality, in broken and drifted specimens, has recently been found by my brother, Mr. Theodore A. Blake, geologist of the Alaska expedition of 1867, along the course of a small stream which empties into St. John's Bay, north of Sitka. The beds could not be found, and their extent is consequently unknown.

It is surprising that during the long occupation of the northwest coast by the Russians little or no attention was given to explorations of the interior. Even the island of Sitka has not been explored.

Captain White says:

I have seen coal-veins, over an area 40 by 50 miles, so thick that it seems one vast bed. It has excellent steam quality; leaves a clear white ash. It comes out in cube blocks, bright and clean. It does not coke. The quantity seems to be unlimited. This bed lies northwest of Sitka, up Cook's Inlet or Bay, which extends to nearly 61° north and broadens into a sea in some parts. But our geographers plot it as an unimportant arm of the sea. They are wrong. It is a large body of water. Its shores, though in part mountainous, reveal valleys and plains, and forests with large and various resources.
I had some specimens of coal taken from Admiralty Island submitted to me at Wrangel, and gave them to the acting chief engineer of the Wollcott to be tested. Mr. Marsilliot writes as follows:

UNITED STATES REVENUE MARINE STEAMER OLIVER WOLCOTT, 
Wrangel, A.T., April 26, 1878.

SIR: Agreeable to your request I have examined the samples of bituminous coal you handed me this day, and find it to be free burning, with comparatively little smoke, making an intense, bright, white heat, and retaining its form, similar to English cannel, until nearly consumed, and judge it valuable as a grate and steaming coal.

Very respectfully,

WM. GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,
First Assistant Engineer, U.S. R. M.

An Indian at Wrangel showed me a lump of anthracite coal which he claimed to have picked up on one of the adjacent islands, and offered to take me to the spot. For certain reasons I preferred not to visit the place, but to reserve this for some future occasion. I know where it is, and for the present do not feel disposed to make any further disclosures.

I am also credibly informed that immensely valuable coal deposits exist on Kou Island, in the Alexander Archipelago, the precise location of which is known to the Alaska Ship-Building and Lumber Company, who have petitioned Congress for permission to buy the island at the price of $1.25 per acre, ostensibly for ship-building purposes. This will be alluded to again when the timber production is noticed.

Frequent reports have hitherto been made to the department upon the coal discoveries which have been made. The day is not far distant when Alaska will furnish all the coal required for the steamships and steamboats engaged in her trade; for, as Mayor Dodge, of Sitka, very truly remarks:

Of minerals, I can only say that from the earliest history of the Territory to the present day the existence of gold, silver, copper, iron, marble, and coal, has been constantly attested. We have the undeniable authority of eminent scientific officials and the statements of strangers temporarily visiting this coast.

Back of Sitka, at Kake and Kootznov, are coal mines, no one knows how extensive. At Tarkow and Chilkaht the coal crops out in abundance, and to the westward of Sitka, it is the testimony of all the traders that coal can be found almost at any place one chooses to land.

Large iron-fields have also been found. Mayor Dodge is responsible for the following statement, made in 1869:

Professor Davidson, of the Coast Survey, while at Chilkaht, making observations of the eclipse on the 7th of last August, found that the needle to his compass pointed constantly wrong, and soon learned the fact that he was near a mountain of iron some 2,000 feet high, which attracted the magnet wherever used, from its base to its summit, and a further examination showed that this mountain was only one of a range similar in character and extending fully 30 miles; and, as if nature had anticipated its uses to man, a coal mine was found near by.

Galena, marble, graphite, sulphur, platina, and cinnabar have all been discovered, and yet we are told that Alaska is not and never will become a mining country.

There is no portion of the Pacific coast which has so bright mining prospects ahead, and whose brilliant future would be clearly established if the needed protection for life and the outlay of capital was afforded by the government.

There is no speculation or investment that can be mentioned which holds out such glittering and inviting prospects as mining, and it is almost invariably the rule in San Francisco, which is the great commercial mart of the Pacific slope and its mining center (some day it will be
the financial center of the globe), that while frequently it is absolutely impossible to obtain money to promote mechanical enterprise or agricultural industry, the vaults of the money kings will readily unlock at the prospect of investing in quartz ledges, gravel claims, or any kind of ground which promises well in gold or silver. History will only repeat itself and the experience of the Pacific coast will be redoubled in Alaska. California, settled for nearly a century by the Spaniards and Jesuit Fathers, did not unfold her untold treasures of hidden gold until the year 1848, the result of an accidental discovery made by an American. In 1859 it was suddenly brought to light the fabulous wealth of Washoe, which has astonished the whole civilized world by the production of its far-famed Comstock lode, which has, in round numbers, yielded $300,000,000.

The inhabitants of the Pacific coast, and especially Californians, devote a large portion of their means and time to mining enterprises, and are always in search of fresh fields and pastures. A few capitalists control all the leading mines on the Comstock, insomuch that outside operators are becoming discouraged, and consequently their attention is compelled to be attracted elsewhere, where they will have an equal show and not be swallowed up by the big fish. San Francisco has contributed millions of dollars to Arizona and the Black Hills. The Sierras Nevada and Rocky Mountains were traversed all last spring and summer by energetic mining experts and prospectors in the interest of San Francisco capital.

Mining upon the Pacific coast is only in its infancy; in the unknown and unexplored regions will be found as rich, if not richer, mineral fields than have ever been discovered. The Cascade Range of mountains in Washington Territory and British Columbia, which are an extension of the Sierras, have never been prospected, and the Olympian Range, on the American side of the Straits of Fuca, undoubtedly contain gold and silver, but their hidden wealth is as unknown as Alaska.

Heretofore, mining enterprises have been circumscribed and confined within narrow limits, and for reasons previously assigned and the constant accretion of idle capital in California justifies the hypothesis that its citizens will strike out boldly wherever there is a prospect of success; and if gold was known to exist at the north pole, I venture to say, a prospecting expedition would be sent there to test the value of the discovery.

In order to illustrate the privations, toil, and risks which men will undergo in the hope of getting gold, a letter from a Cassair miner, dated at Dease Creek, May 20, recites as follows:

I left Wrangel on the 6th of March; found ice across the river about eight miles up the river; left the canoes and started with our sleighs, but the ice was like a sieve all the way crossing the "desert." There were about sixty men on the ice; and having crossed dangerous places I was afraid to turn back. I could see half a dozen at a time in the water, and others rushing to them with ropes to help them out. The second day the ice appeared to be good, and a number started ahead. I was trying to catch up to a man ahead, when I broke through in his tracks and went to the ears in the middle of the Stickeen River. I had a hard struggle as the sleigh was against me and I had no chance to swim but to go under the ice and chance the next hole. I however crawled out after awhile and camped for that day; dried myself, and started the next morning as fresh as ever. Traveled about three miles and came to a mountain rock, where the water rushed under it. The river was all open, and only one man was with me at the time. We camped two days, waiting for canoes to take us off, so we built a raft and lashed it together with sleigh ropes and "pulled" it up the river half a mile, where we got on a bar covered with five feet of snow; then snowshoeing came into play. So we hauled our sleighs till we reached Buck's, on the 9th day from Wrangel. Hearing reports of better ice above, we pushed on, but the ice was very poor. When we reached Faltan, above Telegraph Creek, we had to climb
the mountain by a trail. There was no snow in the trail, so I put 160 pounds on a Siwash, and then came ahead. I often sat down and laughed at myself--packing a sleigh and looking for snow. When we reached Third Fork we went down it and traveled about 50 miles on the ice by wading the river about every 400 yards. We arrived at Deas Creek, twenty-two days from Wrangel, in good health, but much fatigued. I took a small contract, and made about $100 in a week, but have made very little since. The miners are coming in fast, and nearly all going to Walter Creek. If that country turns out to be a "bilk," there will be many a "broken" man to go down in the fall. Nothing new struck the past winter here. The Chinamen are flocking in by dozens. If Walker Creek fails I am afraid there will be trouble between them and the whites, as they are employed where good white men cannot get work. Word has come that the man who helped me to "pole" the raft was found dead in his cabin; cause supposed to be over-exertion.

The conditions for successful mining in Alaska are far superior to those afforded in Arizona or the Black Hills, in respect to the abundance of fuel. Heat is looked upon as the great agent in the formation of mineral veins, and with plenty of fuel the metallurgist and miner can reduce the most rebellious ores, and compel them by scientific process to yield up their concealed wealth.

And while the *soi disant* Professor (?) Elliott is throwing slurs upon the climate of Southeastern Alaska, and endeavoring to make the world believe that no industry can be carried on there in the winter season, the real Professor Blake, of national reputation and world-wide experience, says:

The severe climate, which prevents all placer or deposit mining, where water is used, during the winter months, would not materially hinder vein-mining operations carried on below the surface. In this point of view a region of gold veins along these mountains has great prospective importance.

Give our prospectors but a fair chance and they will readily demonstrate the falsity of what has been said and done to depreciate the value of the mineral wealth of Alaska. All they ask is the fostering care of the government.

I feel assuredly sanguine as to the future wealth of Alaska in minerals. It is only a question of time. What we need is Congressional legislation for the protection of the miner. We will combine our energies and the capital of the coast, and show the world the wealth of our mines beyond question.

There's a good time coming, boys,
There's a good time coming!
We all will live to see the day,
And earth shall glisten in the ray
Of the good time coming!
Talk is cheap, but words are wind;
Work we know is stronger;
We'll prove our country by its aid—
Just wait a little longer.

**TIMBER.**

In treating this subject, reference must be had to the statements made by cotemporaneous writers; but little originality can be given, and I must content myself with copious extracts.

First, let us see what Elliott has to say. On page 815 of Harper he advances this proposition:

If we ever utilize the spruce and fir timber on the Sitka coast, we must encourage and foster the effort in the line of ship-building, for this timber is too gummy and resinous for the ordinary use of house-building and furniture-making.

Mr. Elliott is quite right about ship-building, but it is to be hoped he does not indorse the scheme of a party of San Francisco capitalists, who are endeavoring to gobble up the island of Kou.
On December 20, 1876, Hon. William A. Piper, then member of Congress from San Francisco, introduced, by unanimous consent, a bill "granting to the Alaska Ship-building and Lumber Company the right to occupy and purchase certain lands in the Territory of Alaska, upon paying the government price therefor, and for other purposes," which, being referred to the Committee on Public Lands, on February 1, 1877, was duly reported by Mr. Walling of that committee in the words and figures following, to wit:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 1, 1877.

Read twice, recommitted to the Committee on the Public Lands, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WALLING, from the Committee on the Public Lands, by unanimous consent, reported the following bill as a substitute for the bill H. R. 4260:

A BILL authorizing the sale of certain lands in the Territory of Alaska, upon paying the government price therefor, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, for the purpose of encouraging shipbuilding and developing the Territory of Alaska, the Alaska Ship-building and Lumber Company, a corporation formed and existing under the laws of the State of California, and its successors and assigns, are hereby authorized to enter upon and take possession of the island of Kou, situated in the waters of the Territory of Alaska, and lying between fifty-six degrees and twenty minutes and fifty-seven degrees of north latitude, and one hundred and thirty-three degrees and thirty minutes and one hundred and thirty-four degrees and twenty minutes west longitude, and to purchase the same, except such parcels as the President of the United States may previously reserve for public uses, upon payment to the United States of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre for each acre purchased; such purchase to be made from time to time and in such quantities as may be required; and the said Alaska Ship-building and Lumber Company, its successors and assign, may purchase timber lands upon the shores of the adjacent waters of Christian and Prince Frederick Sounds, and Chatham, Duke of Clarence, and Kekon Straits, upon giving notice of its intention so to do, describing generally the lands, and giving security for the payment of the expense of making the necessary surveys, and, upon the completion and return of such surveys, paying for such land one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. Surveys made under this act may conform to the shores of the sea and to the configuration of the country; and the expenses thereof shall be advanced by the said purchasers and allowed in payment for lands purchased under the provisions of this act. The right of purchase conferred by this act is upon the express condition that the said Alaska Ship-building and Lumber Company shall, within two years from the passage of this act, and the establishment, if necessary, of such measures for protection against hostile Indians as will secure said purchasers in the enjoyment of the purchases hereby authorized, construct on said lands at least one ship, of not less than twelve hundred tons burden, and thereafter maintain a ship-yard and vigorously prosecute ship-building. The quantity of land to which said purchasers may acquire title under this act is limited to one hundred thousand acres, to be wholly selected and paid for within ten years from the passage of this act: Provided, That nothing herein contained shall be held to authorize said company to enter upon, or take possession of, any portion of said lands, or remove any timber or other valuable materials from the lands hereby authorized to be purchased, until such land shall have been paid for at the price fixed by this act.

SEC. 2. That the lands mentioned in this act shall, for the purpose of survey and purchase, under the provisions of this act, be deemed to be included within the district of land subject to sale at Olympia, in the Territory of Washington; and the surveyor-general of that Territory is authorized to make the surveys, and the register and the receiver of the land-office at that place to receive the notices, proofs, and payments contemplated by this act.

SEC. 3. That the right is reserved to Congress to alter, amend, or repeal this act.

The following report accompanied the bill. So much is copied as is pertinent to the issue. A rehash of Special Agent Elliott's report in regard to the climate, agricultural character, &c., of Alaska, as recently rewritten and reproduced in Harpers' Magazine, appears in the body of
the report, and would seem to indicate he had been interviewed upon
the subject. This has been discarded as irrelevant.

Mr. WALLING, from the Committee on the Public Lands, submitted the following re-
port to accompany bill H. R. 4560.

The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill H. R. 4260, reported as a
substitute H. R. 4560, and accompanied the same with the following report:

A memorial, signed by several merchants and business men of San Francisco, was
presented to this House during the first session of the present Congress, asking that
they be permitted to purchase, at the government price per acre, a tract of land in
the Territory of Alaska, on the islands lying between Sitka and the mainland, for
the purpose of enabling them to establish ship-yards and lumber manufacture. This
memorial was subsequently followed by a bill, introduced at the request of the same
parties, who had incorporated themselves under the laws of the State of California as
the Alaska Ship-building and Lumber Company. The proposed bill conferred the au-
thority on that corporation to make the purchase mentioned in the memorial.

The committee being satisfied, from the character of the persons whose names were
attached to the memorial, and from representations made in relation to the project,
that the enterprise was backed by good faith and by the ability and determination
(if permitted) to carry it out, have, after such investigation as it has been possible to
make, embodied their recommendations in H. R. 4560 as a substitute for H. R. 4260.

It would seem very apparent that this region must remain for an indefinite period
in the future, as it has remained hitherto, a worthless waste, unless some inducements
are held out to attract associated capital to develop, by large experimental outlays of
energy and money, the possibility of turning this inhospitable and uninviting domain
to some national use. If the enterprise proposed by the memorialists should prove
remunerative there will remain to the government millions of acres of similar lands,
which would find a market and furnish employment to thousands of mechanics and
laborers.

It is unnecessary to refer in this report to the beneficial results that would follow
the establishment of ship-building, for it is conceived that, independent of this, it
would be to the advantage of the government to know that climatic and physical
obstacles can be so far overcome as that any industry can be successfully and profit-
ably prosecuted in that latest and most questionable of our national real-estate spec-
ulations. It is proposed to do this, not only without expense to the government, but
by a sale at the government price of land now worthless, and which must always re-
main so until enterprises like this are established.

The island of Kou, upon which the memorialists propose to establish their ship-
yard, and upon which and on the shores of the adjacent waters they desire to pur-
chase timber-lands, is one of the islands composing the Alexander Archipelago, sepa-
rated from Baranof Island, on which Sitka is situated, by Chatham Strait; to the east
lie successively Keokon Strait, Kaprianhoff Island, Wrangel Strait, Mitgoff Island,
Souchi Channel, and then the mainland. So far as known it is valueless, except for
a belt of timber that fringes its shores and extends up its narrow valleys.

The bill reported herewith authorizes the Alaska Ship-building and Lumber Com-
pany to purchase 100,000 acres of timber-lands on this island and neighboring shores,
upon paying government price therefor, and no timber or other material is to be re-
moved from any lands until paid for. The entire number of acres is to be selected and
paid for within ten years. Surveys are to be made at the expense of the company, to
be credited in payment on the lands purchased, and the company undertakes, within
two years, to establish a ship-yard, and complete within that time at least one ship of
1,200 tons burden, and thereafter to prosecute ship-building vigorously. The guar-
antee that this will be done lies in the fact that it will be necessary to make a large
outlay to build a single ship, so large that, if possible, they must continue that in-
dustry or lose the capital invested. If the construction of ships can be profitably con-
tinued, this preliminary investment will be sufficient to insure a further prosecution of
the enterprise; if unprofitable, the government ought not to insist upon its further
continuance. The survey and the entry and payment of the lands will be made through
the land-office at Olympia, in Washington Territory. The bill reserves the right in
Congress to alter, amend, or repeal the act at any time.

The duty of the United States to the aboriginal inhabitants of that locality has been
considered in several reports made by government agents sent to investigate the con-
dition and resources of Alaskas and its inhabitants. They concurred in the opinion that
(excepting at the fur islands and stations of the Alaska Commercial Company) the
withdrawal of the supervision exercised under the former government has been most
deleterious, and that no hope of a better state of things can be justly entertained while
the Territory is suffered to remain in its present abandoned and lawless condition.
Whatever enterprises shall attract an industrious population, and give remunerative
employment to such of those people as will labor, will be a step toward their subjection, to better influences, and will be evidence to them that the United States is at length willing, not only to encourage industry, sobriety, and morality, but to repress the worse than natural vices into which they are relapsing.

For these and other reasons that will suggest themselves without further extending this report, the committee recommend the legislation proposed by the House bill 4560.

The committee have been led into error in making this report, which is highly favorable to the company seeking the purchase. They are led to the conclusion that the land is “A WORTHLESS WASTE”, at present, and “MUST ALWAYS REMAIN SO UNTIL ENTERPRISES LIKE THIS ARE ESTABLISHED.”

Has Congress any idea of the extent of the island of Kou? It is a principality in itself, being about 86 miles long by 26 wide. Permission is here sought to purchase 100,000 acres of land, under the thin guise of building a 1,200-ton ship within two years, and “THEREAFTER TO PROSECUTE SHIP-BUILDING VIGOROUSLY.” Preposterous. In the first place, no such an amount of land is necessary to be purchased. The company can secure all the harbors and landing places, all mineral and timber-lands, water-courses, &c., and then enjoy scot-free the remainder, snapping their fingers at Uncle Sam and all new comers.

This is one of the most astounding measures I have ever known submitted to an American Congress. It is well known that rich coal lands exist on this island, and, as previously said, it is believed this company know their precise location.

Far better let the island remain as it is. There is no demand yet for ship-building in Alaska, and will not be for years to come, unless it is considered desirable to have a ship wholly constructed of yellow cedar, in which event the resources of Alaska must be drawn upon.

The forests of Puget Sound will supply all the fir timber for ship-building purposes for many years, and recourse need not be had to Alaska for this kind of timber, because it is of inferior quality. The fir trees there seem to be stunted, are far different from the growth produced in Oregon, Washington Territory, and British Columbia.

In the Guide to British Columbia, published in Victoria in 1877, we find the following:

The only timber exported in cargoes is that of the Douglas fir, commonly called “pine.” It is a tough, strong wood, well adapted for beams, but good also for planks and deals. It makes excellent masts and yards, and is used for ship-building and house-building. It grows to the height of 150 to 200 feet, and attains a thickness of 5 to 8 feet at the butt. It carries its thickness well up. Dressed masts of 36 inches in diameter, at one-third from butt, and with proper proportions for the required length, have been supplied from the Douglas fir forests. This British Columbian wood is known in Australia, New Zealand, and Great Britain as “Oregon pine,” though Oregon does not export it to these markets. A good growing demand for British Columbian Douglas fir timber and square timber exists in South America, Australia, and China, and a few cargoes of spars are sent annually to England.

This Douglas fir (or “Douglas pine,” or “Oregon pine”) predominates in the forests of the West Cascade region, but not in the arid parts of the East Cascade region. It is plentiful in Washington Territory (United States). The Douglas fir is also found in some of the Rocky Mountain valleys, on the Blue Mountains of Oregon, and here and there eastward as far as the headwaters of the Platte. At present the principal seats of its manufacture for export are the coast of British Columbia, and on Puget Sound (United States). The Douglas fir does not grow in any quantity north of Millbank Sound, in latitude 52°.

Again, strange to say, Mr. Elliott, in speaking of utilizing the timber of Alaska, seems entirely to have overlooked one of the most valuable trees in the country, to wit, the yellow cedar, which is thus described in the Guide to British Columbia:

The cypress, or yellow cedar (Cupressus thyoides), is confined to the maritime precincts. The wood, of close texture and applicable to many useful purposes, is of very
superior quality. The tree is not, probably, found south of 49°, and extends along the coast into Alaska. The inner bark of this tree contains an essential oil, which communicates its odor, somewhat as of garlic, to the wood, the effect of which is to protect it, it is said, against the attacks of the teredo. This quality of resistance, added to great durability, adapts it specially for submarine purposes, for which, imported from Alaska, it is now, I believe, highly valued in San Francisco. The vertical fibers, like those of the last mentioned, are spun and woven into blankets, but of a finer texture.

Captain Dall thus speaks of it:

The agricultural staple of the Southern Sitkan district is timber. I name the forest-trees in the order of their value. The yellow cedar (C. nutkansis, Spach.) is the most valuable wood on the Pacific coast. It combines a fine, close texture with considerable hardness, extreme durability, and pleasant fragrance. For boat-building it is unsurpassed, in addition to its lightness, toughness, ease of workmanship, and great durability.

After ascending some distance the mountain-sides of the island of Sitka, the wood, which appears in increased denseness before us, consists particularly of a noble thuja (T. aestival, C. nutkansis). This is the timber most valued here. It occurs frequently farther down, but the more predominant spruce-trees conceal it from view; but here it constitutes almost the entire timber. From its agreeable perfume, it is known to the Russians as dušhnik, or scented wood. This is the wood formerly exported to China, and returned to us as “camphor-wood,” &c., famous for excluding moths. In repairing old Fort Simpson a stick of this wood, among the pine timbers used for underpinning, was found to be the only sound log after twenty-one-years’ trial. A wreck on the beach at Sitka, originally constructed of this timber, was found thirty-two years after as sound as the day it was built; even the iron bolts were not corroded.

The largest and most valuable tree found in this Territory is the white spruce (Abies alba). This beautiful conifer is found over the whole country, but it is largest and most vigorous in the vicinity of running water. It attains not unfrequently the height of 60 to 100 feet, with a diameter of over 3 feet near the butt; but the more common size is about 30 or 40 feet high, and about 18 inches at the butt. The wood of this tree is straight-grained, easily cut, white, and compact, and while very light it is also very tough, much more so than the wood of the Oregon pine (Abies Douglasii). For spars it has no superior, but it is rather too slender for large masts. The bark is used for roofing by the Hudson’s Bay Company at Fort Youkon, and the roots, properly prepared, for sewing their birch canoes and dishes by the Indians. I have seen log houses twenty years old, in which many of the logs were quite sound. The unsound logs were said to be those which had been used without being seasoned. These trees decrease in size and grow more sparingly towards Fort Youkon, but are still large enough for most purposes. The unexplored waters of the Tananah River bring down the largest logs in the spring freshets. The number which are annually discharged from the mouth of the Youkon is truly incalculable. It supplies the shores of Behring Sea, the islands, and the Arctic coasts; logs of all sizes lie in winrows, where they are thrown upon the shore by the October southwester.

The wood is put to manifold uses. Houses, Indian lodges, &c., are all constructed of spruce. Soft, fine-grained, and easily cut, the Indians of the Lower Youkon spend their leisure, during the short winter days, in carving dishes, bowls, and other utensils, and ornamenting them with red oxide of iron, in patterns, some of which, though far from classical, are very neat.

Seeds, frames for skin boats, fishing-rods, &c., are made by the Esquimaux from spruce, and all their houses and cabins, or dance-houses, are built of it. One of these, on Norton Sound, about 30 by 40 feet square, had on each side shelves or seats formed
of one plank, 4 inches thick and 38 inches wide at the smaller end. These enormous planks took six years to make, and were cut out of single logs with small stone adzes. The next most important tree is the birch (Betula glandulosae). This tree rarely grows over 18 inches in diameter and 40 feet high. On one occasion, however, I saw a water-worn log about 15 feet long and quite decorticated, lying on the river-bank near Nuklukyot in the Upper Youkon, which was 24 inches in diameter at one end and 28 at the other. This is the only hard-wood tree in the Youkon territory, and is put to a multiplicity of uses. Everything needing a hard and tough wood is constructed of birch. Sleds, snow-shoes, standards for the fish-traps, and frames of canoes, which are afterward covered with its bark, sewed with spruce or tamarack (Larix) roots, and the seams calked with spruce gum. The black birch is also found there, but does not grow so large. The soft new wood of the birch, as well as of the poplar, is cut very fine and mangled with his tobacco by the economical Indian. The squaws at certain periods wear birchen hoops around their necks, and neck-rings and wristlets of the same wood, with fantastic devices scratched upon them, are worn as a token of mourning for dead friends by the Tanana Indians.

Several species of poplar (Populus balsamifera and Populus tremuloideae) abound, the former along the water-side and the latter on drier uplands. The first-mentioned species grows to a very large size. The trees are frequently 2 or 3 feet in diameter and from 40 to 60 feet high. The timber is of little value, but the Indians make small boards, for different purposes, out of the soft wood, and use the feathery downs from the catkins for making tinder, by rubbing it up with powdered charcoal.

Willows are the most abundant of trees. They are of all sizes, from the slender variety on the Lower Youkon, which grows 70 or 80 feet high while only 6 inches in diameter at the butt, and with a mere wisp of straggling branches at the extreme tip, to the dwarf willow, crawling under the moss, with a stem no bigger than a lead pencil, and throwing up shoots a few inches high. Willows are almost invariably rotten at the heart, and are only good for fuel. The Kutchin Indians make bows of the wood to shoot ducks with, as its elasticity is not injured by being wet. The inner bark is used for making twine for nets and seines by the Indian women, and the Esquimaux of Behring Straits use willow-bark to color and tan their dressed deer-skins. It produces a beautiful red-brown, somewhat like Russian leather. The inner bark or cambium of the alder (Alnus rubra) is used for the same purpose.

The other species rising to the rank of trees in this district are the larch (Larix dahurica), which is found on rolling prairies of small size; a small birch (Betula nana) and several alders (Alnus viridis and incana); a species of juniper (Juniperus) and numberless willows (Salico). A species of pine (Pinus cembra) has been reported from Kotzebue Sound, I cannot but think erroneously, as I saw no true pines in the Territory during a two years' exploration; the most northern point touched by the Finns containing, at the junction of the Lewis and the Pelly Rivers, at Fort Selkirk, in latitude 63° north, longitude 137° west (approximate). The Hudson's Bay men at Fort Youkon call the white spruce "pine."

I cannot see anything to justify Elliott's statement that "this timber is too gummy and resinous for the ordinary use of house-building and furniture-making." In fact the testimony is quite the other way. I know personally the yellow cedar is not; but, as far as that tree is regarded, Mr. Elliott does not even seem to know it is indigenous to Alaska.

FISH AND FISHERIES.

Mr. Elliott delivers himself of the following diatribe:

The great speech of Sumner in favor of the treaty, and which, in the universal ignorance of the subject prevailing in the American mind at the time it was delivered, was hailed as a masterly and truthful presentation of the case, is, in fact, as rich a burlesque upon the country as was Proctor Knott's "Duluth." Sumner, however, meant well, but he was easily deceived by the cunning advocates of the purchase. No; no mention was made of these islands and their fur-seal millions but infinite stress was laid upon the commerce which would spring up in ice and fish, when, in fact, not a single ice-ship has sailed from Alaska for the last seven years, and the fishing fleet and its whole year's work would be considered unworthy of notice in a New England seaport town.

This uncalled for fling at the noble Sumner is as ungenerous as it is untruthful and unjust, and cannot but recoil upon the head of its unworthy author. If naught was known about the fur-seal fisheries at that time, it is no argument against the acquisition; for the Territory is
well worth the purchase-money and more too, without "seal life," in which Mr. Elliott so luxuriantly revels. He is entitled to all he knows about the seals, their skins, oil, fat, and blubber, but aside from this he literally knows nothing, and can see no merit beyond the apex of the nose of a fur-seal.

Notwithstanding the fabulous statements made by Mr. Sumner in his magnificent speech upon the cession of Alaska, the truth of everything he said in relation to the fish in those waters has been proven, and the day will soon come in which he will be thanked by the nation at large for being instrumental in including within the American domain such a valuable gain to our national industry.

Mayor Dodge, of Sitka, pays Mr. Seward and himself the following tribute:

Charles Sumner, in his speech on "The cession of Russian America," not only made a valuable contribution to literature, but he gave to the world, and to the American people especially, information concerning the illimitable resources, climatology, and population of this country, which we, from our observation and information from other sources, fully justify and maintain. It is literally true; none of it is overdrawn; and although a portion of the people now ridicule the treaty negotiated by Secretary Seward whereby we have gained possession of this far distant land, the years are not many when the country will bless him for this very act, and pronounce him the ablest and most far-sighted statesman of the age in thus pacifically attaining so important a step towards the final and exclusive dominion of the entire North American Continent.

I quote from Captain White; every word of what he says can be relied upon as the truth:

What of the cod-fisheries? Some gentlemen in the business say that the Okhotk Sea has the better codfish banks; but as the food of this fish comes up on the southern arm of the vast Japan current that sweeps past under the Aleutians, why are not good cod-fishing grounds under Alaska? Answer: There are. I sounded the shores 700 miles by log northwest of Sitka, and found the entire length a codfish bank (with plenty of halibut also). The smaller codfish are in the shallower waters, nearer the shore, of 20 or 30 fathoms; but the best fisheries are farther out in 70 or 80 fathoms. For example, one day when sounding south of Kodiak, wishing to lay in a store of codfish, I ordered the sails set back and the lines prepared.

What bait? I had a barrel of Puget Sound clams salted for me with this purpose. I took my lead-line, as large as my thumb, attached five hooks above the lead, with a clam on each, and fastened to the davit; soon the bites—one, two, three, often five—were felt. I threw the line over the pulley and put four men to pull, and up would come two, three, and sometimes five cod, weighing 30 to 40 pounds apiece. We had out about 20 lines, and caught 250 fish in two hours. I met some fishermen, and asked why they did not fish farther out, instead of catching the smaller ones of 5 to 15 pounds each near the shore. They replied that the deep-water fishing was "too hard work."

It is true, as Captain White states, about the quality of the fish being graded according to the depth of water in which they are taken. And this is the reason why the fishing vessels dispatched from San Francisco to these waters have not met wholly with gratifying success. The fishermen have been too lazy and good-for-nothing to fish in deep water.

The time is soon coming when some live Yankee, who has the go in him, will emigrate from the frozen banks of Newfoundland, and show what can be done in our own territory. The present condition of our fishing interests on the Newfoundland banks is far from satisfactory, and this alone must attract attention to these newly-found resources. A writer in the Sitka Times says:

I cannot see why we should obligate ourselves to a foreign nation to secure that which we already have at home. As fine cod-fishing banks as exist in the known world lie all along the coast of Alaska, from the peninsula of Unalaska through Norton's and Kotzebue's Sounds into Behring Strait. One great difficulty which always existed on the Newfoundland banks is the great depth of water, which ranges from 70 to 90 fathoms. The banks along our coast only average from 30 to 50 fathoms. The fish, too, are of equally as fine a quality, and of good size.
And speaking of the cod-fisheries, one fact is important to be remembered. The banks extending all along the coast from Kodiak to Behring Straits and to the frozen ocean are shallow as compared with those of Newfoundland, the water on the Alaska banks averaging only from 20 to 50 fathoms, while those of the former average from 60 to 120 fathoms. And here is another fact, just reported to me, which I cannot forbear mentioning: At Kodiak, Henry Richard and Thomas Bache, fishermen, caught alone, with hook and line, within the last six months, 22,000 cod. This statement is undeniable, and it speaks a volume. And now I dismiss this branch of the subject, remarking merely that the whole coast of Alaska from Portland Canal in the south to the Polar Ocean in the north, embracing, including the islands, 26,000 miles of sea frontage, is one grand reservoir of fish, sufficient to employ thousands of men in supplying the demand constantly growing, and soon to increase immensely by the peopling of Washington Territory, Oregon, and California, and the embryo States now up-building all along the great continental highway from the West to the East, as well as the Sandwich Islands, China, and Japan.

It will be observed that both these last named gentlemen dwell upon the importance of the shallow water upon the banks. Experience in Alaskan waters has shown that the best fish are to be found in deeper water, as Captain White has demonstrated—in 70 or 80 fathoms.

**SALMON.**

The yield of salmon is unprecedented and beyond belief, and were I to relate all that has been told me about some of their runs in different portions of the Territory, I am afraid I might be set down a Munchausen. Yet the truth is not half told. The statement is now publicly proclaimed that hereafter ALASKA WILL SUPPLY THE WORLD WITH SALMON.

Sixty thousand Indians, more or less, and the Aleuts and Esquimaux in the Territory, numbering several thousand more, depend for the most part upon dried salmon for their winter sustenance. They are to be found anywhere and everywhere in countless myriads. They surpass in size any taken in any other country. Mayor Dodge says:

And lately additional testimony comes to us from numerous persons affirming as solemn truth that at Cook's Inlet the salmon average in weight 60 pounds, and many of them weigh 120 pounds. From two to four fill a barrel; and Mr. T. G. Murphy only last week brought down from there on the Newbern a barrel-full, containing only four. This must satisfy the most incredulous.

This is substantiated by statements to the same effect made to me by Captain White, and also by Surgeon Thomas T. Minor, who some years since visited Cook's Inlet in the interest of the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. L. A. La Grange writes from Ounalaska thus:

Salmon are the commonest kind of food with the Aleuts. At one draught of the United States revenue-cutter Lincoln's seine, while she lay in the harbor last June, 2,500 salmon and herrings were taken.

Again, a writer in the Sitka Times says:

On the 7th of August, last year, the Saginaw, Captain Mitchell, called at this place (Karta Bay). Baronovitch had ceased work some three weeks before, but, at Mitchell's request, he took his two boats and seines to catch a supply for the ship, and in fifteen minutes returned with them loaded to the guards with beautiful salmon.

The most astounding stories are told of the abundance of the fish during the running season; the water is actually BLACK with them. Sutherland speaks thus:

Fish run in the vicinity of Klawock in miraculous numbers, a catch of 7,000 at a time being no unusual thing. The salmon here are also very much larger than in the Columbia River, we having had one on our table weighing 45 pounds, the size of which alone would have frightened that Roman emperor who got into a delirious fit at the sight of a fish which he imagined bore the head of one of his victims.

S. Ex. 59—8
Mr. Frederick Whymper, artist to the Russian Overland Telegraph Expedition, has written a very agreeable book upon Alaska, Siberia, &c. Speaking of the purchase, he says:

That Russian America is likely to prove a bad bargain to the United States Government, I cannot believe. The extreme northern division of the country may, indeed, be nearly valueless, but the foregoing pages will have shown that in the more central portions of the territory furs are abundant, and that the trade in them, which may probably be further developed, must fall into American hands. The southern parts of the country are identical in character with the neighboring British territory, and will probably be found to be as rich in mineral wealth; while the timber, though of an inferior growth, owing to the higher latitude, will yet prove by no means worthless.

The fisheries may become of great value. There are extensive cod-banks off the Aleutian Isles, and on many other parts of the coast. Salmon is the commonest of common fish in all the rivers of the North Pacific, and is rated accordingly as food only fit for those who cannot get better. In Alaska, as in British Columbia, the fish can be obtained in vast quantities simply at the expense of native labor. To this add the value of salt (or vinegar), barrels, and freight, and one sees the slight total cost which would be incurred in exporting to benighted Europe that which would there be considered a luxury.

In Petropaulouski a merchant told me that he had made in this way $6,000 in one season, at no more trouble to himself than that incurred in a little superintendence of the natives employed. The enterprising American is the last man to neglect this source of profit.

Mr. Whymper also states as follows:

The Yukon salmon is by no means to be despised. One large variety is so rich that there is no necessity, when frying it, to put fat in the pan. They are taken all down the river in weirs set in shallow places in hand-nets of circular form and by spearing. We saw the very pretty sight of a whole fleet of birch-barks, proceeding together as regularly as a company of soldiers. At a given signal the owner of each dipped his round hand-net into the water, and if, raising it, a big salmon came up struggling to get away, there was a general shout of derision. I saw so much harmless fun and amusement among these Indians, and they evidently find so much enjoyment in hunting and fishing, that I could only wish they might never see much of the white man, and never learn the baneful habits and customs he is sure to introduce.

There are at least two, and I think three, varieties of Yukon salmon. The larger kind sometimes measures five feet. I have seen boats whose sides were made of the tough skin; they are, however, not common and not confined to the Lower Yukon and coast.

Mr. Elliott, Harper, page 815, thus gives his crude ideas about the fisheries of Alaska:

This is all that is doing in a Territory one-sixth the size of the whole United States, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. But it may be said that the salmon which run up its rivers every spring and summer will yet be utilized as a source of productive industry. The number of spawning fish that ascend the Yukon every June and July is something fabulous, but the practical fisherman says that the “run” is of too short a duration to warrant the employment of capital in canning them; but yet a means of rapid treatment may be devised by which these splendid salmon shall be secured, with profit to the captors and credit to the country.

The subject of canning salmon has not been agitated long on the Pacific coast, but, short as is the life of this new industry out there, it has grown already into a colossal trade, and the demand seems to always exceed the supply. It would appear reasonable to anticipate, therefore, the adoption by our fishermen of some machinery by which they can visit the Yukon when the salmon begin to run, and while they ascend the river catch a million pounds a day; for the raw material is there, of the largest size, the finest flavor, and in the greatest number known to any stream in the world.

I am glad to see that Mr. Elliott admits there are at least salmon in Alaska to catch, although he condemns with faint praise and doubts whether they can be utilized. Let us see.

The salmon fishery and cannery at Klawock, Prince of Wales Island, was started some ten years since by George Hamilton, who combined with it a trading-post. Owing to the lack of sufficient capital, he has disposed of it to the wealthy firm of Sisson, Wallace & Co., of San Francisco, who have incorporated under the laws of California, taking the name of the North Pacific and Trading Company.
This company began operations late in the season, after the run of fish was more than half over, and consequently have not had the opportunity to put up a very large number of fish, but they have fully demonstrated the practicability and success of the undertaking.

They have erected a saw-mill, and can saw lumber, including the cost of the logs, for $5 per thousand. They have entirely renovated the establishment, put in new machinery of all kinds, and every appliance for the curing, salting, boiling and canning of the fish. When I was there, on the 12th day of last May, they had 350,000 tin cans made. This labor is all done by Chinamen, who readily become experts in their manufacture. Over a hundred tons of freight were landed from the California. When in full operation, the cannery will give employment, including fishermen, to about 1.0 hands.

While I was at Klawack, they were testing the boiler, new machinery, and other apparatus, and were trying the experiment of canning clams and halibut, both of which are so plenteous in that neighborhood as to be a perfect drug. I have since seen the result of this, and can pronounce the clams the very best so treated on the whole Pacific coast, and the halibut is of superior quality, preserving its flavor better than any yet produced from any other locality. The supply of these two articles of commerce alone, from this particular place, is only to be regulated by the demand.

The halibut and clams can be multiplied ad infinitum. I learn the proprietors are fully satisfied with the results of this season, and will next year resume operations on a much larger scale. They have their buildings and everything now necessary for a successful conduct of the business erected, and will be able to avail themselves of any early catch that may offer. There is no end to the supply of salmon; here, as well as at all other places which have been tested, they are to be found in countless numbers, and of the most delicious and superior quality. I can attest this myself, having eaten them with the greatest relish. My own opinion is, the farther north you go so much better are the salmon, but this is stoutly contested by the partisans and fishermen of the Columbia River.

Cutting & Company, of San Francisco, established this year at Old Sitka, five miles from the present town, under the superintendence of Mr. Hunter, of the Eagle Cliff Fishery, Columbia River, a large cannery. It was late in the season when they commenced. They had to erect the building, put up all the machinery, make the cans and boxes, and, in fact, commence from the ground-floor up. Mr. Hunter persevered and succeeded in not only getting his enterprise well under way and ready for next season, but had it done in time for a portion of this season's run, and has demonstrated it is no longer an experiment, but a settled fact, that success will follow their efforts. So much are Cutting & Company pleased with the prospect, that they will probably erect two additional canneries early the coming spring.

The mail steamship California has brought from the two canneries to Astoria and Portland over 7,000 cases of fish, or 28,000 one-pound tins. This of itself speaks volumes for the future. The Baronovich fishery at Karta Bay is for sale, owing to the continued ill-health of the proprietor. It has never been utilized as a cannery. Parties are now negotiating for it for that purpose. The site is good and the bay is swarming full of salmon in season. A writer in the Sitka Times, says:

Baronovich at Cassair last year, with the aid of only 4 men, put up, in splendid order, 700 barrels of salmon, and had to cease the catch ere the season was half over, he having no more barrels to fill.
The Alaska Packing Company is a corporation formed under the laws of Oregon, with a capital of $25,000. Its president is a Russian Finn. They contemplate going next spring to the Kuka River, at Cook's Inlet, near the old Russian fort of Saint Nicholas, and better known since it was garrisoned by American troops, as Fort Kenai. These Finns are a hardy race; there are several of them in the company, and they will prove a valuable acquisition to the population of Alaska.

I know of far better points for the location of canneries than any selected yet, where trading-posts can be opened to great advantage and a fine business started, but do not care to make them public at present.

One steamer will not be enough next season to market the fish, and it is stated upon positive authority that early in the spring another company will put on the Alaska route a 700-ton steamship.

The fact is now established that canning fish in Alaska is a success, and as an economical venture so far ahead of the Columbia River that the latter cannot compete with the northern fisheries. The fishermen on the latter river, owing to the scarcity of fish, have been gradually increasing their price per catch, until last year was paid the very large sum of fifty cents for every fish caught and delivered at the canneries. Just think of that—fifty cents! And this sum was agreed upon after a long parley with the fishermen, who at the beginning of the season clubbed together and demanded seventy-five cents per piece. In Alaska they cannot cost over five cents apiece, and in some places less than that—about one or two cents.

The following statistics relating to the production of salmon on the Columbia River is taken from the Portland, Oreg., Commercial Reporter, of January 25, 1878. The figures are interesting, and the reader's attention is called to the falling off in the supply in 1877, and the reasons assigned therefor:

In another column is a tabulated statement by canneries of the exports for the season just drawing to a close. In this statement are included about 1,500 cases canned at Tillamook, Gray's Harbor, and Shoalwater Bay that were sent to the Columbia River for export. The amount yet in hand on the river is 9,631 cases, and 500 cases at Tillamook to come forward for shipment. Under the high price obtained the latter part of the season of 1876 many new canneries were built on this river, while about all the old ones were enlarged and otherwise improved. Every one looked forward to a very large canning, as there were more than double the number of fishing-boats out. The run of fish started in light, and as the boats were not so successful as they were in 1876, and cannerymen apparently urgent for fish, the fishermen demanded and received higher prices. Even at the advanced prices they did not net much owing to the light catch, on an average, to the boat. This year it is uncertain at what price fish will open, but it is generally claimed that not less than 50 cents each will be paid, and lower if the run is large. Cannerymen expect to be able to pay this high price, and save it in the running expenses of the canneries, for all have added several new and important labor-saving machines, besides working their men more systematically and to a better advantage. We are unable to estimate what the canning for 1878 will be, but that of 1877, taking British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California, does not exceed the entire canning for 1876. Columbia River fell off, but other rivers increased their product. Many new canneries were built on the small rivers in Oregon, on the coast, on Puget Sound and British Columbia; but canning did not come up to expectations; besides the fish are not equal in flavor or delicacy of flesh to the Columbia River. This year it is expected that several more outside canneries will be built, but their capacity will be small. In California, on the Sacramento River, there will be three canneries in operation. Unless the fish in the Columbia River are protected by Congress, even though we propagate them artificially, the supply will, year by year, grow beautifully less. Prices opened at $1.25 to $1.30, advanced to $1.55 to $1.65, then took a downward turn, and at this writing quotations are hard to give. No future contracts are being made by canners. Several canneries became financially embarrassed, but have effected satisfactory arrangements by which they will again start up when the season opens, but upon a more conservative plan.
The following is a list of canneries in operation on the Columbia River, and number of cases canned during the years 1875, 1876, and 1877:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Canneries</th>
<th>1875</th>
<th>1876</th>
<th>1877</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baddot &amp; Co.</td>
<td>24,000</td>
<td>25,683</td>
<td>20,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Booth &amp; Co.</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>22,596</td>
<td>24,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon Packing Company</td>
<td>12,500</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>10,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dodge, Sweeney &amp; Co.</td>
<td>21,500</td>
<td>18,500</td>
<td>16,656</td>
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<tr>
<td>John A. Devlin &amp; Co.</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>20,375</td>
<td>19,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitzpatrick, Davis &amp; Co.</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>24,081</td>
<td>16,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutting &amp; Co.</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>21,425</td>
<td>17,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happgood &amp; Co.</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>8,311</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackson, Myers &amp; Co.</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>36,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hume &amp; Co.</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>17,500</td>
<td>8,881</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wm. Hume.</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>21,500</td>
<td>22,035</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Hume.</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>28,500</td>
<td>21,201</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinnay Brothers.</td>
<td>26,000</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>19,946</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. G. Megler &amp; Co.</td>
<td>26,000</td>
<td>28,500</td>
<td>16,928</td>
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<tr>
<td>F. M. Warren.</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>17,500</td>
<td>6,856</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watson &amp; Bannan</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>18,970</td>
<td>7,985</td>
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<tr>
<td>John West.</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>18,970</td>
<td>7,985</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sternberger &amp; Co.</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>9,219</td>
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<tr>
<td>G. W. Hume.</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>11,277</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anglo-American Company</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>14,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishermen's Packing Company</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>14,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clackamas Packing Company</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>14,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hathorn &amp; Co.</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>14,029</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leveridge &amp; Priddle.</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>14,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pillar Rock Company</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>14,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watson &amp; Bannan.</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>14,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradley, Davis &amp; Co.</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>14,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Quinn.</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>14,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepburn &amp; Co.</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>14,029</td>
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The multiplication of canneries must necessarily diminish the run of the fish, and hence we must look elsewhere for a supply than the Columbia River, and see if we cannot find somewhere a stock which is inexhaustible.

The canning of salmon is still in an embryo state, its introduction into the markets of the world is gradual. There never need be any fear that the supply will ever exceed the demand, always, however, bearing in mind that the cost of production must not be so great as to inhibit the sale of the fish. If Alaska will produce canned fish and land them in Europe at a reduced price and cheaper than those from the Columbia River, Puget Sound, and the Fraser, she will control the market, be able to undersell all competitors, and govern the whole commercial world in this respect.

When we reflect that the whole amount of fish produced on the Columbia River during the year 1877 would not furnish a breakfast for the inhabitants of London for one week, the infancy of this new enterprise is readily appreciated, and the great resources of Alaska are prominently brought in view.

Mr. Elliott, I think, is right about his remarks on the salmon in the Yukon, but he has singularly selected the most unfavorable spot in Alaska for the prosecution of this industry. The Yukon has debouched at its mouth miles and miles of sand and débris, creating bars, so as to render its navigation dangerous and uncertain; but this will all be corrected when the Coast Survey gets to work up there, and marks out the channels.

Probably the run of salmon in the Yukon for a short time cannot be compared with anything similar on earth. It is wonderful to behold. One is hardly expected to be believed if he tells the truth about it.

Mention must also be made of the millions of herring of the largest
size and finest flavor which are to be found, and only awaiting Yankee enterprise for conversion into a rich and thriving trade.

A correspondent of the San Francisco Chronicle, writing from Wrangel under date of July 6, 1878, takes a broad and expansive view of the fish-canning industry and the country generally. He gracefully writes as follows:

On leaving Klawock wharf the California had to steam ahead into the middle of the circular basin for room to turn her bow seaward. Prince of Wales Island is the largest and perhaps the most valuable of our 1,100 islands of the Alexander Archipelago. As yet its value and resources are but partially known, only a few points on its coast having been visited by Americans or Europeans, to whom its interior is still a terra incognita. But this ignorance will soon yield to the explorations of prospectors in search of mineral wealth, and as fishing settlements multiply upon the coast incursions into the interior can be made with comparative ease. The southern shores of this island touch the boundary line of British Columbia. It is only 450 miles north of Washington Territory, and its winter climate, tempered by the warm current which sweeps across the Pacific, is as mild as the winter climate of San Francisco, and its summer days are far more enjoyable than those of your wind-swept city. Its timber, particularly its yellow cedar, possesses a higher market-value than the timber of Oregon or California. The value of its fisheries is now becoming known to the world. Yet we are told by writers, who are paid to decry Alaska, that this and its neighboring islands, like the rest of the purchased Territory, are valueless and unfit for the habitation of civilized man. We have entered upon the second decade of our possession of Alaska, a decade which promises to close upon a much higher public estimate of the value of the purchased Territory than has yet been accorded to it. Powerful agencies have been at work to depreciate the value of Alaska and discourage enterprise and emigration in this direction. And there is no doubt a prevalent popular opinion that Secretary Seward made an unprofitable and useless investment for the United States when he purchased Alaska. That opinion, based upon indifference to and ignorance of the real value of the already known resources of the Territory, is about to be dispelled by the profitable utilization of at least a part of those resources. And before the end of this our second decade of ownership the sagacity, foresight, and wise statesmanship of Mr. Seward in making the purchase will be fully vindicated.

I cannot close this topic without alluding to what Mr. Elliott has said about no ice-ship having sailed from Alaska for seven years. This is a very unfair method of belittling a country. Mr. Elliott well knows that after the purchase an ice company was formed in San Francisco that supplied all California with ice, and ships went also to Mexico, Central and South America, laden with ice. This was carried on for several years, until the production of artificial ice became so cheap and so general as to completely drive the native ice out of the market. This is the sole and only reason for the cessation of ice shipments.

**TITLES TO LAND AND CONVEYANCES.—ESTATES DEVISED BY WILL AND LAWS FOR THE COLLECTION OF DEBTS.**

There is not now in force in Alaska any law whatever respecting any of the essential provisions contained in the above title. It may seem paradoxical to state there is no law extant whereby a man can acquire title to land in a Territory belonging to the United States, yet such is the frozen truth, and to-day this singular embarrassment exists without any redress, remedy, or cure, save intervention by Congress.

I know of an instance where a man is desirous of erecting a saw-mill on Prince of Wales Island, but dare not risk the outlay, for the simple reason there is no law whereby he can secure title to his MILL-SITE ALONE, without looking to the acquirement of timber lands for lumber, and if he cuts without, being liable some day to be arrested and fined for cutting on United States lands.

There is no title whatever to the property held by residents of towns save by possession only, except in some isolated cases, where the Russian title may be recognized; and the towns themselves will have to have...
their own title perfected before any subsequent grantee can deraign a perfect title in fee from them.

In order that there may be no misunderstanding about this matter, I herewith submit a letter from the Commissioner of the General Land Office:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, GENERAL LAND OFFICE, October 26, 1867.**

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the department letter of yesterday, inclosing a communication of the 24th, from the honorable Secretary of State, by which the department is advised that citizens of the United States are attempting to make claims and settlements at Sitka, within the "Russian purchase," under the town-site and pre-emption laws, and I have the honor to state that such settlements are illegal and contrary to law. (See act of March 3, 1867, vol. xi, p. 445, United States Statutes.)

In the absence of specific legislation by Congress providing for the organization of land districts within the "Russian purchase," and the extension of our system of surveys over the same, settlements and claims under the town-site and pre-emption laws are unlawful, and cannot be recognized under existing laws.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH S. WILSON,
Commissioner.

Hon. O. H. BROWNING, Secretary of the Interior.

Hon. O. H. Browning, then Secretary of the Interior, lost no time in communicating his views to the Secretary of State, which are in the words and figures following, to wit:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, Washington, D. C., October 26, 1867.**

Sir: In reply to your communication of the 24th instant, in relation to attempts of American citizens to acquire pre-emption rights to lands at Sitka, in the newly-acquired Territory of Alaska, I have the honor to inclose for your information a copy of a report this day made to me by the Commissioner of the General Land Office upon the subject of your inquiries. Such claims and settlements are not only without the sanction of law, but are in direct violation of the provisions of the laws of Congress applicable to the public domain secured to the United States by any treaty made with a foreign nation; and, if deemed necessary and advisable, military force may be used to remove the intruders.

This department has no officers at Sitka, nor in any other part of the "Russian purchase," and must rely upon the State Department to cause the necessary orders in the premises to be communicated to our authorities there.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State then wrote as follows to the Secretary of War:

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, October 28, 1867.**

GENERAL: In the absence of specific legislation by Congress for the organization of land districts in Alaska, claims of pre-emption and settlements are not only without the sanction of law, but are in direct violation of laws applicable to the public domain. Military force may be used to remove intruders, if necessary. Will you have the goodness to instruct Major-General Halleck to this effect by telegraph, and request him to communicate the instruction to Major-General Rousseau at Sitka.

I have the honor to be, general, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

General U. S. GRANT, Secretary of War ad interim.

There has been no legislation by Congress since upon this subject. It will thus be perceived, any one who settles upon land in Alaska, intending to hold the same by occupation until the necessary pre-emption laws can be passed, is precluded by the above rulings, and liable at any moment to be ejected therefrom, neck and heels, by armed forces of the United States; and yet we are told the country is still unsettled! Is it
any wonder that this is the case, when a man, after building his cabin in the backwoods and creating a home for himself and family and quietly pursuing a legitimate avocation in the earning of a livelihood, suddenly wakes up some fine morning to find himself and family cast upon a sand spit, with a file of bayonets intruding in his rear.

The provisions of chapter 6, of the second edition of the Revised Statutes, 1878, p. 424, entitled "Mineral lands and mining resources," are of no value to a miner in Alaska as far as the acquisition of a patent to mining property is concerned, until Congress shall provide the necessary legislation.

To my mind, with all the drawbacks the Territory has had, very rapid advances in the march of improvement and civilization have been made, and the mineral discoveries have not only been important, but under all the circumstances marvelous.

CONVEYANCES.

As there is no law for the acquisition of real estate, so is the corollary, there is no law providing for the recordation of conveyances. A man cannot sell a piece of property in Alaska and give a deed for it which will be legal notice to third parties, and for the same reason a man cannot mortgage a piece of land as security for a loan which will give legal notice to creditors and others.

In fine, there is no law in the country touching either of these important factors of business life.

As mentioned before, the deputy collectors at Sitka and Wrangel keep each a book of conveyances, which, if legalized, may have some day an important bearing, and even now, as a book of reference, they are valuable, but they have no legal significance or force whatever.

WILLS.

Likewise, a man dying in Alaska is unable to dispose of his property by will, if everything he owns is situated there and he is a resident of that Territory. There are no laws regarding the estates of deceased persons, no probate courts, surrogates, or probate judges, and no one having any authority to administer upon estates.

One instance which fell under my own observation will suffice as an example. William Phillipson, postmaster at Sitka, and Navy coal agent, died on November 2, 1877, intestate, possessed of certain real and personal property. He also kept a small store, and at the time of his death had on hand a stock of goods. He left a widow and two children by a previous wife.

Soon after his death began a contention and general scramble for the spoils. He had certain creditors in Oregon, who visited Sitka, and a general division of the property of the dead man took place. It was duly partitioned off, the creditors getting the lion's share and the widow what their generosity vouchsafed her. Two children of tender years were left out in the cold, to subsist upon the charity of strangers. One of these children was taken to Portland and placed in an orphans' home, under the charge of the Presbytery of Oregon. I found in the custody of the deputy collector at Sitka a certificate of deposit from the United States assistant treasurer at San Francisco, showing the Navy Department had deposited to the credit of Phillipson, and payable to his order, $150, for three months' salary as coal agent. This I had sent to Oregon and placed in trustworthy hands, and property thus coming within the State of Oregon will give its probate courts jurisdiction, letters of admin-
istration will be applied for, and this much will be saved to this poor little fatherless child. Since I left Sitka a schooner belonging to the estate has been sold, and the proceeds will arbitrarily be devoted to the babes. A MAN MAY BE MURDERED IN ALASKA, his will forged, and his estate scattered to the four corners of the earth, and there is no power in a court of chancery to redress it.

COLLECTION OF DEBTS.

Alaska is the paradise of the dishonest debtor, for there is no law of any kind throughout the land for the collection of debts. No redress but the shot-gun and pistol. It requires no argument from me to urge a change of affairs in this respect. Business cannot prosper when the merchant has no security whatever for the merchandise sold by him. No wonder the settlement of the country is retarded.

THE PRESENT CONDITION OF ALASKA AND ITS FUTURE GOVERNMENT.

The general reputation that Harpers' Magazine heretofore has borne for truth and veracity, the care with which its articles have been selected has given it a world-wide reputation. But any publication of the kind is likely to be taken in, and from the very high character enjoyed by the magazine, it cannot be denied but that the article of Mr. Elliott has had a very damaging effect upon Alaska. It is written with a certain air of vraisemblance calculated to deceive the unwary and grossly impose upon the credulity of the reader. It is not so charged in express words that such was the intention of the writer. I prefer to ascribe it to gross and palpable ignorance than to intentional design. The marplot says:

The hundred or so white residents mentioned are scattered principally as traders between Norton Sound, of Behring Sea, and Sitka, and, naturally enough, they are not making much demand for a Territorial government; and Congress has wisely turned the entire charge of the interests of the government and the natives over to the Secretary of the Treasury, who is abundantly able, with a revenue steamer, two or three special agents, and a collector of customs, with his four or five deputies, to enforce all needful law and order. Several “patriots,” however, living on Puget Sound and in Oregon, have been urging some legislation by Congress which would result in creating a few offices up there, but they have met with deserved failure thus far.

I think enough has been said already to show that “the collector and his four or five deputies,” &c., are not enough to “enforce all needful law and order.” At any rate, such is the opinion of one of the most fearless deputies who has ever done service in Alaska, Mr. Dennis, a soldier in the Federal Army, wounded during the war of the rebellion, a man of nerve and courage, and one who has stood up alone, unsustained by any superior officer or authority, and by his own right arm and power and force of will put down the rabble at Wrangel, broken up the manufacture of hoochenoo, and kept the Indians in subjection. There is, however, a limit to human endurance.

The following correspondence is submitted:

CUSTOM-HOUSE, WRANGEL, ALASKA,
Collector's Office, June 15, 1878.

DEAR SIR: In the event of no collector for this district before the 1st of October next, I desire to inform you that I wish to resign the office of deputy collector, to take effect September 30, 1878. Will you please notify the department of this fact, and request that I be relieved by that date?

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

Maj. WILLIAM GOUVENUE MORRIS.

I. C. DENNIS, Deputy Collector.

Special Agent Treasury Department, Port Townsend, Wash.
And upon the same day the following letter was also transmitted:

CUSTOM-HOUSE, WRANDEL, ALASKA,
Collector's Office, June 15, 1878.

Sir: I have the honor to transmit herewith my resignation of the office of deputy collector of customs, port of Wrangel, to take effect on the 30th September next.

I take this step on account of the manner in which the department is running this Territory.

I have acted in the capacity of arbitrator, adjudicator, and peace-maker until forbearance has ceased to be a virtue. Within the past month one thousand complaints by Indians have been laid before me for settlement, and as I am neither Indian agent or justice of the peace, I decline the honor of patching up Indian troubles for any time longer than can be obviated.

Again, the prospect for Congress to extend law and order over this country looks gloomy, and in the absence of law at this port no compensation that the government could offer me would be any inducement for me to act in the capacity of deputy collector another year.

For quietness to reign at this port and other portions of the Territory, there must be some power here beyond that conferred on deputy collectors. The sending of armed vessels to this district has a pacifying effect on Indians while they are in these waters, but as soon as they are absent the old deviltry commences again. What this country wants is law, and without it she will never flourish and prosper.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. C. DENNIS,
Deputy Collector.

Major Wm. Gouverneur Morris,
Special Agent Treasury Department, Port Townsend, W. T.

Mr. Dennis also wrote me a private letter at the same time, and in order to complete the history of his offering his resignation, I make the following extract:

I wish to tell you some of my troubles and annoyances during the past month.

When you were here you know that canoes were carrying freight up the river very fast. Well, the news spread over the country like wild-fire, and a few days after your departure the Indians were coming in from all quarters by hundreds.

Everything passed off peacefully until the 21st May, at which time the canoes became so plentiful, and all wanting to carry freight up the river, that the Skink Indians became alarmed and jealous because of the competition. They made threats, and this created trouble and excitement among the outside Indians. All came to me with their complaints, and bothered me to death almost, but I lived through it. On the 22d and 23d we loaded 40 canoes with freight. These 40 canoes carried in all about 250 Indians as crews. The canoes left here, and by the time they had ascended the river about half way the water became high, drift-wood commenced running, and the canoes were unable to proceed. The Indians, therefore, discharged their cargoes on the banks of the river, laid by it a few days, and finding the water still rising and provisions getting low, the cargoes were cached, and all the Indians returned to this port for further supplies. Previous to their clearing this port all the Indians had drawn from the stores at this place several dollars in goods, which was charged to the captains of the various canoes, and to be deducted from the freight money on arrival at Telegraph Creek.

Well, the Indians, after being here a few days, concluded that they would strike for higher pay (the crew I mean), and finding that they could not get a raise they all refused to return. Here was a fix. Each Indian had drawn on his employer to the tune of several dollars, and if he did not complete the voyage the employer would be the loser. This was too much for 40 stand. Consequent complaints commenced to come to me by the dozen every day for two weeks. I believe I have had before me all the Indians in Alaska during the past thirty days.

The crews of the canoes refused to return and carry through their loads, and I had to make them do it. To accomplish this I made threats of what would be done with them if they did not do as I say. I became so mad and disgusted that I came near killing two or three Indians. On the top of this trouble came a fight among the Hootzenoo Indians here—friends of mine. (9) Complaints were made, and I settled the difficulty by telling them to go to——, and that if they kicked up any further disturbance I would hang the ringleaders. So much for the Indians. I am sick and tired of having their troubles come before me, and I want to get away.

Mr. Elliott charges that "patriots," in quotation marks, are urging the formation of a Territorial government for Alaska, simply for the creation of "A FEW OFFICES UP THERE." He is publicly informed that as far
as patriotism in the fullest, broadest, and most complete and acceptable definition of the term is concerned, there are full as many gentlemen on Puget Sound entitled to be classed as such, generically, positively, intellectually, and socially, as can be found hanging around the skirts of the Smithsonian Institution for a living.

The following memorial to Congress from the inhabitants of Wrangel would seem to negative the Puget Sound charge of Mr. Elliott, who shoots with a long bow, and makes the most senseless charges, which are so easy of refutation. The citizens of Wrangel have petitioned Congress as follows:

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

The memorial of the undersigned citizens of California, Oregon, Washington Territory, British Columbia, and other parts of the Pacific coast, now stationed at Fort Wrangel, Alaska Territory, respectfully shows:

1. That Fort Wrangel, Alaska Territory, is situate upon an island at the mouth of the Stickeen River, which river has for the last three years been navigated by British steamboats, and is the only accessible means of communication with an extensive gold-mining region in British Columbia known as “Cassiar.”

2. That in consequence of the rush of miners to Cassiar, Fort Wrangel has become, and now is, a place of considerable trade and commerce, the river steamboats all clearing from Fort Wrangel for Cassiar, and being the terminus of ocean navigation, so far as the mines are concerned.

3. The mining population of Cassiar, during the season of 1876, is estimated a 2,000, exclusive of Indians, being an increase upon each of the two previous seasons; and there is every reason for believing that the year 1877 will see as large a mining population as the year 1876; and that the camp will be a steady one for years.

4. That during the winter season nearly the whole of the mining population leave the mines for their respective homes in the States, British Columbia, and elsewhere, returning to the mines in the spring; and thus Fort Wrangel, in the spring and fall, has a continuous passing population of miners, who are compelled to pass through Fort Wrangel, and such passing population is frequently detained at Fort Wrangel awaiting ocean steamers.

5. That there are four river steamers constantly plying during the summer between Fort Wrangel and Cassiar, and there are five ocean steam-vessels constantly plying between Portland and Fort Wrangel and Victoria and Fort Wrangel.

6. The fixed population of Fort Wrangel is about 800, i. e., 300 whites and 500 Indians, independently of which a large foreign Indian trade is continually kept up, from 500 to 700 foreign Indians constantly visiting Fort Wrangel for the purpose of trading and proceeding to the mines, many of whom remain at and about Fort Wrangel during the summer.

7. The receipts of merchants and others at Fort Wrangel during the year are estimated at $250,000, and the receipts of ocean-going vessels, by reason of Fort Wrangel trade, at $100,000 annually.

8. The estimated cost of private improvements at Fort Wrangel during the last three years is $75,000.

9. Goods and provisions to the extent of 1,200 tons annually, for use and consumption in Cassiar, pass in transit through Fort Wrangel, and are bonded there.

10. The amount of goods imported into Fort Wrangel for sale and home consumption is estimated at 1,500 tons annually.

11. Extensive credits are necessarily given by the merchants of Fort Wrangel to the merchants and miners of Cassiar and to the other merchants and the inhabitants of Fort Wrangel, and large deposits of gold dust are from time to time made by miners and others passing through Fort Wrangel, with the merchants and residents of that place, and it is estimated that at times as much as $500,000 is so placed on deposit.

12. Alaska Territory, including Fort Wrangel, is under military rule; but at present no legal tribunal exists, either civil or criminal, although civil disputes and controversies are arising daily, and the want of such a tribunal is keenly felt.

13. Such want of law creates much dissatisfaction, and is calculated to lead to oppression, and to induce unscrupulous and dishonest persons to do or omit doing what the law would restrain them from or compel them to do, and is also calculated to tempt those who conceive that they have grievances to take the law into their own hands and convert might into right.

14. In cases of a criminal character, the delinquents cannot be brought to justice without being sent to Portland, a distance of 1,000 miles, and thus, in cases of minor offenses, the party accused must go unscathed, or, whether guilty or not, receive a punishment exceeding the offense charged against him.
15. Your memorialists respectfully submit that, in the absence of judicial authority, there is a complete failure of justice in Alaska Territory.

16. Your memorialists further submit that the military rule is highly conducive to the preservation of order, and in granting relief under this petition would wish that the present rule be in no way changed, as the presence of a military staff prevents disorder and bloodshed, which too frequently occur in places where military government is wanting and a police force is necessarily small.

Your petitioners therefore pray—

That a tribunal may be constituted for the purpose of adjudicating upon and enforcing rights, civil and criminal, either by extending to Alaska Territory the jurisdiction of the courts of Washington Territory, and causing circuit courts to be held in Alaska at stated periods, or by constituting a court of separate and original jurisdiction for Alaska Territory.

That two or more justices of the peace may be appointed for the Territory, with jurisdiction in civil causes to the extent of $500.

That there may be allowed to practice as advocates in such court of extended jurisdiction, or in such court of separate jurisdiction and before a justice of the peace, any person being an attorney of any of the supreme courts in the United States, or a barrister or attorney of the supreme court of British Columbia.

That proper regulations for the practice and procedure of any such court, or before a justice of the peace, may be made and passed, and that such further matters may be done as the premises require.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

John M. Vanderbilt, R. W. Colvin, Jorge Lorensen,
Thomas Ardiel, I. Frohman, Rob. Burns,
Henry E. Cutter, J. Watson, James Hade,
M. C. Ireland, R. R. Clark, Frank Mahony,
J. W. Waydelich, T. J. Stephens, P. Liberty,
A. H. Dennis, R. Tennant, Edwin Jenkins,
W. K. Sion, W. I. Stephens, Charles McVitter,
G. H. Church, C. C. Panel, Robert Kent,
George Fairbrother, J. F. Hixon, Thomas J. McCully,
James McCloskey, A. Choquette, Thader Kentley,
John Burns, Samuel Johnston, W. H. Bennett,
Frank Hobin, E. E. Stark, James Stevens,
Gustav Hauck, James C. Fox, Thomas O' Connor,
Daniel Dixon, Bernheim & Mans, William Smith,
William Kirkpatrick, Henry Gerke, G. Fitzstubbles,
Jules Carl, James C. Parker, Oliver Price,
Theodore Davis, Henry E. Cutter, John Schmidt,
James Shobroyd, I. C. Dennis, A. Choquette,
C. F. Jones, John Allen, John Vore,
John Williams, A. McInnes, A. Beedy,
John Grant, T. F. McIntyre, W. Meridith,
George Rath, A. D. Fraser, Clarence S. Dean,
Lewis Hart, J. Juneon, Edward Francis,
John McKenzie, Walter T. Dunson,
Vivian George Brodie, A. Meridith, A. Meredith,
Robert Stevenson, J. A. Gardiner, John Lafline,
W. Humphrey, Oscar B. Cooper, Alexander Mathison,
L. W. Gifford, A. O. Old, William Waring,
Robert C. Dore, R. S. Boyd, Charles Grant,
A. MacCrellish, H. Gaillard, T. C. Knaff,
R. H. Wood, Frank Kelley, Richard Fish,
Levy Stacy, G. W. Ramsey, Richard Welsh,
Paul Kereloff, W. W. Russell, James McRiece,
C. G. Cogan, Powers, W. D. Luntz,
James Moore, J. A. Gardner, E. G. Riley,
J. B. Hugo, E. Underwood, E. P. Hess,
Charles Daicker, William Read, Albert Herman,
M. S. Richards, James Rosewell, J. A. Workman,
H. Kemrostan, James Smith, P. McGloney,
Reuben Albertstone, John Boyd, William Sanders,
J. Fletcher, J. S. Brown, E. B. Simmons,
William Wright, Edward Donehue, D. L. Sheeemaker,
George Livingston, Thomas Russell, Robert Hicks,
Charles H. Hall, George H. Fox, John O'Donnell,
A. S. White, John J. White, John H. McCormick,
John O'Donnell, Wm. A. Simms, George Fairbrother,
John H. McCormick, A. Martin, J. F. Hixon,
And many others.
But Mr. Elliott, not content with this onslaught, makes mention again in his magazine work of destruction, Harper, page 803, wherein he says:

Though we know now that Alaska will never be, in all human probability, the land for us, yet we have one great comfort in its contemplation, for we shall never be obliged to maintain costly mail-routes or appoint the ubiquitous postmaster there. We shall never be asked by its people for a Territorial form of government with its attendant Federal expenses; and much as the coast looms up on the map, we shall never have to provide light-houses for its vacant harbors.

Mr. Elliott is informed that mail-routes in all probability will be increased as soon as the necessities of the inhabitants demand them. There are now two "ubiquitous postmasters" in Alaska, one at Wrangel, the other at Sitka, and there is monthly mail communication between those ports and Port Townsend, the port of entry for the collection district of Puget Sound, in a first-class ocean steamer. No good reason can be assigned why this service should not at the present time be extended to Kodiak Island, and subsequently, when necessity requires it, to the Aleutian Islands farther west. In fact, there is every reason it should be done. We have a deputy collector there who has no means of communicating with his principal at Sitka, save via San Francisco, and then about once or twice in a twelvemonth. There are American citizens living at Kodiak, and in the immediate vicinity, who are cut off from all mail facilities and communication with the outside world. Alaska is not a penal colony, and if our adventurous citizens cast their fortunes there in search of mineral treasures, and the development of the fisheries and the internal resources of the country, they should not be punished by being buried alive.

Mr. Ivan Petroff, a historian and translator of languages, accompanied the revenue steamer Richard Rush in her trip last spring to the Privilov Islands, and writes thus:

Throughout Alaska, except at Sitka, there is a total want of mail facilities. It is only by the casual visits of whalers that intelligence from the great world is received at intervals between the annual visit of the United States revenue-cutter, which is looked forward to by all the inhabitants, temporary and native, with the liveliest anxiety. It was only last May that Mr. John M. Morton, special agent of the Treasury at Saint Paul, first received word of the death of his father, the late Senator from Indiana, and the mournful intelligence was then by accident communicated to him by a whaling captain, just arrived, whom he met while taking a stroll on the beach. Seeing the stranger, Mr. Morton asked him what news he brought from the part of the world he had last left. Without the least idea who his questioner was, the captain proceeded to recall all he could in the way of news, and had ceased, but, having just then recollected, he said—"Of course, you have heard that Senator Morton is dead." The announcement, so bluntly made, caused his questioner to start, and then he learned from Mr. Morton's own lips that he was the son of the distinguished dead. The very next day the government cutter arrived at Saint Paul, with the newspapers containing the account of the event.

A Sitka correspondent of the San Francisco Chronicle thus discourses:

A citizen of California, Oregon, and Washington Territory, or of Wrangel or Sitka, wishing to visit the Kodiak district or the Aleutian Islands, must hire or buy a vessel to carry him there. You have a mail service from San Francisco to Tahiti, another to the Fiji Islands, and one is proposed to the Samoan Islands, yet these districts of territory, which may easily be made tenfold more valuable than all the islands of the South Pacific, are outlawed.

This cutting off of mail service, however, is no new thing with Mr. Special Agent Elliott, for in his fur-seal report, he advocates "the abolition of the present subsidized mail-steamer which runs between Portland and Sitka," and that the "revenue-cutter stationed on Puget Sound should be detailed to bring (the mail for the Territory,) at preconcerted intervals of two or three months, and, by so doing, give the Territory a mail system."
Comment is unnecessary. What the citizens of Alaska have done to incur the everlasting enmity of this man is more than I can imagine. I can, however, say to him in response to the proposition laid down by him, to wit, "Much as the coast looms up on the map, we shall never have to provide light-houses for its vacant harbors," that he is very much mistaken, and he will live to see the day when lights will be erected at some of the very points designated in this report.

STATE OF AFFAIRS.

The Russians exercised over the inhabitants of Alaska despotic sway, and held them in absolute subjection. They treated them as brutes and flogged them unmercifully for theft and petty misdemeanors. They punished crime promptly with severe corporal chastisement or imprisonment, and regarded the Indians as not more than one degree removed from dumb beasts. They held the power of life and death over their subjects. They had over two thousand soldiers, employés, and retainers ready to do the bidding of the local supreme authority. Ships of war were always at hand to bombard the villages into submission. The natives were thus completely at the mercy of their rulers.

When the sale to the United States took place the forts were garrisoned with Federal soldiers, new posts were located and built, and for years the country was under strict military rule. The Indians were taught several severe lessons by the soldiery and the gunboats, and they continued to all intents and purposes in their condition of serfdom until the country was formally abandoned by the War Department, and subsequently transferred to the sole control of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Suddenly they awoke to the knowledge that they were free men; that as far as outward appearances were concerned there was no power or authority to interfere with their acts. They saw the outward change of things, and that the pomp and panoply of war had departed. They beheld the white man, Boston man, and King George man, black man, yellow man, Chinaman, Indian, Aleut, Esquimaux, and men of all colors, nationality, and nativity, all associating together upon the common terms of sweet republican simplicity. There was no authority at hand to punish the evil-doer, no power to redress savage enormities. It was this feeling of insecurity, this sudden transition from order to chaos, which induced Collector Berry to urgently invoke aid from the department, seconded by myself, in order that no outbreak might occur.

It is to the credit of the natives to say they have behaved themselves with commendable and extraordinary prudence, and that the repetition of the horrors of Hayti and San Domingo have not been re-enacted. It only goes to prove the correct estimate formed of them by Colyer, Dodge, and others. I will venture to say that nowhere on the uncivilized globe would such an order of things prevail.

That there have been periods when great danger was justly apprehended there can be no question, and that, unless the strong arm of the government is interposed, the time will come when the civilized world will stand aghast at some gorgon horror perpetrated, there can be no dispute. It is the natural order of things. The two races must eventually clash; and it will not be any studied plan of revenge for injuries, fancied or real, but will be the result of brutality and oppression upon the part of the white man, and craze, fear, deviltry, and intellect boshed by rum, upon the part of the Indian race.

It is to prevent this rupture, of bloodshed, rapine, and murder, that
my efforts have been directed, and if anything I have written, said, or done will contribute to establish a more healthy and salutary condition of affairs in this far off, neglected, and much maligned country, I will be more than content, and feel fully repaid for any exertion, anxiety, or trouble it has caused me.

This narrative will not be complete unless the reports of the several revenue-marine captains are given who have visited the Territory since it has been under the control of the Treasury Department. First is the report of Captain White, who was sent there upon the representations of Collector Berry and myself soon after the withdrawal of the military.

Captain White reports as follows:

UNITED STATES REVENUE STEAMER THOMAS CORWIN,
Sitka, Alaska, August 12, 1877.

Sr: In compliance with the department telegram of the 26th ultimo, I proceeded to this place, where I arrived at 4 p. m. of the 10th instant, and, as the mail-steamer will leave here this p. m., I have the honor to submit the following report:

Soon after mooring, a number of the natives gathered around the vessel in their canoes, with fish, game, &c., for the purpose of trade, and from them I learned that most of the men were away fishing, as is their custom at this time of the year, and none with whom I conversed seemed to know of any particular trouble brewing.

Early the next morning, accompanied by an officer, I visited the custom-house building, and found there Mr. E. G. Harvey in charge, Collector M. P. Berry being absent, at Victoria, V. I., for medical treatment.

Mr. Harvey seems clearly to understand the situation of affairs here, and several of the traders support his views in the main. It is the opinion of Mr. Harvey that any trouble which may arise will be due to the excessive use of a very fiery and intoxicating drink, which the Indians and creoles (or half-breed Russians) easily distil from either molasses, sugar, potatoes, or the various kinds of wild berries growing here; molasses, however, being the chief article relied upon. The making of the drink (an art learned from the soldiers) is now being carried on by both Indians and half-breeds, and in quantities to suit the demand, so that all can have a "big drunk" whenever they are so disposed, and at such times serious trouble may positively arise. In my opinion, however, much of this could be averted by the traders themselves if they would not dispose of molasses, save in very small quantities, or better still not at all, as the principal use of the molasses imported, which is of the cheapest and most inferior Sandwich Island production, is for the manufacture of this intoxicating drink. Judging, however, from the class of men trading here, I think it unlikely they will refrain from trading in anything the law allows at least.

The mode of distilling this drink is very simple, and the apparatus used inexpensive in the extreme, viz, two coal-oil cans and a very small coil of pipe, which is easily put out of sight or destroyed upon the slightest chance of detection; and I am informed that many did so destroy or remove to the woods these petty stills upon our arrival in sight, especially when it was seen to be a government vessel.

After diligent inquiries and careful observation since our arrival here, I have not discovered any breach of the public peace, nor has my attention been called to any particular act save a few petty trespasses committed by the Indians, half-breeds, and white men as well, soon after the departure of the troops.

While the Indians, more thoughtful, are now preparing fish for winter use, the half-breeds from their utter shiftlessness and inordinate cravings for strong drink, sacrificing all their summer earnings to obtain it, will, I am afraid, suffer for food this coming winter.

The great desire of all with whom I have conversed seems to be, that the Indians should be made to understand that the government has not entirely abandoned the country to them, and that its presence here should be represented by an armed vessel or return of the troops. I would here respectfully suggest the propriety of having an armed vessel visit this place and the principal Indian villages in this archipelago once every two or three months at most, as that of itself would have a greater restraining influence over both whites and Indians, and tend to the better enforcement of the laws and preservation of the public peace than by stationing troops at this point. Carrying out this view, I would respectfully inform the department that, after becoming satisfied that our stay here will be no longer required for the proper enforcement of the laws for the time being, I shall proceed to visit some of the principal villages and Fort Wrangel, thence to Port Townsend, W. T., where I will leave Pilot Keene, and report to the department, exercising my best judgment at all times for the best interests of the government.

I have to add that, from the best data obtainable, the population of this place is as
follows: 12 or 15 white men, of various nationalities, claiming to be American citizens; 5 five full-blooded Russians, including the priest, and about 270 half-breeds, including men, women, and children. The Indian population varies from 300 to 1,500, according to the season. The priest informs me that the half-breeds are a low, degraded class, over whom he has no influence, and that more fear is to be apprehended from them, when drunk, than from the Indians themselves.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

J. W. WHITE,
Captain, United States Revenue Marine.

Subsequently in October, Captain Selden, commanding the cutter Wolcott, visited Sitka for the purpose of being present at a potlatch to be given there by Sitka Jack.

Captain Selden made the following report:

UNITED STATES REVENUE STEAMER WOLCOTT,
Sitka, Alaska, October 18, 1877.

Sir: In obedience to your telegram of the 1st instant, I have the honor to report my arrival at this port after a passage from Port Townsend of eleven days.

The situation of affairs here remains unchanged since the cutter Corwin left. The festival among the Indians is nothing new; they have continued this fashon of holding an annual celebration, similar to this one, for years, and I learn from a reliable source that no trouble has ever come from it, or is there likely to now. The Indians are noisy and boisterous in their mirth, and assume immense airs, and swagger around with some insolence, but never make any threats. Sitka Jack, the chief of the Sitka Indians, has recently built him a new house, and celebrates the event on this occasion by inviting the relatives of his wife, numbering about thirty persons, from the Chilkat tribe. These are all the Indians from abroad, which, with the five hundred Sitka Indians, comprise the total number present. With the exception of the mirth and noise incident to these festivities, I am assured by the chiefs that there shall be no disturbance.

The policy of trading spirituous liquors to them for temporary gain in trade has assisted in degenerating the race, and effectually destroyed their industry. They manufacture a kind of liquor themselves, and the illicit introduction of spirituous liquors, so readily and secretly effected through the hundreds of harbors and channels of this archipelago, especially as the Indians, from love of rum, assist in warning and hiding the smugglers, is the great evil, and will probably produce trouble in the end.

I feel convinced, by what I have seen and learned since my arrival here, that the principal cause of the present alarm is occasioned by the pulling down of a portion of the stockade, and some petty thefts committed by the Indians. Heretofore, while protected by the troops, the citizens felt so secure that they meted out severe punishment to the Indians for the slightest offense. Now their relations to each other have changed; the Indians in some instances are guilty of theft, which the people don't feel as secure in resenting as formerly. I cannot learn that they have made any threats or manifested any hostility toward the whites, but the feeling on the part of the whites is, that they are powerless to prevent any action that they may determine upon. Their alarm is rather as to what might happen, instead of what is immediately threatening.

These Indians, unlike those in the interior, are entirely dependent upon the seacoast for the means of subsistence, and if they were driven away they could not live in the interior; they knowing this, and the certainty of punishment if they display any hostility toward the whites, fear the consequences too much to commit any depredations. In talking with them, they express a wish to see the whites remain among them, and desire to keep on friendly terms with them.

Agreeable with my orders I shall remain here until the Indians conclude their celebration, and if nothing occurs after that to require the presence of the vessel here I shall return to Port Townsend.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. SELDEN,
Captain United States Revenue Marine.

Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

I think the condition of affairs in the Territory has been pretty well exemplified by the production of past correspondence to cause much further remark. I will therefore only take up some instances which have happened since April last, under my own observation, and derived from personal conversation with others, and from various sources.
The following narrative is given to show how completely the Indians are masters of the situation, and that when aroused by anger or any other disturbing element which renders them intractable, how ungovernable they become.

Wishing to visit the Klawack fishery, and the Wolcott having only a limited supply of coal, I accepted a cordial invitation, extended by Captain Thorne and Purser Hughes, of the California, to take passage on that ship. I found on board the whole outfit and paraphernalia of the cannery intended to be established by Mr. Hunter at Sitka. He had some white employés, and eighteen Chinamen, who were hired exclusively to manufacture the tin cans. Upon reaching Sitka, as usual, the whole tribe, more or less, were found congregated on the wharf. As soon as the Chinamen were descried, a general howl arose, and the wildest excitement was manifested. Before the lines were made fast, runners started for the village, and the whole beach suddenly became in instant commotion. Old and young, lame, halt, and blind, all started pell-mell for the "heathen Chinee."

Annah Hoots, the war chief, made a most inflammatory speech to the young bucks, to the effect that the Chinamen should not be permitted to land. Sitka Jack was present as a quiet spectator, seemingly not interested in the proceedings, but I could see he was taking everything in, and kept quiet in order to be more respected as the row progressed.

Fortunately—and, in fact, I could not have successfully gotten along without him—I had asked permission of Captain Selden for our pilot, Mr. J. W. Keen, to accompany me, feeling as afraid before I returned to Wrangel his services as interpreter would be needed.

Annah Hoots could not speak Chinook, so Mr. Keen had to first translate my words and those of Mr. Hunter into that language to Jack, who subsequently repeated it to Annah Hoots in his own tongue. This took up much time, but the Indians instead of calming down became more and more excited. The situation was critical, and I firmly believe had the Chinamen landed before a proper understanding was had every man of them would have been ruthlessly murdered, and God only knows, when the sharks had tasted blood, where it would have ended.

Mr. Hunter decided not to attempt to establish his fishery, and at once abandoned the enterprise, stating he had positive instructions from his employers not to land a pound of material unless everything was quiet and there was no prospective danger; that his owners had rested under the belief that a revenue-cutter would be stationed at Sitka all summer.

I begged him to reconsider his determination and see if we could not pacify the Indians by explaining to them the presence of the Chinese. That he ought to talk to them in a positive and straightforward manner, and make them no promises he did not intend to follow strictly to the letter.

Accordingly Mr. Hunter, Keen, and myself mounted to the hurricane-deck; Annah Hoots and Sitka Jack right under us on the dock, and the whole tribe scattered about howling and yelling like Satan. Under this state of affairs the "wa-wa" began.

I relied very much on the good sense of Jack, who was very anxious to have the cannery there, and in truth, so were all the Indians; but the point of controversy was, that the Chinamen had been imported to catch the fish, and that the Indians were half-naked and hungry, deserved the employment by right, and they would fight before they would permit any such infringement upon their reserved rights. It was their country.
and John Chinaman should not come. A very strong argument, it must be admitted.

Mr. Hunter very frankly explained to the Indians such was not the case; it was entirely foreign to his own views as well as those who employed him; that it was his intention to buy all his fish from the Indians; that the Chinamen were brought along to make tin cans, and when they had finished the cans they should be sent away. Furthermore, if the Indians would learn to make cans, no more Chinamen should be employed.

Mr. Keen very adroitly impressed upon those present the folly of their course, and I am satisfied it was owing a great deal to the tact and judgment displayed by him that we succeeded as well as we did. I had but little to say, only to remind them that the "man-of-war" was not far off, lying at anchor at Wrangel, and if they wanted a little gunnery practice, they should be speedily entertained.

After a long pow-wow, a calm succeeded the storm, good humor suddenly prevailed as their angry passions had become inflamed, and order reigned in Warsaw.

In a very short time as many Indians as could be set profitably to work were hired by Mr. Hunter to discharge his material, the Chinamen landed in perfect security, walked up town, hired a cabin from one of the tribe, purchased wood, and by night-fall were snugly domiciled, with half a dozen dusky klootchmen (squaws) squatted on the floor, and enjoying their fish and rice.

Thus ended what might have proved a very serious affair. But it only goes to show how utterly helpless are the white population when the anger of the natives is aroused.

While at Wrangel, the water in the Stikine River was so shallow as to preclude steamboat navigation; a large fleet of canoes were called into requisition. Some of Mr. Duncan's Indians from Metlекatlah came over to reap the harvest. The Stickines objected, saying the river belonged to them and that no King George Indian should be permitted to canoe it on the river.

The presence of the Wolcott was sufficient reason for this threat not being carried into execution, and Mr. Dennis and myself made it very evident to the Stickines that no such tomfoolery would be tolerated for a moment.

As the treaty of Washington guarantees to both nations the free navigation of the Stikine, and as the Indians of British Columbia are not independent tribes and nations, like those on this side of the line, but British subjects in the fullest interpretation of the word, the question might naturally arise: If Indians resident in an American town (Wrangel) shall, by force of arms, prevent British subjects from enjoying the rights guaranteed by our treaty stipulations, would not John Bull in quick order see they were respected? Most assuredly he would, and we would have the mortification of seeing a British gunboat in the Stikine maintaining British rights, which by all honor and the laws of nations we are in duty bound to enforce, but which, by reason of not having a sufficient maritime force, we are liable at any time to be set at defiance by a band of half-naked savages.

An article in the San Francisco Chronicle of August 4, 1878, discourses generally of the condition of affairs in Alaska. I make the following extract:

The latest mail from Alaska brought news of the slaying and hanging of an Indian woman for the alleged offense of practicing witchcraft, and the torturing of a young girl on suspicion that she was an accomplice. These atrocities were committed by the Sitka Indians within 300 yards of the seat of the central authority of the United
States in Alaska, namely, the custom-house at Sitka, yet no one was armed with authority to interfere. The same Indians hold the white residents of Sitka at their mercy, and may, whenever the inclination seizes them, flay and torture to the death every white man, woman, and child of a community which the United States is bound by every principle of honor and humanity, as well as by treaty obligations, to protect. We have provided no government, no law, nor means of enforcing law in Alaska. Crimes against persons and property may be, and are, perpetrated openly and with impunity, and the only redress open to the injured party is to act as judge and executioner and kill the offender. It is a national shame and disgrace that such a condition of lawlessness should be suffered to exist in a Territory of the United States, and Congress cannot undertake a more creditable work of legislation than providing a government for the people of that outlying Territory of our common country. The coast line of Alaska, from its junction with British Columbia to the end of the Alaska peninsula, forms an irregular crescent, one horn of which rests upon the British boundary in latitude 54° 41' north and longitude 130° west; the other ending on the point of the peninsula in latitude 54° 50' north and longitude 163° west. Between these points the coast trends up to 61° north latitude on the meridian of 148° west longitude. This coast is studded with islands, separated by deep and navigable channels, and is penetrated in every direction by deep fords and inlets, which run up to the base of the mountain ranges upon the mainland. There is perhaps no equal extent of coast line in the world which contains within its limits so large an area of Protected Navigable Waters.

And there are few coasts which offer greater obstacle to land transportation on an extended scale. While gunboats and other vessels are able to move about with safety and celerity, troops stationed at points on the coast, or on the islands, are unable to move more than a few miles from their quarters without the aid of water transportation, and to punish or repress outbreaks at any distance from a garrison the aid of an armed vessel is required. Troops are therefore unnecessary and of little use, while the presence and protection of armed vessels is a necessity. Two gunboats are needed for the protection of the settlements on the coast and islands of Alaska. One vessel should have her coaling station and headquarters at Kodiac, and her cruising ground should extend from the 145th meridian round to the entrance of the Yukon River, embracing King William Sound, Cook's Inlet, the Peninsula, the Aleutian and Seal Islands. The second vessel should have coaling stations at Wrangell and Sitka, cruising from Tongass Narrows, on the British-Columbian line, to Cape Hammond, on the 145th meridian, and taking care of all the settlements in the Alexander Archipelago. These vessels should be kept upon these stations and not permitted to leave until a relief arrived, the time not actually employed in cruising to be given to surveying the straits, inlets, and harbors on the coast. As all the Indian settlements on the coast of Alaska are close upon navigable waters, and within easy range of the guns of a war-ship, no auxiliary armed force is required.

This about sums up all I have to offer of the condition of affairs in Southeastern Alaska. I believe I have given an exact and truthful statement, as substantiated by my own observation and the best authority.

In many instances I would have preferred to clothe some of the facts in different phraseology; but it has been thought best to give the original words of the authors.

In the San Francisco Chronicle of September 30, last, however, appears an article showing an entire new phase of Indian retribution, and, for the sake of history and truth, I copy it, as follows:

EXCITEMENT AT SITKA—THE CITIZENS COMPelled TO COMPLY WITH INDIAN LAW.

A correspondent of the Chronicle, writing from Sitka, Alaska, September 12, says: "The only excitement in Sitka, since the departure of the last mail, was an Indian row and demand, which at one time threatened serious results to one of the brothers Rath, mining experts, and Sam Goldstein, a shopkeeper and trader, who is well known in San Francisco. In May last William Rath and his brother, with several Sitka Indians, started on a prospecting tour to the Chilcat country. Arrived at the entrance to the Chilcat River, the Indians opposed their further progress and forced them to return to Sitka. A few days ago William Rath, who has an unfortunate liking for alcohol in any procurable shape, invited one of his Indian comrades of the Chilcat expedition to join him at his room in a festive debouch on the stimulating hoochmoo.
They drank until they could no longer stand, when Rath took to his bed and the Indian took to the floor. Rath recovered, but the Indian died; and great was the hoot-hoot in the Indian camp when the dead Indian was carried home. It was at once charged that the brave had been poisoned by Rath, and that, in compliance with Indian law, Rath

MUST BE EXECUTED.

And inasmuch as the offense occurred in Sam Goldstein's house, where Rath was lodging, Goldstein must pay $2,000 to the family of the deceased warrior bummer. In default of payment of the fine, Goldstein was to be put to the ordeal of fire after the most approved Indian fashion. Many interviews were held, and much diplomacy exerted to arrange matters and insure Rath and Goldstein from the ignoble fate which threatened them. The Indians were resolved to have "money or life"; and as they wisely preferred the former, the issue was soon narrowed down to the money question, and how much? After much negotiating, $250 and a plentiful supply of "hoochenoo" was agreed upon as the ransom of the two white men. Rath paid the money; the Indians held

A GRAND POTLATCH,

and all is serene again until another diseased Indian can manage to "step out" in the white quarter and force us to pay more for his worthless life than the whole tribe can earn in a twelvemonth. We must have a code of laws and a magistrate to administer the law, with a gunboat to enforce obedience to his decisions and rescue us from the operations of the barbaric code of our Indian neighbors, which they do not hesitate to enforce against the whites whenever they can find a pretext for extorting money by threats of taking life. This last occurrence and the successful swindle which followed it will embolden them to repeat their extortions until the situation of the white residents must become intolerable; and no matter how basefaced the extortion may be, we have neither redress nor escape from their demands, as the Indians far outnumber the whites, and the government has withdrawn all protection from its own citizens as well as from the Russian residents, who were guaranteed protection by treaty which transferred Alaska to the United States."

I have made diligent inquiry as to the truth of the foregoing article, and can state it is substantially correct. The different recitals vary a little about the amount of hoochenoo consumed and the number of Indians made drunk; but upon one point there is no difference, and that is that the blood of the deceased comrade required a potlatch, and that the white men must pay for it.

Rath compromised the matter by the payment of $250 in money and left the country. He is a British subject, and resides at Victoria, Vancouver Island. I refrain from making any comment upon this extraordinary affair, save only to inquire, who next?

FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

There has hardly been a writer upon Alaska who has not suggested some peculiar form of government, save Mr. Elliott, who stoutly contests for none whatever. I had the honor, in 1876, to present some reflections to Mr. Secretary Bristow upon this subject.

Since that report was written, when the military were in possession of the Territory, I have had occasion to materially change my views. As matters at that time and from that standpoint were related to me, I think the position then assumed to be correct; but the country has very much changed since then, population has largely increased, mines have been discovered and opened, the fishing interests, timber and agricultural resources have become vastly more prominent, everything denotes a speedy settlement of the country, and the era has approached when a republican form of government for the Territory cannot, either with safety or propriety, be longer postponed.

There are now sufficient American citizens in Alaska, not counting the citizens acquired by purchase, to entitle it to a Territorial form of government. There will be next year at least two thousand additional
white persons in Alaska. The tide of emigration is setting thither. The Russians who elected to become citizens of the United States are not serfs, but free born, and have been guaranteed all the blessings of civil and religious liberty.

The question, to my mind, is well worthy of consideration, whether the opinion of Attorney-General Williams is correct, when he pronounced Alaska to be "Indian country." Many eminent minds, equally as well versed in the law as himself, have doubted the soundness of that opinion. I do not desire to be understood as having, in the course of these remarks, arraigned either the Administration or Congress for not having provided for a better state of affairs than at present exists in Alaska. As an impartial observer, and as an officer of the department, charged with an important and delicate duty, I have endeavored to present the facts as they are, without addition, subtraction, or division. The responsibility must fall where it properly belongs, without any blame being attached to myself for bringing it too prominently forward.

When the present Secretary of the Treasury had the whole responsibility of the government of the Territory thrown upon his hands suddenly by the withdrawal of the military forces, he found himself without the proper vessels to enforce his authority, and if any error in the management of affairs has crept into the public service, it cannot be attributed to any lack of fidelity or zeal upon his part to afford protection to the citizens of Alaska and faithfully collect the customs revenue; it must be attributed to the lack of sufficient means at his command.

It is not deemed necessary for me to suggest any form of government for these people; that rests entirely in the discretion and wisdom of Congress; but that this abandoned, neglected country should be fostered, encouraged, and protected in every sense of the word, I think I can safely maintain without being deemed intrusive. To my knowledge, Alaska is the only Territory that does now and ever has directly paid any revenue into the Treasury of the United States, save the ordinary collection of taxes.

It is a well-known fact that the fur-seal islands of Saint Paul and Saint George, in the Privilov group, are leased by the United States to a corporation known as the Alaska Commercial Company. I presume there are very few people in the United States who know how much revenue is derived by the country from this lease. The following figures are taken from a report made June 3, 1876, by the Hon. Fernando Wood, chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means of the Forty-fourth Congress:

When the proposition to purchase the Alaska Territory from Russia was before Congress, the opposition to it was very much based on alleged barrenness and worthlessness of the territory to be acquired. It was supposed that though there might be many political reasons for this addition to the American Pacific possessions, there were not commercial or revenue advantages. The value of those seal islands was not considered at all. Russia had derived but little revenue from them; indeed a sum not sufficient to pay the contingent expenses of maintaining the official authority. Under our system, however, we have a very different result.

The Alaska Commercial Company has paid into the Treasury, in rent and taxes, the enormous aggregate of $1,722,513.67. (See official statements annexed, marked Appendix C.)

The annual payment is $292,500 tax and $55,000 rental, making an aggregate of $347,500 every year. This sum is nearly 44 per centum interest on the original cost of the whole Territory of Alaska, including the seal islands referred to. Certainly the government has no right to reproach itself for a want of mercantile shrewdness in the purchase of this Territory, nor in the prompt advantages which it has been enabled to obtain from it. If the Alaska Commercial Company has found its lease a profitable investment for its capital, the government has no right to complain, so long as its own interests have been well secured, and the lessees have faithfully fulfilled all the conditions under which they obtained the franchise.
The amount then paid by the company up to the present time would stand as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tax on seal-skins and rent of fur-seal islands to June 3, 1876</td>
<td>$1,722,813.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent of fur-seal islands:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1877</td>
<td>$55,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878</td>
<td>$55,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$110,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The tax on seal-skins varies according to the number taken, but the average for four years would produce for the year 1877</td>
<td>$262,239.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>year 1878</td>
<td>$262,239.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$524,579.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total amount paid</td>
<td>$2,357,391.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And, in addition to this, the company furnish annually to the Aleut on Saint Paul and Saint George Islands supplies amounting to $18,000.

THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL COMPANY.

The prevalent opinion in Southeastern Alaska, and throughout the country generally, seems to be that this company are directly responsible for everything that occurs in the Territory, and that it is owing to their influence and opposition that Congress has hitherto failed to legislate for it, and provide some form of government, Territorial or otherwise.

It is rather a reflection upon our national legislature that it can be supposed they could be influenced, pro or con, by this or any other corporation; but owing to the fallen state and licentious character of the American press, the people are fast becoming educated to the belief that there is no honesty of purpose or uprightness in any of our public men.

I fail to reconcile satisfactorily to my mind the truth of this popular opinion and prejudice. The Alaska Commercial Company have not, to my knowledge, one dollar’s worth of interest or property of any kind east of Kodiak Island. When they removed their headquarters from Sitka, they, wholly and without reserve, abandoned Southeastern Alaska.

General McDowell has clearly refuted the charge of their connivance in having the troops withdrawn from the Territory; and even if they had joined in getting them away, there is nothing wrong or criminal in it, for it was the very best thing the government could have done, always premising, however, the substitution of a suitable maritime force.

I know nothing absolutely whatever of the views of the company about the large extent of country to the westward, for the portion I have visited is only a small fraction of this immense part of our national domain. It is an empire in itself, being estimated to contain about 560,000 square miles.

I do not suppose it will be questioned that in the recommendation for a form of government for the Territory it is for one moment to be thought that it is intended to include the seal islands. By no means. These islands have been leased for twenty years to the Alaska Commercial Company, by virtue of the act of Congress of July 1, 1870, and subsequently approved by Congress, and they are under the direct control of the Treasury Department. To interfere with this lease by any indirect legislation would be to impair the obligation of contracts and would not stand the test of the courts.

The affairs of the company have been thoroughly investigated by a Congressional committee, and the result has proved satisfactory both to the government and the lessees. They are faithfully fulfilling the terms
of their lease, and there should be no disposition to interfere with them. The officers and stockholders of the company are all citizens of the United States. They have developed a new American industry, and have expended on its development more than $1,000,000.

The charge is, however, made that the company have large interests in the fur-trade on the mainland, have established forts and trading posts, extending from the Kenai Peninsula to the Arctic Ocean, and that they seek, by discouraging immigration, to control all business of every kind or nature whatsoever, drive out all competition, and thus create a mainland monopoly in their favor.

I am unable to speak authoritatively upon this proposition, never having been in that portion of the country. I do know, however, there are other parties dealing in peltries on the mainland who stoutly contest this trade with the company, and divide with them a large portion of it.

I have never conversed with an officer of the company touching their feelings in the matter, save in a conversation had with General Miller, the president of the company, in which I casually mentioned the condition of things at Wrangel and Sitka. The general then assured me that his company had no interest there whatever, and had wholly withdrawn from that portion of the Territory.

Until I have more evidence than mere rumor and unfounded charges, I shall be loth to believe this corporation is fighting the people of Alaska, in their tearful and earnest prayer to the national legislature to afford them some protection for their lives and property, while they prepare for the salvation of their souls in the future.

And right here the dual question naturally is self-propounded, Who is preventing the people from being guaranteed a republican form of government, and why has not Congress legislated upon this subject long since? The answer to one part of the question is obvious. There never has been but one man in the Congress of the United States who has lifted his voice in favor of a government for this Territory, and that was the Hon. J. H. Mitchell, Senator from Oregon, who did, during the Forty-fourth Congress, introduce a bill for the government of the Territory. That measure contained some grave constitutional objections, and did not become a law. No one seems to have championed the cause of "abandoned Alaska." She has no voice, no delegate upon the floor of the House, to portray the wrongs she suffers, the redress she desires, and what she is now paying into the national Treasury, and what further resources she has to offer for the constitutional boon of enjoying, without being murdered, the fruits and sweets of republican liberty.

There will yet arise in Congress some champion of her rights, who will devote his time and sacred energies to her cause, and like the Phoenix from her ashes, her motto will be Resurgam, and the next decade will tell a very different tale.

THE SENSE-KEEPER OF ALASKA.

So little is known about Alaska that whenever anything comes up in Congress relating to it information is sought wherever it can readily be found. The "informant" is ever on hand, with his work on fur-seals comfortably tucked underneath his left arm, to impart all the knowledge extant about the country, "for he knows more about Alaska than any man living."

A decade has passed since we acquired this Territory, and for a decade has it afforded employment and subsistence for its present sense-keeper,
but the next decade is warming into national existence, and it is about
time this bubble was pricked and the bladder not quite so much inflated.

I am fully aware of all the consequences to be dreaded, the responsi-
bility assumed, when rash enough to dispute the heretofore self-estab-
lished authority from the Arctic Ocean to the Portland Canal.

I will not pretend to deny his valuable contribution to the ethnology
of the Aleutian race, for he married a native of that tribe, nor ques-
tion the accuracy of his description in the management of a bidarki, or the
chase after the sea-otter; in all of these outlandish sports and occupa-
tions he is perfectly at home. But when he comes to denounce a whole
country and its people, set himself up as the

This man seems to be the natural foe of Alaska, prosecuting and per-
secuting her with the brush of the pencil and the pen of an expert, whenever and wherever he can get an audience, and I attribute the present
forlorn condition of the Territory to-day more to his ignorance and mis-
representation than to all other causes combined. He is accused of
being the paid creature and hired tool of the Alaska Commercial Com-
pany, and belonging to them body and soul. I have made diligent in-
quiry, and ascertain he is not in their employ, and furthermore they
repudiate the ownership. They should not be held responsible for the
indiscreet utterings of the sense-keeper, notwithstanding the charge of
ownership might cause him to be more readily listened to.

Doubtless when they have been attacked through the columns of the
press they have employed this individual, who is unquestionably pos-
sessed with the cacoethes scribendi, to reply to unjustifiable onslaughts,
and paid him for it, as they would any other penny-liner who makes lit-
erature and writing for the press his profession.

REVENUE-MARINE VESSELS FOR ALASKAN DUTY.

It is presumed there is no difference of opinion amongst those familiar
with life in Alaska, who will contend that an armed vessel is not the
most appropriate police force that can be used for keeping the natives
in subjection. A writer in the Guide to British Columbia, speaking of
the condition of the tribes in that province, and the sudden influx of
white men during the Fraser River mining excitement in 1858, remarks:

Subsequently it became necessary to employ severe measures upon the west coast of
Vancouver Island. One or two villages were bombarded by the vessels of Her Majes-
ty's squadron, in order to compel the delivery of offenders guilty of crimes against
a shipwrecked crew, and a salutary dread was established in all parts along the coast,
which the periodical visit of a gunboat serves to maintain and strengthen.

It is now full three years since I assumed the proposition, and have
steadily maintained it affirmatively ever since, that the vessels of the
revenue marine in service on this coast were not calculated for an ex-
tended cruise in Alaskan waters, and I am clearly sustained by two of
the commanders with whom I have conferred.

Secretary Morrill, in his remarks upon the revenue marine in his report
made December 4, 1876, used the following language:

The new vessel intended for the Pacific coast is nearly ready to be assigned to duty.
This will supply a want which the increasing commerce and the extension of our ter-
ritory on that coast by the acquisition of Alaska have caused to be greatly felt.
The vessel alluded to is the steamer Thomas Corwin, now on the Columbia River station. This vessel carries more coal than the Wolcott, and is in every respect more fitted for the northern cruise. She carries sufficient canvas to take care of herself if an accident of a serious nature should happen to her machinery.

I had occasion to write the following letter on the occasion of the visit of the Wolcott to Alaska in 1877:

**Office Special Agent of the Treasury,**

**Victoria, British Columbia, October 11, 1877.**

**Sir:** I have the honor to inform the department of the following condition of the cutter Wolcott, now en route for Sitka, the result of my own personal observation and conversation with her commander, Capt. James M. Selden.

Upon reaching Port Townsend and learning the Wolcott was under sailing orders, I joined her and proceeded to this port. I do not hesitate to say that the circumstances under which she left for this cruise reflect no credit upon the revenue-marine service. This vessel has been neglected, and she has been sent into a hostile country, at an inclement season of the year in those latitudes, with a battery defective and one-half gone, her steering gear incomplete, complement of officers reduced, and in a general state of ineffectiveness, the morale produced upon her officers and crew being anything but desirable.

The department has repeatedly been advised of most of these facts. On January 31, 1877, Captain Selden reported the condition of his battery, and the loss of one gun at Cape Mudge, and asked his vessel be supplied with a complete battery.

On the 25th July, 1877, in reply to a letter from myself to him at Seattle, Washington Territory, inquiring the condition of his vessel for Alaskan service, he fully set forth what was required. This letter was by me transmitted to the Secretary from this place a few days thereafter.

Again, on July 28, 1877, at the verbal request of the collector of the Puget Sound district and myself, Captain Selden made another detailed report to the department concerning the effectiveness and general condition of his vessel.

The attention of the department has repeatedly been called to the fact that there are stored in the custom-house at San Francisco two brass, smooth-bore, Dalgliesh 24-pound howitzers with carriages complete—the exact size of the battery of the Wolcott.

On the 20th of August, 1877, Captain Selden informed the department of the bad condition of his rifle ammunition, stating it had been in the vessel a long time, and practice had demonstrated a large proportion was worthless, and 2,880 cartridges were required for, which have not been supplied. With this defective ammunition he is expected to fight if necessary. A few hours before he sailed, in the steamer which carried me to Port Townsend he received a box of pistol cartridges from California. They are of the old paper pattern, requiring several minutes to load a weapon.

After Captain Selden received the telegram of the Secretary of October 1, he immediately proceeded to place his vessel in as effective and fighting condition as possible, and upon his own judgment took the responsibility of borrowing from private parties in Port Townsend some additional guns.

Mr. H. L. Tibbals and Messrs. Waterman and Katz, of Port Townsend, some years since purchased at government sale the battery of the revenue-cutter Joe Lane, Captain Selden borrowing of them three pieces, 12 iron pounders, which he mounted as well as he could, although I doubt very much if they will be of much service in action, there being no bolts for breeching or for the side tackles to hitch into. A spar was lashed outside each port and the train tackles and side tackles made fast thereto.

Captain Selden discovered amongst his ballast some round shot, grape, and canister, which formerly belonged to the battery of the Lane, and which fitted these guns. He also obtained from the commandant of the military post near Townsend powder for cartridges, some shrapnel, grape, and canister, and primers and cylinders for the round shot.

On the 19th of April, 1877, the department was written to by Captain Selden setting forth the incomplete condition of the steering gear, and stating that the repairs recommended by Capt. John W. White, superintendent of construction, revenue marine, did not answer the purpose. The same thing was mentioned in the property return for June, 1877.

My inspection shows that the wheel in the pilot-house cannot be used at all, the after wheel must be depended upon solely for steering the vessel, thus keeping the helmsman continually exposed to the weather, an unnecessary severity and actual cruelty in Alaskan navigation. The aforesaid periods are not the only times this particular subject has been presented to the department to my own knowledge.

I also find the engineers' department ill supplied with facilities for making repairs to the engine and boilers, if required. There is not an extra tube in the ship, nor a
piece of extra machinery; nor is there a piece of boiler-iron large enough to make any extensive repairs in case of an accident. This cutter is deficient in officers; she left port with but two assistant engineers, and one of them sick and hardly fit for duty. About two hours before she sailed, was received the detachment of Lieut. W. F. Kilgore, thus leaving the vessel with only two deck officers to stand watch and watch the whole voyage.

I deem it incumbent to present in detail the above facts. The probability is that no occasion will be required for the vessel to go into action; and, beyond the inconvenience of an insufficient detail of officers and suffering to the crew, no very bad results may follow. But it cannot be denied that not sufficient attention has been given by those having this thing immediately in charge to the representations made by the commander of the Wolcott and myself as to the condition of that vessel.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,
Special Agent.

Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

During last summer the Wolcott has been put in thorough order, having been laid up at Seattle for several months undergoing repairs; everything represented as deficient in this letter has been supplied, and she is now effective for duty on the cruising ground for which she was built and originally intended—the inland waters of the district of Puget Sound. It is true she can go to Alaska; she has been there three times on short cruises, but to remain there any length of time she is wholly unfit, and I think unsafe.

The following is the opinion of Captain White, superintendent of construction of the revenue marine service on this coast. It will be perceived he thoroughly sustains me in my estimate of the insufficiency of the present Pacific fleet:

REVENUE STEAMER THOMAS CORWIN,
San Francisco, Cal., September 22, 1877.

SIR: Referring to department telegram of the 20th instant, asking me how soon, in my estimation, should cutter be sent again to Sitka, I answered on the 21st instant, “Indians have festival at Sitka last of October. There might be necessity for cutter at that time.” In this connection, and as supplementary to my reports of August 12 and September 8, 1877, I would respectfully state that none of the cutters on this coast are properly constructed and provided to cruise or remain in the waters of Alaska, especially during the winter months; and if it is intended for one to do duty there at all seasons of the year—and it seems to be essential that the government should be properly represented in those waters by an armed vessel—I beg to suggest that a proper vessel be constructed, and provided with a steam-launch and other necessary appliances, that she may be able to take care of herself and afford some protection for the health and comfort of her officers and crew, as the inclemency of the weather is such that the stoutest can stand it but a short time on vessels not constructed and provided to suit the climate.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. W. WHITE,
Captain, United States Revenue Marine.

Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

The views of her commander, Captain Selden, have previously appeared in this report. Aside from the defects in the sea-going qualities of the Wolcott, she is very much deficient in accommodations for officers of the civil service—in fact so are all the cutters. The ward-rooms only contain sufficient berths and space, and that quite contracted, for the health and comfort of the complement of officers of the ship. When the Rush made her recent cruise to the Seal Islands, she had on board two deputy collectors—one destined for Kodiak Island, the other for Oonalaska. Both these gentlemen were compelled to occupy the berth-deck for sleeping quarters.

The cabins are generally large and commodious, but there are no quarters there for a civil officer; neither can he have any privacy during the day or night, even if he is the guest of the captain.
I have reason to know that Congress will be asked at the coming session for an appropriation for the construction of a proper steamer for continued duty in the waters of Alaska.

The opinion of Captain White having been asked by the department in reference to the necessity of the presence of a revenue-vessel there, he replied as follows:

Steamer Thomas Corwin,
San Francisco, Cal., October 4, 1877.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of department letter of August 17, "E. W. C.," addressed to me at Sitka, Alaska, but only received by me two days since at this place, transmitting copies of letters of the 26th and 28th of July, 1877, from the collector of customs at Port Townsend, Wash., and Capt. J. M. Selden, commanding the revenue steamer Oliver Wolcott, relative to the necessity for the presence of a revenue vessel in Alaskan waters, &c., and directing me to prepare a special report of such facts bearing upon the statements made in these communications as I might be able to ascertain in my cruise to Alaska with the revenue steamer Corwin.

Since my reports of August 12, 1877, and of September 8, 1877, and 22d ultimo have anticipated much of what I deem a proper reply to the statements made in these communications, it will be necessary therefore to refer only to such portions of them as are more particularly covered by the said reports.

Captain Selden speaks of the possible necessity arising for landing an armed force and of the great assistance a steam launch would be not only for such an emergency, but for the pursuit and capture of canoes in places where the vessel could not go. It is also said the coast Indians may successfully invoke the aid of the interior tribes in their warfare against the whites. In reply to these statements, and speaking from my own personal observation and the experience gained in my former cruise to this portion of Alaska, embracing the waters of the Alexandrian Archipelago, and extending from latitude N. 54° 40' to latitude N. 60°, I have no hesitation in respectfully stating that, even for armed vessels of the deepest draft, there is no difficulty in approaching, within easy shelling distance, any of the villages and completely destroying them and the canoes, without resorting to the step of landing an armed body of sailors entirely inexperienced in the methods of Indian warfare, and where the odds would be largely against them. A small vessel properly armed and equipped could accomplish all that a larger and more heavily-armed one could, with the added advantage of celerity of movement and quickness of evolution. The tribes are scattered over a large extent of coast, and the massing of any force to carry into execution a plan of attack must be by canoes, since land travel, from the difficulties of the country, is out of the question.

I lay much stress upon the fact of an armed vessel being able to destroy their villages and canoes as a means of overawing them, because, do this, and their accumulations of, perhaps, years of toil and industry are swept away, and their very means of a livelihood taken from them. The idea of the interior Indians coming to the assistance of the coast tribes seems to me visionary and far-fetched; for there is no community of interests, feeling, or pursuits between them, and a jealousy of local rights and privileges animates them.

The presence of this vessel in these waters had an undoubted good moral effect, and lest this should be too quickly effaced by the absence of the cause which produced it, I recommended that an armed vessel should visit them at short intervals.

The statement that the build of the Wolcott, with a quarter-deck without bulwarks, affording no protection to the officers and crew from the aim of breech-loading rifles in the hands of the Indians, applies to the other two cutters on this coast, and it would have great force and pertinence, lying moored in the narrow harbor of Sitka, particularly with no steam up, and the vessel within short musket-range of the village. In these cases the only safety would be in keeping under way.

Referring to my letter of the 22d September, in relation to a particular class of vessels for the Alaskan waters, it was not intended to convey the idea that the cutters on this coast are none of them fit to do duty in Alaska; on the contrary, they are all able to make special cruises there for brief periods, including the winter months. The idea sought to be conveyed was this: that, for an extended service in these waters at all seasons of the year, a vessel specially designed would be required, and the steam-launch there suggested was with the view of sending out and exploring unknown passages and anchorages, and performing such other work as could not be accomplished in open boats.

I have to add that the steamer California, on her last trip, landed in Sitka, for the traders there, 200 barrels of molasses; enough to make 200 barrels of liquor. The traders know full well that the chief, if not sole, use for this molasses is the making of molasses without steam.
liquor, thus importing into their very midst the probable means of their own ruin and destruction. If the importation of this molasses could be prohibited, it would go far toward allaying any fears of depredation by the natives.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. W. WHITE,

Hon. John Sherman,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

When the Wolcott took me to Alaska, her final coaling place was at Nanaimo, British Columbia. When we left that port our whole supply consisted of 83 tons, including all that could be stowed in her bunkers and on deck, while her daily consumption was from four to six tons, according to the rate of speed maintained.

The ship was dirty, uncomfortable, and unsafe. Her quarter-deck was covered with coal in sacks two rows deep, and coal was stowed loose in bulk as far forward as her pilot-house between her house and bulwarks, thereby greatly damaging her paint and wood-work, and endangering the safety of the ship.

While it is true the navigation is to a great extent inland, Queen Charlotte, Wright, and Millbank Sounds have to be crossed, and frequently one experiences there very nasty weather; and a vessel of the class of the Wolcott, loaded as she was, is not fit to be intrusted with the lives of officers and crew nor a peripatetic special agent. Neither has she stowage room for rations for the crew or mess stores for the officers for a long cruise. The space under the ward-room has been curtailed by a portion being diverted for the protection of loaded shell, and ship-chandlery takes up a good deal of the remainder. The officers are greatly inconvenienced by want of sufficient store room.

A vessel intended for permanent duty in Alaska should have commodious quarters for both officers and men. All the space that can be afforded should be allotted them. It is cruel to expatriate a ship's company to that wet, damp, and inhospitable coast during the winter season, and then pack them like sardines in a box, and deprive them of every human creature comfort. There should be a separate room constructed for the special agent who may be assigned to Alaskan duty, and there should also be one for the collector of the district. They should be of sufficient size to write in, and should be comfortably fitted up.

The vessel should not be less than 500 tons burden, and able to stow away with ease 200 tons of coal. She should have a flush deck fore and aft, bark rigged, and show plenty of canvas. She should carry a crew of at least 60 or 70 men. All the vessels now in the service on this coast carry too few men, and have too small a battery. No vessel should be permanently stationed in Alaska without having a surgeon attached to her. It is impossible to procure medical aid otherwise. She should carry four broadside-guns, one pivot-gun forward, and a Gatling aft. The crew should all be armed with breech-loading rifles of the latest improved pattern, including pistols. The small-arms now in use on the cutters are not effective. She should by all means have a steam-launch for boat service.

Such a vessel, including the launch, can be constructed for the sum of $175,000, and possibly less, but it would be better to have the appropriation in these figures, as it leaves a margin for the bids of contractors. It does not follow because a certain sum is appropriated that necessarily the whole amount must be spent. Witness the construction of the Corwin.
CONCLUSION.

The foregoing remarks are respectfully presented for the consideration of the honorable Secretary. The facts stated have been collected with a good deal of care and patience, and I have asserted naught but what I honestly believe to be the plain, unvarnished truth.

This sums up all I have at present to say upon matters appertaining to Alaska. Should the department think my presence at the seat of government will tend to promote the interests of the public service, and be of use in the matters contained in this report, I stand ready and will be most happy to proceed to Washington at a moment's notice.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,
Special Agent.

Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.
APPENDIX.

[Published in Port Townsend Argus, September, 1877.]

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

Official report of James G. Swan, late special commissioner to procure articles of Indian manufacture for the Centennial Exposition, being an account of the cruise of the United States revenue-cutter Wolcott, in Alaska, during the summer of 1875.

The officers of the Wolcott were: Captain, Charles M. Scammon; first lieutenant, H. W. Harwood; second lieutenant, W. F. Kilgore; third lieutenant, W. K. Orcutt; chief engineer, James T. Wayson; first assistant, Horace Hassell; second assistant, A. L. Broadbent; pilot, J. W. Keen; crew, 28, including firemen, coal-passers, and boys.

The following report, made by me to the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of my cruise in the Wolcott to Alaska in 1875, although published in the official report of the honorable Commissioner, has never appeared in the newspapers, and at the urgent request of several of my friends I have consented to publish it in the Argus.

J. G. SWAN.

PORT TOWNSEND, September 3, 1877.

PORT TOWNSEND, WASH.,

October 11, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to present my report of my cruise on the United States steamer Wolcott, of the Revenue Marine Service, during the months of June and July, 1875, in the waters of Alaska and British Columbia. Accompanying this report I send a chart, published by the English admiralty, of that portion of the northwest coast, from Fort Simpson, British Columbia, to Cross Sound, Alaska, on which I have indicated the route of the Wolcott, and the various Indian villages we visited.

We left Port Townsend on Monday, June 7, 1875, and after coal ing at Nanaimo we again started on the 9th, and arrived at Alert Bay, on the west side of Comorant Island, near the mouth of Vancouver Island. I found at Alert Bay one of the finest specimens of a northwest coast canoe I have ever seen. She is 60 feet long over all, and 8 feet wide and 4 feet deep. She was made at Nootka, on the west side of Vancouver Island, for a chief named Mo-ki-willa, and by him sold to the head chief of the Nimpkish Indians, whose name is Kla-ko-tilas. I purchased this enormous specimen of Indian naval architecture, and ordered it delivered in good order in Victoria, British Columbia, where I had arranged to have the bill paid. She was subsequently towed to Victoria by a schooner, and taken charge of by Hon. J. W. Powell, Indian commissioner for British Columbia.

After landing at Alert Bay on the 11th, we proceeded without stopping, and on the 14th we passed Metlakata mission, which was established twenty years since by Rev. Mr. Duncan, who arrived in October, 1857. Mr. Duncan is a zealous and indefatigable missionary of the Episcopal Church, who has been fortunate in making this the most successful mission on the northwest coast. The village was quite distinctly seen from the steamer, and by the aid of our glasses we could see the fine church and houses laid out regularly as a town. The church is a large Gothic structure, and was built almost entirely by Indian hands. Commissioner Powell informed me that Mr. Duncan had organized among the Indians a town government, with an efficient police force, and as he is a magistrate of British Columbia, he finds no difficulty in enforcing law.

Mr. Duncan was formerly located at Fort Simpson, a Hudson Bay Company's trading post, 12 miles farther north, and near the boundary line between British Columbia and Alaska. Here he commenced his labors with great effect; but, after a few years, he thought it better for the Indians to have a town of their own, and founded Metlakatla mission. As he was absent on a visit to Ottawa, we did not stop, but at 9.30 we arrived at Fort Simpson. Here we found another missionary, Rev. Mr. Crosby, a Wesleyan Methodist, who, for nine years, has been teaching the natives at Nanaimo, and who is a zealous and faithful man, combining, in a marked degree, high executive ability and conscientious and unremitting labor for the temporal and spiritual welfare of the Indians under his charge. He is supported by the Wesleyan Missionary Society of Ontario, Canada, and by voluntary contributions of the Indians.

He is now building a large Gothic church, 50 by 80 feet, with buttresses, and tower 150 feet high. An architect at Victoria furnished the plan, and the work is superintended by a white carpenter, and the work itself is all done by Indians. The
timbers, which are very massive, are entirely of yellow cypress, or Sitka cedar, and will last for ages. The church has since been completed. The Indians here and at Metlakatla mission are the Tsim-se-an, pronounced by the whites Shussean. They are the farthest advanced of any Indians on the coast; and although they do not equal the Haidahs of Queen Charlotte’s Islands in the skill and beauty of their workmanship in gold and silver, or in their carvings in stone or wood, yet they are the most orderly, civilized, and well-appearing Indians I saw on my cruise. In illustration, I will cite an incident which occurred during the afternoon of the 14th.

I received a note from Rev. Mr. Crosby, stating that the Indians wished me to be present at a wedding feast that afternoon, and in company with Second Lieutenant Kilgore, of the Wolecott, we went to Mr. Crosby’s house, to await the messenger from the Indians to announce they were ready. In a few minutes he came, and in company with Mr. and Mrs. Crosby and Lieutenant Kilgore I went to the lodge, which was an immense building of beams and planks, about 100 feet square. Tables were set for 200 people, who were present. The young ones and very old people had been first served with a feast of rice and molasses, fried halibut, oil, and such luxuries. Then the house had been cleaned, and tables set, with clean, white tablecloths on each, and knives, forks, plates, cups, saucers, and all appliances requisite for a civilized table use. We were conducted to a reserved table in the center, on which were several vases of wild flowers, tastefully arranged.

After a blessing had been asked and a hymn sung, the company sat down to eat. We were served with roast goose, roast ducks, potatoes, birds, rice, bread, cake, coffee, and tea, all well cooked and very clean. A number of young Indians, with white jackets and aprons, acted as waiters, and everything was as regular and orderly as in a restaurant.

After we had finished eating, a hymn was sung by the whole company, and then we were called upon to make speeches; and here I will mention an incident showing that Indians are possessed of the virtue of gratitude, although it is generally denied that they have such feelings. A woman rose and requested permission to speak. She said that her heart told her that now was the right time, in the presence of her people, for her to say what she had wished to. She then stated that I had saved her life, and she felt very grateful to me. The incident is as follows:

On the 20th day of September, 1868, a party of Tsimsean Indians, consisting of 14 persons, being on their way from Umpqua to Victoria, were overtaken by a dense fog, and camped for the night on Dungeness Spit, near the light-house. About two o’clock in the morning they were attacked by a party of Clallam Indians, and the whole party were massacred, except this woman, who was dreadfully wounded and thrown into the water for dead. She recovered enough, however, to crawl out on the beach, where she was cast by the receding tide, and at daylight was found by the light-keeper and placed in the family of a Canadian half-breed, who had a Tsimsean wife. I noticed General McKenny, the then superintendent of Indian affairs, and by his instruction I attended to the case; and when the woman was fit to be removed, I took her to Victoria and sent her to Fort Simpson, on the Hudson’s Bay Company’s steamer Otter, and with her a quantity of goods and coin furnished by General McKenny, sufficient to satisfy the friends of the murdered party, and prevent their commencing a war of retaliation. The chief trader of the fort (Mr. Morrison) informed me that this woman frequently spoke of my kindness, and now she took this public way of testifying to her gratitude.

The interpreter was a native woman, who spoke excellent English. After the woman had done talking, the interpreter said that she also wished to speak to her people, that her own mother and her uncle had been killed in that massacre, and she had heard how I had taken care of the dead bodies, and she felt gratified, and wished to thank me before the people there assembled. Rev. Mr. Crosby then made a few remarks, and at his suggestion the whole assembly arose and saluted me with expression of thanks.

An old chief then made a speech, in which he said that I had showed myself a friend of the Tsimsean, and they never would forget my kindness to one of their people.

After this there were many speeches made on various topics, interspersed with singing of hymns, and the whole was closed with the doxology, to the grand old tune of ‘‘Old Hundred.’’ It was one of the most interesting and successful Indian feasts that I have ever seen, and reflected much credit on the good judgment and management of the Rev. Mr. Crosby and his wife.

The following day I went with Mr. Crosby to visit the mission school. A large number of boys and girls were present, under charge of Mr. McKenzie, their teacher. I found the older scholars well advanced, and was much pleased with the progress they had made.

At the request of Mr. Crosby, I made an address to the children, which was duly interpreted to them by the native interpreter; for, although all their lessons are in English, and they are addressed in that language, they had not become sufficiently versed in it to understand the conversation of a stranger, without the aid of an interpreter.

Mr. Crosby has induced many of the Indians to give up their old heathen ways, and to remove the ancient carved heraldic pillars which adorn the outside of their homes.
Some of them they have burned, others they have collected in a sort of museum, and it is through Mr. Crosby's influence, together with Mr. Morrison, the chief trader, that I expect to get some of these huge carvings for the Centennial. I have already secured one, a column 40 feet long, and others are promised me. From Fort Simpson we proceeded to Fort Tongass, in Alaska, some 15 miles distant from Simpson. This is an abandoned military post, belonging to the United States, and now occupied by a United States inspector of customs and a band of 700 Tongass, under a chief named Ya-soot. He came on board and expressed a great desire to have a missionary and a teacher. He said he felt ashamed when he went to Fort Simpson to see all the children learning to read and write, and all the Indians going to church, while the Tongass Indians had neither a missionary nor teacher, and he thought that "Washington" does not take as good care of the Alaska Indians as King George (the name they give the English) does of the Indians at Fort Simpson. He wished me to ask "Washington" to send them a missionary, and he would make his people build him a house, and he would compel all the Indians to send their children to school. Now, this apparent eagerness for a missionary is simply owing to a feeling of jealousy of the Tsimshians, who are given to boasting to the Alaska Indians that the English Government takes better care of them than the American Government does of the Alaskans. Still, a beneficial influence is exerted by the feeling; for in all my experience of over 20 years among the coast tribes, the greatest difficulty has been to get them to allow a missionary to reside among them. This same feeling was exhibited in every village we visited during our cruise. It was the old cry, "Come over from Macedonia and help us." I sincerely believe if this matter was placed in the hands of the various missionary societies, and they could send men like Mr. Duncan and Mr. Crosby, free and untrammeled by any of the restrictions that now necessarily surround the Indian agents under our present plan, that far more good would be effected among the natives, and at far less cost, than by our present system. The success at Metlakatla and Fort Simpson has demonstrated the fact that it is not necessary to have soldiers quartered among Indians, or even near them; and so far as my own observation has extended, I have invariably found that the presence of soldiers has a most demoralizing influence, subversive of all good.

After leaving Fort Tongass, we proceeded to Fort Wrangel, at the mouth of the Stikin River, arriving there at 10.30 in the forenoon of the 17th of June. There were a great many Indians assembled at this point, attracted there by the expectation of getting work from the crowds of miners who start from Fort Wrangel up the Stikine River for the Cassiar mines.

The Indians who reside at Wrangel are the Stickine tribe. Some of them have fine large houses built Indian style, but with the modern improvement of doors and windows. I conversed with several of the chiefs, and they expressed an anxious desire for schools and missionaries.

On the 18th of June, we left Fort Wrangel for Sitka, and arrived in Sitka Harbor the next morning. The Indians at this place are termed Kolashins, a term which Major Berry, collector of customs, informed me is not Indian, but Russian, and means Christian Indian, or those supposed to have been converted to the Greek Church.

An early voyager, Captain Marchand, a French navigator and a man of great observation, says of these Indians near and on the shores of what Captain Cook called Norfolk Sound, that their tribal name is "Tchen-kit-a-nay," and as he mentions the word very frequently in his narration of the Sitka Indians, I am inclined to think he must have been correct. I am more inclined to this opinion from the fact that other tribes are called by names different from the tribal name. For instance, the Makahs, at Cape Flattery, under the treaty of Nootka, are called Makah by the Indians of Puget Sound; and Classett by the Indians of the west coast of Vancouver Island; but the tribe call themselves Kwai-nait-che-chat. It is an interesting question in ethnology, and Major Berry has promised me that he will investigate it. Captain Marchand performed his voyage during the years 1790, 1791, and 1792. There were very few Indians at Sitka, the greater portion being absent, fishing, hunting, or trading with other tribes for furs.

In one lodge I saw a large quantity of very valuable furs, which the Indians told me they were about to take to Fort Simpson to sell. I subsequently saw the same Indians at Fort Simpson, where they had disposed of all of them at the company's fort. This is a matter which needs careful investigation. The mistaken policy of the military at Sitka, and the stringent regulations the government lays on the traders, drives all this lucrative trade into the hands of the Hudson Bay Company, and the blankets they receive in exchange for their furs are smuggled into Alaska without the faintest hope of the customs officers at Tongass being able to prevent it.

Again, on the plea that the Indians distilled whisky or rum from molasses, the commander of the military at Sitka issued orders that no person should be permitted to purchase more than one pint of molasses at a time. But the Indians can get all the molasses they want at Fort Simpson, and of traders at various points, and, to illustrate the absurdity of this order, I can state as a fact that a schooner was cleared at Sitka

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for a trading voyage among the Indians at Takow, Chilkah, and other large villages, with 18 barrels of molasses on board, and this only a short tine previous to our arrival.

The Indians learned the art of distillation from a discharged soldier, who commenced at a place called Koutznow, or Hootznoo, and smuggled his poisonous compound into Sitka, where he sold it to the soldiers and natives under the name of Hootznoo.

In a conversation with Major Campbell, commandant at Sitka, he was of the opinion that the Indians used only molasses, but I ascertained that they distill spirituous liquor from a fermented mixture of flour and sugar. Lieutenant McComb, at Fort Wrangel, told me that he had seized a mash ready to be distilled, which was composed of wheat. Another officer informed me that of a mash composed of potatoes, and Marchand states that in 1791 the Russians and Aleutes distilled liquor from the roots of a species of wild lily called by the Indians "white wild rice," from the rise-like granulations of its tuberous roots, and it is well known to all old traders that, from time immemorial, the natives of Alaska have produced intoxication by a beer made from spruce buds and other ingredients, which when old is as strong as brandy. This beer is called "quass." I was told by a reliable gentleman that he had seen and tasted of a very fair quality of liquor, which an Indian woman had distilled from dried apples, and in the berry season they distil a liquor from the fermented juice.

I believe a great change would be effected for the better if our government would adopt a different policy. Alaska has been declared Indian country, and placed under military control. Nothing could be more suicidal on the part of our government as regards the development and settlement of Alaska. Every soldier should at once be removed, and their places supplied by a class of swift steam-cutters. The country should be placed under the civil rule, and not the military, that deadly weapon which blasts the prospects of every place when it has exclusive control. The country is not Indian country. It is ours by right of purchase from Russia. We obtained the fee-simple to the whole of Alaska by that purchase, and there is not one word in the whole of that treaty which reserves any right of joint ownership to either Indians or any other people.

If the government desires to open up Alaska to settlement, the same inducements should be offered to settlers as were held out in early days to settlers in Oregon and Washington Territory. Then Congress should pass a law allowing goods to be imported into Alaska on a scale that will compete with the Hudson Bay Company, and if our colonists are not induced, not only by the military but by liberal inducements held out to actual settlers; if duties can be reduced to a par with that of British Columbia on foreign goods; and if two or three gunboats or revenue-cutters can be kept cruising on the coast, it can be easily demonstrated, not only that actual settlers will go to Alaska, but that the Indian tribes will trade with our own people. I believe that the American people are quite as competent to deal with Indians as the English citizens of British Columbia.

The experience of a series of many years shows that while, with our mistaken notions, we have had frequent severe bloody wars with the Indians of Oregon and Washington Territory, the Indians of British Columbia, though numbering some of the most powerful and warlike tribes on the Northwest coast, have never had any trouble with the colonial authorities which has not been instantly quelled by the presence of a gunboat.

If a Territorial government can be formed, and the whole country placed under civil authority; if lands can be surveyed, and liberal inducements held out to actual settlers; if duties can be reduced to a par with that of British Columbia on foreign goods; and if two or three gunboats or revenue-cutters can be kept cruising on the coast, I am of the opinion that the country will speedily become settled.

AGRICULTURE.

There is a good deal of sphagnous or mossy land about Sitka, which by drainage can be made to yield good crops. I found at Sitka where land had been so treated that the season was far in advance of Fort Simpson, although so much farther north. On the 20th of June I saw lettuce and radishes fit to eat, peas in bloom, turnips and potatoes well up, and currants and other small fruits looking finely. Collector Berry told me that potatoes thrive remarkably well. Last year he saw a crop gathered which averaged 3 potatoes to the pound. Major Campbell informed me that last fall (1874), Dr. Fitzgerald, the post surgeon, gave him a potato which he (the doctor) raised, which weighed two pounds. Major Campbell had it cooked in his own family, and pronounced it of a most delicious flavor, and at Hootznoo one man raised forty tons of very superior potatoes, which were all sold in Sitka. Dr. Fitzgerald, Major Campbell, and Collector Berry also informed me that they had seen a turnip raised last year in Sitka which weighed eight pounds, and a cabbage weighing twenty pounds.

When Sitka was first occupied by Americans, we were regaled with stories about crops—that potatoes would grow no larger than ounce balls and cabbage would not head; but under a judicious system of drainage, vast tracts of land can be made to yield abundant crops. At Sitka I was successful in getting a good assortment of Indian manufactures from a trader who deals largely in Indian curiosities.

I talked with the Indians in one of their houses in the village, and they were very earnest in their entreaties that a missionary and teacher should be sent among them. It
is very true there is a Greek church at Sitka, with a fine chime of bells, with silver chandeliers and candlesticks, and fine paintings, presented years ago by Catherine, Empress of all the Russians, but the present priests are Aleutes, who have no influence among the natives. The Indians told me they wanted a "Boston" (American) missionary, who would teach their children to read and write, just as the missionary does at Fort Simpson. I promised to report their wish to the Indian Bureau at Washington.

On the morning of the 23d we left Sitka, and proceeded north of Baranoff Island, and anchored at Lindenburg Harbor, near Chatham Strait, where we remained all night. The following morning we reached Koutznoo point and village, on the northeast side of Chatham Strait, east from Lindenburg Harbor. We found the village regularly laid out in streets, lanes, and alleys. The houses were surrounded with garden patches planted in rows, well heaped up to admit of drainage. Each garden was fenced in, and each had narrow strips of bark stretched across from fence to fence over each bed to keep off the crows, which are exceedingly numerous and great pests. These wary birds, however, are always on the alert for a trap or a snare, and the strips of bark make them think the fowler has spread his net for them, and they keep away. This delusion is kept up by the Indians, who hang up the carcasses of several dead crows in each garden patch, tying their legs to the bark lines as if they had been caught in that position. It is a simple and very effectual contrivance. The Indians raise most excellent potatoes at this place.

Although most of the tribe were absent on a hunt, there were quite a number present, who beset me with entreaties for a missionary and a teacher, and I promised them, as I had done the others, that I would present their case to the Indian Bureau.

I procured several articles of these Indians, most of them of an ancient date. At 12 m. we left Koutznoo and ran down Chatham Straits for Kake village, on the north side of Kou or Koo Island. Here we remained all night. I procured several articles of these Indians who came on board the cutter to trade. The chief had a little boy with him and expressed a strong desire that the child should go to school. He also asked for a teacher to be sent among them. The Kake Indians are regular pirates. It was a party of this tribe who murdered Colonel Ebey, the former collector of customs at Port Townsend, and after committing murders and robberies for several years, finally had their village burned to the ground by the United States war steamer Saginaw, soon after the acquisition of Alaska. They have been pretty quiet since that time, but they bear an ill name among both whites and Indians and require careful watching.

We left Kake village on the 25th of June at 3 a.m., and ran down Chatham Strait, crossed Christian Sound, and at 5.20 we anchored at Shigan on the north end of the Prince of Wales Archipelago.

A very few Indians were here collected at a trading post recently established. They belong to a band called Hanmega or Engla, whose village is about 20 miles from Shigan near Sackine Straits.

A few days previous to our arrival a woman had died, and the Indians had burned her body on the beach, and on the spot they erected a pole with a piece of white sheeting on top as a sort of flag, which will remain till blown down by the wind. It was at this place that we received definite information of the locality where the remains were found of Paymaster Walker, U.S.A., who was lost on the steamer Wright three years since.

A requisition had been made by General Howard on Collector Berry, of Sitka, for the Wolcott to proceed to the spot and recover the remains. We took on board the trader and his Indian guide as pilots, and left on the morning of the 25th, and at 9.15 we came to anchor at Klawark village, on the north side of Kou or Koo Island. Here we remained all night. I procured several articles of these Indians, most of them of an ancient date. At 12 m. we left Koutznoo and ran down Chatham Straits for Kake village, on the north side of Kou or Koo Island. Here we remained all night. I procured several articles of these Indians who came on board the cutter to trade. The chief had a little boy with him and expressed a strong desire that the child should go to school. He also asked for a teacher to be sent among them. The Kake Indians are regular pirates.

This place, which consists of an Indian village and trading post, is situated on the west coast of Prince of Wales Archipelago, in latitude 55° 40' north, longitude 133° 15' west, and is approached from the ocean by several passages through the islands. There is a fresh-water stream emptying into the bay at Klawark, and great quantities of salmon are taken during July, August, and September. The place is quiet, secluded, and romantic, and most beautiful of any we have visited. There were a great many Indians at this place, both Hanmega and Haidalas. The lands of the latter it seems are not confined to Queen Charlotte's Island, but extend to Alaska Territory, nearly to Klawark at Atka Rapids, as shown by the chart.

Here I purchased of a doctor or Tomanaives man a complete set of dancing rattles and conjuring sticks, and in the afternoon he came alongside the cutter with a party and favored us with a dance of welcome. In the evening the young men had canoe races to show us their skill and perfect management of a canoe.

The trading post at this place is owned by a man named George Hamilton. As there are quite a number of Indian children here, and as it is a position easily visited by the Indians from various villages, it would be a most excellent position for establishing a school, and Mr. Hamilton, whom I met at Sitka, assured me he would do all...
in his power to render assistance to any teacher who should come among them. I saw some remarkably intelligent looking children whose parents lamented that there was no school for them.

It is not necessary to make treaties with the Alaska Indians or to remove them to reservations. My own experience among the Indians of Washington Territory has proved to me that the whole system is wrong. What these Indians all ask for is to have a teacher sent to them, one to every principal Indian village, and when there is such a universal desire to have their children instructed we may look for the happiest results.

At 3 a.m., on the 30th of June, we left Klawark for Howkan village, where is a trading post of Messrs. Sherrick & Turk, where we arrived at 1.55 p.m. Howkan village is on Klawak Strait, on the southwest part of Alaska, in latitude 54° 50' north, longitude 132° 40' west. It was here that we found the Indian who had discovered the remains of Paymaster Walker, U.S. Navy, U.S.A. He was the last to leave at the time of the wreck of the steamer George S. Wright. This Indian's name is "Edinso," a Haidah. He had been employed three years on steamer California as coal-passenger during her voyages from Portland, Oreg., to Sitka, and has also worked in Port Townsend two, and a half years cutting cord-wood. We took him on board, together with Mr. Turk, his trader, Mr. Dickenson, and steamed around Kaigan or Kaigarny Point, to Port Bazan, an unfrequented harbor, where the Indian pointed out the remains, which were enveloped in a military coat with the chevrons of a paymaster, U.S. A., upon the sleeve. The remains were taken on board by Lieutenant Kilgore, and placed in a box, and afterwards taken by the Wolcott to Fort Wrangel, and there turned over to the military commandant, and by him sent to Portland, and finally they were buried at Fort Vancouver with military honors. After receiving the remains we returned to Howkan.

The collection of carved posts and monuments at this place is very fine, but owing to the absence of nearly every Indian, I could not procure any, especially as they ask the most fabulous prices for their carvings. Soon after our arrival, a chief's wife came with some of her people. She is the most intelligent woman I have met. She had lived at Victoria long enough to acquire a knowledge of the English language. She told me the monuments and columns were to commemorate some great event, but mostly were erected in memory of the dead. She said, "We will not sell them any more than you white people will sell grave-stones or monuments in your cemeteries, but you can have one made." She pointed to one pillar 80 feet high and most elaborately carved. "That cost," said she, "one thousand blankets," or $2,500. I found, however, that the cost is not what they pay the man or men who do the carving, but when a chief or headman thinks to prove himself as such, he will cause one of the carved pillars to be set up in front of his house, and on the day of the "raising" he calls together a vast number of people and distributes blankets, flour, and other things among them. Another chief, feeling jealous, will put up another and a higher stick of carved timber, and the greater the number of blankets distributed the greater is considered the chief.

I subsequently secured one at Fort Simpson, which cost at Victoria about $120. I purchased several articles of Indian manufacture from this woman. Her husband, who was chief of the tribe, was a half-breed. He had recently died, and she had him in a box in the lodge waiting the decision of the Indians, whether they would burn the body or bury it. The Indians have been induced by the influence of the missionaries to abandon their practice of cremation, particularly at Fort Simpson and Metlakahtla, and the influence seems to have extended to Alaska.

On the morning of the 2d day of July, 1875, we left Howkan for Klemmakoan village on the north side of Cordoon Bay, and arrived there at 3 p.m. The chief of this village is a half-breed, named Kinowen, a celebrated silversmith, from whom I purchased some beautiful bracelets and other jewelry of silver.

This village is the largest and has more carvings than any I have seen, but the Indians were unwilling to part with any.

Kinowen came on board the cutter with his wife and four children, and told me if the American Government would send a teacher he would let him select a place to suit him, and the Indians would build him a house and send the children to school.

On the 4th of July we arrived at Fort Tongass, which is now a deserted military post, but the residence of about 400 Tongass Indians. The chief came on board and again expressed the same views regarding a school which he did on our first visit in June, and this time Captain Scammon, through an interpreter, told him that he would do all in his power to induce the government to attend to the matter. Yahsoot, after inviting us all to visit his village the next day, went ashore. The following morning I went ashore with Lieutenants Harwood and Kilgore, to make a call upon the chief, and found that during the night a niece of Yahsoot had suddenly died. I was invited to see the corpse, and in company with Lieutenant Kilgore went into the house (Lieutenant Harwood not caring to join us). Here I witnessed a scene I never before have seen in all my experience among Indians during 25 years' residence among them. The body was laid out in state, dressed in the latest habiliments of silks and satins, and
rich and costly furs. Around the body knelt her relatives singing in plaintive dirge. The father on one side kept up a conversation with his dead daughter, and the husband on the other side, bowed down with grief. The mother and other relatives about the feet. The whole scene was one of solemnity and very impressive.

At the request of the chief, I addressed them in terms of sympathy, and to show my respect, I immediately returned on board the cutter without visiting any other lodge or making any purchases. This was appreciated by the Indians present, who thanked me for respecting their feelings.

On the 6th day of July we ran into Karta Bay to the Indian village of Kazan. Here I purchased of a trader several beautiful specimens of bead embroidery and shawl work, and on the morning of the 7th we proceeded to Fort Wrangel, arriving there at 6.22 p. m., and remained there until the 17th. The Indians were, like all the rest, earnest in their entreaties for teachers and missionaries.

From Fort Wrangel we proceeded to Fort Tongass, where we landed some stores for the customs officer, and then proceeded to Fort Simpson, British Columbia, where we arrived at 11 a. m., on Sunday morning, July 18th. All the Indians, except some strangers from Alaska, had gone to church, and not wishing to disturb the congregation, I took a walk to see the new church which Mr. Crosby was building. As I passed the big lodge where we had the wedding feast, about a dozen Indians, men and women, came out, all well dressed. One of them had a book under his arm. I asked them if they were going to church. They said no, that they belonged to Metlakatla mission, and had been holding service after the Episcopal form taught them by Mr. Duncan. The Indian with the book under his arm told me that he was the minister; and then opening his book he handed it to me, pointing to a passage, "Read that," said he, "I can't read well; I wish I could." The book was the Bible, and the passage was the 18th and 19th verses of the 4th chapter of St. Luke. "I wish I could preach better," said he. The text was so appropriate and the serious earnestness of the whole party, together with the profound stillness of the village, made a deep impression upon me.

Just as I finished talking with this Indian minister, the congregation of Mr. Crosby's church came out; there were some five or six hundred of them, all scrupulously clean and well dressed. It was a sight I have never witnessed before, and it spoke volumes to my mind of the efficient training Mr. Crosby has given these Indians, and the wonderful change wrought in this tribe by Mr. Duncan, Episcopalian, at Metlakatla, and Mr. Crosby, at Fort Simpson.

I partook of lunch at the fort with Mr. and Mrs. Morrison. As we sat down to the table, Mrs. Morrison, a native woman, asked a blessing on our repast, and when we had finished she returned thanks in the forms common among English people, and this in a simple and devout demeanor, which showed that she really felt what she said.

I was impressed with what I had seen that day that I could not help the thought that the people whom we dare to call savages can teach us all-So-called Christians lessons of humility. I left Fort Simpson with a feeling of respect for those Indians that I have never before felt for any tribe I have lived with on the Northwest coast, and I feel confident if missionaries and teachers are sent them by the agencies of all denominations of Christians in the same untrammeled manner accorded to Messrs. Duncan and Crosby, that the Alaska tribes will not only become better off than they will be should our present miserable policy of Indian agencies be thrust upon them.

At 2 p. m. we left Fort Simpson and proceeded on to Bella Bella, a Hudson's Bay trading-post, which we reached the next afternoon at 6.50. Mr. Kennedy, the trader, furnished me with a few curiosities, and afterwards sent me a valuable collection of ancient articles of Indian manufacture, and twenty-six large paddles ornamented for the big canoe. At 8 p. m. we left Bella Bella for Fort Townsend, where we arrived on the 21st at 9 a. m.

To the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

JAMES G. SWAN.

The foregoing report has been somewhat altered from the original to fit it for the press, but the principal features have been kept in view. I first show by the wonderful success of the mission at Metlakatla and Fort Simpson that the presence of soldiers is not needed. Secondly, that these missions are conducted without expense to the English Government, the expenses being defrayed by a stipend paid by the missionary societies to the missionaries in charge, and by voluntary contributions by the Indians.

Every denomination of Christians should have the privilege of sending missionaries and teachers to Alaska, the whole to be under the care of one general superintendent, who should visit every missionary station once in each year during the spring season, so as to be able to make his annual report at the close of the fiscal year. These annual visits should be made in a revenue-cutter. By adopting the plan of the missions in British
In a pleasant conversation respecting the purchase of Alaska with Capt. J. W. White, of revenue marine service, and superintendent of construction of revenue-cutter at Albina, the following valuable facts were stated:

To the question, What is the value of the purchase?

Reply. It was a present. Count the fisheries, the furs, the mines of coal, iron, and gold, the varieties of fruits and vegetables that can be raised, with its political value as a military station. The Yukon River is navigable for steamers 1,400 miles. It spreads out into five mouths, enclosing a level, cottonwood region or delta of 70 miles, covered with grass. On Unalaska the grass is 6 to 8 feet high, and so thick that it must be parted to get through. It is so on Kodiak. The small Russian cattle that live entirely upon it are as fat as seals. They live on it all the year, needing no shelter but the ravines. The wild pea vines grow 6, 8, and even 12 feet long, furnishing choice food for stock. The shores are rough and mountainous. We know but little of the outlines by our common maps, which are guesses, not surveys. Having been ordered thither by the government in 1867, with instructions, I spent more than two years coasting and visiting all parts, from Fort Wrangell, Sitka, Aleutian islands, Behring's Sea, to the Behring Straits.

There are no proper icebergs in those seas. The warm Japan current divides at the southwest point of the Aleutian Islands, part going north through Behring's Straits, which are too shallow for anything but ice to pass, and only a narrow polar current passes down near the Asiatic coast, as the one from Greenland passes down near the Atlantic shore. Ice floats off the shore, in winter and spring, and soon dissolves, with little danger to shipping. The region is chilly, even in summer, in the ravines hid from the sun; but parts open to the sun, though frosts and snow are on the mountains, produce luxuriant vegetation; and fruits like blackberries-larger than Lawton—and whortleberries, abound in their season.

What of the cod-fisheries? Some gentlemen in the business say that the Okotsk Sea has the better codfish banks, but as the food of this fish comes up on the southern arm of the vast Japan current that sweeps past under the Aleutians, why are there not good cod-fishing grounds under Alaska?

Answer. There are. I sounded the shores 700 miles by log northwest of Sitka, and found the entire length a codfish bank (with plenty of halibut also). The smaller codfish are in the shallower waters near the shore, of 20 or 30 fathoms; but the best fisheries are farther out, in 70 or 80 fathoms. For example, one day, when sounding south of Kodiak, wishing to lay in a store of codfish, I ordered the galis set back and the lines prepared. What bait? I had a barrel of Puget Sound clams salted for me with this purpose. I took my lead-line, as large as my thumb, attached five hooks above the lead, with a clam on each, and fastened to the davit. Soon the bites, one, two, three, often five, were felt. I threw the line over the pulley, and put four men to pull, and up would come two, three, and sometimes five cod, weighing 30 to 40 pounds apiece. We had out about 20 lines, and caught 250 fish in two hours. I met some fishermen, and asked why they did not fish farther out, instead of catching the smaller ones of 5 to 15 pounds each nearer shore. They replied that the deep-water fishing was too hard.

What of the coal-fields? Answer. I have seen coal-veins over an area 40 by 50 miles, so thick that it seems one vast bed. It has an excellent steam quality, leaves a clear white ash. It comes out in cube blocks, bright and clean. It does not coke. The quantity seems to be unlimited. This bed lies northwest of Sitka, up Cook's Inlet or Bay, which extends to nearly 61° north and broadens into a sea in some parts. But our geographers plot it as an unimportant arm of the sea! They are wrong. It is a large body of water. Its shores, though in part mountainous, several valleys and plains and forests with large and various resources.
Did you see fur-traders along the coast trafficking with the Indians?

Yes; they are everywhere gathering up furs.

Do they deal in whisky?

Yes; and tobacco, blankets, &c. A whisky distiller was tracked nearly up to Behring Straits. He thought he had got out of reach, but a vessel found him and broke up his business. They make desperate efforts to secure the furs.

Will the Aleuts trade for whisky?

Yes; they will drink themselves drunk if they can get it. They live for the most part on the Aleutian Islands and vicinity, and probably descended from the Japanese. They are a quiet, honest people. The Kalosh are another race of Indians, shrewd and warlike, who live on the mainland mostly of Alaska proper. You must show your power, and they will respect you and do what you say, or what they agree to do, exactly.

The traders sometimes complain of ill treatment by the Indians. One reported a sad story of his wrongs to General Davis, and wanted the tribe punished. The general spoke to me about it. Knowing there might be two sides to the story, I said to the general, "I am to be near that tribe soon to survey, and I will learn the facts." On sailing near the village of the tribe, not an Indian was to be seen. In a day or two I found one from another tribe, and learned that they had fled, knowing what ill reports the trader would carry to the fort. I sent this man to tell the chief that I wanted to see him. He came with his attendants. I told him the reports, and wanted his story. He said, "I will come to-morrow at nine o'clock and bring my witnesses and tell you." He came promptly, and as he related, I wrote it out. The trader had come and offered tobacco and blankets, &c., for furs at the common rates, and the bargain was made. When they paid down the furs, he charged double rates for tobacco and blankets, and, by the way, they were three-point Hudson Bay blankets. Martins, at $1 in trade, worth $5, he would give only 50 cents for; otters, at $1 in barter, yet worth $5, he would give only 50 cents for. So with foxes, &c. "We would not trade in that way, and gathered up his goods and our furs and went home." "Did you know that was wrong?" "Yes, but he was wrong first, and our young men got angry. My son was with them. We have not used one of his things. I had them sent back to him."

Captain White said, "I then told the chief to report himself to General Davis at the fort. He went, and I sent my letter with the statement by him to the general. When I went back this chief met me on the wharf with General Davis, who said he told the story exactly as I had written it, and brought all the goods except one plug of tobacco. The general had the trader arrested, and the collector took charge of him for smuggling, thus avoiding a war. This chief became our warm friend, but he said he would not trade with such men, but he would with honest men. He would give a mink for $1, fox for $1, and an otter for $1; every one of these skins is worth $5, thus giving the trader from 400 to 500 per cent."

Do Messrs. Hutchisson, Kohl & Co., or the Alaska Commercial Company, now styled, who have leased the fur-seal fisheries on Saint Paul and Saint George's Island, take one seal per year more than the agreement allows?

No; it is not for their interest to do so. For illustration: I was sent to Alaska by the government to reconnoiter, protect its interests, and make surveys, and was there in 1867, '68, and '69. I found four or five fur companies, Messrs. Hutchisson, Kohl & Co. among them, killing seals on those islands as fast as they could hire the Aleuts to do it. One eastern firm, who were too religious to work on the Sabbath, did, with others, sell whisky to the Aleuts in pay for furs, and these poor people had nothing for their work. I knew when the ships were gone they would be left without food. The great slaughter of the seals would soon destroy all of them. Following my general instructions to care for our country's interests, I put a stop to the slaughter, broke every whisky-barrel, and poured it on the ground. The Aleuts thought I did wrong.
They were so eager to get it that some of them laid down and smeared the ground and puddles of it, and got drunk. But I saved them, and I would not allow the traders to kill any seals, except such as the Aleuts selected—the two-year old males—and to a limited number. I required all of them to pay the Aleuts in provisions, clothing, and other needful articles, but not one drop of whisky. I reported my action to Secretary Boutwell, and my course was approved. The vast catch that year reduced the price of skins to $3 each.

The next year comparatively few seals came to the islands; but after this fur company got the sole right, they having bid highest for it, caught only 100,000 per year. The seals came back numerously the third year. That company have the lease of the two Russian islands, Barenleoff, on the coast of Kamtchatka, which furnish 30,000 per annum, and thus they have practically all the sources of supply, and have control of the European market, which gives them now $16 per skin. They pay the government $2.25 or $2.50 per skin. They pay the Aleuts 40 cents each for killing, and extra for salting, and have some other costs. The Aleuts on these islands have good comfortable houses put up by them, and a good school. Most of their children can read and talk English. Three or four of them are in San Francisco at school. They are fairly treated. All are doing well, and some have funds in the San Francisco savings-banks.

Had all the companies been allowed on the islands they would have destroyed the business and the Aleuts also. It is not for their interest as a company to kill more than the agreed number. The market is limited and easily glutted. They can regulate the supply and keep up the prices and make the most money in this way. Mr. Bryant, the United States Government agent there, takes the account of the skins from the Aleuts' day-books; also counts them himself, and has his clerk count and keep the number put on board the ships. The government inspector at San Francisco does the same, and thus the exact tally is checked off.

Does this company also trade in furs along the coast?

Yes. That is open, free ground, and they go in with the rest, and, of course, have the fairest chance. Yet the fur business is only temporary. It is the mere surface product of Alaska. When we develop the coal and fisheries there will be grander results for labor and commercial enterprise. When the forests of Oregon and Washington are gone, Alaska will be our permanent supply. From Sitka over the mountains east is the nearest route to the Cassiar mines, instead, as now, by the Stickeen River route. Gold is in these mountains, the Indians say, perhaps the head of supply of the Cassiar, but the Indians will only reveal what they know to their friends, and a company cannot go over unless able to defend themselves and well provisioned to remain awhile and test the region.

The best way for our government to care for Alaska is to have two revenue cutters all the time in those waters, coasting about, well armed, supplied, and manned. If the Indians should combine they could easily take the fort and destroy the garrison. They have no vessel for defense or attack. Two armed vessels could protect commerce and control the Indians in a very economical way.

Do you not think it would be a good country for the Icelanders who are learning their country? Would they not be our best means of developing the resources of Alaska, and of rightly dealing with and elevating both the Aleuts and the Kolo Indians?

Yes, the very best defense we could have, the best colonists to save the country and the people. The sober, industrious Icelanders would soon make a Territory, and ultimately a State, of great value to our American Union. To move ten or twenty thousand of them there would be the grandest enterprise of the nation, and grant them lands and a home free. It will never do to make Alaska a county of Washington Territory, for whisky and misrule and strife will ensue, destroying the people and the country alike.

Will not the plan of bringing ten or twenty thousand Icelandic colonists to Alaska, granting them homesteads, insure a good civil rule and save that country to the United States as a growing and most valuable Territory?

Yes, emphatically; that is the thing to be done at once.

Will not the cod, halibut, and salmon fisheries, and the opening the coal-fields and lumber interests there, furnish the Icelanders a steady and profitable business as a motive for their colonization, while it will subserve our commerce on the Pacific?

Yes; the country is a good one for them, and they can make it a good one for us.

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
Portland, Oreg., March 2, 1876.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army. The following memorandum has been furnished me by Mr. George H. Atkinson, of this city, taken from the verbal statement of Capt. J. W. White, of the revenue marine service, superintend-
ent of construction of revenue cutter at Albina. He was in Alaska in 1867-’68, and ’69, on government service. His report is favorable to the Alaska Commercial Company. He commends the government official, Mr. Bryant, very highly for his carefulness in checking accounts at Saint Paul’s and Saint George’s Island. He believes with the post commander of Sitka, Maj. J. B. Campbell, Fourth Artillery, that the settlement of Alaska with the Icelanders, who are seeking to colonize, will be the best thing for the government, for the Aleuts, and for the Indians. Undoubtedly every possible facility should be given to the colonists who are well prepared to develop the resources of that country, and who would soon afford us a steady and reliable basis for a Territorial government.

O. O. HOWARD,
Brigadier-General Commanding.

[Second endorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
Portland, Oreg., May 6, 1878.

Official copy respectfully furnished Maj. William Gouverneur Morris, special agent Treasury Department, for his information.

By command of Brigadier-General Howard.

J. A. SLADEN,
Aide-de-Camp.

[From the Puget Sound Argus, November 23, 1877.]

Why Alaska should have civil government.

FORT WRANGEL, ALASKA, October 31, 1877.

Editor Argus:

Sir: Within the columns of your paper having read Commissioner Swan’s report to the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, relative to this country and its people, and believing the Argus to be an advocate of the best interests and future welfare of this Territory and its inhabitants, I conclude to send you for publication and circulation a petition by the residents of this place, to the United States Senate, praying for law and order to be extended over this region.

This petition (hitherto annexed) states nothing but facts, and in order to be brief, does not lay before the Senate one-tenth part of our grievances; therefore I take the liberty and ask space within the columns of the Argus, in order that a few naked truths may be laid before the public.

Having been a resident of this Territory near eight years, and having had my eyes and ears open a portion of that time, I know whereof I speak.

This petition is not our first effort in striving to be recognized by the government as a people, having rights worthy of consideration. We have petitioned and repeated to the heads at Washington to do something for us, and thus far our petitions have accomplished nothing; hence we try again, and our prayer is that the present Congress will enact a law whereby whites and Indians in Alaska may obtain justice.

We, as American citizens, claim, as an inalienable right, that we are entitled to protection in life and property.

Ten years have elapsed since the acquisition by our government of this country, and during that time the government has neither encouraged nor sanctioned the development of its resources. Nothing has been done towards improving the condition of its inhabitants, either intellectually or morally. All that has been done has had a tendency to stagnate our commerce, impede enterprise, and debase and demoralize the native inhabitants.

Misrule has been the fate of this Territory ever since the hoisting of the stars and stripes over it, and now we humbly ask a change.

An effort is being made to have the military return to Alaska, and in the name of humanity and common sense I ask, what for? Is it for the best interests of the Territory that they should return? Look to the past for an answer. Whenever did they do anything for the country, or the people in it, that deserves praise? Did they encourage enterprise and assist in the developing of the resources of the country? No! It stands recorded that they foiled the developing of it, and placed restrictions on enterprise and improvements. Did they seek the enlightenment of the Indian, and endeavor to elevate him to a higher moral standard? On this point let the Indians
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being the watchword.

The future welfare of this country, and the best interests of the people in it, demand

that we have no more military rule, but that, instead, civil authority, judicial power,

and law be tried.

Our Indians here are not a band of cut-throats and pirates that require bayonets

and brass guns to keep them in subjection.

Here at Wrangel, the Indians, although greatly demoralized, are somewhat civilized,

and after many efforts a school has been established on a permanent basis at this

place. The Presbyterian board of missions having taken the matter in hand, a lady

by the name of McFarland has been sent here, and she has now a daily attendance at

school of about sixty Indians, old and young, most of whom have mastered the alphabet

and many of whom can read sentences composed of words of one syllable.

This speaks volumes for the Indians of Alaska, especially when it is remembered

that all the Indians of this Territory desire teachers and preachers sent among them.

Alaska's wealth will justify a little legislation in her behalf.

During the past year mineral has been discovered in this Territory that will, I ~rn~y

believe, revolutionize the Pacific coast. Alaska fish are being looked after, and within

a few years "Alaska canned salmon" will be exported to all parts of the world. Dis-

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rising of the sun.

Aside from all this is the Cassiar mines in British Columbia. This season has de-

veloped the fact that Cassiar is an extensive gold country that will last for years.

The year 1878 will bring near 3,000 men thither, perhap more, all of whom must

pass through Wrangel. I have seen 900 miners in this town at one time; a fo"· day

have become sonnd on arrival here, and were certainly deploring their fate of bPing

here make a businAss of manufacturing liquor and selling it to Indiitus. Even in the

company's quarters stills were erected that produced the famous "Kootzenoo." Soldier

and Indian womeas were frequently seen having a drunken spree; immorality

Then, for a change, Indians have been known to make liquor and sell it to soldiers

by the glass at ten cents a drink. I have frequently seen soldiers go to the Indian

ranch for their morning drink of kootzenoo. These things were done and no efforts

were made to prevent it.

And yet white men were arrested, confined, and prosecuted on a charge of having

introduced and drunk at Wrangel a bottle of liquor. All attempts by the military to

check the manufacture of liquor by the Indians were a farce, and consisted of pre-

tended restrictions on our merchants and traders from selling molasses and sugar.

I have never known a military man to speak well of Alaska. They all seemed to

have become sound on arrival here, and were certainly deploring their fate of being

stacioned in such a detestable place.

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The year 1878 will bring near 3,000 men thither, perhaps more, all of whom must

pass through Wrangel. I have seen 900 miners in this town at one time; a few days

ago 400 were here awaiting ocean steamers.

Liquor smuggled into this port and that made here can be had at all time , all(

in the absence of law but few men have been drunk, and no one seriously hurt.

But the present quietness cannot always reign. Peace is not secure among five hun-

red whites and a thousand Indians with no authority except a deputy collector of

customs, and he devoid of all legal power to act in case of trouble. The fact of no

serious trouble having occurred, the outside world must not imagine quietness reigns

supreme at Wrangel. Far from it. I am daily beset by white men and by Indians,

who come with all sorts of complaints, many of which are of a criminal nature. The

aggrieved asks for justice. I can but advise. But advice will not always suffice.

Justice is demanded, and unless something is done whereby the guilty can be tried

and punished trouble will occur, and that of a serious nature. Will not the present

Congress do something for us? Or must we be compelled to organize ourselves into

a committee of safety and make and execute our own laws? Time alone will tell.

I. C. DENNIS,

Deputy Collector

CUSTOMS.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT IN ALASKA.

We call the attention of our readers to the valuable and interesting letter from Mr.

Issac Dennis, deputy collector of customs at Fort Wrangel, Alaska. Mr. Dennis is
Mr. Dennis's views relative to the great mineral wealth of Alaska are also true, and in proof of the report taken to San Francisco by Capt. John M. White, commander of the United States revenue steam-cutter Thomas Corwin, relative to these deposits, and that the subject is beginning to excite the interest of the capitalists of San Francisco, we will state, on the authority of the British Colonist, of November 18, that Flood & O'Brien, the bonanza kings, are represented as having taken an active interest in the development of the deposits in Alaska of gold, silver, iron, copper, and coal. Nor is the wealth now lying dormant in Alaska confined to the minerals. Her fisheries of cod, salmon, halibut, elahchon, and other varieties of edible fish, the great quantities of whale, sea-elephant, porpoise, and other oil-producing inhabitants of the ocean, and the inexhaustible quantities of fur-bearing animals of both sea and land, are now only awaiting the magic touch of capital to be developed into prolific sources of wealth to those who have the energy to go and seek for them.

The remarks of Mr. Dennis respecting the Indians are correct, and have been fully corroborated and proven by the reports of Commissioner Swan and Captains White and Selden of the United States Revenue Marine; and if the policy as laid down in the commissioner's report can be adopted by our government, and the same method of treatment of the Alaska Indians be carried out as is now done in British Columbia, there will be no need of troops or of extending the force of our present system of Indian agencies among them—a mistaken policy inaugurated in the days of George Washington and continued to the present day; a policy of treatment of the savages which the enlightened public of the United States have weighed in the balance of common sense, common humanity, and common charity, and found lamentably wanting. Let Congress adopt the same system of governing the Indians of Alaska as is now so successfully carried out by Dr. John W. Powell, Indian commissioner for British Columbia, under instructions from the Dominion Government of Canada; and the various tribes and bands placed under charge of missionaries and teachers sent by the various religious denominations, as has for more than thirty years been so eminently productive of good at Metlakatla, British Columbia, under Mr. Duncan, of the Episcopal mission, and at Fort Simpson, British Columbia, under Mr. Crosby, of the Wesleyan Methodist mission. If this system is carried out and adopted by our government, we shall hear no more of the rascalities of Indian agents, and no more Indian wars precipitated by the cupidity of Indian rings. What Alaska now needs is a civil government, as stated by Mr. Dennis, and petitioned for by more than four hundred residents at Fort Wrangel. William King Lear, esq., whose name has accidentally been misspelled as one of the signers to the petition to Congress on our first page, is one of the wealthiest merchants in Alaska, and one of the most prominent citizens of Wrangel. Mr. J. M. Vanderbilt was for a long time purser on the steamer California, and shows by his signature to that petition that he is well aware that the opening of Alaska to settlement will be more for the interest of steamboat owners than to have the country locked up as it has been by the presence of troops.

We commend the whole subject of the communication from Mr. Dennis and the petition of the citizens of Alaska to the careful consideration of our Delegate in Congress, and we ask the co-operation of the entire press of the Pacific coast to aid in having Alaska opened to settlement and development by immediate action of the present Congress of the United States.
now in full bloom, and which has been ever since the first day of December. Prevailing winds here during the past sixty days have been east and southeast, which accounts for mildness of climate.

FROM CASSIAH.

Messrs. Sylvester and Humphreys arrived here from the gold-field on December 21 and report very mild weather at the mines and not much snow. They had much difficulty in coming down the Stickine River on account of no ice, except a little near the banks. Several companies are at work tunneling on the first north fork of McDame’s Creek, and are doing well, taking out about sixty ounces per week. Provisions are scarce at the mines; butter and bacon there is none, and but little flour and sugar. Miners going to these mines on the ice must take plenty of supplies with them.

HOLIDAYS AT WRANGEL.

Christmas eve was ushered in by a grand raffle for Christmas cakes, after which came a magnificent display of eatables and drinkables, which, being free to all, everybody partook thereof and became happy. Hootzenoo and all other brands of liquor flowed in abundance, and in honor to the residents of Wrangel be it said, that on this occasion no white man created any disturbance. The only commotion was by an Indian, and he, I regret to say, is a native of Washington Territory. As midnight approached our attention was attracted towards the Indian village. The school and church-going portion of the Indians had at this hour collected in numbers near two hundred, and were on the march towards town, singing as they came. Arriving at the residence of their teacher, Mrs. McFarland, they halted and serenaded her by singing several hymns. Their singing was admirable, considering the length of time they have been under tuition. As I listened to these natives, who are seeking to become enlightened and benefited by the teaching of Christianity, I could not but admire their seeming sincerity and reflect that they were showing a good example to many of us who claim to be their superiors in all things. Christmas dawned forth with an easterly wind and rain, which somewhat dampened the spirits of our inhabitants. As the day advanced, however, the rain let up somewhat, and the people circulated around and enjoyed each other’s congratulations. The day passed off in perfect harmony; and, as evening approached, all those who love to tip the fantastic toe were preparing for the masquerade ball. At 8 p.m., doors were open, and being supplied with a “complimentary” I wended forth to the hall and beheld about twenty couples, of whom many were in gay and costly costume, being the handiwork of Indians. Leaving the scene of gayety I strolled to the residence of Toy-ah-att, a chief of the Stickines. The church and school people were giving an entertainment at his house, and he having given me to understand that the presence of myself and friends at the feast would be considered an honor greatly appreciated by all, therefore, together with friend Vanderbilt, I went forth. Arrived at the place of attraction, a building in size 30 by 40, we beheld con­gregated together about 200 Indians, old and young, of all sizes and all shades of color. The room was well lighted by lamps, candles, and a huge fire of dry wood in the center of the building. The walls were gracefully decorated with evergreens, flags, and pictures. In the room were four large tables, on which were placed in abundance “Boston muck-a-muck” of every description, and around which were seated youth and age doing justice to all before them. As the tables were finished, a fresh lot would be seated, and before anything was eaten grace was said by Mrs. Dickinson. In a small room near the tables was an organ at which was seated Mrs. Constantine (an Indian woman), who regaled the throng with several pieces of music. After all had eaten, Toy-ah-att entertained us with tableaux, which were very laughable.

Could our wise-heads and law-makers at Washington and elsewhere have witnessed these things as above set forth, they would have become somewhat enlightened regarding the people here, and their wants. Talk about heathens, barbarians, and Christian missions in foreign lands. Here in Alaska is the point to turn your attention. Ministers and Christians of these United States, here is material for you to work with; here are people daily praying to God that aid will be sent them. Something has been done; a school has been established and a lady teacher sent here. But this is not sufficient. More is asked; a man is required; one who is enthusiastic on the subject of reforming Indians from their old traditional practices and habits and converting them to the better faith. Rev. Sheldon Jackson, while here last summer, assured us that a man would be sent to this mission as soon as a suitable one could be found; and the Indians are continually asking when he might be expected to arrive.

Senators and all in authority at Washington, again we call upon you; aside from our own demands as citizens we urge upon you in behalf of these people to give deep thought and legislate wisely. Our Indians here are like the whites, they are divided in two sets, church and anti-church. The church-going Indians are opposed to the hootzenoo traffic, and are trying to stop its manufactory. The anti-church portion of the Indians are the whisky producers and consumers, and they frequently endeavor, when drunk, to sow discord and create a panic among the elect. Could the manufactory of liquor by the Indians be stopped, the church here would soon have enrolled
as members nearly every native. The manufacture of liquor in Alaska by Indians in my mind can be stopped but by one way, and that is by extending law over this country and punishing an Indian by fine and imprisonment when convicted of the traffic. When these Indians here lose their purse their hearts are touched, and imprisonment, as has been demonstrated, drives terror to their souls. The presence of troops and an occasional gunboat have no effect toward destroying the traffic in this country; they only foster the trade by non-interference. But give us gunboats and troops with law attached, or law without either, and see how long it will take to create reform. Law we must have, and each day’s doings here calls out louder for the same. We must have law in order to protect the Indians from the doings of contemptible white men. There is no necessity of the whites here asking protection from the Indians, for they (the Indians) have, since the withdrawal of troops, shown themselves to be the most law-abiding. All they ask is justice from the hands of all men, and nothing will be done by them that will create disturbance.

AN OUTRAGE

was committed here a fortnight ere Christmas, by a colored scrub named Cafo. He, having some difficulty with an Indian woman, and not content with tongue lashing her, set to and beat and kicked her most shamefully. At such treatment the Indians demanded justice; but none was to be had. The Indians were advised, however, that should the rascal attempt any further trouble they should take him in custody and administer on his bare back one hundred lashes. After the affair was all over several of our citizens talked of lynching him, and all that was required to carry out their notions was a little urging.

A GREAT SENSATION.

On December 29 this little town was greatly agitated over an occurrence as follows: The hootzenoo manufacturers, having by non-interference become bold and unprincipled, one John Petelin, a Russian, and distiller of poison, sold to an Indian some of his manufacture, which caused a drunken row in the ranch and in which several Indians got seriously hurt. This drunken spree caused a few of the church-going people to fall from grace, and consequently the church party concluded it was time to make an example of somebody in order to convince white men that whisky-selling by them to Indians would be no longer tolerated. A score of Indians therefore marched to the Russian’s house, seized his “still” and liquor, and with him in custody started for the ranch. Arriving at Toy-ab-at’s residence a council was held, and the decision was that the Russian should be tied to a post for one hour. This sentence was carried out, and the culprit’s “still” and “mash-tub” were placed alongside of him, that all passers-by might know why such punishment was inflicted. A portion of our white population (those who hesitate not in violating the laws of the country) set up an ignominious howl over the occurrence, claiming that if Indians were permitted and tolerated to perpetrate acts like this they would become emboldened, and no white man would be safe. Many talked loudly of marching to the rescue of the Russian while under sentence, but, as is generally the case, talk was cheap, and none cared to act. Others, who are possessed with more brass than brains, commenced defining other men’s duties, never once considering that their duties, as law-abiding citizens, demand that they shall discontinue and endeavor to suppress the liquor traffic in Alaska. And, again, there were a few of another class, of the “cut and shoot” stamp, who howled loudly of individual rights and self-protection, asserting what they would do should any one attempt to enter their premises in search of liquor. Here was a scene for you, fellow-citizens of this our great republic. Here, law-makers of Washington, was a scene to be carefully considered by you. Here were three hundred white men greatly agitated over an act perpetrated by a few law-abiding Indians, the justness of whose doings we will consider hereafter. Here we were, all more or less excited, and many under the influence of liquor. Would it have been strange had anything serious occurred?

Taking advantage of the excitement, a call was made for the people to organize a select committee, and empower the same to preserve the peace and administer justice at this town. The call accomplished nothing, and it was demonstrated that more were in favor of creating discord and violating the laws of the land than to the contrary. Such being the case, the customs authorities got their backs up, quoted the laws, and proclaimed that they should commence a war of extermination on all whisky-makers and law-breakers.

A LITTLE COMMON SENSE.

There is reason in all things and justice in many, therefore let us consider the following carefully:

Congress, by act approved March 3, 1873, made Alaska an Indian country, and section 2140, Revised Statutes, authorizes Indians to destroy all liquors found in an Indian country, except that which has been introduced legally. Such being the case, the Indians had the right to enter the Russian’s house, seize
upon and destroy his "stills" and liquor. But had they the right to administer punishment on the man? Legally they had not. But common sense and justice ceded them the right on this occasion, and will again if it becomes necessary. If a man be he white or black, so far degrades himself that he will, in defiance of law, manufacture rank poison and sell it to Indians in a country like this, whereby jeopardizing not only the lives of Indians, but of his own, and hundreds of others who claim to be law-abiding citizens, there is, in my mind, no punishment too severe; and, in addition to being tied to a post, the Russian richly deserved a castigation with a "cat-o'-nine-tails." The church-going portion of the Indians here deserve credit for their efforts in trying to destroy the liquor traffic, and had our white citizens encouraged sobriety among the Indians, and discountenanced the liquor traffic by white men, there would have been less trouble among both races.

NEW YEAR.

The dawning of 1878 found many of our inhabitants noisy. Change of drinks operated badly. Hootzeunoo would not unite harmoniously with other brands of liquor, and the consequences were ill-temper. By night many gave evidence of a quarrelsome nature, and became abusive; so much so, that imprisonment was taken, and a general row occurred, in which revolvers were drawn. Luckily, however, friends interposed, and no shooting was done.

CROOKED WHISKY.

On the following day the customs officials, seeing that men were making fools of themselves, and that trouble might arise at any moment, concluded to cut short the supply of hootzeunoo, and made a raid on illicit distillers. Searching the premises of several persons, nothing was found except at Mr. Clark's, and he said that he was compelled to make it and sell it or starve. He is therefore recommended to seek admission in some State asylum where they give the inmates plenty of grub and in addition teach them a trade that will on discharge from the institution be more remunerative than making hootzeunoo in Alaska. On January 3 the war of extermination was renewed, the officials heading for the Indian ranch. On Shoe-Stacks Point, hootzeunoo stills and bowls of mash were found in nearly every house, and the destruction thereof was great.

Old Shoe-Stacks, who professes to be a "hyas tyhee," who has letters of recommendation from nearly every military and naval officer that has been at Wrangel, had in his house two distills and mash enough to make forty gallons of whisky, and notwithstanding this fact he has always claimed to be a good Indian, and opposed to the hootzeunoo traffic. This same Shoe-Stacks, without exception, is the worst Indian among the Stickines, and does more to prevent the success of the church and school than all the balance of the Indians combined. Could he be persuaded to partake of an overdose of hootzeunoo and die from its effect, but few would mourn his loss.

These whisky raids have accomplished something, and could punishment be inflicted on those found guilty, an end to the traffic would soon follow. Unless punishment is imposed there is no use destroying "stills," for if those who manufacture and sell hootzeunoo cannot make it in their dwellings they will make it in the woods on some adjacent island. The customs officers have, by advising and destroying "stills" and liquor, endeavored to prevent the manufacture.

But talking and destroying won't do it. It is about time an example be made of some one. If the department chooses not to punish, then let the flood-gates be opened, and the country will soon go to the devil, and there will be no need of any kind of government in Alaska, for all decent men will leave in disgust.

XXX.

[From the Port Townsend Weekly Argus, March 22, 1878.]

Affairs in Alaska.—A letter which talks business.

WRANGLER, ALASKA, February 28, 1878.

EDITOR ARGUS: Keep it before the people, shout it from the hilltops, and howl from the valley the fact that the people of these United States are at last learning that Alaska is American territory; that outside of her fur interests she is rich in resources; that capital is now invested, and these resources will be developed. Proclaim, also, the fact that it is the imperative duty of the present Congress to legislate on Alaska, and frame laws whereby those who have invested money in this Territory may be protected in all the rights and privileges inherent as American citizens.

WRANGLER WEATHER

during the past two months has been very mild, with abundance of rain. The record for January shows 17 rainy days, 9 cloudy days, 3 clear days, and 2 days during which
snow fall; depth of snow-fall, one-fourth inch; lowest stage of thermometer during the month, 30°; highest, 49°; average, 40°. February record shows 14 days of rain, 3 cloudy days, 8 clear days, and 3 days of snow-fall; depth of snow-fall, 2 inches; lowest stage of thermometer, 30°; highest, 48°; average, 39°.

A STORM BREWING.

Affairs here of late have not been as they should be. The customs authorities still continue the war on whisky, causing a few white men to howl and many Indians to grumble. White men, by abuse, insults, and bad advice to Indians, and many of the Indians, by meanness and cowardly threats, imagine that they can frighten the officials, and thus prevent the further destruction of their loved hootzenoo.

We have a few contemptible renegades here who have endeavored to cause a conflict between the customs authorities and the Indians, and it is recorded that in case of trouble these same sneaks will get a taste of lead.

CHURCH AND SCHOOL.

The mission school still progresses in defiance of the combined influence of bad Indians, dance-house bummers, gamblers, and dead-beats. In order to preserve good order among the flock, the church members elected a committee of five of their number to act as judges, and to decide on all offenses committed. Their principal modes of punishment are fines and tying to a post. The other day, a school-boy having committed an offense, he was tied up, and some of his "tillicums," who do not belong to the church party, set up a howl and finally cut him loose. This act caused a commotion.

The judges, seeking advice as to what they should do, were told that when Christ was on earth, and his enemies struck him on one cheek, He turned the other, that they might strike that also; and that they, desiring to be His disciples, must imitate His example, and not notice such petty meanness. This advice somewhat amused them; however, they acknowledged it to be good doctrine and agreed to follow it.

"SHOE-STACKS" ON THE WAR-PATH.

This high-toned chief being present at the meeting when the committee of five was elected, concluded to try a little bluff. He commenced by opposing the electing of a committee, saying that the Indians would not tolerate it and would not permit them to inflict any punishment. This was very cool, considering that he was an outsider and had nothing to do with church matters. Finding that his eloquence had no effect, and Mrs. McFarland being chairman of the meeting, he thought he would frighten her. Said he, "Woman, what did you come here for? You will ruin all these Indians and upset the whole town. You may think you are safe here, but I advise you to get your soldiers again." About the time he was getting warmed up nicely the customs' tyhee stepped in, and the brave "Shoe-Stacks" hauled in his horns and completely went back on himself.

In order that the Indians may be properly watched and detected in the liquor traffic, the deputy collector has appointed several Indians to act as detectives and policemen.

This move made our friend "Shoe-Stacks" only angry. He tried every conceivable way to prevent the Indians from serving the collector, and demanded that they be removed from office. But, alas! his politics not being the same as the deputy's, no removals were made. Then, said the bold chief, "Suppose one of your policemen gets killed when he attempts to search canoes, what will you do?" "What will I do," said the deputy, somewhat riled, "who talks of killing? Do you come here and tell me that you will kill one of my policemen should he attempt to search your premises? If you do, I will soon teach you what I will do." "No," said 'Shoe-Stacks,' "I don't intend to kill any one, but I am afraid that strange Indians coming here might kill them." "Too thin, old man," said the deputy, "the game of bluff won't win."

A CONTRAST.

Such is "Shoe-Stacks," "a good Indian and white men's friend." Now comes Toy-a-att, another chief; what is his "tum tum"? This chief goes to church. He made a speech the other day to all the whites and Indians in town. Here is what he said:

TOY-A-ATT'S SPEECH.

"MY BROTHERS AND FRIENDS: I come before you to-day to talk a little, and I hope that you will listen to what I say, and not laugh at me because I am an Indian. I am getting old and have not many summers yet to live on this earth. I want to speak a little of the past history of us Sitka Indians and of our present wants. In ages past, before white men came among us, the Indians of Alaska were barbarous, with brutish instincts. Tribal wars were continual, bloodshed and murder of daily occurrence, and superstition controlled our whole movements and our hearts. The white man's God we knew not of. Nature evinced to us that there was a first great cause;
beyond that all was blank. Our god was created by us; that is, we selected animals and birds, the images of which we revered as gods.

"Natural instincts taught us to supply our wants from that which we beheld around us. If we wanted food, the waters gave us fish; and if we wanted raiment, the wild animals of the woods gave us skins, which we converted to use. Implements of warfare and tools to work with we constructed rudely from stone and wood. [Here the speaker showed specimens of stones, axes, and weapons of warfare.]

"These," said he, holding them up to view, "we used in the place of the saws, axes, hammers, guns, and knives of the present time. Fire we discovered by friction. [Here he demonstrated how they produced fire.]

"In the course of time a change came over the spirit of our dreams. We became aware of the fact that we were not the only beings in the shape of man that inhabited this earth. White men appeared before us on the surface of the great waters in large ships which we called canoes. Where they came from we knew not, but supposed that they dropped from the clouds. The ships' sails we took for wings, and concluded that, like the birds of the air, they could fly as well as swim. As time advanced, the white men who visited our country introduced among us everything that is produced by nature and the arts of man. They also told us of a God, a superior being, who created all things, even us, the Indians. They told us that this God was in the heavens above, and that all mankind were his children. These things were told us, but we could not understand them.

"At the present time we are not the same people that we were a hundred years ago. Contact and association with the white man has created a change in our habits and customs. We have seen and heard of the wonderful works of the white man. His ingenuity and skill has produced steamships, railroads, telegraphs, and thousands of other things. His mind is far-reaching; whatever he desires he produces. His wonderful sciences enable him to understand nature and her laws. Whatever she produces he improves upon and makes useful.

"Each day the white man becomes more perfect in the arts and sciences, while the Indian is at a standstill. Why is this? Is it because the God you have told us of is a white God, and that you, being of his color, have been favored by him?

"Why, brothers, look at our skin; we are dark, we are not of your color, hence you call us Indians. Is this the reason that we are ignorant; is this the cause of our not knowing our Creator?

"My brothers, a change is coming. We have seen and heard of the wonderful things of this world, and we desire to understand what we see and what we hear. We desire light. We want our eyes to become open. We have been in the dark too long, and we appeal to you, my brothers, to help us.

"But how can this be done? Listen to me. Although I have been a bad Indian, I can see the right road and I desire to follow it. I have changed for the better. I have done away with all Indian superstitions habits. I am in my old age becoming civilized. I have learned to know Jesus and I desire to know more of him. I desire education, in order that I may be able to read the Holy Bible.

"Look at Fort Simpson and at Metlakatla, British Columbia. See the Indians there. In years gone by they were the worst Indians on this coast, the most brutal, barbarous, and bloodthirsty. They were our sworn enemies and were continually at war with us. How are they now? Instead of our enemies, they are our friends. They have become partially educated and civilized. They can understand what they see and what they hear; they can read and write and are learning to become Christians. These Indians, my brothers, at the places just spoken of, are British Indians, and it must have been the wish of the British Queen that her Indians should be educated. We have been told that the British Government is a powerful one, and we have also been told that the American Government is a more powerful one. We have been told that the President of the United States has control over all the people, both whites and Indians. We have been told how he came to be our great chief. He purchased this country from Russia, and in purchasing it he purchased us. We had no choice or say in change of masters. The change has been made and we are content. All we ask is justice.

"We ask of our father at Washington that we be recognized as a people, inasmuch as he recognizes all other Indians in other portions of the United States.

"We ask that we be civilized, Christianized, and educated. Give us a chance, and we will show to the world that we can become peaceable citizens and good Christians. An effort has already been made by Christian friends to better our condition, and may God bless them in their work. A school has been established here which, notwithstanding strong opposition by bad white men and by Indians, has done a good and great work among us.

"This is not sufficient. We want our chief at Washington to help us. We want him to use his influence towards having us a church built and in having a good man sent to us who will teach us to read the Bible and learn all about Jesus. And now, my brothers, to you I appeal. Help us in our efforts to do right. If you don't want to come to our church, don't laugh and make fun of us because we sing and pray.
Many of you have Indian women living with you. I ask you to send them to school and church, where they will learn to become good women. Don't, my brothers, let them go to the dance-houses, for there they will learn to be bad and learn to drink whisky.

Now that I see you are getting tired of listening to me, I will finish by asking you again to help us in trying to do right. If one of us should be led astray from the right path, point out to us our error and assist us in trying to reform. If you will all assist us in doing good and quit selling whisky, we will soon make Fort Wrangel a quiet place and the Stickeen Indians will become a happy people. I now thank you all for your kind attention. Good-by.

Such, my readers, is Toy-a-att's speech, verbatim, as near as I could report it. What do you think of it? Does it not speak volumes? Does it not convince you that all the talk about the Indians of Alaska desiring missionaries sent among them is not an idle rumor? This speech was made at his own request before hundreds of people, and he desired that I should publish to the world what he said. I have endeavored to do so, and I trust that the public will receive it as an earnest appeal from an Indian who believe is truly sincere in his efforts to do good.

Toy-a-att spoke in the Indian tongue and his speech was repeated by Indian "Charley" in "Chinook". Toy-a-att is not the only Indian here that desires to become Christianized. Many others are as easy as he to become enlightened.

On acquisition of this territory, had our government pursued a different policy and extended law and order over it, instead of placing it under the control of the War Department, to-day its resources would have been developed and its inhabitants be better morally, physically, and intellectually. Military rule is a curse to any country in time of peace, and Alaska wants no more of it. It will be very curious indeed if the people of Alaska cannot be governed in the same manner as the Dominion Government controls affairs in Cassiar, Fort Simpson, on the Skeena and Naas Rivers, Queen Charlotte's Island, and hundreds of other places in British Columbia.

At the above-named places they have the same class of people to deal with that we have here, and then it is the fear of the law that keeps things quiet, while here people do as they please because they believe there is no law that can reach them.

A DISGRACEFUL AFFAIR

occurred here on the night of February 16; an affair that puts to shame anything that has occurred at this place heretofore. A gang of bummers and rowdies have for the past three months been in the habit of prowling about town at midnight, making the most hideous noises imaginable, disturbing everybody and insulting those who objected to their infernal acts.

On the night above mentioned these hoodlums, being drunk and disorderly, started out on their midnight orgies, and after kicking up a rumpus all over town, finally visited a house occupied by an Indian woman, gave here whisky that made her beastly drunk, and then left. Shortly after their departure the house occupied by their victim was discovered to be in flames, and ere any assistance could be rendered, it, with the two women, was burned to ashes. The burning house being near to the custom-house, the people had difficulty in preventing it from being burned also.

A man by the name of Beedy is the individual that gave the woman whisky, and he having had a grudge against her, the assertion has been made that he, after making her drunk, locked her into and then fired the house. This Beedy is the same man that Captain Bancroft one year ago sent out of the Territory for his misdeeds and for the crimes and misdemeanors that he has committed at this place; he richly deserves ten years in the penitentiary.

A little law just now at this place would be very acceptable, and a magistrate could distinguish himself and become a saviour unto our people in sending by sentence several bad characters beyond Alaska's rock-bound limits never to return. We shall wait patiently a few months longer for Congress to extend law over this region, and if our appeals are not heeded, then we shall organize a vigilance committee and take the law in our own hands, let the consequences be what they may. A few determined men can become a power unto themselves by acting in unison and doing that which is for the common good.

Vigilance committees are not desirable in any country, but what other recourse have we should the present Congress refuse us aid? We must have law and order; this fact each day more fully demonstrates.

ALMOST BLOODESHED.

On February 19 nine canoes, loaded with Indians, arrived at this port from "Auk." The customs officials, desiring to search these canoes, sent one of their "specials" (a Stikine Indian) to do that duty, and while he was performing the same a Takoo Indian came rushing out of his house with a musket and attempted to shoot the "special." The gun, being an old "flint-lock," would not go off, hence no damage was done. The customs officials then summoned the Takoo Indian to appear before them, and as a punishment for the attempt at murder ordered that he surrender his canoe.

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This he refused to do until he was informed that unless he did he would be tied to a post and whipped. Not relishing the idea of being disgraced in this manner, he gave up his canoe. Thereupon, all the whisky bummers and thieving white men set up a howl and told the Indians that the customs officers had no right to take the canoe, that it was an outrage on the Indians, and that they should go and take the canoe.

COURAGE TESTED.

The canoe being made fast alongside the custom-house, on February 25 the deputy collector, stepping from the door of his office, beheld fourteen stalwart Indians in the act of picking up the canoe and walking off with it. Calling to them to desist, no attention was paid. Calling a second time and no attention, the deputy then reached for his "Springfield," went to the door, and said, "Drop that canoe or you are all dead men." At this threat they stopped and paid attention. On investigation it was found that a certain cowardly sneak of a white man had induced them to come and take the canoe, he telling the Indians that the collector would be afraid to prevent them. The deputy quietly informed them that all the Indians in Wrangel could not take the canoe unless they took it over his dead body, and that if they stole it during the night, he would have it back or the Indians' scalps that dared to interfere.

A PRETTY MESS.

this state of affairs. The customs officials propose to stop the liquor traffic among Indians at Wrangel, and in order to do this they must have aid. Several Stikine Indians have tendered their services and have been accepted, and he who objects to the searching of dwellings and canoes must abide by the consequences.

The customs officials did not take the steps they have taken until they were appealed to by all good citizens and peaceable Indians. The state of affairs was such that something had to be done to prevent serious trouble. The officials did not take the steps willingly, neither without carefully considering the consequences. Having assumed authority, they proposed to exercise it and have it obeyed. They cannot be buffed or frightened. Therefore it behooves Congress to do something, and that soon, that will tend to calm the sea of trouble.

BRIGHT PROSPECTS.

Alaska's darkest days, we trust, are passed and that the future will be bright. At present indications are good, and we have every reason to believe that during the coming season the various resources of the Territory will be fully tested.

A CANNERY has been located at Clawock. The company, with a capital of $100,000, mean business. By the last trip of the California they landed at their place 120 tons of freight, among which was the necessary machinery for a steam saw-mill and a large canning establishment; also 50 tons of tin. Within the coming three months the California will land at Clawock 200 tons of freight and all the men necessary to run the canning business. Should the canning of salmon prove a success at Clawock, within the next few years canneries will be established all over the country of islands. Regarding salmon, permit me to say that while at Sitka a few days ago I saw a salmon that had been caught by the Indians in Sitka Bay. The salmon weighed 45 pounds. This fish was equal in flavor and richness to any salmon caught at any point on the Pacific coast. Mr. Whitford, of Sitka, assured me that at the present time the Bay of Sitka is full of just such fish.

MINERS AND MINING.

The quartz mines at Sitka look well and encouraging. The Alaska Gold Mining Company are at work tunneling, and propose erecting a stamp mill at the mine the coming spring. Samuel Militich, of Sitka, has returned from San Francisco, having succeeded in organizing a company with plenty of capital, and work is to commence immediately in testing new discoveries.

Mr. Healy, the celebrated quartz discoverer, has several ledges which are rich in gold. He has in his house barrels of rock, specimens of which are half gold. This rock he crushes by mortar process and then extracts the gold, making thereby plenty of cash.

Aside from the Sitka gold-field is another of no mean pretensions—the Shuck district, up the coast from here. The placer mines at this camp during last season gave employment to about thirty men, all of whom make good wages. At the present time there are about twenty men at work at those mines, and more will go soon. In addition to the placer mines at Shuck, are quartz ledges which show pure gold. These ledges are now being prospected, and ere long the result will be known.

ENTERPRISE AT WRANGEL.

At this port a company has been formed who propose utilizing the myriads of herring that infest these waters. The company have built them a vessel and a cooper-
shop. The herring will be taken and converted to oil; also salted and dried. Several parties at this place have also fitted out and gone dog-fishing.

Therefore, with all the foregoing staring us in the face, is it not presumable that Alaska is all right, that her darkest days are over, and that a great change for the better is fast approaching? Does it not brand as lies, base lies, all the newspaper and magazine articles lately published, in which Alaska is held up as a country of no resources, no climate, and no people worthy of consideration outside of the "seal islands" and the "fur company"? There are none so blind as those who will not see. Senators and Congressmen, drop the scales of ignorance and prejudice from your eyes and give us a little sensible legislation on Alaska, is the humble prayer of yours truly.