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# REPORT

OF

## THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA.

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DISTRICT OF ALASKA, EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
*Sitka, October 1, 1894.*

SIR: I have the honor to herewith submit my second annual report of the condition of affairs in the District of Alaska.

Notwithstanding the unfavorable climatic conditions of the spring and early summer months, many new enterprises were entered upon and old ones completed.

The fisheries have been successful, the mines have yielded profitable returns, the population has been largely augmented by immigration, and the people have enjoyed a season of unusual progress and prosperity.

The civil officers have been vigilant and faithful in the discharge of their duties, and in view of the extent of the territory over which they exercise authority and the absence of transportation and other facilities indispensable for the execution of the law, crime is less frequent and law and order quite as well enforced as in some of the more densely populated and highly civilized communities.

By the courtesy of Lieut. Commander William T. Burwell, U. S. Navy, in command of the U. S. man-of-war *Pinta*, at Sitka, I made a cruise through the inland waters of southeast Alaska in the month of July last, visiting the Indian villages of Killisnoo, Point Ellis, Shekan, Point Barrie, Wrangell, New Metlakahtla, Kitchikan, Chilkoot, Chilkat, Haines Mission, and Hoonah.

The building of sawmills and the manufacturing of lumber in the Territory has revolutionized and improved the manner of constructing habitations in all of these villages.

The leading trait in the character of the Alaska native is imitiveness, and being possessed of considerable mechanical skill and willing to work, they purchase lumber and erect modern houses. Some of them are built in an original style of architecture and painted in colors of barbaric taste, but are comfortable to live in, and indicate the progress they have made toward civilization. They have also much improved in the way of preparing food and clothing. The impress of the missionary is visible in all parts of southeast Alaska, and they deserve the commendation of all, for the good they have accomplished among these native people.

### INDIAN POLICE.

The Indian police force of Alaska consists of 2 chiefs of police and 19 privates. This police force has been of great utility in the way of giving information to the civil officers, preventing the making of native

whisky in the Indian villages, keeping the peace, and preventing bloodshed among their own people, and compelling the Indian children to attend the Government schools. The 2 chiefs of police receive \$15 per month each; the 19 privates receive \$10 each.

#### POPULATION.

The Eleventh Census of the United States, taken in 1890, computes the number of white people in Alaska to be 4,298—male 3,853, female 445; mixed 1,814—male 891, female 923; Indian, 23,532—male 12,106, female 11,426; total, 29,644.

Including those who have gone into the Yukon country, there has been added to the white population of the Territory by immigration about 1,000 people, most of whom have settled at Juneau and the mining camps in that vicinity.

We have no means of ascertaining the exact fluctuations in the number of the Indian population, but from my individual observation and experience of seven years with them in Alaska it would appear that they are slowly decreasing, especially on the seacoast, where they come in contact with white people. It is said that there is a decrease in the number of natives on the western coast of Alaska for the want of a proper food supply.

The experiment of shipping domesticated reindeer from Siberia and propagating them in that part of Alaska is reported to be successful, and in a short time will provide ample food for all the natives bordering on the Bering Sea.

#### EDUCATION.

The beneficial influence of the Government schools in Alaska is apparent to every observer, and the progress in education, civilization, and Christianity made by those who enjoy the advantages of these schools is gratifying and satisfactory. The mission schools of all denominations in Alaska have been aided and strengthened through the Bureau of Education at Washington, D. C., which has greatly added to their influence and power for good among the native people.

In addition to the fourteen day schools supported by the Government of the United States and fifteen mission schools which receive subsidies therefrom there are six Russian schools, maintained by the Greco-Russian Church.

During the past year I have visited all the schools and missions in southeastern Alaska except the school and mission at Howcan, and observed a marked improvement in all the schools since my visit of three years ago.

At Juneau the white and native children occupied schoolrooms in the same building and on the same floor. This was not agreeable to the white people and not pleasant for the natives. The smaller room, allotted to the white school, was entirely unequal to the needs of the place. It is gratifying to report that this condition has been remedied. By direction of the Commissioner of Education at Washington a new house was built and furnished this summer, on a separate lot, for the accommodation of the native school, and the old schoolhouse has been improved, repainted, and furnished with new seats and desks. This building will be occupied by the white school, and will afford ample room and accommodations for some time to come.

The Juneau Presbyterian mission has 25 native children in the home, all of whom attend the Government day school. A day and boarding school is maintained by the Sisters of St. Ann in Juneau. When I

visited this school last fall 45 children were present. They appeared to be well taught, and excelled in discipline and deportment.

Sitka, the capital of the Territory, has one white and one native school supported by the Government. These schools are now in a flourishing condition. The buildings here have been recently improved, which has greatly augmented their comfort, convenience, and efficiency.

The Sitka Training and Industrial School for natives, under the management of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions, is a well-organized institution. Excellent work is being done in this school. The superintendent and teachers are all to be commended for their self-sacrifice and devotion to the cause of educating and civilizing these native people.

The Greco-Russian Church also maintains an orphan-otrophy and day school for white and native children, with 30 pupils and 3 teachers. The exercises are conducted in the Russian language, but English is taught in the school. The manager, Father Donskoy, is an excellent man, and devoted to his work.

Perhaps the most successful mission and school work in Alaska has been attained at New Metlekahtla, on Annet Island, Rev. William Duncan, missionary and teacher. Eighty-three per cent of the population between the ages of 10 and 23, inclusive, numbering 222, read and write English.

The Rev. Mr. Duncan's success has been attributed largely to the plan of keeping his people constantly employed in some industrial pursuit or mechanical art. Nothing subdues and civilizes the savage so quickly as constant and remunerative employment.

The Government school at Killisnoo was destroyed by fire in February last and the school discontinued. I would not recommend the erection of a new school building there. The day schools at Douglass Island and Wrangell were open during the school year, and were well conducted. The school buildings are in good repair. The Government school at Chilkat was not open last year, but the native children attended the Haines Mission school which is about 2 miles from that place. The schools at Kodiak, Afognak, Karluk, Unalaska, and Unga I could not visit this year, but I have learned that these schools were well managed and that the teachers have been devoted and faithful to their trust.

The natives of Alaska, unlike the North American Indian, do not recede before the march of civilization, but rather follow in the wake of the white man. Wherever there is a center of white population in Alaska, near by will be found the greater number of Alaskan natives. The tendency of these people is to abandon a nomadic life and seek employment in the mines and mills by which they can earn a living with certainty, have white man's food, and enjoy some of the comforts of civilized man. In whatever position or occupation the Alaskan native may be, he is always to be found self-supporting, receiving nothing from the Government of the United States, and wants nothing but fair treatment from the local authorities.

I earnestly recommend an increase in the appropriation for the education of children in Alaska.

#### INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

The act of Congress, approved May 17, 1884, creating a civil government for the Territory of Alaska, provides:

SEC. 14. That the provisions of chapter three, title twenty-three, of the Revised Statutes of the United States, relating to the unorganized Territory of Alaska, shall

remain in full force, except as herein specially otherwise provided; and the importation, manufacture, and sale of intoxicating liquors in said district, except for medicinal, mechanical, and scientific purposes, is hereby prohibited, under the penalties which are provided in section nineteen hundred and fifty-five (1955) of the Revised Statutes of the United States, for the wrongful importation of distilled spirits. And the President of the United States shall make such regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

Section 1955 of the Revised Statutes of the United States provides as follows:

The President of the United States shall have power to restrict the importation of distilled spirits into and within the Territory of Alaska. The exportation of same from any other port or place in the United States when destined to any port or place in that Territory, and all such \* \* \* 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 regulations that may be prescribed under this section, and all such \* \* \* 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 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.

This, together with section 3240 of the general laws of the United States and section 669 of the Oregon law, comprises all the laws applicable to Alaska. The Treasury Department, or the collector of customs, acting under that Department, is intrusted with the execution and enforcement of the law as provided in section 1955 of the Revised Statutes.

I believe that all the gentlemen who have held the position of collector of customs in Alaska with whom I have become acquainted during the past seven years have endeavored to earnestly and honestly perform their duty with respect to this law, and I know that no one has made greater efforts to enforce its provisions than the present incumbent.

Notwithstanding the efforts of the collector of customs, his deputies, and all the other civil officers in the Territory, intoxicating liquors are imported, landed, and sold without stint in every white settlement in Alaska.

Congress appears to have been content with passing a prohibitory law for the district of Alaska without providing any of the auxiliaries necessary and indispensable for the execution and enforcement of the same. There are no roads in Alaska, and all travel and transportation of merchandise must be by water navigation.

Alaska has 4,000 miles of seacoast and 20,000 miles of shore line to be watched and guarded against the smuggler of intoxicating liquors and contrabrand goods. As yet the customs officers have not been supplied with any kind of transport with which they could pursue, seize, and search vessels engaged in the illicit traffic.

Within the past year the collector of customs for Alaska has seized and forfeited 776 gallons of whisky and brandy, 462 bottles of whisky, and 17 pounds of opium—smuggled goods.

The U. S. district attorney for the District of Alaska is charged with the duty of prosecuting all persons accused of violating provisions of section 14 of the organic act, which prohibits the importation, manufacturing, and sale of intoxicating liquors in said district. The law makes no distinction as to whether the vendee be an Indian or a white man, but public sentiment is so unanimously against the practice of

selling or giving liquor to Indians that none but the lowest outcast will be found in the business.

Grand juries do not fail to find true bills of indictment, petit juries do not hesitate to try and to convict, and the court does not delay in passing sentence upon anyone found guilty of this crime. But when white men are accused of selling intoxicating liquors to white men the case is entirely different, so far as juries are concerned. Public sentiment is almost unanimously the other way.

The organic act has been the law of the Territory since May 17, 1884, and a great number of persons have been accused, arrested, and prosecuted by the successive district attorneys at almost every term of the U. S. district court held in Alaska. Yet in opposition to the repeated and forcible charges of the judge of the U. S. district court, and his earnest efforts to enforce the law, the grand juries have neglected to find bills of indictment against the offenders, and the records of the court fail to show that anyone at any time has been indicted, tried, or convicted of the crime of selling intoxicating liquors to white men.

The district attorney reports that 33 persons are under bonds to appear before the U. S. district court at Juneau, Alaska, in November next, for selling liquor in violation of the special internal-revenue law; 37 persons for importing and selling liquor contrary to section 1955 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, and 20 persons for all other offenses.

On the 1st of July, 1894, the collector of the internal revenue, after a suspension of about one year, resumed the issuance of special-tax stamps to all persons engaged in the liquor traffic in Alaska. Since that time 34 liquor dealers and 4 brewers have paid the special tax of \$25 each and received their receipts from the collector of internal revenue.

For a period of one year from the 1st of July, 1893, no special internal-revenue tax was collected from, or receipts issued to, the liquor dealers or breweries in Alaska, except to those who had a permit from the governor to sell liquors for medicinal, mechanical, and scientific purposes. Several liquor dealers, not wishing to incur the penalties of the law relating to the collection of the internal revenue, retired from the business and the breweries all suspended operations. During this period there was a marked decrease in the amount of intoxicants consumed.

The special revenue-tax stamp confers no right, power, privilege, or license to import, manufacture, buy, or sell intoxicating liquors in Alaska in contravention to the local law. The law so declares, the receipt so reads, and all the higher courts have so decided. It is well understood that this stamp is not a license to sell intoxicants; yet when a person accused of that crime produces, in court, this evidence of his having paid a tax into the Treasury of the United States as a liquor dealer in Alaska, it stultifies the case exceedingly.

The Executive order concerning the sale of intoxicating liquors in the Territory of Alaska, as promulgated in Treasury circular No. 34, dated at Washington, D. C., March 12, 1892, provides for the sale of intoxicating liquors for medicinal, mechanical, and scientific purposes, by such persons in said Territory as have complied with the regulations, and obtained a special permit from the governor of the Territory.

On assuming the duties of the executive office of this Territory, August 28, 1893, I found that three persons were holding permits from the governor of the Territory, allowing them to sell intoxicating liquors for medical, mechanical, and scientific purposes, one at Douglas and

two in the city of Juneau. On September 20, 1893, two other permits were granted to two druggists in the city of Juneau.

Mr. John F. Gray filed charges, dated Juneau City, December 28, 1893, with the Secretary of the Treasury at Washington, D. C., alleging that the three several druggists in the city of Juneau, who held permits to sell intoxicating liquors, had violated the regulations made by the President allowing such sales to be made. The complaint was referred to the Secretary of the Interior Department, and by him referred to the governor of Alaska for investigation and report.

On receipt of the complaint I proceeded to the city of Juneau and made a thorough examination of the charges and allegations made by Mr. John F. Gray against the three persons who held such special permits, and upon a careful investigation the charges and allegations were sustained. I therefore suspended all such special permits to sell intoxicating liquors in Juneau, Alaska.

No more special permits were granted in Juneau city until the 19th of May, 1894, at which time one special permit was issued, and on the 20th of September, 1894, one special permit was renewed in Sitka, and these two are all the existing special permits to sell intoxicating liquors for medical, mechanical, and scientific purposes in Alaska at this date.

The law prohibiting the importation, manufacture, and sale of intoxicating liquors in Alaska should be amended in such a manner as to enlist at least a portion of the people of Alaska in support of the court and the civil officers in their efforts to enforce its provisions.

#### THE SEAL ISLANDS.

The history of sealing goes back to 1790. In the year 1800 the rookeries of the Georgian Islands produced 112,000 fur seals. From 1806 to 1823, says the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, "the Georgian Islands produced 1,200,000 seals, and the island of Desolation has been equally productive." Over 1,000,000 were taken from the island of Masafuera and shipped to China in 1798-'99. (*Fanning's Voyages to the South Sea*, p. 118.)

In 1820 and 1821 over 300,000 fur seals were taken at the South Shetland Islands, and Capt. Weddell states that at the end of the second year the species had become almost exterminated. In addition to the number killed for their furs, he estimates that "not less than 100,000 newly-born young died in consequence of the destruction of their mothers." (*See Elliott's Rep.*, 1884, p. 299.)

In 1830 the supply of fur seals in the South seas had so greatly decreased that vessels engaged in this enterprise generally made losing voyages, from the fact that those places which were the resort of seals had been abandoned by them. (*Fanning's Voyages*, p. 487.)

At Antipodes Island, off the coast of New South Wales, 400,000 skins were obtained in the years 1814 and 1815. Referring to these facts, Prof. Elliott, of the Smithsonian Institution, in his able report on the Seal Islands, published by the Interior Department in 1884, says:

"This gives a very fair idea of the manner in which the business was conducted in the South Pacific. How long would our sealing interests in the Bering Sea withstand the attacks of sixty vessels carrying from 20 to 30 men each? Not over two seasons. The fact that these great southern rookeries withstood and paid for attacks of this extensive character during a period of more than twenty years, speaks eloquently of the millions upon millions that must have existed in the waters now almost deserted by them."

The Hon. C. A. Williams, of New London, Conn., who has been engaged in the business of whaling and seal hunting as the successor of his father and grandfather in that pursuit, testified before a Congressional committee, from facts of his own experience and that of his house, that "the cause of the extermination of the seals in those localities was the indiscriminate character of the slaughter. Sometimes as many as fifteen vessels would be hanging around these islands awaiting opportunity to get their catch, and every vessel would be governed by individual interests. They would kill everything that would come in their way that furnished a skin, whether a cow, a bull, or a middle-grown seal, leaving the young pups just

born to die from neglect and starvation. It was like taking a herd of cattle and killing all the bulls and cows and leaving the calves. The extermination was so complete in these localities that the trade was exhausted and voyages to those places were abandoned." When the cession was made by Russia to the United States of Alaska Territory, and the subject of the value of fur seals, or the possible value, was brought to mind, people who had been previously engaged in that business revisited these southern localities, after a lapse of nearly fifty years, and no seals were found on the Island of Desolation or on any of the islands in that part of the country.

These islands have been used as the breeding place for sea elephants, and that creature can not be exterminated on that island, for the reason that certain beaches, known as weather beaches, are there. The sea breaks rudely on these beaches and it is impossible to land upon them. There are cliffs, something like 300 to 500 feet, of shore ice, and the sea elephant finds a safe resort on these beaches, and still preserves enough life to make the pursuit of that animal worth following in a small way.

I have vessels there, and have had, myself and father, for fifty or sixty years. But this is incidental. The island of South Shetland, and the island of South Georgia, and the island of Sandwichland, and Diegos, off Cape Horn, and one or two other minor points, were found to yield more or less seal. In this period of fifty years in these localities seal life had recuperated to such an extent that there were taken from them in six years, from 1870 to 1876 or 1877, perhaps 40,000 skins.

Now the trade in those localities is entirely exhausted, and it would be utterly impossible in a century to restock those islands, or bring them back to a point where they would yield a reasonable return for the investment of capital in hunting skins. That, in brief, completes the history of fur seal in the South Atlantic Ocean.

The rights and interests of the U. S. Government in the fur-seal and other fisheries of Alaska were acquired by purchase from Russia and conveyed to it by the treaty of cession.

The fur-seal rookeries of Alaska are located on the Pribylov group of islands, situated near the center of that part of Bering Sea lying within the boundary of the territory ceded by the Emperor of Russia to the United States, and about 1,500 miles due west of Sitka, consisting of the islands of St. Paul, which has an area of 33 square miles, and St. George, which has an area of 27 square miles. These islands were discovered in 1786 by Pribylov, a Russian subject, and in 1799 the right to take fur seal was granted to the Russian-American Company by the Russian Emperor.

They (the seal islands) are enveloped in summer by dense fogs, through which the sun rarely makes its way, and are surrounded in winter by fields of ice driven down from the Arctic by northern gales. They have no sheltered harbors, but slight indentations in the shore lines afford a lee for vessels and a tolerable landing place for boats in certain winds. The shores are bold and rocky, with strips of sand beach and slopes covered with broken rocks at intervals between the cliffs, and the interior of both is broken and hilly; neither tree nor shrub grows upon them, but they are covered with grass, moss, and wild flowers. For nearly one hundred years fur seals have been known to visit them annually in great numbers for the purpose of bringing forth and rearing their young, which circumstance gives them no inconsiderable commercial importance. The seals occupy the islands from the breaking away of the ice in the spring until it surrounds them again in the early winter; that is, from about the middle of May until December. (Lieut. Maynard, U. S. Navy, in his report, Ex. Doc. No. 43, first session Forty-fourth Congress.)

In former years fur seals were found in great numbers on the various islands of the South Pacific Ocean, but after a comparatively short period of indiscriminate slaughter the rookeries were deserted, the animals having been killed or driven from their haunts, so that now the only existing rookeries are those in Alaska, another in the Russian part of Bering Sea, and a third on Lobos Island, at the mouth of the river Plate, in South America. All these rookeries are under the protection of their several governments.

The law prohibits the killing of fur seals in the Territory of Alaska or the waters thereof except by the lessee of the seal islands, and the lessee is permitted to kill during the months of June, July, September, and October only, and is forbidden to kill any seal less than one year old or any female seal; "or to kill such seals at any time by use of firearms, or by other means tending to drive the seals away from those islands." (Rev. Stat., sec. 1960.)

The best estimate as to the number of these animals on the Alaska rookeries placed it at about 4,000,000, and there appears to have been no reduction of this number from 1871 to 1886, notwithstanding an average of 100,000 seals had been taken annually by the lessees of the islands during this period of fifteen years. But depr-



ing and since 1886 a marked diminution of the number of seals has taken place. Our information from a reliable source estimates that less than half a million seals have appeared on the islands of St. Paul and St. George during this summer of 1894.

The fact that a large number of British and American vessels, manned by expert Indian seal-hunters, have frequented Bering Sea and destroyed hundreds of thousands of fur seals, shooting them in the water and securing as many of the carcasses for their skins as they were able to take on board. The testimony of the Government agents shows that of the number of seals killed in the water not more than one in seven, on an average, is secured, for the reason that a wounded seal will sink in the sea; so that for every thousand seal skins secured in this manner there is a diminution of seal life at these rookeries of at least 7,000. Added to this is the fact that the shooting of a female seal with young causes the death of both. If the shooting is before delivery, that of course is the end of both; if after, the young seal dies for want of sustenance.

Lieut. Commander Drake, U. S. Navy, in command of the U. S. S. *Albatross*, which came into the port of Sitka September 27, ten days from the Seal Islands, reports that 40 vessels were in Bering Sea hunting fur seal during the months of August and September, and that they had taken on an average 1,000 skins each, 72 per cent of which were females. He also stated that but 12 per cent of these vessels were American, the others being mostly British.

It is obvious that if this destructive marauding is allowed to continue it will be but a few years until the seal rookeries of Alaska will be entirely deserted, and the business of fur-sealing will have passed into history. The North American Commercial Company, lessees of the seal islands in Alaska, have complied with the conditions of the lease and the natives have no cause for complaint.

I wish to say that many of the above facts were obtained from the very able report of Hon. Poindexter Dunn, chairman of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, and the testimony taken before that committee, Fiftieth Congress.

#### FISH AND FISHERIES.

At the time when the Territory of Alaska was ceded to the United States by the Emperor of Russia the wealth of its marine products was regarded as the most important consideration for the purchase; and twenty-five years of actual experience has demonstrated the correctness of this opinion.

The food fishes of Alaska will, no doubt, prove to be the most valuable of all her marine products. The number of fur seal, sea otter, and other valuable sea animals are annually decreasing. But the Alaska food fishes will be a source of wealth for all time, giving employment to thousands of men and affording subsistence for the native population in the future as they have done in the past.

The codfish banks are extensive and inexhaustible, and halibut exist in great numbers, besides, more than a hundred species of food fishes are to be found in Alaskan waters.

The catching and canning of salmon has become an organized industry of large proportions. Beginning in 1883 with a pack of 36,000 cases, it has rapidly increased until 1891 the Alaskan pack amounted to nearly 800,000 cases, which was more than the world wanted, and the market declined; since then the canneries have pursued a more conservative course, and have endeavored not to overstock the market.

The following exhibit gives the name, location, and product of the canneries in Alaska last year. It is as yet too early to ascertain the number of cases packed this season:

Name of company.	Location.	Cases.
Bristol Bay Canning Co.....	Nushagak .....	84, 750
Alaska Packing Co.....	do .....	37, 188
Arctic Packing Co.....	do .....	35, 848
Karluk Packing Co.....	Karluk .....	59, 220
Hume Packing Co.....	do .....	59, 959
Kodiak .....	do .....	30, 138
Arctic Packing Co.....	Alitak .....	25, 777
Arctic Fishing Co.....	Kusilof .....	31, 665
Chignik Bay Packing Co.....	Chignik .....	57, 553
Pacific Packing Co.....	Prince Williams Sound.....	28, 999
Pyramid Harbor Packing Co.....	Pyramid Harbor.....	13, 668
Glacier Packing Co.....	Fort Wrangell.....	22, 728
Alaska Salmon Packing and Fur Co.....	Loring .....	25, 153
Alaska Improvement Co.....	Karluk .....	43, 076
R. D. Hume & Co.....	do .....	15, 429
Pacific Steam Whaling Co.....	Prince Williams Sound.....	35, 000
Peninsular Fishing and Trading Co.....	Copper River .....	15, 270
Chilkat Canning Co.....	Pyramid Harbor.....	24, 418
Baranoff Packing Co.....	Baranoff Island.....	9, 609
North Pacific Fishing and Trading Co.....	Klawak .....	12, 595
Boston Fishing and Trading Co.....	Yes Bay .....	15, 102
Metlakahtla Industrial Co.....	Metlakahtla .....	13, 200
Total .....		646, 345

There are also 24 salting establishments, from which were shipped 21,000 barrels of salmon. We have no statistics from the cod fisheries, but the information is that the catch will be about the same as the previous year.

At Killisnoo is located the establishment of the Alaskan Oil and Guano Company, Mr. Carl Spuhn, president and manager. Their capital stock is \$75,000. They are engaged in the business of packing herring, manufacturing oil, and fish fertilizer. The product of their factory is 1,000 barrels of salted herring, about 400,000 gallons of herring oil, and 1,000 tons of guano. They also make their own barrels out of Alaska timber, and pay out about \$20,000 in wages to natives and others. This is a very well-managed enterprise.

As far as we have any knowledge, the law in regard to the fencing of salmon streams has been observed by the canners.

#### GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

Baranoff Castle, one of the old landmarks of Sitka, and a relic of the days of Russian occupancy of Alaska, was destroyed by fire on the 17th of March, 1894. Repairs on this building had recently been completed by the Government at an expense of about \$10,000, and the old structure had been converted into a very sightly and convenient court-house. Unfortunately 500 United States and State reports were consumed with the building. The Government sustains a serious loss in the burning of this building, since it leaves the Territory without suitable rooms to hold either the U. S. district court, or commissioners court at Sitka, the capital of the Territory, and necessitates the renting, at the expense of the Government, quarters for the latter-named court.

It is evident that a building, well and cheaply constructed at Sitka, for the purposes of the use of the courts above mentioned, and other offices for the accommodation of public business, is an absolute necessity, and therefore I would recommend an appropriation of \$16,000 for this purpose.

I would also recommend the following appropriations at Sitka: Twelve hundred dollars for repairs on the building used as a jail, judges

chambers, offices of the U. S. marshal, and U. S. district attorney; \$500 for repairs on the building owned by the Government and occupied by the clerk of the U. S. district court; and \$300 for repairs on the house occupied by the governor. At Juneau, \$500 for repairs on the court-house and jail; and the same amount, for the same purposes, at Wrangell.

The few old cabins at Kodiak, Alaska, owned by the Government are out of repair, and do not at all meet the requirements of the exigency of public business; and as Kodiak is one of the important places of Alaska, and as a deputy U. S. marshal and collector of customs and a U. S. commissioner are stationed there, it follows that suitable quarters should be furnished these officers, in which to transact the business for which they are thither sent: Therefore, I would recommend that \$5,000 be appropriated to erect a building at Kodiak, Alaska, to be used as a court-house, offices for the U. S. marshal, and appointments well arranged for use as a jail.

At Unalaska, 600 miles southwest of Kodiak, the same state of affairs exists in regard to insufficient buildings for the proper accommodation of the affairs of the Government, and the above remarks made in reference to Kodiak will apply to Unalaska. Therefore I would recommend that \$5,000 be appropriated for the construction of a similar Government building at that place.

I do not wish to advise extravagance anywhere, but in the small amounts herein set forth, and the absolute necessity of these expenditures, I feel justified in asking for Alaska, of the General Government, the necessities of her Territorial life, since Alaska with her resources so amply repays.

#### MINES AND MINING.

The modern discoveries in the manner and process of treating gold ores and the inventions of machinery applicable to the mining industry have rendered the manipulation of low-grade gold-bearing quartz easy, successful, and profitable.

To these discoveries and inventions Alaska is largely indebted for the development and success of the extensive mining business now being carried on in the Territory. Some veins of rich gold-bearing quartz have been discovered within two years past; but most of the mines which were first worked to successful development in Alaska were mainly of low-grade ores, which are found in lodes of extensive dimensions.

The Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Company appear to have an inexhaustible quantity of gold ore, which will yield from \$3 to \$4 per ton. The year ending May 31, 1894, 240,000 tons of ore were treated, yielding \$768,000, or \$3.20 per ton; cost of mining and milling, \$324,000, or \$1.35 per ton. Net profit, \$444,000. This is the largest quartz mill in America, it having 240 stamps.

The Mexican mine, under the same management, on the adjoining claim runs 60 stamps with about the same results.

At Berners Bay the Comet mine, which is of high-grade ore, began milling the quartz in June last with satisfactory results. Mines are being operated and developed in all of the following mining districts: Sumdum, Snettisham, Grindstone Creek, Sheep Creek, Gold Creek, Lemon Creek, Montana Creek, Juneau mining district, all Douglas Island, Sitka, Unga, and Kodiak.

The most successful mines are situated on the mainland belt or zone. This belt runs southeast and northwest. Beginning in Mexico, it passes

in almost a straight line to the Arctic Ocean. Varying from 2 to 20 miles in width, it embraces some of the best mines in Mexico, the Western States, and the Territory of Alaska. Douglas Island, Gold Creek, Berners Bay, and the placer mines of the Yukon Valley are on this belt. The most productive placers on Forty Mile and Miller creeks lie directly in its path.

We have no definite information from the mining camps in the Yukon country, but it is reported that there are about 1,000 miners in that locality, the majority of whom will remain there during this winter. A number of persons have gone into that district who have but little means and no experience in mining or other labor, and I fear that there will be much suffering for want of supplies.

Mail communication should be established between the city of Juneau and the Yukon mining region. I would recommend that the Government engineers be directed to survey and locate a wagon road to the boundary line of Alaska by the way of the Chilkat Pass. The distance is greater, but the divide is much lower than by the Chilkoot trail.

JAMES SHEAKLEY,  
*Governor of Alaska.*

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