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REPORT
OF
THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA.

DISTRICT OF ALASKA, EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Sitka, October 1, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith my report on the affairs of Alaska for the year ending June 30, 1898:

LAW IN ALASKA.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

The transfer of Alaska into the possession of the United States occurred October 18, 1867. The following July Congress enacted—

That the President shall have power to restrict and regulate or to prohibit the importation and use of firearms, ammunition, and distilled spirits into and within the said Territory. And the exportation of the same from any port or place in the United States when destined for such Territory, in violation of any regulations 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 said Territory, in violation of said regulations, shall be forfeited; and if the value of the same shall exceed four hundred dollars, the vessel upon which the same shall be found, or from which they shall have been landed, together with her tackle, apparel, and furniture, and cargo shall be forfeited; and any person willfully violating such regulation shall, on conviction, be fined in any sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, or imprisoned not more than six months. And 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 firearms, ammunition, or distilled spirits, when such vessel is destined to any place in said Territory, or if not destined, when there shall be reasonable grounds 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 said Territory from the person to whom the same may be consigned.

From the time of this enactment down to May 14, 1884, there was no change in the law. There was an endeavor on the part of customs officials on the lower coast and the military authority in the Territory to prevent the importation and use of distilled spirits; but without substantial success. The attempt to suppress the traffic caused some persons to introduce the manufacture of rum among the natives.

This they did by using a 5-gallon coal-oil tin for a still, making a worm of tin, which led down through a barrel of cold water for a condenser. The mash was made of black molasses imported from the Hawaiian Islands. This was carried on to such a degree that the monthly importation of molasses into the Territory was very large, sometimes amounting to hundreds of barrels.

This process was sold by the first natives who were taught it as a sort of patent right. And soon the knowledge was generally diffused among the tribe.

A tribe on Admiralty Island, known as the "Hoochinoos," used to smuggle it to the soldiers at Sitka, and the compound which they sold became known as "hoochinoo" and "hooch."

The harm and havoc which is wrought amongst these native people can hardly be calculated. Its use made them murderous and distorted their bodies, especially their eyes and faces.

Even at this date its manufacture is not suppressed among them. From 1879 to 1884 a vigorous crusade was made by the naval authorities and the evil was greatly checked.

The above statute was enacted for the protection of the few whites, who were in a small minority, as well as for the protection of the natives against themselves; but the consequences of "hoochinoo" making and drinking have been about as ruinous and disastrous amongst the natives as if there had been a free importation and sale of distilled spirits.

Section 14 of the organic act, which was approved May 14, 1884, is as follows:

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 of the Revised Statutes 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.

It will thus be seen that "distilled spirits" is broadened out to mean "intoxicating liquors."

The President has made the following regulations to carry the provision of this section into effect:

[Circular.]

EXECUTIVE ORDER CONCERNING THE SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS IN THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., March 12, 1892.

For the purpose of more effectually carrying out the law of Congress prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors in Alaska, it is ordered that existing rules and regulations regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors in the Territory of Alaska, pursuant to the act of May 17, 1884, are hereby continued in force, except as herein modified:

(1) Existing statutes and regulations relating to the sale of intoxicating liquors shall be strictly enforced.

(2) The sale of intoxicating liquors for medical, mechanical, and scientific purposes shall be made only by such persons in said Territory as have obtained a special permit from the governor of the Territory to sell intoxicating liquors therein, upon the following conditions: That before the application for the permit or renewal thereof shall be granted the applicant shall make and subscribe an oath before an officer authorized to administer oaths in said Territory, as follows:

"I (name) do solemnly swear that I will not sell, give, or furnish any intoxicating liquors to any person otherwise than as provided by law and the regulations established by the President of the United States under the act of May 17, 1884; and especially that I will not sell or furnish any intoxicating liquors to any person who is not known to me personally, or duly identified; nor to any minor, intoxicated person or persons who are in the habit of becoming intoxicated, and that I will not allow any intoxicating liquors to be drunk on or about my premises; and I will make true, full, and accurate returns to all certificates and requests made to or received by me, as required by said regulations; and said returns shall show every

sale and delivery of such liquors made by or for me during the month embraced therein and the true signature to every request received and granted; and such returns shall show all the intoxicating liquors sold or delivered to any and every person as returned."

Such applicant shall also file with his said application a bond to the governor of said Territory, in such penal sum as the governor shall prescribe, not less than \$500, conditioned that for any violation of said act of May 17, 1884, or the regulations established by the President thereunder, said bond shall be forfeited. Such bond shall be signed by the applicant or applicants, as principal or principals, and by at least two sureties, who shall justify under oath in the penal sum of \$500 each over and above all indebtedness and exemptions, and such bond shall be approved by and deposited with the governor. The United States and any person or persons who may be injured or damaged by reason of any violation of said law, or the regulations thereunder, may have an action upon such bond.

Upon taking said oath and filing said bond the governor of said Territory may issue to the applicant a permit authorizing him to keep and sell intoxicating liquors as provided by said act and regulations made thereunder; and every permit so granted shall specify the building, giving the location thereof by street or number, in which intoxicating liquors may be sold by virtue of the same and the length of time the same shall be in force, which in no case shall exceed twelve months.

(3) The sale for medical purposes shall be made only upon the prescription of a reputable practicing physician of said Territory, stating the kind and quantity of liquor necessary to be used by the patient.

(4) The sale for mechanical and scientific purposes shall be made only upon application, duly subscribed and sworn to by the applicant in person, before some person authorized to administer oaths, made by the party desiring to use the same, stating the kind and quantity of liquor required, and that the same is necessary for mechanical or scientific purposes (stating particularly the purpose and the exact locality where to be used).

(5) No licensed person shall sell or deliver any intoxicating liquors to any person if he has reason to believe that the applications, certificates, or affidavits submitted to him by applicants are evasive or untrue; or to any minor, or intoxicated person, or to one addicted to intoxication. If the applicant is not personally known to the person selling, before filing his request he shall require identification by a person known to him, and a statement signed by such witness, that the applicant is not a minor and is not in the habit of using intoxicating liquors to excess, and is worthy of credit as to the truthfulness of the statements in his application.

(6) At the end of each month each licensed person shall make out and forward to the governor an itemized report of the date and quantity sold to each person, and the purpose for which it is bought; and if upon a prescription, the name of the physician giving the same, which report shall be sworn to.

(7) Any person violating these regulations, or the provisions of law relative to the sale of distilled spirits or intoxicating liquors in Alaska, shall be liable, upon conviction in the proper tribunal, to the penalties imposed in section 1955 of the Revised Statutes of the United States; and in any event upon such violation by such person his permit shall be revoked and not renewed without approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

(8) In case any physician makes a false certificate as to matters aforesaid, any certificate thereafter shall be rejected and no application shall be granted thereon; and in any case when a false affidavit is made, all applications by such person thereafter shall be rejected. Copartnerships, corporations, and all associations are included within the foregoing rules.

(9) The governor shall have power to suspend or revoke any permit issued by him to any person whenever, in his judgment, it is shown, after due notice, that such person has failed to comply with the rules and regulations prescribed herein, or that the best interests of the inhabitants of the Territory require such suspension or revocation of the permit.

(10) Every person who, under these regulations, shall have obtained a special permit from the governor of the Territory of Alaska to sell intoxicating liquors for medical, mechanical, and scientific purposes, will also be required to pay to the collector of internal revenue of the district of Oregon (in which collection district the Territory of Alaska is included) the special tax as a liquor dealer, and in all other respects to comply with the internal-revenue laws.

O. L. SPAULDING, *Acting Secretary.*

EXECUTIVE MANSION, *March 11, 1892.*

Approved.

BENJ. HARRISON.

[Circular.]

EXECUTIVE ORDER CONCERNING THE IMPORTATION OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS AND BREECH-LOADING RIFLES AND AMMUNITION INTO THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., May 4, 1897.

The following regulations are prescribed under the authority of section 14 of the act of May 17, 1884, entitled "An act providing a civil government for Alaska," and section 1955 of the Revised Statutes:

(1) No intoxicating liquors shall be landed at any port or place in the Territory of Alaska without a permit from the chief officer of the customs at such port or place, to be issued upon evidence satisfactory to such officer that the liquors are imported and are to be used solely for sacramental, medicinal, mechanical, or scientific purposes.

(2) The importation into said Territory of breech-loading rifles and suitable ammunition therefor, except for the personal use of white settlers or temporary visitors not traders, is hereby prohibited.

(3) The master of any vessel departing from any port in the United States having on board intoxicating liquors or breech-loading rifles and ammunition suitable therefor, when such vessel is destined to any place in said Territory, or, if not so destined, when the intended course lies within the waters of the Territory, will be required to file with the collector of customs at the port of departure a special manifest, signed and verified in duplicate, of all of such liquors, arms, and ammunition; and no clearance will be granted to any such vessel unless the articles embraced in the special manifest are shown to the satisfaction of the collector to belong to the necessary supplies and equipment of the vessel, or to be entitled to the above specified exemptions, or are covered by bonds taken under the provisions of said section 1955.

(4) One of the special manifests above provided for will be delivered to the master, together with the clearance, if granted, and any intoxicating liquors, breech-loading rifles, and ammunition found on board a vessel within the waters of the Territory without such special manifest will be seized and the offenders prosecuted under the provisions of section 1957, Revised Statutes.

C. S. FAIRCHILD, *Secretary.*

Approved.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

[Executive order.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., June 24, 1898.

For the purpose of more effectually enforcing the law prohibiting the introduction of intoxicating liquors into the Territory of Alaska, the following regulations are prescribed under the authority of section 14 of the act of May 17, 1884, entitled "An act providing civil government for Alaska," and section 1955 of the Revised Statutes.

(1) The introduction into the Territory of Alaska of intoxicating liquors and shipment, or attempted shipment, of such liquors from any port or place in the United States to said Territory is hereby prohibited.

(2) The above prohibition shall not apply to intoxicating liquors intended for sacramental, medical, mechanical, or scientific purposes in said Territory of Alaska, but all liquors intended to be so used may be shipped from the United States and landed in the Territory of Alaska only upon a permit first obtained from the chief customs officer of the customs district of Alaska, to be issued only upon evidence satisfactory to such officer that such liquors are to be used solely for sacramental, medical, mechanical, or scientific purposes.

(3) All intoxicating liquors shipped or attempted to be shipped from any port or place in the United States with the intention or purpose of their introduction into the Territory of Alaska, and all such liquors imported or introduced, or attempted to be imported or introduced, into said Territory of Alaska in violation of law or these regulations, are liable to seizure and forfeiture and may be seized by any customs officer of the United States and proceeded against in the manner provided by law.

(4) The master of any vessel departing from any port in the United States having on board any intoxicating liquors, when such vessel is destined to any place in said Territory, or, if not so destined, when the intended course lies within the waters of the Territory, will be required to file with the collector of customs at the port of departure a special manifest, signed and verified in duplicate, of all such liquors;

and no clearance shall be granted to any such vessel unless the articles embraced in the special manifest are shown, to the satisfaction of the collector at said port of departure, to belong to the necessary medical supplies of the vessel or to be entitled to the above-specified exemption, or are covered by bonds taken under the provisions of section 1955 of the Revised Statutes.

(5) One of the special manifests above provided for will be delivered to the master, together with the clearance, if granted, and any intoxicating liquors above mentioned found on board a vessel within the waters of the Territory without such special manifest will be seized and the offenders prosecuted under the provisions of section 1957 Revised Statutes.

Approved.

LYMAN J. GAGE, *Secretary.*

WM. MCKINLEY.

Then the only plea by which intoxicating liquors may be lawfully introduced into Alaska is for medicinal, mechanical, and scientific purposes, and then only by permission of the collector of customs, as the following letter from the Treasury Department will emphasize:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *April 27, 1898.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d instant, containing certain inquiries respecting the enforcement of the liquor laws in your Territory.

Replying thereto, you are informed that in the opinion of the Department, under the regulations prescribed by the President, the license issued by the governor for the sale of liquors within the Territory does not carry with it the right to the importation by the licensee of such quantities and kinds of liquor as he may deem proper in the conduct of his business as a liquor dealer.

The regulations of the President dated May 4, 1887, provide a permit for the importation of liquors into the Territory, to be issued by the chief officer of the customs at the port or place in the Territory where the liquors are intended to be landed.

The Department has held that the collector at Sitka is the chief customs officer at any port within his district.

The Executive order requiring this permit from the collector was not changed by the subsequent order dated March 12, 1892, authorizing the governor to issue licenses for the sale of liquor within the Territory. From this it can be inferred only that the President intended concurrent action by both the collector and the governor as an additional safeguard to the proper enforcement of the law.

Replying to your further inquiry whether the Department can "instruct the collector to approve the permit of the governor," you are informed that under the Executive orders issued by the President and cited above the collector is vested with discretionary power in the matter of issuing permits for the introduction of liquors into the Territory, with which power the Department may not interfere. If, however, your question is intended to ask whether the Department may instruct the collector to approve the licenses issued by the governor for the sale of liquors, you are informed that, while the issuance of such licenses is within the province of the governor, under the administration of Governor Sheakley that officer refused to issue licenses for the sale of liquor unless the application was first approved by the then collector of customs. This, however, was in pursuance of an understanding between the governor and the collector, and the acquiescence of the collector to such an arrangement at the present time could not be secured through instructions from the Department.

Respectfully, yours,

W. B. HOWELL, *Assistant Secretary.*

Hon. J. G. BRADY,
Governor of Alaska.

When liquor has once been imported for these purposes, it will also be necessary to obtain a "special permit to sell" from the governor. This can only be issued under the foregoing restrictions. The bond required is \$1,000. This is the law, but the execution thereof is found to be a matter of great difficulty. In the first place, it is repugnant to nineteen-twentieths of the population. There is no public opinion sustaining it. The large majority of the white population is in the habit of using liquor in some form or other, and a very small number of the people are willingly committed to and approve of prohibition.

Saloons are open in all of the towns and in all of the mining camps. While it is against the law that these should exist, nevertheless the

report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for 1897 shows that the deputy officer in Alaska collected a special tax from 147 retail liquor dealers, 6 breweries, 8 retail dealers in malt liquors, and 1 wholesale dealer in malt liquors. This was the status before the rush to the Klondike, and no doubt the number has doubled up to the present writing.

The court has repeatedly endeavored to deal with those who engage in the traffic, but the result has been anything but satisfactory.

If anyone who is interested in this question will place a good map of Alaska before him, he will be convinced that the topography of Alaska makes it an ideal country for the smuggler.

The more that the collector and his force stop the importation of liquors on the steamers, the better it is for those who are engaged in smuggling. The chief smugglers send their orders and checks to Victoria, British Columbia. The liquors are put up according to order and shipped to Port Simpson, which is just across the American line (latitude 54° 40'). Smugglers watch their opportunity to load up at this place and wind their way through the various passages leading north.

The average price which the dealers pay the smuggler is \$7 per gallon for whisky which in the market at Port Townsend is worth from \$2 to \$2.50 per gallon. Hudson Bay rum sells from \$10 to \$12 per gallon. This at Port Townsend or at Seattle is worth \$4 per gallon.

As the retail dealer considers this a high price, he undertakes to adulterate it, and by his villainous compound succeeds in making 2 or 3 gallons out of 1. In one instance last year one of them, not knowing the nature of wood alcohol, mixed it with other ingredients and sold it to a number of natives. In a few hours two of them were dead, and several more would have died had it not been for the timely relief given by the marine-hospital surgeon.

As much as 5,000 gallons have been taken at a time from Port Simpson. For the past year much foreign liquor has gone up to the summits on the Dyea and Skagway trails. A portion of this has found its way back to be sold in the numerous saloons in each of these towns.

The seizures by the custom officers for the past year have probably amounted to 2,500 gallons. The amount of foreign liquor which has been smuggled will probably amount to 60,000 gallons. None of this foreign liquor has at any time brought any revenue to the United States.

From the foregoing one can well understand how there is a constant pressure brought to bear upon the customs officials by the saloon keepers and their friends; and it appears in some instances that the temptation has proved too strong. The grand jury at its last sitting brought indictments against a number of persons for conspiracy to defraud the United States, and five of these were customs officials.

This evil of smuggling could be largely checked if the collector were backed up by three or four revenue cutters and a number of steam launches to patrol the waters of southeastern Alaska. But from past experience it would seem as impossible to prevent smuggling of liquor into Alaska as it would to prevent the clouds from rolling by or the tide from ebbing and flowing.

In an endeavor to obtain the opinions and advice of many of the leading citizens of this Territory, letters were addressed to them on the subject. The following is one of them, with some of the replies:

SITKA, ALASKA, July 28, 1898.

DEAR SIR: While you were governor of Alaska you gave your views in regard to the liquor laws for this district in your able and excellent reports. You have been in the Territory much since you were its governor and are now engaged in business

enterprises which bring you in contact with the people. Is the present law satisfactory? If not, what change should we have? I shall be pleased to receive your answer to these inquiries.

Respectfully, yours,

JOHN G. BRADY, *Governor of Alaska.*

Hon. A. P. SWINEFORD.

JUNEAU, ALASKA, *July 28, 1898.*

DEAR SIR: Yours of this date, asking if the views expressed by me in my official reports, 1885-1888, inclusive, in regard to the regulation of the liquor traffic in Alaska, have since then undergone any change or modification, is before me.

In reply, I can only say that I have been in Alaska much of the time since I resigned the office of governor, February, 1889, and that personal observation from the standpoint of a private citizen earnestly solicitous for the future welfare of the district has but served to strengthen and confirm the views expressed in the official reports to which you allude.

Without intent or desire to cast any reflection upon the honesty of purpose of those who insist upon the retention of the present prohibitory law, but conceding to them the same earnest desire for the public good which I myself profess, I can, nevertheless, but regard their determined opposition to the repeal of the present prohibitory law in the light of a wholly mistaken zeal in behalf of what would ordinarily be considered a good cause, for the simple reason that in the case of Alaska they themselves must, perforce, admit that prohibition has thus far most signally failed to prohibit, or in the least degree promote, the cause of temperance. Nor is it possible that it can do so in the future, even though a revenue cutter be sent to patrol each and every separate and distinct channel of our numerous inland passages.

That the present prohibitory law is unsatisfactory to the people of Alaska goes without saying; that it is approved by those who earnestly desire the greatest possible restriction of the liquor traffic is, to me, most surprising. Were I opposed to the restriction for which they profess such an earnest desire, I should most certainly favor a retention of the present law for the reason that while it satisfies the prohibition zealots, it imposes very little, if any, restraint upon the rumrunner, for the simple reason that its provisions are not, and can not be, enforced.

The present law should be unsatisfactory to Congress itself, and to those charged with the administration of civil government in Alaska—

(1) For the reason that its enforcement is impossible except at an expense ten or a dozen times that which Congress will ever be willing to incur, and even at such expense the enforcement would be only partial. Such partial enforcement would have a prohibitive effect only in so far as it might serve to raise the price of smuggled Canadian liquors, and thus place them beyond the reach of the more or less impecunious tippler.

(2) It is an incentive to the smuggler, who otherwise would find himself with little or no avocation in these waters. The law and regulations under which the shipment of intoxicating liquors from American ports to Alaska can be restrained do not reach the Canadian dealers, consequently a traffic now amounting to nearly, if not quite, a million dollars annually, and which is steadily on the increase, nearly all goes to a foreign country without any resultant revenue to our own Government. In other words, it takes this large trade away from our own licensed and heavily taxed dealers and gives the great bulk of it to the Canadians, who are in no wise bound to observe a law of our own making, but may rather be expected to connive at its violation.

(3) It imposes upon the people of Alaska the most villainous intoxicating compounds at extraordinary high prices, whereas, if they are to have liquors at all (and it may safely be assented that in this climate, more than in any other, they are a necessity to the public health), they should be permitted the best and purest at moderately fair prices. That the quality of the liquors sold in Alaska is of the very worst description, and as such deleterious to the public health, will be quite generally admitted by all who are acquainted with the truth.

(4) It is, in practice, an extension to Alaska of what is elsewhere known as the "wide open" policy, though in its operation it involves the continual violation of the customs laws, as well as of the special prohibitory clauses of the law applicable only to this district.

(5) If rigidly enforced, it would be an infringement of the personal liberties of the people of Alaska, to which, so far as I am informed, no other fragment of American territory or fraction of the American people have ever been subjected by Congressional enactment.

What change should we have? I answer unhesitatingly, a repeal of the present practically dead-letter prohibitory law and the enactment in its stead of a high-

license law. When I say high license, I mean such a license as will be to a large degree prohibitive of the traffic as it is now carried on. A law legalizing the traffic in Alaska and imposing a license of, say, \$1,000 annually on each dealer, would, in my opinion, reduce the number of retail dealers at least 75 per cent and the consumption of intoxicating liquors correspondingly, while, at the same time, the business of the smuggler being destroyed, the quality of the liquors sold would be much improved, and the public health greatly benefited. It is the only way in which the traffic can be regulated and the consumption reduced to a minimum. The proceeds from licenses could be devoted to educational purposes, and would amount to more than Congress is annually asked to appropriate for the education of white children in Alaska.

It is just possible I might be induced to modify the views herein expressed would the honest but misguided prohibition zealots outline a plan whereby the present law can be enforced, even at the expense of hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. But, in my opinion, grand juries may continue to periodically indict, trial juries periodically convict, and the court as regularly inflict fines upon hundreds of dealers, yet will the smuggler continue to ply his vocation, and the widespread sale and consumption of villainous mixtures from bottles ornamented with lying labels go on until checked by some remedy more efficacious than that of an impracticable theory.

Very truly, yours,

A. P. SWINEFORD.

HON. JOHN G. BRADY,
Governor of Alaska.

The following is from Hon. A. K. Delaney, who has filled the offices of collector of customs and United States district judge of the district of Alaska:

JUNEAU, ALASKA, *September 2, 1898.*

DEAR SIR: I have received your communication of the 22d ultimo, concerning the present liquor laws of Alaska, in which you suggest the following interrogatories:

- (1) Do you consider the present liquor laws satisfactory?
- (2) If the laws are unsatisfactory, why is it that they are so?
- (3) What changes would you propose?

Replying seriatim to your interrogatories I will say:

(1) The present prohibitory liquor law is satisfactory to three classes of our people—the prohibitionists, the saloon keepers, and the whisky smugglers. It is satisfactory to the prohibitionist for the reason that, notwithstanding the fact that its effect is to multiply tenfold the evils of the liquor traffic, they believe it to be the expression of a great moral principle.

It is satisfactory to the saloon keepers because it imposes no taxes, restrictions, or regulations, and its violation assures to them a free and wide open business.

It is satisfactory to the smugglers because it affords them an extensive and lucrative business. The two hundred saloons of one sort and another, which have been in operation in Alaska during the past year, offer these people a wide field, and as 90 per cent of the liquors brought in by them are of foreign manufacture, and by the processes of the smuggler escape both internal-revenue and custom-house taxes, the profits of the business are enormous.

It is certainly a strange condition of affairs, but it is nevertheless the truth, that the saloon keepers and liquor smugglers have no better friends than the champions of the present prohibitory liquor law.

(2) The law is unsatisfactory to an overwhelming majority of our people for a multitude of reasons. Many are opposed to sumptuary legislation upon principle. Others, whose good citizenship forbids them to violate the law, would be willing to derive profits from the traffic if it were legalized. Others, engaged in legitimate business—medicinal, mechanical, and otherwise—requiring the use of alcohol and alcoholic liquors, feel a sense of humiliation and annoyance at being obliged to secure permits for such liquors as their business may demand. Others, who make no use of wines, liquors, or beer outside the family, entertain the same feeling with reference to these permits. Another very large and highly respectable class of our people regard the law as especially unfortunate, for the reason that it is not and can not be enforced. It is a prohibition which does not prohibit. This is evinced by the fact above stated, that not far from two hundred saloons have been openly engaged in the retail business of liquor selling during the past year. The violation of law with impunity necessarily begets a spirit of lawlessness, and, to a greater or less degree, offers encouragement to criminals. Public sentiment against the law has been greatly augmented and strengthened by the fact that the Internal Revenue Bureau of the Treasury Department licenses the liquor dealers, while the Department of Justice prosecutes them; thus putting the Government in the attitude of attempting to knock the dealer down with one hand while taking his money with the other. Aside from this,

prosecutions under the prohibitory law have degenerated into a farce. Grand juries indict and petit juries convict with the tacit understanding that a fine shall be imposed, the amount of which is usually known both by the grand and petit jury before indictments are brought or convictions had, thus placing the judiciary, seemingly at least, in the position of bartering with lawbreakers. Blinking the law does not enhance respect for it, and criminal prosecutions, which, under the pretense of enforcing law, tacitly invite its continued violation, are judicial travesties which inevitably breed contempt for courts and their machinery.

The sole extenuation for this sort of thing is the well-known fact that if the maximum punishment for violations of the law—viz, a fine of \$500 or six months' imprisonment—were inflicted, grand juries would no longer indict and prosecutions for violations of the law would be at an end. Another potent factor in exciting hostility and disgust among our people for the present liquor law is the charge, openly made and widely circulated, of the existence of whisky rings here, composed of Government officials, who see that the liquor gets ashore, and "beach combers," who see that it is taken care of after it is landed. Whether the charges are true or not, they are almost unanimously believed by our people, and quite naturally and reasonably are laid at the door of the prohibitory law. Certain it is that without the law neither the charges nor the rings could exist. Remove the prohibitory liquor law and the whisky rings will disappear and the occupation of the smuggler will be gone.

(3) As to proposed legislation. In my judgment prohibition should be abandoned and the energies of the friends of law and order directed toward the passage of such legislation as will reduce the evils attendant upon the liquor traffic to the minimum. A stringent, inflexible, and well-guarded high-license law is one step in the right direction, as can be easily demonstrated by the experience of those States wherein such a law has been enacted. The license should be a high one, and all the restrictions possible and practicable which the experience of other States has found necessary should be placed around the traffic. It is hardly necessary to go into detail, and while I have no doubt that any differences which may exist among our own people as to the provisions of such a law can be reconciled, I have no faith in its passage. Experience has taught us to believe that Congress cares but little for us or our destiny; and, if it did, I do not believe that it has the moral courage to enact such a law in lieu of the present one against the opposition of an undoubtedly sincere but none the less misguided prohibitory sentiment throughout the States.

Very respectfully,

ARTHUR K. DELANEY.

HON. JOHN G. BRADY,
Governor, etc., Sitka, Alaska.

The following is from Rev. H. Beer, rector of Trinity Church, Juneau:

JUNEAU, ALASKA, August 8, 1898.

SIR: In your letter to me, of July 29, you do me the honor to ask my opinion in regard to the present liquor laws governing this district. Your first question is, "Are the present laws satisfactory?" Now, I can only answer for Juneau and Douglas Island, which places I have known intimately since March, 1896, having been a constant resident of Juneau since that date.

In reply, then, to your first question, I would say that the present liquor laws are eminently unsatisfactory.

These laws were made with the purpose of preventing the sale of intoxicants in Alaska, and since they utterly fail to accomplish that purpose, they must be regarded as being undoubtedly unsatisfactory—in fact, a perfect failure. Liquor is sold openly in Juneau and Douglas City, as much so as in any place I have known where license prevailed. Saloons are run with their doors wide open, their signs are exposed, and there is not the slightest attempt at concealment. All this occurs where the law says "prohibition." There can be no question, then, that the present laws or their administration is an utter failure, and the laws unsatisfactory.

Your second question is, "If the laws are unsatisfactory, why is it that they are so?" I reply that they fail to accomplish their purpose of preventing the sale of intoxicants in Alaska, because the people are not in sympathy with the laws. Perhaps nine-tenths of the people of this town and neighborhood do not want prohibition and are determined not to have it. Now, any law to which so large a proportion of the people is opposed must become a dead letter. Even the laws against murder could not be enforced if the people were unanimous against their enforcement. Much less chance, then, is there for the due administration of laws regarding prohibition of the sale of strong drink.

This leads to your third question, in which you ask, "What changes would you propose?" Well, since prohibition has proved itself a failure, and the laws for enforcing it are treated with contempt, I would say let us have high license. In

advocating this measure I am not giving my own opinion only. Ever since I have been a resident of Juneau I have heard all sorts of people say we ought to have high license. I have been told that even some of the more prominent saloon keepers are in favor of that measure, for they say it would crowd out some of the smaller and less reputable dealers, and they say they would prefer to pay license and keep the law rather than break the law as they now do.

The advantages of high license are many. First of all, the chief object had in view in passing the present laws was to prevent the Indians from getting liquor. With high license there would be fewer sellers of whisky, and therefore it ought to be easier to discover those who sold to Indians. Next, since it is evident that the people will not submit to prohibition, we ought to try the next best thing, which is high license. I pass over some of the advantages of this last measure, as, for instance, the revenue derived from such a source and the means it affords of regulating the traffic.

In brief, then, I reply to your questions by saying that the present liquor laws of Alaska utterly fail to accomplish their object of preventing the sale of intoxicants in Alaska, and therefore ought to be changed. The reason these laws fail to accomplish their purpose is that the vast majority of the people are opposed to them; and, thirdly, since it seems evident we must have saloons, it is better to have licensed places, which will perhaps be more orderly and have other advantages over the unlicensed groggery.

With great respect, I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

Hon. JOHN G. BRADY,
Governor of Alaska.

H. BEER,
Rector Trinity Church.

The following is from Rev. J. H. Condit, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Juneau:

JUNEAU, ALASKA, *September 9, 1898.*

DEAR SIR: In response to the letter of inquiry regarding our present liquor laws recently sent me, I would respectfully submit the following:

(1) Do you consider the present liquor laws satisfactory? I am satisfied with the laws.

(2) If the laws are unsatisfactory, why is it that they are so? The present unsatisfactory condition arises because of the nonenforcement of the laws, so that practically they are dead letters. Law flagrantly, openly, and persistently violated is a menace to society.

(3) What changes would you propose? The repeal of the present prohibitory law and the substitution of a high-license law.

(4) Will you kindly give your views in full on this subject?

(1) I am and always have been a total abstainer in so far as my personal habits are concerned, and a prohibitionist in so far as the legal restriction of the sale of intoxicants is involved. I believe the former position to be the best for the individual and the latter the best for the state. From the first position I could not deviate and obey my convictions of right. From the latter I would deviate under certain conditions.

I do not belong to that class who refuse a part of a loaf because they may not have it all. If the liquor traffic can not be controlled by prohibitory laws, then I favor controlling it by license laws—high license if possible, low license if that is impossible. Any restrictive measure is better than none.

The question of revenue would not enter into my consideration. It is a question of restriction with me and not of revenue, and hence I favor a high license rather than a low license, and prohibition rather than high license, because the restriction is more rigid if the law is enforced.

Again, I believe that a law virtually unenforced, and hence ignored and demeaned, is more injurious to society than a less rigid law with rigid enforcement. Nothing can be more deplorable, in so far as society is concerned, than the prostitution of law.

(2) There are two reasons why the prohibitory law of Alaska is not effective:

First. Public sentiment does not sustain it. In my opinion it is useless to legislate in advance of public sentiment. The average moral sentiment of the people must under certain obvious limitations determine the legislation of a state or community. The only true method of reform is the reformation of belief. It is impossible to legislate virtue into a man. The most effective means to advanced legislation is painstaking education, and here, as it occurs to me, is the mission of the pulpit.

Second. The Government does not enforce the law. Spasmodic and pyrotechnical seizures of liquor do not offset the fact that breweries are operated and saloons owned and conducted openly in every important town in Alaska.

I do not pretend to place the blame. I do not know whether it is a lack of will or a lack of power which is responsible for the nonenforcement of the law. In any

case I must admit that I feel humiliated that the great Government of the United States does not enforce this legally enacted prohibitory measure.

(3) For these reasons, lack of sustaining public sentiment and failure of Government to enforce the law, I favor the repeal of the present law. It will require time to change public sentiment, and past experience would lead one to believe that the attitude of the Government toward Alaska under existing political conditions will not change.

I believe that the majority of the people of Alaska favor a high-license law, and I believe that such a law would be enforced; and therefore I would welcome a change which would at the same time conserve the majesty of law and restrict a traffic which everywhere and always should be restricted in the best interests of society.

Respectfully, yours,
Governor JOHN G. BRADY,
Sitka, Alaska.

J. H. CONDIT.

Mr. William Duncan is one of the old workers in Alaska. While his views do not agree with the foregoing, his letter is here presented for thoughtful consideration of those who are interested in this subject:

METLAKAHTLA, ALASKA, *August 30, 1898.*

MY DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 28th of July (long delayed somewhere) is to hand asking my opinion in regard to the liquor traffic in Alaska and whether I consider the present prohibitory law satisfactory.

In reply I would say that I regard the liquor traffic as one of the greatest evils in the world, and especially baneful in a country like Alaska, where the officers of the law are located so widely apart, and where the means of communication are so difficult and expensive; hence I regard the present prohibitory law in Alaska as good and salutary, and am only sorry it has not been enforced. The failure to enforce it has naturally suggested the propriety of its abrogation, but that I do not agree with. I do not believe in compromising to an evil, but rather I would fight it to the death. The law should triumph over every obstacle. To license an evil because we find it difficult to stop it is a retrograde policy and fatal to good government.

If magistrates were appointed and permitted to grapple with the illegal traffic unfettered by the jury system, I believe satisfactory results would soon follow.

Yours, very respectfully,

W. DUNCAN.

Hon. JOHN G. BRADY,
Governor of Alaska.

DOUGLAS ISLAND, *September 23, 1898.*

DEAR SIR: I am duly in receipt of your letter of the 17th. In answer I beg to say that during my residence of nine years in this country I have come in contact with all classes of laborers, miners, mechanics, merchants, etc., and have therefore had ample opportunity to observe the working of the liquor law for this district. In my opinion it is entirely wrong and is entirely against the wishes of the community in general, and I notice that there are a class of men on Douglas Island and in this bay who entirely make their living out of peddling whisky to the natives here, which is a horrible state of affairs. If we had a high license liquor law, say a license of \$1,500 to \$2,000, to be paid by each dealer in liquors, I am satisfied it would in a great measure stamp out these small whisky peddlers who are scoundrels or worse, as they would not be able to pay a high license, and the man that had paid the high license would, in a measure, become a Government detective, and see that none of these small booths sold whisky to Indians or anybody else, and of course no respectable man would sell an Indian whisky. Another thing, with high license enforced in the district here, all of this smuggling of whisky from Fort Simpson, in Canadian territory, would cease, and the Indian between this point, say, and Fort Simpson, in their villages here and there, of which there are many, would not be able to get whisky or go on debauches, as it would not pay the smuggler who now passes the door on his way from Fort Simpson with whisky to sell it to the Indians alone. His revenue would not be enough; therefore, of course the smuggling of whisky being abolished, I claim that the natives of Alaska would be greatly benefited thereby, and in my idea, it is like hunting for a needle in a haystack to try and stop smuggling into Alaska from Fort Simpson. I may also say that for myself, personally, I should as soon see the prohibition laws in the country, but as I said before from my observations here during the last nine years, I think the law is a wrong one for Alaska.

I am, my dear sir, yours, very truly,

ROBT. DUNCAN, JR.

Hon. JOHN G. BRADY,
Governor of Alaska, Sitka, Alaska.

The following quotations are taken from the reports of the governors of Alaska.

Governor Kinkead said in his report of 1884:

The utmost vigilance of the customs officers can not prevent the importation of liquor. It creeps into the district in every imaginable way. To remedy or at least regulate this traffic I would suggest the appointment of an "executive council," with full power to act in the premises.

In 1885 Governor Swineford said:

If any serious effort has been made to enforce the provisions of section 14 of the organic act, which prohibits the importation, manufacture, and sale of intoxicating liquors, the result of such effort is not discernible in the total or even partial absence of places where such liquors are openly sold. The law in that regard is practically inoperative, and I do not believe that with our extensive coast line the utmost vigilance of the custom officials can prevent liquors from finding their way into the Territory in greater or less quantity. Nothing short of a revenue steamer plying constantly in the waters of southeastern Alaska can effect anything worth mentioning in that direction.

We have here simply a repetition of the workings of prohibition in communities averse to it; but, though positive in the opinion that a stringent license system would be much preferable, I shall nevertheless do all in my power to enforce the law as I find it. The difficulty is that the law being almost universally distasteful there are few if any among the people willing to make complaint under it, nor yet any who will testify if they can avoid doing so. A stringent license law would be much more efficacious and restraining in its operation, and would at the same time produce a very considerable revenue. As it now is, the law has no other effect than to impose very high prices on consumers, thus securing immense profits to those who violate it. Should Congress determine to give Alaska a full Territorial form of government, with power to legislate on all questions of local concern, it will yet be necessary to repeal the section referred to before any local law can be enacted for the regulation of the liquor traffic. I do not hesitate to recommend, in any event, the repeal of section 14 and the enactment of a rigid license clause in lieu of it.

In 1886:

At the May term of the district court a grand jury was impaneled and returned indictments against a number of persons charged with the importation, manufacture, and sale of intoxicating liquors. The indicted parties having combined together, a test case was agreed upon, to be tried and determined at the next succeeding regular term. In this case the defendant filed a demurrer to the indictment, alleging, among other things, that the statute claimed to have been violated "is unconstitutional and void." When the case was called for hearing at the September term the court overruled the demurrer and the defendant was convicted and sentenced, whereupon the case was taken on writ of error to the circuit court for the district of Oregon, and there the matter rests for the present. In the meantime there is apparently no diminution in the quantity of liquors which is being smuggled into the Territory, nor in the number of places where it is openly sold. Indeed, it is questionable, even with the assistance of a revenue cutter constantly plying in the almost interminable inland waters of southeastern Alaska, whether the illegal traffic can be more than partially destroyed. That it can, however, by such means be made a much more hazardous, and consequently less lucrative, business to those engaging in it is not to be denied; but in my opinion the law ought to be repealed. Stringent regulation would be much better than prohibition which does not prohibit, or which can at most be made only partially effective, and that at great cost to the Government. There is no valid reason why the law in this regard should not be the same in Alaska as in the other Territories. The statutes prohibit, under severe penalties, the sale of intoxicating liquors to Indians everywhere, but in no other Territory than Alaska is the prohibition made to include white and civilized people.

There is less to be feared from the adoption of a license system here, so far as the natives are concerned, than in any other Territory. The dealers who are now pursuing an illegal calling are very seldom known to sell to the Indians, among whom drunkenness would be of rare occurrence but for the fact that they manufacture their own intoxicants from staple commodities, the sale of which is not, and can not, in the nature of things be prohibited. The Indian population of New Mexico, Arizona, Idaho, and Washington are far less intelligent, though more fierce and warlike, than those of Alaska, and yet Congress has not deemed it necessary to wholly prohibit the importation and sale of intoxicating liquors in these Territories. The only effect of the law as it now stands has been to flood the Territory with liquors,

the most vile and poisonous, to the enrichment of the few who have been engaged in their illegal importation. A stringent license law would not only yield a revenue sufficient to cover a large part of the expenses of the civil government, but would be the most effective means that can be devised to restrict the traffic.

In 1888:

Section 14 of the act of May 17, 1884, prohibits the importation, manufacture, and sale of intoxicating liquors in Alaska, except for medicinal, mechanical, and scientific purposes. I regret being compelled to say that this law is practically a dead letter. The public sentiment of the Territory is averse to it, and unless the right of trial by jury is taken away it can not be enforced, for the simple reason that it is impossible to impanel a grand jury which will indict, or a petit jury which will convict, persons charged with its violation. But were this not true, the officials charged with the duty of preventing the importation and landing of intoxicating liquors are practically powerless in the premises, for the reason that they have never been provided with any means whatever which will enable them to watch and guard any part of the extensive coast line, save immediately at the few ports where they are stationed.

There is no water patrol, no revenue cutter, no transportation, not even a row boat, under their control, and as a consequence the smuggler pursues his nefarious calling with very little molestation from any quarter. The innumerable bays and coves along the coast of southeastern Alaska, with its network of deep and narrow channels, afford as many hiding places to small vessels, and I am in doubt as to whether a revenue cutter, permanently stationed in these waters, would be able to wholly break up the illicit traffic in intoxicating liquors and dutiable goods. Nothing, in my opinion, will effectually serve the purpose save a well-organized water patrol, acting in conjunction with a vessel of the revenue marine, both of which would necessarily have to be kept on duty the whole year round. In view of the large expense this would involve, and the improbability of any such recommendation being favorably acted upon, I do not hesitate to again respectfully recommend the repeal of the clause prohibiting the importation and sale of intoxicating liquors, and the enactment in its stead of a stringent license law. This recommendation is prompted by an earnest desire to bring the traffic under effectual regulation and control, and is not made because, in my opinion, prohibition would not be better, could it be enforced. In the case of Alaska, prohibition does not prohibit; it simply means free whisky, in the sense that it is openly sold with the approval of a public sentiment, from which juries to convict offenders can not be drawn. A stringent license law would enable the courts to close up more than half the so-called saloons, and would put an end to the whisky smugglers' vocation, by taking away the enormous profits which the law offers as an inducement to its own violation.

Governor Knapp said in 1890:

The law prohibiting the sale and manufacture of intoxicating liquors in the Territory is a dead letter, except in its application to the Indians. Liquors of the vilest quality, it is asserted, are sold openly and in violation of the law, even to those whose families are suffering for the necessities of life. The reason assigned for the inefficiency of the law is that prosecutions would be of no avail. Grand juries refuse to indict, and petit juries refuse to convict. I presume this statement is made intelligently and is in accordance with the facts, though I am not aware of any attempt to secure convictions. A number of complaints to the grand jury at the January term for smuggling liquor, resisting an officer, etc., were treated by that body in a way to induce the belief that they were not in sympathy with restriction laws.

In 1891:

Of the criminal business a large proportion was either directly connected with the sale and importation of intoxicating liquor or grew out of its use directly or indirectly. The unfortunate conditions of nonenforcement of the laws on these subjects reported last year are still continued, and the results of efforts to enforce them are no less unfortunate.

In 1892:

It has been alleged, in excuse for neglect to prosecute offenders against the prohibitory law of Alaska, that public sentiment will not sustain prosecutions; that convictions can not be secured however strong the proof; that grand juries will not indict any man for selling intoxicating liquor to white men.

I am not prepared to dispute these allegations, and yet I do not like to believe that there are no honest men in Alaska who have regard for their oaths. If an honest and vigorous effort were made, if prosecutions were brought and pushed to issue with the thoroughness which ought to characterize the actions of men intrusted

with the responsibilities of office, then failure might prove the existence of such an unfortunate lack of integrity on the part of the citizens of the Territory as is implied in the allegations above cited.

It is true grand juries act secretly, and it would scarcely be becoming in me to assume to give an account of their deliberations or their undisclosed acts. It will be seen from the above court statistics, however, since commissioners' courts have no grand juries, that out of the 63 trials for selling intoxicating liquor reported, 62 were commenced by information or complaint, and no grand jury had any hand in the business whatever. Besides, a district attorney ought to carry his sense of responsibility for the enforcement of the criminal laws of his district into the grand-jury room. Can a man of ability and vigorous personality have no influence to prevent injustice and crime and criminal neglect and disregard of official obligation because of the veil of secrecy over the discussions in that body?

In a letter published in the report of the governor of Alaska for the fiscal year 1891, Appendix B, the district attorney says:

"There are also many persons openly engaged in selling intoxicating liquors contrary to law. These facts I have laid before each grand jury, advising them that it was their sworn duty to indict all such persons. Yet in every instance they not only refused to indict, but have refused to hear any testimony upon the subject whatever."

This is a serious indictment. The men composing these grand juries were sworn officers of the court. Failure to bring an indictment when proper proofs were presented was perjury. Refusal to receive testimony may be contempt of court, and is at least an exhibition of unfitness to serve in the important and responsible office of juror. If the allegation is well founded, it discloses a condition of things which requires heroic treatment. It is difficult to see how, under such circumstances, a district attorney can do less than report the facts in open court, so that the judge can judicially determine whether or not the conduct of the jurors is worthy of censure or punishment, and whether there is such a disregard of their sworn obligations as to unfit them for further service in the capacity of officers of the court. It would seem that self-respect, as well as official obligation, demands that much.

Governor Sheakley said in 1893:

The law prohibiting the importation, manufacture, or sale of intoxicating liquors in Alaska is (in its present construction) a source of irritation and discontent among all classes of people in the Territory. It gives rise to a large traffic in smuggled liquors, mostly from British Columbia, which our customs officers can not prevent and have not the means to suppress. Either the law should be changed or the revenue officers provided with the means to enforce its provisions.

Under the regulations made by the President and promulgated in Treasury Circular No. 34, dated March 12, 1892, the governor of the Territory may grant permits to sell intoxicating liquors for medical, mechanical, and scientific purposes. He may also revoke these permits for any violations of the regulations under which they were granted.

In 1894:

I believe 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 smugglers of intoxicating liquors and contraband 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 United States 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 United States district court held in Alaska. Yet in opposition to the repeated and forcible charges of the judge of the United States 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 United States 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.

In 1895:

The importation, manufacture, and sale of intoxicating liquors in the Territory of Alaska is prohibited by the laws of the United States. The enforcement of these laws has proven to be a difficult matter. When anyone has been charged with the offense of selling intoxicating liquors to white men, or of manufacturing malt beer, the grand juries have uniformly refused or neglected to find a true bill of indictment, and the offender goes without punishment. Both the venders of intoxicating liquors and the manufacturers of malt beer, when arrested for violating the law, set up the defense that their business is a lawful one, and that it is carried on with the sanction of the Government, and in proof of this they will offer in evidence Government receipts issued by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, or his deputies, for money paid into the Treasury of the United States.

This special internal-revenue receipt confers no right or privilege or license to import, manufacture, buy, or sell intoxicating liquors in Alaska in contravention to the local law or the law of Congress, as applied to Alaska, prohibiting the same. The grand juries have taken the position that Alaska has no local law, and that any law of Congress is equal to any other law enacted by the same authority, and that when anyone has complied with the requirements of the internal revenue law he is not subject to indictment for violations of the prohibiting act, and this appears to be in accord with the sentiment of the people, a large majority of whom are not in sympathy with the prohibitory laws.

The collector of customs for the district of Alaska has been faithful and vigilant in the discharge of his official duties in trying to suppress the smuggling of intoxicating liquors into this Territory and has used all the means under his control for that purpose. A United States revenue cutter has been cruising in the waters of southeastern Alaska during part of this summer on the lookout for the small craft by which the smuggling business is carried on. Notwithstanding the efforts of the collector of customs, his deputies, and the presence of a United States cutter, this illicit traffic appears to suffer no abatement.

At almost every term of the United States court held in the Territory since the inauguration of the civil government, eleven years ago, there have been a number of persons held under bonds to appear and answer to the charge of selling intoxicating liquor in the Territory of Alaska in violation of the statutes of the United States made and provided.

Up to the present hour not one of all the accused has ever been indicted, tried, or convicted of that offense when the vendee was a white man. The liquor traffic in Alaska, carried on as it is in violation of existing law, has a demoralizing effect upon the people, both white and native. It begets a disregard of all law, and has fostered smuggling and the clandestine importation of intoxicating liquors into the Territory until the illicit traffic has become so well organized that it is almost impossible of detection.

Some laws should be enacted by Congress by which the business of importing, manufacturing, and selling intoxicating liquors in Alaska should be restricted, regulated, or controlled, and the traffic in smuggled goods and liquors forever destroyed.

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 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 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.

In 1896:

The importation, manufacture, and sale of intoxicating liquors in the district of Alaska, except for medicinal, mechanical, and scientific purposes, is prohibited by law. In theory, Alaska is a prohibition country. In practice, it is not. Notwithstanding the unceasing efforts of all the civil officials, liquor can be obtained in any white settlement of any consequence in the district. And when it is remembered that not even a single business man here is in favor of the enforcement of this law, this condition of affairs is easily understood. The extensive coast line of Alaska, with its innumerable bays, together with the sentiment of its residents, makes smuggling easy, and load after load of liquor is brought from British Columbia to the different Alaskan towns.

The collector of customs and his deputies and assistants do all they can to prevent this illegal traffic, as is evidenced by the amount of liquor which has been seized during the past year. But his force is wholly inadequate to cover the ground, and he is practically without transportation facilities. Once landed, the liquor is hidden in some secure place, to be taken therefrom and disposed of to the retailer as necessity requires. And the retailer also has his private hiding place, and seldom has more than a bottle or so of liquor in his saloon at one time; so if he is raided his loss amounts to practically nothing.

For many years the grand jury here refused to indict saloon keepers, or even to allow evidence to be presented of violations of the prohibitory law. This, however, only applied to sales to white men. The grand juries of Alaska have never failed to indict, nor petit juries to convict, anyone proven guilty of selling whisky to Indians, or of selling intoxicating liquor without first having paid the United States internal-revenue tax.

The people of this district take the stand that Congress in passing this prohibitory law had in mind the Indians, understood their condition, and knew that it was necessary for their well being to keep liquor from them; that when it was passed the white population in Alaska was small and not taken into consideration; that since its passage the population has largely increased and new conditions arisen, and that in vigorously enforcing the liquor law in regard to the Indians, and practically ignoring it in regard to the whites, they are carrying out the spirit of the law and fulfilling the intent of its makers. The civil officials, however, must take the law as they find it, and have strenuously endeavored to enforce it. Their efforts have been practically fruitless, as is shown in previous reports.

At the last November term of our district court the grand jury indicted all the saloon keepers in the district. They thought it better to plead guilty than to employ attorneys and fight the indictments in court. They pleaded guilty and each of them was fined \$50. At the last March term of the district court the grand jury again brought in indictments against all the saloon keepers in the district. Thereupon one of their number entered a plea of guilty and the court imposed a fine of \$500 upon him. The rest immediately combined together, employed many of the attorneys in the district, and prepared to fight the indictments. Demurrers were interposed, but after argument they were overruled by the court and the indictments held good. United States District Attorney Bennett thereupon moved one of his best cases for trial and presented his evidence, and the case was submitted to the jury, which promptly returned a verdict of not guilty. The district attorney moved another case and again presented the evidence.

The defense, as before, offered no evidence at all. This time the jury failed to agree. In each of the cases several days were consumed in securing a jury, and it was with difficulty that in the second case one was secured at all.

The district attorney, feeling that it would be impossible to secure another jury at this term of court, to say nothing about securing a conviction at this time or the expense that would be incurred in proceeding further, and evidently thinking it best to rest on a disagreement rather than absolute acquittals, asked the court to continue the remaining cases over to the coming fall term of court, and that each defendant be placed under \$500 bonds during that period. This was accordingly done. Indictments are now pending against 45 saloon keepers, located at Juneau City, Douglas Island, Sitka, and Fort Wrangel. That all of these defendants have sold liquor in violation of the existing prohibitory law is a matter of common notoriety. That one of them will be convicted by a trial jury is, I am sorry to say, not believed for a moment by any resident of Alaska.

The present district attorney has shown commendable zeal in his endeavors to enforce the law, believing that all laws should be enforced until repealed.

It must not be inferred from the way juries stand in regard to this class of cases that Alaska is in any sense of the word a lawless community. The courts here stand as high and are as able as in any part of the United States, and crime is as surely punished here as elsewhere. Our juries are not composed of saloon keepers, but of miners and business men. The miner can always be relied upon to mete out equal and exact justice to all. Hard working, large hearted, and just, it is a libel of the basest kind to call him lawless or the community in which he lives a lawless one, and I am glad to bear witness that it is only malicious and irresponsible persons who do so.

As the matter now stands, as I said in my last annual report, this prohibitory liquor law is most demoralizing in its effect. It begets a disregard for all law, fosters smuggling, and causes a large class of citizens who ought to aid the civil authorities to be against them, and crimes that ought to be punished, and would be were it not for this law, go unpunished. Being against the Government in this matter, they are, almost unknowingly, in others, and a desire to get even often outweighs all other considerations. Meanwhile the sale of liquor goes on openly, and none of the people in the district seem to be opposed to it. Prohibition, unless supported by a large body of the citizens of a community, means here, as it means everywhere else, "free whisky." Laws to be enforced must be just and reasonable, and must have the support of the people, and even though, as in this district of Alaska, they have no say in their making, in the end they have all to say when they, as jurors in the jury box, are called upon to pass upon their violators. The present law should be repealed and in its place a high-license law, with proper safeguards, be enacted. The good effects would be immediately apparent. The saloons would decrease, smuggling would cease, sales of liquor to Indians would be lessened (for every saloon and liquor man would be with the Government to suppress it), vile compounds and death-dealing mixtures would necessarily disappear, and the General Government would be benefited by collecting its proper revenue, which is now lost.

Congress has undertaken to govern two districts, the District of Columbia and the District of Alaska, on totally different principles—the former the seat of Government itself, with an abundance of force to carry out every regulation, where public opinion is quick and sensitive and finds expression in the daily papers, and where the liquor traffic is allowed and regulated by two sections of the United States statutes, and where such law is found to work well and give order to society; and the latter, 4,000 miles from the seat of Government, an immense territory in itself, with a very meager executive force, handicapped in every way, especially for the means of transportation, where the population is sparse and scattered, and where the executive department of the Government is called upon to execute another section of the Revised Statutes, which is a stringent prohibitory law.

It is hoped that our lawmakers will keep in mind this contrast between the two United States Districts.

Records of the district court will show that many of the worst crimes committed have been in connection with this illegal traffic.

If Congress therefore wishes to reduce the number of criminal cases upon the dockets of the court, if it wishes to have a law upon its statute books that will receive the approbation of the majority of the citizens in this district, if it wishes to obtain revenue ample enough to bear

nearly all of the expenses incurred in governing Alaska, it can do so by simply extending and making applicable to Alaska the laws which are now on the statute books for the District of Columbia, which were enacted in 1893 and 1894; providing, however, that no license shall be less than \$1,000 and more than \$2,000, and it might further be provided that the governor, United States marshal, and district attorney be constituted an excise board to enforce all provisions of these laws. Such an act would be pleasing and acceptable to the people. Nothing has disturbed the peace and good order of the Territory so much as this liquor-traffic question. It is earnestly hoped and believed that Congress will give serious attention early at its next session to this subject.

CRIMINAL AND PENAL LAWS.

The commission to revise and codify the criminal and penal laws of the United States have reported to the Attorney-General the result of their labors in behalf of Alaska. The criminal and penal laws which they have compiled out of the Revised Statutes of the United States and from the code of Oregon, together with a code of criminal procedure, have been examined with care by members of the Alaska bar and by officers of the court, and all consider the work satisfactory under the circumstances. This work was approved by the Senate, but when the chairman on the revision of laws brought it up in the House there was dilatory action, and it failed to pass. It is hoped that the House will view more favorably this work and act upon it early in the coming session. Lawyers here speak in appreciative terms of this work, and the people of Alaska feel grateful to the commission for its labor.

This same commission, by a concurrent resolution of Congress which passed the House May 31 last, was "directed to prepare and through the Attorney-General submit to Congress at the earliest practicable date a code of civil procedure for the district of Alaska." This work no doubt will be ready for the consideration of Congress at its coming session, and it is believed that it will be as well done as such a task can be under the circumstances, for the commission realize the helplessness of Alaska.

LAND LAWS.

There is not nor has there been any difficulty since the passage of the organic act about mineral lands, for the reason that the laws of the United States relating to mining claims and the rights incident thereto were declared to be in full force and effect in the district.

The closing sentence of section 8 of the same act is:

But nothing contained in this act shall be construed to put in force in said district the general land laws of the United States.

Why such a distinction was made is past comprehension. Men may have the right to dig out ore upon lands and may obtain patents for the same, but if they dig out a cellar and build a house and improve lands for a home they can not obtain a title.

This state of affairs has been brought to the attention of Congress in almost every report which has been written by a Government officer. This has been the status now for thirty-two years. It is true that Congress passed a law March 3, 1891, that a citizen, association, or corporation, for the purpose of trade or manufacture, may purchase not exceeding 160 acres. A number of persons made application to purchase land under this act at \$2.50 per acre; they made their deposits in national depositories and received triplicate receipts. Surveys

were ordered, but when they were sent in for approval many objections were raised and but few were allowed.

In one case, where the survey had been approved, where final proof had been made, the land paid for under the regulations of the Department, the receipts of the register and receiver issued to the applicant, and all the papers forwarded to the General Land Office for a patent to issue, the applicant was informed that 20 acres only would be allowed, because his improvements did not appear to cover more, and upon appealing to the Secretary it was allowed that his improvements might cover 50 acres, and that if he accepted this he must have it surveyed again at his own expense and pay \$2.50 per acre besides—that there is no provision of law to pay back to him the money which he paid to the receivers, whose receipt he holds.

The Land Office has issued one patent only under the law of March 3, 1891, for trade and manufacture.

It does not rest with the applicant how much land he may take, whether the maximum allowed by the act or a less amount, but with the officer of the Land Office.

Seven years have passed and the law as interpreted has only been a hindrance and a costly thing to those who have attempted to acquire rights under its provisions.

The act of Congress approved May 14, 1898, makes a feeble attempt to extend homestead rights to Alaska. It provides:

SEC. 1. That the homestead land laws of the United States and the rights incident thereto, including the right to enter surveyed or unsurveyed lands under provisions of law relating to the acquisition of title through soldiers' additional homestead rights, are hereby extended to the district of Alaska, subject to such regulations as may be made by the Secretary of the Interior; and no indemnity, deficiency, or lieu lands pertaining to any land grant whatsoever originating outside of said district of Alaska shall be located within or taken from lands in said district: *Provided*, That no entry shall be allowed extending more than eighty rods along the shore of any navigable water, and along such shore a space of at least eighty rods shall be reserved from entry between all such claims, and that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to authorize entries to be made or title to be acquired, to the shore of any navigable waters within said district: *And it is further provided*, That no homestead shall exceed eighty acres in extent.

If anyone wants to know how valueless this law is to the settler, let him read the analysis of the law in a circular from the General Land Office issued June 8, 1898.

There are no surveyed lands in Alaska nor has any system of survey been provided. It is impossible, therefore, for a poor settler to acquire a homestead. If he were able and willing to stand the expense of a survey, he has no assurance that it would be accepted by the Government. If he settles as a squatter and makes improvements, he can not tell how future surveys may affect him.

Not a single homesteader has attempted to make entry under this law in the land office at Sitka. The gentlemen who framed this law and had most to do in urging its passage will no doubt be surprised at this statement, for they feel kindly disposed toward Alaska and thought they were serving her a good turn by putting through such a liberal enactment. It is a good illustration to show how difficult it is for men to legislate for a country which they have never seen and whose conditions they do not understand.

Under the heat of the debate on this measure one Member, in his effort to fortify it, waxed warm and exclaimed:

Gentlemen, men are not going to flock into Alaska for the purpose of taking homes. Men would not want to take homes where they would in many instances have to take dynamite in order to blow off the ice to reach the ground. [Laughter.] There are countries near by vastly superior for such purposes. [Applause.]

He was right; there has not been much flocking in. The law does not encourage it. Under the provision of this act relating to the acquisition of title through soldiers' additional homestead rights, four entries have been made. One of these is by a retired deep-sea captain beyond the age of 76 years. He has settled about a mile and a half, on a rocky part of the beach, north of Sitka, where he can see the breakers and hear their roar as he lies in his cabin. For some time he has been anxious to acquire title to this spot. He has done so with soldiers' scrip for 6.1 acres. This has cost him in office fees and attorney's fee and the price of the scrip \$250, with the price of the survey yet to be added.

Now, this land is not valuable by unearned increment, nor for mineral, nor for garden purpose, except at a great expense and infinite labor. This is by a citizen of the United States in an effort to obtain title to a spot of earth which has cost his Government less than 2 cents per acre.

A number of filings were made at once under the provisions of the act for right of way for railroads, wagon roads, and wire-rope tramways.

It remains to be seen how willing men are as individuals, associations, and corporations to begin, complete, and carry on such conveniences for the public.

Section 13 of this same act has fallen stillborn, but remains as a kind of felicitation toward native-born Canadians on the part of our lawmakers for the great courtesy which our citizens have received at their hands in the Klondike.

Section 11 of this law places the disposal of timber upon the public lands in the district of Alaska wholly in the hands of the Secretary of the Interior. Through the General Land Office he has issued rules and regulations for the cutting and removal of timber. These are not at all practicable now, but, no doubt, they will be made so when the inspectors in the field have had opportunity to confer with the people and gather up the facts and report the same to the Department.

Nearly all the timber and lumber which has been used in the building of Dyea, Skagway, and the railroad there, in the erection of the mills upon Douglas Island, and at other points, has been shipped from Puget Sound.

The needs of the Northwest Territory were urgent and the Continental Congress was pressed to take action, which it did on July 13, 1787, just about two months before they engrossed the Constitution and signed it. The conditions which confronted those thoughtful and earnest men in regard to that vast and almost unknown country were as serious as will be those which the present Congress will be called upon to face, when they come to consider Alaska, Hawaii, Cuba, Porto Rico, and the rest.

This ordinance of 1787 is commended to those who are thoughtfully pondering over these great problems. It can be found in the Revised Statutes of the United States, page 13.

The sagacity of those remarkable statesmen shines out in section 5:

The governor and judges, or a majority of them, shall adopt and publish in the district such laws of the original States, criminal and civil, as may be necessary, and best suited to the circumstances of the district and report them to Congress from time to time, which laws shall be in force in the district until the organization of the general assembly therein unless disapproved of by Congress; but afterwards the legislature shall have authority to alter them as they shall think fit.

They knew the temper and spirit of the people who were migrating out West. And how generously they trusted them!

Does anyone believe that, if Congress in 1884 had inserted such a section into the organic act for Alaska, matters would have gone on in such an uncertain slipshod manner as they have for fourteen years? What is there instead? Let section 7, of the organic act, answer. Here it is:

That the general laws of the State of Oregon now in force are hereby declared to be the law of said district so far as the same may be applicable and not in conflict with the provisions of this act or the laws of the United States.

It should be understood that any law passed in Oregon since 1884 is not applicable, also that eight different men have sat upon the bench as district judges, and hardly any two of them have held the same opinion as to the applicability of the law, which may be invoked by litigants. Men have been tried for murder and other felonies and sentenced to the penitentiary for life and for terms of years, and yet it is the opinion of able lawyers, some of them in Congress, too, that there never has been a lawful jury in Alaska.

It is hoped that the Members of Congress to whom these matters may be intrusted in the approaching session may give this matter the serious consideration which the circumstances demand.

The following is the list of those who have been appointed to office, and who are here endeavoring to execute the law:

Name.	Position.	Official residence.	Where appointed from.
John G. Brady	Governor	Sitka	Alaska.
C. S. Johnson	Judge	do	Do.
Robert A. Friedrich	United States attorney	do	California.
Alfred J. Daly	Assistant United States attorney	Juneau	Alaska.
Albert D. Elliot	District clerk	Sitka	Washington, D. C.
Joseph J. Rogers	Deputy clerk	do	do
J. M. Shoup	United States marshal	do	Idaho.
C. W. Tuttle	Commissoner	do	Indiana.
Norman E. Malcolm	do	Juneau	California.
K. M. Jackson	do	Fort Wrangell	Texas.
L. R. Woodward	do	Unalaska	California.
Philip Gallager	do	Kodiak	Washington.
C. E. Schilbrede	do	Dyea	Oregon.
W. J. Jones	do	Circle City	Washington.
Chas. H. Isham	do	Unga	Maryland.
Lennox B. Shepherd	do	St. Michaels	Illinois.
W. H. McNair	Deputy marshal	Sitka	Alaska.
W. S. Staley	do	Juneau	California.
James C. Blaine	do	Unalaska	Alaska.
Edward C. Hasey	do	Kadiak	Idaho.
Lewis L. Bowers	do	Unga	Washington.
F. M. Canton	do	Circle City	Alaska.
Wm. D. Grant	do	Wrangell	Do.
Cornelius L. Vawter	do	St. Michaels	Montana.
Josias M. Tanner	do	Dyea	Alaska.
W. L. Distin	Surveyor-general	Sitka	Illinois.
John W. Dudley	Register	do	Washington, D. C.
Roswell Shelley	Receiver	do	Oregon.
Jos. W. Ivey	Collector	do	Do.
W. P. McBride	Deputy collector	do	Idaho.
E. T. Hatch	do	St. Michaels	Oregon.
Chas. Smith	do	Circle City	Do.
A. M. Guild	do	Karluk	Washington.
W. M. Wheeler	do	Cooks Inlet	Do.
J. F. Sinnott	do	Unga	Oregon.
John Goodel	do	Orca	do
John M. Tenney	do	Juneau	Washington.
W. G. Thomas	do	Kadiak	Alaska.
Wm. Gauntlett	do	Unalaska	Washington.
E. M. Van Slyck	do	Mary Island	Oregon.
Wm. Zimmer	do	Chilkoot Pass	Illinois.
Frank M. Richards	do	Stikine Bound- ary.	Washington.
J. N. Wheeler	do	White Pass Boundary.	Oregon.
J. A. Arment	do	Wrangell	Do.
Jos. E. Floyd	do	Skagway	Do.
John R. Beegle	do	Dyea	Do.
W. D. McNair	do	Sitka	Alaska.

Name.	Position.	Official residence.	Where appointed from.
Chas. I. Roth.....	Deputy collector.....	Circle City.....	Washington.
J. I. Routledge.....	Inspector.....	Douglas City.....	Oregon.
E. A. Hamilton.....	do.....	Juneau.....	Do.
T. F. Payne.....	do.....	Dyea.....	Do.
O. J. Laird.....	do.....	Skagway.....	Do.
S. L. Adams.....	do.....	Wrangell.....	Do.
Geo. J. Smith.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
E. L. Hunter.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
Harry P. Mintz.....	do.....	Juneau.....	Do.
Wm. J. Culver.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
Fred. S. Williams.....	do.....	Skagway.....	Do.
Wm. Denny.....	do.....	Dyea.....	Do.
Loring K. Adams.....	do.....	Skagway.....	Do.

POPULATION.

There are very few accurate statistics concerning affairs in Alaska, and it is a matter of probabilities when it comes to giving the population. The Russian Greek Church keeps an accurate register of births, deaths, and marriages and removals in each parish. In 14 of these there is an enumeration of 15,064. This includes a small number of whites; the great majority are creoles and natives. Sixteen thousand would be a safe estimate for the number of natives in the different parts of the district who are not on the books of the Russian Church. Many thousands have gone over the passes, and a large number during the summer have ascended the Yukon, most of them bound for Dawson, the Klondike, and its tributaries. Probably 3,200 attempted to prospect the Copper River basin. Several hundred entered at Yakutat. Quite a crowd went to Kotzebue Sound. It has been a year of movement and stir and push, and a right royal class of men most of them are. The majority are picked men from the States. The rules and regulations and the manner of enforcing them have offended a great many people, and this has driven many across the boundary to prospect in Alaska.

The white population last year was estimated at 10,000. It would be a conservative estimate to-day to reckon it at 19,000. We would then have—

Natives and Russian creoles.....	31,064
Whites.....	19,000
Total.....	50,064

TAXABLE PROPERTY.

A very considerable amount of money is invested in salmon canneries and in machinery, buildings, and other improvements for mining. Merchants in the outfitting and supply business carry large stocks. Taxation just now would bring a burden upon many new enterprises which they could not stand. It would be well to defer any system of taxation until the land laws are properly extended so that people may have encouragement to improve and cultivate them and to build houses, which shall be comfortable and permanent homes. Alaska should and can pay revenue into the United States Treasury.

Under a high-license system, as above outlined, not less than \$200,000 annually would be turned in.

A few cents a case on salmon would produce from \$35,000 to \$50,000. Ten cents a ton out of the wharfages collected would have brought in this past year \$100,000.

These three items, together with a very few others, would produce a revenue of about \$400,000, and this at a very trifling cost for collection. It is hoped that these few lines may catch the attention of the Ways and Means and the Appropriation committees.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

The dealers in seeds upon Puget Sound, at Portland, Oreg., and at other places sold large quantities to prospectors last spring. It is too soon to learn much about results from these scattered efforts at planting. Many vegetables on the beach at Valdes, in Prince William Sound, did well under most unfavorable circumstances. Last year the Agricultural Department had two agents making inquiries, and this year it has continued its investigations. In the neighborhood of Sitka, barley, oats, flax, red and white clover planted the last week in May all came to maturity, developing perfect seeds before the first frost in the last part of September. Sage, thyme, carrots, beets, peas, turnips, potatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, radish, parsnips, and oyster plant were planted and have made a fine showing for the amount of attention given to their cultivation.

There are many varieties of native berries, such as black and red currants, salmon berries, cranberries, blue and red huckleberries. The gooseberry and red raspberry do well under cultivation.

But grass beyond everything else promises to be the agricultural wealth of Alaska. This is but little appreciated at present. The native grasses are nutritious and grow luxuriantly. Timothy, clover, alfalfa, and other cultivated varieties do well. One acre of ground in grass in Alaska for pasturage is worth several acres in a drier climate.

There is no timber west of the eastern part of Kadiak Island. All of the islands and the shore line of the Alaska Peninsula are covered with a heavy growth of grass. The Kenai Peninsula has large areas where the grass grows to a man's armpits. The explorers of the various arms of the Copper River—and these have gone almost to the head of White River—report extensive tracts of grass lands.

The following is the opinion of Prof. O. C. Georgeson, special agent of the Department of Agriculture of the Alaskan Experimental Station:

I arrived in Sitka about the middle of May, and the vegetables and small grains which I have tested were not seeded until the latter part of the month. I can say that in a general way all the hardy vegetables grow with marked success. Pease of nearly a dozen varieties all do well, and the vines grew in some cases larger than they do in warmer regions. Canadian field pease, sown broadcast, grew to a length of 10 to 12 feet, and all varieties matured seed from the pods which were first developed. Turnips, radishes, lettuce, carrots, parsnips, parsley, salsify, beets, mangel, and sugar beets all grew remarkably well, and some of them much better than in the States. Even wax beans produced a light crop of pods, and at Skagway I saw cucumbers 6 inches long grown there. Here at Sitka I did not plant either melons or cucumbers, and it is doubtful if melons would fruit here. But green cucumbers large enough for table use I feel sure can be grown here, if the plants are started in boxes either in a hot bed or in the house.

I have found from personal investigation that all the hardier vegetables can be grown everywhere in the coast region of Alaska. Potatoes grow here in some cases to great size, and where the soil is well drained they are as good in quality as I have ever seen them anywhere. Cabbages, kale, and cauliflower attain almost gigantic size where the soil is of the proper consistency and fertility, and in like manner rhubarb, asparagus, celery, and onions do well in suitable soils.

As for fruit bushes, such as gooseberries, currants, both red and black, and raspberries, I can assert that they grow better here than in the central West or in any portion of the country where the summer heat is intense. In fact, I found the red currant growing wild in abundance in the upper Cooks Inlet region, and the fruit was large and of a quality equal to the best of the cultivated sorts.

It will be seen from this that it is possible for settlers in Alaska to derive all the pleasure and profit from the kitchen garden for family use that it is possible to get anywhere.

But the fact that vegetables can be grown in Alaska does not necessarily make it an agricultural country. Successful agriculture must be based on the growth of the cereals and stock raising. No country can be said to be adapted to general farming unless the small grains can be grown there. It gives me pleasure to state that my efforts were successful in this particular also. Oats and barley of several varieties sown in the latter part of May all matured the 20th of September, and the grain is plump and heavy. Rye and wheat were not tested, as they are winter grains, but there is a tradition to the effect that the Russians grew rye here to a considerable extent before the transfer, and there is not the slightest doubt but that this grain can be matured here. I can not speak with so much confidence of wheat, as this grain requires a somewhat higher temperature for its development than does rye. But I consider it probable that even wheat will ripen in the coast region in suitable situations. In the interior, where the summers are warmer than on the coast, wheat can be grown successfully. This, at least, is the verdict of miners whom I have met, and who have assured me that they have seen not only wheat but also oats and barley grow up and ripen from seed dropped where horses had been fed.

Flax has attained the height of 3 feet here in Sitka this summer, and the English so-called horse bean, or windsor bean, has fruited in abundance. If the present season represents the average of sunshine and rainfall in the coast region of Alaska, there can be no doubt but that farming is not only possible but practicable. There are, of course, many problems in connection with the clearing and draining of the land, the improvement of the soil, and methods of culture, but enough has been learned to indicate that it will be to the advantage of the district to investigate the possibilities of agriculture thoroughly.

STOCK RAISING.

This industry can hardly be said to have a beginning. The Russians introduced a small hardy race of cattle which were raised somewhat extensively near Kadiak, and some of this breed still exists. Larger breeds have been introduced, and it is found that they do well. One man near Kadiak has a start of about 50 head. One animal was slaughtered for the U. S. S. *Wheeling* while lying there for a day in August. It was fat and of the right flavor. No better meat could be desired. In southeastern Alaska cows are kept to supply fresh milk, but there is no attempt to raise beef cattle. At Sitka cattle begin to get fresh feed about the 20th of April and live on this until about Thanksgiving. Last winter was an open one and stock cattle took care of themselves. The superintendent of the Apollo Consolidated Mine at Unga allowed a bull and a dry cow to hunt up their own feed, and he asserts that they looked well in the spring and soon became fat. The Alaska Commercial Company had some sheep upon an island for several years. They did well and took care of themselves.

Nevertheless, it would not be well to attempt stock raising without an abundance of feed constantly on hand. If the silo is an assured means of preserving fodder, there need be no lack of food for winter. Hay properly cured can not be relied upon, but oats, barley, clover, etc., for the silo can be obtained in abundance for the labor bestowed.

A silo has just been constructed at Sitka as a private enterprise. It is 14 by 20 feet in the clear. It has 2 by 10 inch studs, 16 inches from centers, walled with double-ship lap, with tarred paper between; is built upon a stone foundation, and has a cement floor 3 inches thick. It cost for labor and material \$175. There is now packed in it 30 tons of large coarse grass, known here as wild rye, which grows along the margin of the salt water. This was brought 10 miles and cost about \$90. Probably next season a larger amount could be put in for less than one-half, for natives, at \$2 per day and board, at a work which they have never seen done, are high priced laborers. A scythe is a novel tool to them. The Baptist Mission on Wood Island, under

the lead of Rev. Mr. Coe, has built a good silo this past summer. It is partly filled with oats which grew near by. This institution keeps 5 cows. The Swedish Evangelical Mission at Yakutat have used silage successfully for several years.

At present nearly all the feed is shipped from Puget Sound and San Francisco. Hay costs, laid in the stall, close to \$25 per ton.

Alaska is an ideal country for healthy hogs, and, as peas do well under cultivation, there is no reason why large numbers should not be reared. There is one drawback, however, and that is the mischievous ravens at Unalaska will persist in pulling off the pigs' tails. If any naturalist is skeptical about this let him inquire of Mr. Stanley Brown, the manager of the North American Commercial Company.

What has been said of hay and silage has reference to the coast line of Alaska. After one crosses the coast range to the interior he finds a different climate. Hay can be cured here. Last winter, when the agent of the North American Transportation and Trading Company at Circle City ran out of feed for a yoke of oxen which had proved very serviceable, he hired natives to bring hay which they cut beneath the snow, for which he paid them 5 cents per pound. He not only kept them alive, but continued working them on this kind of feed. Colonel Ray, United States Army, and Mr. P. W. Weare vouch for the truthfulness of this incident.

REINDEER.

That these animals in the future will be reared in vast herds can not be doubted by any person who is at all open to reason. Why is Alaska bound to have a vast population? The answer is, because it is a healthy country, where an abundance of wholesome food may be obtained at comparatively small effort. It will prove so, too, with this interesting animal, the reindeer. The camel is no more divinely fitted for the burning desert than is this animal for the frozen north. The moss which he loves grows over immense reaches. The importance of these animals to that northern section of Alaska can not be overestimated. One objection after another has been overcome.

It has been stated that the Siberian natives would not sell. If they did the animals would not stand transportation, the dogs would kill them, the Esquimaux would not be taught to take care of them. These difficulties have faded away. The chief promoter of this benevolent enterprise, Dr. Sheldon Jackson, has been assailed and accused of all manner of wickedness by a few who appear to be unable to appreciate the principles of this problem.

A few thousand dollars spent now in helping the Eskimo to obtain deer herds will save thousands in the future. The interest that these natives have taken in the deer is most gratifying. They understand how much it is to them to be supplied with them.

In the near future we shall expect to have the mail transported by reindeer all over northern Alaska in winter at a much less cost than is now paid.

There appear to be drawbacks to report for this year in regard to the station for collecting the animals upon the Siberian coast. What the facts are and who is at fault is not known here in Sitka. The master of the steamer *Del Norte* reported that he transported but 161 animals.

The usefulness of these animals has been so clearly demonstrated that Congress should make provision for as many as can be purchased from the Siberian herders.

FUR SEALS.

A few over 18,000 were taken upon the islands this year. All who visit the rookeries upon St. George and St. Paul can see that the number of animals has decreased rapidly. The rocks upon the hauling grounds have been worn smooth by the seals which have been climbing over them for ages. At some points they used to go far inland. But it is different now. The herds to-day occupy but a small rim. These animals are doomed to become extinct unless all pelagic sealing can be stopped. The branding of the females has proved a success and should be carried on until every female has the marks put upon her back. The brands spoil the market value of the skin, and then, too, they serve to identify the animal. The United States has a real property right in these animals even when they go from their rookeries to the feeding grounds, and the branding is a sure means of identification. Col. Jos. Murray, the chief agent of the United States upon these islands, has studied this whole subject of the fur seals in a practical way for several years. He maintains that branding these seals works as well as it does upon the cattle which feed upon the plains of Colorado.

The young seals have a strong and voracious enemy in the thrasher or killer whale. He is up to his business, and guards the passes from Bering Sea when the herds are on the move. So rapid and powerful are they that as they make a dart at a seal they cut him in two, throwing one part in the air, and yet are ready to devour it by the time it strikes the water.

If all pelagic sealing is forbidden, it would be well, as a further protection, that provision be made to place a bounty upon the heads of these hungry monsters.

The United States had no vessel on patrol duty this season. The British had three war vessels on the ground—*Amphion*, *Icarus*, and *Pheasant*. There were twenty-eight vessels sealing under the English flag, and one of these was seized by Capt. Frank Finnis, of the *Amphion*.

RESOURCES.

FURS.

Aside from the fur-seal skins taken upon the Pribilof Islands, there is no certain method of ascertaining the kinds of pelts taken, their number, and their value. There can be no doubt but that this industry will grow less and less each year in Alaska as the prospectors advance to every valley and stream in their search for gold.

If our differences on this question are to be settled by treaty, and the United States is to buy up the schooners, it would be well for Congress to make terms with the North American Commercial Company, and allow no more seals to be taken until the season of 1906.

BLUE FOXES.

Several parties have begun to raise these animals, and the Treasury Department has authority to lease certain outlying islands for this purpose. These men have had to exercise great care and patience, but those who have been at it longest are beginning now to be rewarded for their labors. These animals are quite numerous upon St. George and St. Paul. A large number of the seal carcasses are buried for the purpose of feeding them.

The silver fox has been tried, but complaint is made that the male fox succeeds in devouring most of the little foxes.

SEA OTTERS.

These animals are so valuable that hunting for them has been unremitting and there are very few left. It would be well for the Secretary of the Treasury to entirely prohibit the hunting of them for a long time. This would seem, at first, to be hard upon the natives. On the contrary, it would be for their benefit, for the number of animals now caught does not reward them. If they spent the time in working in the canneries or cutting wood along the Yukon River, they would be much better off. No doubt, if the Aleuts would cease hunting and manifest a desire to learn the cannery business, the managers of these institutions would work them in and cease to import Chinese labor when they learned the art.

DISASTERS.

Some sad events have been recorded in connection with Alaska during the past year. On a stormy night on the 5th of February, in Lynn Canal, the steamship *Clara Nevada* went to the bottom with all on board, about 60 souls. The cause of the sinking has never been ascertained.

On the 3d of April an avalanche broke loose from a crotch in the mountains in the neighborhood of the Chilcoot Pass, and persons were instantly caught and perished in this frightful mass of snow and ice as it went crashing across the valley.

There was a loss of three vessels of the whaling fleet, but no person was either drowned or died of hunger.

The schooner *Lady Jane Grey*, loaded with merchandise and passengers and bound for Alaska, went down off Cape Flattery. Only a few were saved. Amongst those who perished were Rev. Mr. Gambell, wife, and child. They were returning to their missionary station upon St. Lawrence Island.

In August a steamer towing a barge to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River was lost with all aboard save one native. Rev. Mr. Weber, wife, and child, returning to their Moravian mission field, on the upper part of this river, were passengers on this ill-fated craft.

A number of deaths occurred by drowning in the head streams of the Yukon and upon Copper River, and in Cooks Inlet, where there is a fearful rush of tide bores.

It is amazing what desperate chances men will take when once thoroughly possessed of a gold fever.

C. H. Meyer, a Columbia River fisherman, outfitted in a 6-ton schooner called the *Bertha*, at an expense of \$533. He put in cord wood for ballast. After crossing the bar into the Pacific, he set his course for Cooks Inlet. He was alone, was carried hundreds of miles from the land, but after sixty days of tossing was cured of his gold fever. He turned up in Sitka and sold his vessel and provisions for \$80, and returned home to Portland, Oreg. He was over 60 years old.

Another case is a party of men outfitting in Seattle, and among them one of the old business men of that city. They were bound for Kotzebue Sound. They brought up on Chirikof Island, which lies off the Semidi group, and were wrecked. The navigator thought he was entering Unimak Pass, but he was only 600 miles off his course.

WHALERS IN THE ICE.

News came late last autumn that a number of vessels were caught in the ice in the neighborhood of Point Barrow. The United States revenue cutter *Bear* was outfitted and dispatched to render all possible relief. She approached the ice and landed Lieutenant Jarvis and Dr. Call, who volunteered to carry relief to the distressed whalers. They made Port Clarence on their dog sleds and found there another noble volunteer in the person of Rev. Mr. Lopp, who went along to render assistance in the management of the reindeer, which were driven to be slaughtered for the starving men.

We admire the momentary heroism of men who risk their lives in trying to accomplish some great object under the fire of forts and batteries, but when heroism is continued and prolonged for months into the fierce blizzards of the Arctic, and is successful in its undertaking to relieve human suffering, it loses public attention and goes unhonored and unrewarded. Congress should not forget to properly honor these men. The Eskimo, who gave up his herd of deer to be driven to the hungry whalers, should be honored also.

THE U. S. S. WHEELING.

What could be more tantalizing than for a body of high-spirited naval officers and seamen to be far removed on the outskirts of Alaska while their classmates and fellows are reaping honor and glory and promotion over their heads because they have been at Manila and Santiago? The courage which keeps one at home is often greater than that which impels one to the front.

The *Wheeling*, separated from her sister ship, the *Marietta*, has been kept on the move, and has since the 1st of January steamed over 18,000 miles on Alaskan service.

This stretch of coast, so promising in its resources, should not be deprived of the service of a war vessel. A gunboat is a good sort of a knock-down argument when it comes to the final settlement of a question.

ALASKA IN CONGRESS.

The Republican party had this plank in its last platform:

We believe the citizens of Alaska should have representation in the Congress of the United States, to the end that needful legislation may be intelligently enacted.

The people of Alaska now call upon the Republicans in Congress to keep this promise, and it is earnestly hoped that no obstacle will be placed in the way of such legislation. If the reasons for Alaska having a Delegate in the halls of Congress in June, 1896, were good, they are emphatically strong now in the closing months of 1898.

SALMON FISHERIES.

The following statistics are from the report of the agent for the protection of Alaska salmon fisheries for last year:

Name of cannery.	Owned by—	Location.	Salmon taken.					Cases.	Barrels.	Half barrels.	Market value.
			King.	Red.	Silver.	Pink or hump-back.	Total.				
North Pacific Trading and Packing Co.	North Pacific Trading and Packing Co.	Klawak		130,881	18,468	4,187	153,536	11,513	α 40		\$47,961
Metlakahla Industrial Co	Metlakahla Industrial Co.	Metlakahla		84,000	6,720	154,000	244,720	15,400			40,000
Orca	Pacific Steam Whaling Co.	Orca		220,000	100,000		320,000	29,000			87,000
Chignik	do	Chignik Bay		240,000			240,000	23,900			71,700
Hunters Bay	do	Hunters Bay		84,000	560,000		644,000	35,000			105,000
Karluk	do	Uyak Bay		190,000			190,000	15,000			45,000
Ketchikan Saltery	Clark & Martin	Uyak Bay		20,000	40,000	500,000	560,000		70	α 1,500	12,000
Boston Fishing and Trading Co.	Boston Fishing and Trading Co.	Ketchikan	912	60,000	13,000	190,000	263,912	22,300	75		75,000
Quadra Bay	Quadra Packing Co.	Cape Fox		80,000		300,000	380,000	24,500			70,000
Baranoff Packing Co.	Baranoff Packing Co.	Redfish Bay		64,509	8,351		72,860	14,070	250		40,000
Naknek Packing Co.	Naknek Packing Co.	Naknek River		220,000			220,000	18,000	600		60,600
Chignik	Hume Bros. & Hume.	Chignik Bay		125,000			125,000	12,008			40,800
Uyak	do	Uyak Bay		169,824			169,824	13,375			50,406
C. E. Whitney & Co. (saltery)	C. E. Whitney & Co.	Uyak Bay									35,320
W. N. Metson & Co. (saltery)	W. N. Metson & Co.	Nushagak							2,436		21,200
Eagle Harbor Packing Co. (saltery)	Eagle Harbor Packing Co.	Ugashik							1,460		8,625
Bristol Bay Canning Co.	Alaska Packers' Association	Eagle Harbor							616		
Alaska Packing Co	do	Nushagak									
Arctic Packing Co.	do	do	18,134	1,240,080	150,000	35,348	1,443,562	107,856	210		326,613
do	do	do									
Karluk Packing Co	do	Naknek	902	429,655			430,557	34,676			104,028
Hume Packing Co	do	Karluk									
Alaska Improvement Co	do	do		1,865,731	1,500		1,867,231	156,375			469,125
Uganuk Fishing Station	do	do									
Arctic Packing Co	do	Uganuk									
Arctic Fishing Co	do	Alitak		513,000			513,000	37,401			112,203
Arctic Packing Co	do	Kusiloff		354,800	28,000		382,800	38,538			115,614
Pacific Packing Co	do	Chignik Bay		546,472	10,510	5,800	562,782	38,159			114,477
Pyramid Harbor Packing Co.	do	Odiak	995	170,116	90	239,340	410,541	23,301			69,403
Glacier Packing Co	do	Pyramid Harbor	14,796	321,517	11,123		347,436	37,446			112,338
Alaska Packing and Fur Co	do	Fort Wrangell	4,946	108,334	48,817	435,445	597,542	45,918	706		147,991
Point Roberts Packing Co	do	Loring		131,567	19,478	1,124,610	1,275,655	62,040	1,989		214,560
Ugashak Fishing Station	do	Kogriung	345	760,632			760,977	55,508	1,709		191,304
Egegak Fishing Station	do	Selina River	259	463,698			463,957	38,272	138		106,717
Sundry (estimated)	Several parties	Egegak	257	203,458			203,715		3,589		52,040
		Southeastern Alaska							2,000		30,000
Total			41,546	8,797,274	1,016,057	2,988,730	12,843,607	909,538	15,888	1,500	2,977,019

α Salmon bellies.

Name of cannery.	Owned by—	Location.	Whites.	Na-tives.	Chi-nese.	Total.	Value of tin plate.
North Pacific Trading and Packing Co.	North Pacific Trading and Packing Co.	Klawak.....	22	100	7	129	\$7,455
Metlakahtla Industrial Co.	Metlakahtla Industrial Co.	Metlakahtla ..	14	204	.....	218	6,500
Orca.....	Pacific Steam Whaling Co.	Orca.....	116	.....	80	196	11,625
Chignik	do	Chignik Bay..	90	.....	60	150	9,750
Hunters Bay	do	Hunters Bay..	10	60	80	150	14,000
Karluk	do	Uyak Bay	100	20	60	180	6,000
Ketchikan Saltery	Clark & Martin	Ketchikan	30	20	.....	50	.....
Boston Fishing and Trading Co.	Boston Fishing and Trading Co.	Yes Bay.....	24	25	50	99	10,000
Quadra Bay	Quadra Packing Co.	Cape Fox.....	28	20	50	98	10,000
Baranoff Packing Co.....	Baranoff Packing Co.	Redfish Bay ..	3	17	31	51	5,700
Naknek Packing Co.....	Naknek Packing Co.	Naknek River ..	55	10	75	140	10,000
Chignik	Hume Bros. & Hume.	Chignik Bay..	67	.....	65	132	7,200
Uyak	do	Uyak Bay	107	.....	60	167	8,250
Bristol Bay Canning Co.	Alaska Packers' Association.	Nushagak	194	40	102	336	50,700
Alaska Packing Co	do	do .....	.....	.....	102	102	}
Arctic Packing Co	do	do .....	.....	.....	102	102	
Do	do	Naknek	57	10	102	169	16,300
Karluk Packing Co	do	Karluk .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	}
Hume Packing Co	do	do .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ala-ka Improvement Co.	do	do	258	25	390	673	75,500
Uganuk Fishing Station.	do	Uganuk .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	}
Arctic Packing Co	do	Ahtak	37	10	57	104		17,600
Arctic Fishing Co	do	Kusloff	53	20	102	175	15,300
Chignik Bay Packing Co.	do	Chignik Bay..	86	.....	103	189	18,000
Pacific Packing Co	do	Odiak	89	.....	66	155	11,000
Pyramid Harbor Packing Co.	do	Pyramid Harbor.	84	334	87	505	17,600
Glacier Packing Co	do	Fort Wrangell	34	74	80	188	21,600
Alaska Salmon Packing and Fur Co.	do	Loring.....	37	200	130	367	29,200
Point Roberts Packing Co.	do	Koggiung	88	25	150	263	26,100
Ugashek Fishing Station.	do	Selina River ..	76	24	102	202	18,000
Egegak Fishing Station..	do	Egegak	29	6	.....	35	.....
Total.....			1,788	1,244	2,293	5,325	423,380

Name of cannery.	Owned by—	Location.	Steamers.			Sailing vessels.			Lighters and boats.	Seines.	Gill nets.
			Number.	Tons.	Value.	Number.	Tons.	Value.			
North Pacific Trading and Packing Co.	North Pacific Trading and Packing Co.	Klawok.....	2	15	\$5,250	.....	.....	.....	7	5	.....
Metlakahtla Industrial Co.	Metlakahtla Industrial Co.	Metlakahtla	2	29	10,000	.....	.....	.....	7	9	5
Orca.....	Pacific Steam Whaling Co.	Orca.....	3	250	35,000	1	2,000	\$30,000	43	3	43
Chignik	do	Chignik Bay..	1	30	15,000	1	1,400	20,000	1	2	a8
Hunters Bay	do	Hunters Bay ..	2	100	2,500	.....	.....	.....	6	10	.....
Karluk	do	Uyak Bay	2	60	2,500	1	1,400	2,000	5	5	.....
Ketchikan Saltery	Clark & Martin	Ketchikan .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	4	.....
Boston Fishing and Trading Co.	Boston Fishing and Trading Co.	Yes Bay.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Quadra Bay	Quadra Packing Co.	Cape Fox.....	1	18	6,000	.....	.....	.....	12	14	.....
Baranoff Packing Co.....	Baranoff Packing Co.	Redfish Bay ..	1	2	10,000	.....	.....	.....	4	2	.....
Naknek Packing Co.....	Naknek Packing Co.	Naknek River ..	1	5	1,200	1	1,200	15,000	25	2	30
Chignik	Hume Bros. & Hume.	Chignik Bay..	1	10	3,000	1	480	7,000	17	3	12
Uyak	do	Uyak Bay	1	40	14,000	1	1,276	15,000	17	6	3

Name of cannery.	Owned by—	Location.	Steamers.			Sailing vessels.			Lighters and boats.	Seines.	Gill nets.
			Number.	Tons.	Value.	Number.	Tons.	Value.			
Bristol Bay Canning Co.	Alaska Packers' Association.	Nushagak	4	44	\$21,000	2	2,167	(b)	98	180	
Alaska Packing Co.	do	do				2	1,637	\$30,000			
Arctic Packing Co.	do	do				2	1,389	31,000			
Do	do	Naknek	1	5	4,500	2	1,389	31,000	30	45	
Karluk Packing Co.	do	Karluk				1	1,725	(b)			
Hume Packing Co.	do	do	6	122	48,150	4	4,662	86,000	130	6	
Alaska Improvement Co.	do	do				1	1,175	(b)			
Uganuk Fishing Station	do	Uganuk				1	1,175	(b)			
Arctic Packing Co.	do	Alitak	3	83	34,100	1	1,172	(b)	23	30	
Arctic Fishing Co.	do	Kusiloff				1	1,272	25,000			
Chignik Bay Packing Co.	do	Chignik Bay	2	48	20,250	1	1,272	25,000	31	5	
Pacific Packing Co.	do	Odiak	3	214	37,000	1	1,139	20,000	35	2	
Pyramid Harbor Packing Co.	do	Pyramid Harbor	2	58	24,800	1	1,394	(b)	51	50	
Glacier Packing Co.	do	Fort Wrangell	2	52	24,500	3	2,052	16,000	36	8	
Alaska Salmon Packing and Fur Co.	do	Loring	2	56	24,000	3	2,052	32,000	1	7	
Point Roberts Packing Co.	do	Koggiung	5	248	54,000	2	2,085	40,000	32	25	
Ugashak Fishing Station.	do	Selina River	2	60	27,500	1	771	(b)	53	21	
Egegak Fishing Station	do	Egegak	1	5	1,600	1	295	15,000	9	5	
Total			53	1,574	435,550	31	32,754	384,000	712	98	

a Traps.

b Charter.

What was said in last year's report on this topic can only be reiterated now with increased emphasis. This industry is one of immense importance and value, for it is a food question and it runs into the millions of dollars. The laws which ought to govern it are not upon the statute books, and those which are printed are variously interpreted and not at all enforced.

Seven thousand dollars have been appropriated to pay for the service of two inspectors for this year. But if the 35 or more places as given above where the fish are preserved were connected by straight lines, it would amount to about 3,000 miles. But each cannery has several fishing streams, and if these were visited and examined as they should be, the inspectors would have to travel at least 10,000 miles more to fulfill their duty. Now what is the truth? It is this: They come to Alaska and have not even a rowboat at their command for this service. They get around as best they can where the mail steamers touch. When they visit a cannery, they are compelled to be the guests of the superintendent, for there is no other place for them to stop and obtain meals and a night's lodging. Let it be said to the credit of the cannery people that they are always hospitable and ready to render any reasonable service to aid these officers. But can anything be more shortsighted, yea, downright careless, than for the great United States Government to allow its officers who are to protect one of its most magnificent industries to be placed in such a ridiculous position?

This whole subject of the salmon fisheries here needs overhauling from A to izzard. It is not at all upon a satisfactory basis. This season the Alaska Packers' Association filed a complaint against the Pacific Steam Whaling Company and others, and had them enjoined not to do so and so. The Pacific Steam Whaling Company and others file com-

plaint against the Alaska Packers' Association and obtain an injunction. Another man upon Karluk Spit sits with a Winchester rifle across his knees and swears that he will shoot the first fellow who offers to remove his lumber. Last season there was bad blood stirred up.

Nearly all of these places are far removed from any legal authority. Karluk is 785 miles from Sitka. If this state of affairs is not at once inquired into and remedied, but is allowed to proceed to violence and bloodshed, as it will if further neglected, the blame will rest upon Congress.

In the estimate of population given above, the 5,325 hands employed in the canning business were not included. Nearly all of these people are brought up from San Francisco at the beginning of the season in large sailing vessels, together with material and supplies of all kinds. Contracts are made with laborers before they leave the city, and they are not to be paid off until they return in the fall. Complaint has been made of this system of doing business as not being fair to Alaska; but the cannery people are not to be blamed for this, when it is recalled that they have scarcely any protection in Alaska to enforce contracts. Most of them are removed hundreds of miles from the nearest commissioner, who would be feeble indeed if applied to. There is no legal way of appointing justices of the peace and constables for these transient communities. It is strange that business men would risk such large sums in buildings, machinery, gear, steam vessels, etc., without better protection.

It is to be regretted that the natives of western Alaska can not be employed more and taught to do the work which is now intrusted to the imported Chinese. Several years ago the superintendent of the North Pacific Trading and Packing Company at Kariuk took the natives in training, and it will be noticed that he now employs but 7 Chinese. This season the loss to the Alaska packers at Karluk will run into the tens of thousands, because they contracted with the Chinese at so much a case and guaranteed so many thousand cases. The run of fish this year at this place has been light, and will probably amount to 80,000 cases less than the pack of last year. If the natives could do this work there would be no such loss, for they have been brought up as sea otter hunters. This occupation is almost gone, and it surely would be an act of benevolence if these people could be more largely employed in the canning factories.

The Alaska Packers' Association have gone to great expense in establishing a salmon hatchery, and have successfully demonstrated that they can be hatched in vast numbers. They are not justified in such an undertaking, for in the present state of the law there is no certainty that they shall reap where they have sown. The hatchery business should be intrusted to the United States Fish Commissioner alone, and every cannery pay its proportion of the expense according to its pack.

If we are justly concerned about the fur-seal herds and their constant decrease in numbers, with how much greater anxiety should we be solicitous about this salmon industry. Let it be remembered that the value of the annual pack is greater now than that of the seals ever was when at their greatest numbers.

In the light of the laws and experience of the people in British Columbia on this subject, with the aid and suggestions which could be given by the men who are in the business here, and with the learning of such men as Captains Tanner and Moser, who have commanded the *Albatross*,

and Professor Townsend, who has long been in connection with the Fish Commission, a fair and satisfactory law with proper penalties and provision for the enforcement of the same could be drawn up and presented to Congress for enactment.

MINING.

This is the all-absorbing topic in Alaska. Section 8 of the organic act provides:

The laws of the United States relating to mining claims and the rights incident thereto shall from and after the passage of this act be in full force and effect in said district.

Titles as secure as in California or Colorado may be obtained to mining claims. It is this security that has given buoyancy and confidence to those who are ready to invest their means in mining enterprises.

It is a pleasure to be able to praise at least one clause of the organic act. When contrasted with the negatives of that same instrument, the above provision appears more significant—for instance, the last clause of section 8, as quoted once before:

But nothing contained in this act shall be construed to put in force in said district the general land laws of the United States.

One clause of section 9:

But there shall be no legislative assembly in said district, nor shall any Delegate be sent to Congress therefrom.

The past year has been one of wonderful progress in this industry. The attention of the world has been attracted by the rich discoveries upon the Klondike. During the winter and spring all sorts of vessels were put into the Alaska trade, hailing from Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia, the Puget Sound ports, Portland, and San Francisco. They were filled with passengers and cargo to the very limit. There was a great rush for the passes, and thousands of tons of freight could be seen piled upon and under the snow upon the summits. The toil, hardship, and suffering that these men endured can never be calculated. The United States contributed by far the largest volume to this stream. They came from all quarters, Florida, Massachusetts, Texas, Indiana, Colorado, and Montana—in fact, a large number from every State of the Union, California, Oregon, and Washington sending the largest contingents.

These men, as a class, are as fine specimens of manhood as the country affords. They are really a body of select men. Every profession and occupation is represented. Preachers, lawyers, doctors, gamblers, machinists, railroad men, lumbermen, farmers, etc., all joined in the procession over the passes.

It is calculated that 3,200 outfitted for Copper River, several hundred went over the divide at Yakutat, and some parties went over the Dalton trail and worked their way up the White River, one of the largest branches of the Yukon. Cooks Inlet, Resurrection Bay, Golovin Bay, Kotzebue Sound, Koyukok River, and many other places have all been visited by prospectors this season. The declaration of war against Spain checked the tide.

Most of the Americans who proceeded to Dawson, in Northwest Territory, complained of the mining rules and regulations and the manner in which they were carried out. This had the effect to drive many upon the Alaska side, and the claims which were abandoned for the first onrush to the Klondike were relocated, and much other valuable ground discovered, which will keep large numbers of men there this winter.

A new town has sprung up on the Yukon, called Eagle City. This will be the distributing point near the boundary for supplies on the streams crossing and immediately west of the line.

There is no way of ascertaining the amount of dust washed out upon the Alaska side. The amounts given for the Klondike and its tributaries vary very much. Several reasons are given why the output is smaller than was anticipated—the scarcity of supplies, especially lights, the high price of labor, and the 10 per cent royalty exacted. Many claims are being held with the expectation that supplies will be more abundant and not so dear, and consequently cheaper labor, and that the loud complaint against royalty will cause the Ottawa government to abolish it. There will be no lack of supplies this winter, but there appears to be a determination among the miners to keep up wages and the royalty is still demanded. So we can expect the product for the coming year to be much curtailed.

Toward the close of the season very important discoveries have been made upon Pine Creek, which flows into Lake Atlin. This is a district which lies near the line separating British Columbia and Northwest Territory. There was a stampede for claims and a large area has been staked off. Many men will prospect there this winter.

Many who tried Copper River found no inducement to remain. They underwent much hardship in cold, rapid streams and from the annoyance of mosquitoes. Many complained of dysentery and kidney trouble from the use of the water. Colors of gold were found nearly everywhere, but they were on the surface. High water throughout the summer prevented the prospectors from sinking their holes to bed rock, and also from examining the bars very closely. It is probable that 500 or 600 men will remain in this section over winter. Some Colorado men reported that they were well pleased with their prospects on a small stream 30 miles up the river. The gold is fine, but angular and heavy.

The amount of dust brought out of Turnagain Arm, Cooks Inlet, will not be equal to the product of last season. This is on account of high water washing out wing dams and destroying preparatory labor.

The last boats from St. Michaels bring news of important finds in the neighborhood of Golovin Bay.

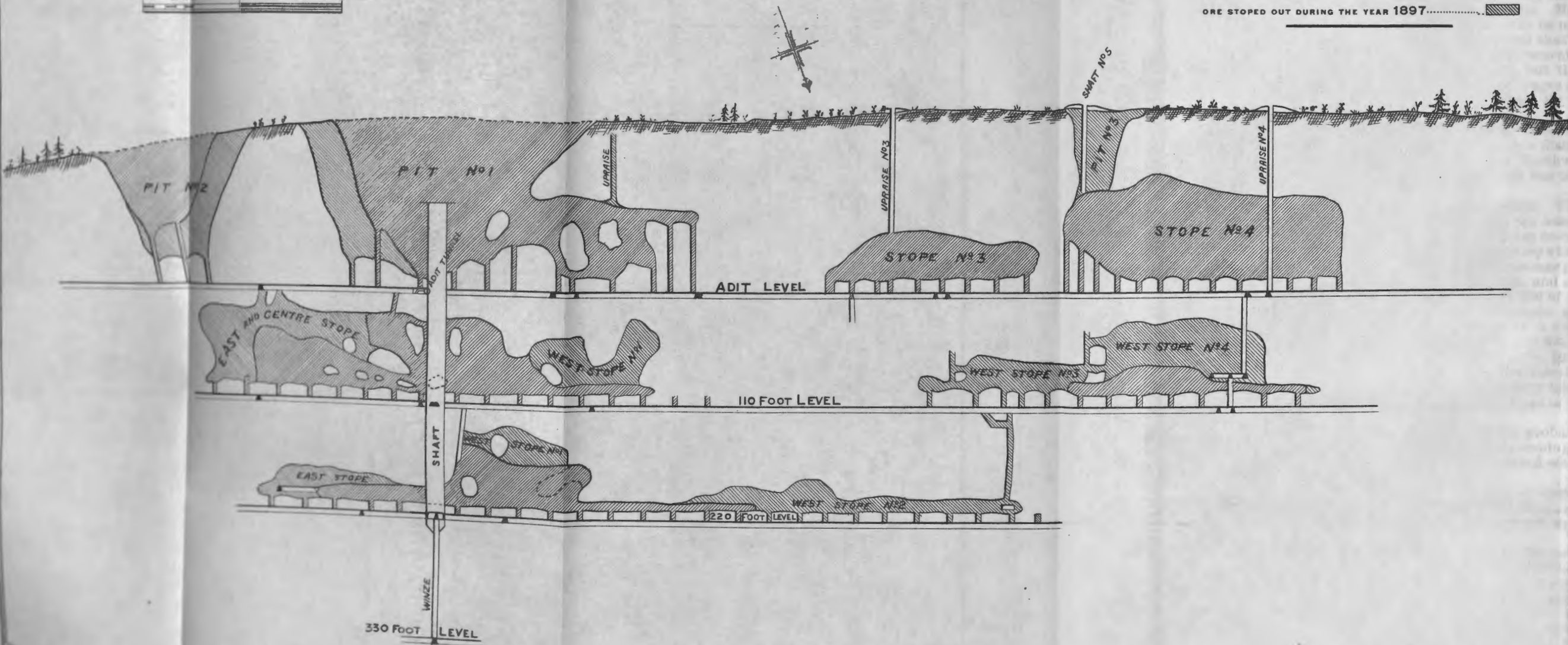
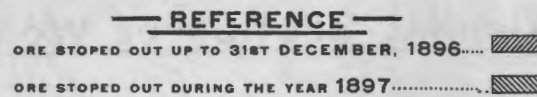
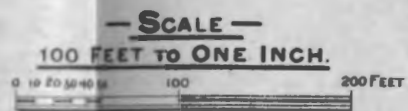
A large extent of country has been run over this year, but probably a majority of the men never saw a pan of dirt washed before coming to Alaska, and it is altogether likely that rich placers will be found where many of these men camped.

If we turn our attention to quartz mining we find everything encouraging. Very rich ore was discovered in the vicinity of Ketchikan, and many locations have been made and considerable development upon them.

Quartz locations have been made at various places around the coast and upon the islands as far as Unalaska. The greater number of these are held by poor men who are not able to do much development work. Alaska is a splendid field for a class of men who can command capital and who can examine these discoveries and come to terms with the owners for the purpose of development and sale. Any amount of capital is ready for investment upon properly developed properties. The records show the locations of hundreds of claims upon which only enough work has been done to hold possession of them. Wherever development work has been undertaken and prosecuted in earnest, satisfactory results have followed in most cases. When the history of these developments is studied carefully as they have proceeded in Alaska so far, investors can come forward with a great degree of confidence to undertake such work. In fact, there are very few failures recorded.

ALASKA MEXICAN GOLD MINE.

LONGITUDINAL SECTION OF WORKINGS.



There are rich bodies of ore in the neighborhood of Sum Dum, and favorable reports come from the Bald Eagle and Sum Dum Chief, upon each of which there is a stamp mill.

Coming north along the coast, Suetisham is reached. Here a number of quartz locations have been made and so much development work with favorable results that the owners are applying for surveys for ledges and mill sites.

The mills upon Sheep Creek, 4 miles from Juneau, have been producing bullion for several years, but this year the ore bodies have given much better returns.

In Silver Bow Basin, upon Douglas Island, across Gastinaux Channel from Juneau, are the works of the Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Company, Alaska Mexican Gold Mining Company, and Alaska United Gold Mining Company, different corporations, but under the control of the same superintendent and board of directors with the exception of one name. Every Alaskan takes pride in these plants, as if he had a personal share in them. From the time that John Treadwell took hold of the original claims and started to prospect with his five-stamp mill until the present, every step has been thoughtfully considered. There has been a steady growth, and soon there will be five magnificent mills in full operation dropping 900 heavy stamps day and night. The company is simply applying in Alaska all the good things that have been wrought elsewhere in mining and milling, and especially in California. The new mills and machinery are the best that mining engineers can plan and construct.

Thanks are hereby tendered, in behalf of Alaska and of those who value correct and truthful information, to Mr. Robert Duncan, jr., the superintendent, and to his board of directors, for the annual statements which they print.

All persons who are engaged or expect to engage in mining in Alaska can study these reports with profit.

Alaska is sadly in need of wise mining superintendents who can plan how not to spend money uselessly. The Treadwell plants serve the purpose of a vast school of mines, and it behooves all men who are conducting mining enterprises here to visit these works frequently and instruct themselves.

Below are the bullion statement and longitudinal section of workings of the Alaska Mexican Mining Company.

Bullion statement, twelve months ending December 31, 1897.

Date of shipment.	Crushed.	Sulphurets saved.	Sulphurets treated.	Yield free gold.	Per ton in free gold.	Yield sulphurets.	Per ton from sulphurets.	Total yield.	Total yield per ton.
1897.	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>						
January 15.....	11,973	260	210.9	\$18,816.39	1.5716	\$8,194.66	\$38.86	\$27,011.05	2.2560
February 15.....	11,245	200	281.4	15,731.41	1.3989	9,588.33	34.07	25,319.74	2.2516
March 15.....	12,036	170	344.2	14,718.14	1.2228	12,815.46	37.21	27,533.60	2.2876
April 15.....	13,206	170	436.4	18,531.29	1.4033	14,655.60	33.58	33,186.89	2.5131
May 15.....	14,369	290	289.3	23,762.89	1.6537	9,591.10	33.15	33,353.99	2.3212
June 15.....	14,107	265	294.6	17,425.95	1.2352	8,813.89	29.92	26,239.84	1.8600
July 15.....	14,409	235	258.7	19,073.61	1.3237	7,879.61	30.46	26,953.22	1.8705
August 15.....	13,204	258	289.6	18,022.52	1.3649	7,482.55	25.84	25,505.07	1.9316
September 15.....	13,118	197	248.9	16,995.13	1.2956	6,396.11	25.70	23,391.24	1.7831
October 15.....	13,091	275	266.1	21,358.94	1.6316	6,693.16	25.16	28,052.10	2.1428
November 15.....	12,925	260	261	20,705.05	1.6019	8,115.74	31.09	28,820.79	2.2298
December 15.....	14,322	283	291.2	21,180.39	1.4789	9,080.75	31.18	30,261.14	2.1129
Total.....	158,005	2,863	3,472.5	\$226,321.71	1.4324	\$100,306.96	\$31.48	\$335,628.67	2.1242

Upon Gold Creek, immediately back of Juneau, the Ebner Gold Mining Company have been running a 10-stamp mill steadily with a body of ore looking better as development work proceeds.

Juneau Mining Company, with its 30-stamp mill, has been turning out gold bullion from ore that is rich. This will close down for the winter.

Keeping along the shore of the mainland, there are a number of places between Juneau and Berners Bay where claims have been located and a very considerable amount of work done upon them; such are the claims upon Lemon and Montana creeks and in Yankee Basin. Nearly the whole country around Berners Bay has been located.

It is reported that the property formerly known as the Nowell Gold Mining Company, upon which there is a 40-stamp mill, has been working all season upon rich ore.

The Jualin mine, with its 10-stamp mill, has been a producer for several years and has kept at work this season.

The Alaska Gold Mining Company, of Indiana, whose headquarters are at Indianapolis, Ind., report that they have purchased a very valuable group of ten claims in the very heart of the Berners Bay mining district, lying between and adjoining the Julian mine and the famous Comet group, and have a full force of men at work developing their property, having already erected all necessary outbuildings, including a large hotel. Their main working tunnel, 7 by 8 feet, is under good headway, and has cut two very fine veins of ore, showing considerable free gold, and in addition to this, on the company's property, a number of surface croppings of veins ranging from 3 to 18 feet in width. Their mining machinery is purchased to operate the property, and a greater portion of it is now on the ground. The development work will be continued all winter, and during the early part of next spring their stamp mill will be erected and in operation. We predict great results from this property.

The Apollo Consolidated Mining Company owns a number of claims upon Unga Island, one of the Shumagin group. A 40-stamp mill is kept in constant operation, and it produces about \$30,000 per month. The labor roll averages 150 men. This is a complete and well-managed mining property. The machine shop is well supplied with fine tools, and has a foundry connected with it sufficient to turn out fair-sized castings.

There is no timber on these islands. It is all shipped from Puget Sound. A four-masted schooner was there in August with 900,000 feet.

This company has paid attention to the comfort of their employees by being particular about all sanitary arrangements. Drying rooms are kept at the right heat for the men's clothes, and there is an abundance of hot and cold water for them to bathe. The men pay hospital dues, and a surgeon, with all proper supplies, is always ready for any emergency. Altogether this is a fine showing for successful mining in Alaska.

Other groups of claims upon the same island have been largely developed this year, and no doubt within a year or two extensive works will be erected to work the ore.

In various places upon Prince William Sound claims have been located. Many of these contain a good percentage of copper, and notably so those upon Latouche Island. These have been under examination this past season by various mining experts, and among them has been Mr. Couch, of Butte, Mont. Samples of ore from Knights Island and other places have been sent in.

The sand washing in the vicinity of Lituya Bay goes quietly on year

by year. There were about 25 men employed there this season. Some years the returns are greater than in others. Various patent processes have been tried upon this sand, but so far none worked successfully.

The first attempt at quartz mining in Alaska was upon the Stewart Tunnel, at the head of Silver Bay, 10 miles from Sitka. This property has been involved in litigation for years, but the title to it will soon be made clear.

The Lake Mountain Mining Company's claims, upon which there is a fine stamp mill, has been bonded lately.

A number of claims about 4 miles from Sitka have had some development work done upon them and they are bonded by parties in California. A sawmill and two prospecting mills of two stamps each are on the ground.

The Pande Basin is situated on Baranof Island, about 10 miles east of the town of Sitka. The area of the basin is about 160 acres, being about 1 mile long by a quarter of a mile in width. A company under the name of the Pande Basin Gold Placer Company has been formed in the city of New York, and is now busily engaged in opening up this basin. A 6-foot wagon road has just been completed, at a cost of \$17,000, and 40 men are now employed on development work, such as sinking shafts and driving a tunnel, by which it is proposed to lower a lake (which is part of the basin) about 60 feet. The cost of tapping this lake is about \$15,000. A small prospecting mill has also been erected and a thorough test will be made during the coming winter. Assays of the auriferous sand and samples of surrounding quartz ledges have averaged \$40 a ton, while single specimens have assayed as high as \$900 to the ton. It is estimated that there are 40,000,000 tons of sand in the basin, and the ledges have been traced 1,500 feet, at an average width of 6 feet. Gen. Henry I. Willey, of California, is the mining engineer who is planning and conducting these operations.

A large number of claims have been located in this district and are held by doing the annual assessment work. It is an inviting field for intending investors and promoters to examine with care.

The sum total of effort in quartz mining has been very great this year, and many works have been started which have all the promise of maturity into steady bullion producers.

COMMERCE.

The following statistics have been obtained from the collector of customs at Sitka, and the items about wharfage at Juneau, Douglas Island, Skagway, Dyea, and Sitka from an independent source.

Vessels entered from a foreign port.....	454
Vessels cleared for foreign ports.....	470
Vessels entered from domestic ports.....	565
Vessels cleared for domestic ports.....	488
Entries of merchandise for duty.....	561
Entrance of merchandise free of duty.....	63
Entries for export to adjacent British provinces.....	2, 404
Entries for consumption liquidated.....	269
Certificates of registry granted.....	6
Certificates of enrollment granted.....	18
Licenses for coasting trade granted.....	34
Licenses to vessels under 20 tons granted.....	53

VALUE OF EXPORTS.

Domestic.....	\$38, 882. 00
Foreign.....	1, 089. 00

RECEIPTS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Duties on imports.....	\$36,180.41
Tonnage tax.....	4,381.37
Fines, penalties, and forfeitures.....	1,408.21
Miscellaneous customs receipts.....	71.00
Storage, labor, cartage, and wharfage.....	2,887.95
Official fees.....	3,700.13
Total.....	48,629.07

EXPENSES OF COLLECTION.

Fees retained by collector or surveyor, act June 10, 1890.....	\$3,700.13
Commissions allowed and paid to collector.....	1,216.82
Salaries of collectors, deputies, clerks, inspectors, weighers, storekeepers, etc.....	29,918.71
Rents.....	756.00
Miscellaneous expenses.....	2,993.30
Boat hire.....	34.25
Total expenses for the month.....	\$48,619.21

MERCHANDISE IMPORTED, EXPORTED, AND IN TRANSIT.

Value of merchandise from foreign countries imported (entered for consumption) for the year commencing July 1, 1897, and ending June 30, 1898:	
Imported in American vessels.....	\$33,080.00
Imported in foreign vessels.....	96,149.00
Total.....	129,229.00
Value of merchandise exported to British Columbia and Northwest Territory for the year commencing July 1, 1897, and ending June 30, 1898..	44,165.00
Value of foreign merchandise in transit (imported and immediately exported) to British Columbia and Northwest Territory, for the year commencing July 1, 1897, and ending June 30, 1898, via—	
Wrangell.....	\$804,720.00
Dyea.....	1,211,320.00
Juneau.....	179,889.00
Total.....	2,195,929.00

Transactions via St. Michaels not included in this report.

VESSELS ENGAGED IN THE FOREIGN TRADE. ENTERED AND CLEARED FOR THE YEAR.

Entered:	Tons.
With cargo.....	178,691
In ballast.....	81,425
Total.....	260,116
Cleared:	
With cargo.....	14,850
In ballast.....	169,583
Total.....	184,433

IMPORTS BY PORTS.

Juneau (all docks), for year 1897:	Tons.
Merchandise.....	15,000
Coal.....	6,500
Douglas City (exclusive of Treadwell):	
Merchandise.....	1,500
Skagway (all docks), from May 1, 1898, to October 1, 1898, five months:	
Merchandise by steamers, all lines.....	6,797
Railroad material, by barges with tugs.....	4,770

Dyea, from May 1, 1898, to October 1, 1898, five months:

Merchandise by lighters, from Skagway, per P. C. S. S.....	1,083
Estimated outside steamers as much more.	
Sitka (all steamers), September 1, 1897, to September 1, 1898 (exclusive of Government coal and merchandise):	
Merchandise and coal sold at port.....	2,499

NAVAL STATION.

Alaska, with its chain of islands, bends like a sickle and embraces the whole North Pacific Ocean. The Yukon Valley will steadily grow in importance and immense commerce must be carried on through the passes into Bering Sea. The completion of the Siberian Railway to Vladivostok and our increasing trade relations with Japan, and the probability that Sitka will in the near future be united by marine cable to the outside world, all tend to show the importance of the Navy Department keeping Alaska well in hand. This it has done fairly well since the spring of 1879, after the people of Sitka had appealed to the British naval authorities at Esquimalt to send a gunboat at once to protect them. The question of location was a matter of much concern to the Russians. At first they settled and established themselves at St. Paul or Kadiak, but after weighing all their interest in the light of experience, they selected Sitka as the most desirable place from which to command and govern the whole Territory. It has a front door to the ocean, and a back door to the inside passages of the southeastern section. Its harbor is ample and safe for all classes of shipping. Naval commanders have reported on this matter from time to time.

On June 21, 1890, President Harrison set aside by proclamation "All of that island situated directly opposite the town of Sitka, known as Japonsky Island, for naval and military purposes." It is a fine location and well suited for naval purposes. The Navy has on it now two well-constructed buildings for shells and powder, and a wharf which will soon fall for want of repairs. An appropriation of \$5,000 is now available to build a much better one and in a better place. The marine barracks is in the town, and while the quarters are comfortable the plot of ground is very small for such purposes. The sick bay and naval stores and repair shop are in an old log building, covered with rustic work to hide its ugliness and decay. It is not a proper hospital building for sick persons. In view of the foregoing it is recommended that Japonsky Island be built up as a naval station, and that all buildings connected with the Navy be concentrated upon it.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The United States commissioners and deputy marshals at Kadiak, Unga, Unalaska, St. Michaels, Circle City, and Dyea are very illy provided with proper court rooms and jails. Attention was called last year to the dilapidated condition of the buildings at Sitka. These are old Russian block or log houses which were turned over to the Government at the time of the transfer. They have been repaired year by year by cutting out rotten courses of logs, raising floors, and sticking rustic and paint, in an endeavor to make them look respectable. It is a waste of material to attempt this any longer. The structure known as the barracks, used as a jail and court room, and as quarters for the marshal, district attorney, and judge, would be condemned within twenty-four hours in any place where there was a board of health.

The building called the custom-house has had the corners cut away and filled in with square timbers, but these are now giving way, and the walls in other places are sinking. The money spent on repairs for this hulk would have built a handsome custom-house. The houses used as quarters for the governor and the clerk come under the same category of decayed hulks. More office room is needed. The business of the collector's office has largely increased. A board of local inspectors has been added. There is a surveyor-general and his force of draftsmen, clerks, etc., the register and receiver, and agents of the Agricultural Department.

Alaska needs a penitentiary built in accordance with modern ideas. A suitable and well selected reservation has been made by proclamation of the President, and in view of the above facts it is urgently recommended that Congress appropriate the sum of \$110,000 for a penitentiary and buildings for offices, etc., which are to be planned and constructed under the direction of the Government architects.

EDUCATION.

Congress has been appropriating \$30,000 annually for the industrial and elementary education of children in Alaska, without reference to race. It was recommended last year that the amount be increased to \$60,000, but it was not. This work is under the direction and control of the Bureau of Education. Its plans contemplated the expenditure of such an amount to keep going the schools already in hand. New places have suddenly grown up. At Skagway 116 children of school age are reported, but the Bureau is not able to help them. Two schools are needed upon Prince William Sound. There should be a larger building and an additional teacher at Douglas City. Another teacher is needed in Juneau, and at other places buildings and teachers are needed. It is again earnestly recommended that \$60,000 be appropriated for the industrial and elementary education of these Alaskan children. It is recommended also that there be coupled with the appropriation a proper compulsory school law. Such a law would have a very wholesome effect upon a large number of natives who are indifferent about sending their children to school. Where these children come regularly their progress is highly satisfactory.

MISSIONS STATIONS.

Section 7 of the organic act provides—

That the land, not exceeding 640 acres at any station, now occupied as missionary stations among the Indian tribes in said section, with the improvements thereon erected by or for such societies, shall be continued in the occupancy of the several religious societies to which said missionary stations respectively belong until action by Congress.

This was in 1884. The act of March 3, 1891, provides:

And all tracts of land, not exceeding 640 acres in any one tract, now occupied as missionary stations in said district of Alaska are hereby excepted from the operations of the last three preceding sections of this act.

Such action was followed by Congress in Oregon and Washington. It would be a great relief to the various societies if Congress would at once invest them with fee simple titles to these stations. At present in some places they are annoyed and hampered and put to expense and great uncertainty for want of proper title.

LEGAL STATUS OF THE NATIVES.

The third article of the treaty with Russia provides that—

The uncivilized tribes will be subject to such laws and regulations as the United States may from time to time adopt in regard to the aboriginal tribes of that country.

If we attempt to classify into civilized and uncivilized we at once enter difficulties. In the first place, these native people are not Indians as the Sioux and other tribes of the plains. They are self-supporting, industrious people. Morally and religiously they were in deep degradation, but the different missionary societies have sent them doctors and teachers and ministers, and the sum total of these efforts is marvelous. The people are now in a transition state, ready to abandon old customs and ideas and take up American customs and ways of living. The young men are asking to be licensed as engineers and pilots; to be allowed to locate land and mining claims. The just way, and the way which will involve least difficulty, is for Congress to declare them citizens, and that they "shall be admitted to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages, and immunities as citizens of the United States, and shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property, and religion." All then will be subject to the same law. If the leading men of the Thlingits, Hydahs, and Tsimsheans could be invited to a convention to be held at Sitka for one week, the judge, United States district attorney, the governor, and other United States officials, and many prominent citizens could address them. Such a gathering would influence them greatly. If this suggestion meets with approval, it is recommended that the Secretary of the Interior ask Congress that \$1,500 be allowed to pay the necessary expenses.

ALASKA A LIGHT-HOUSE DISTRICT.

The Thirteenth district extends from the boundary between California and Oregon to the northern boundary of the United States, and includes Alaska. The tender visits southeastern Alaska once a year for a few days to look after what few buoys have been placed. Commerce has grown so rapidly and there are now so many millions of dollars invested in steamships plying in these waters that the time has come to separate Alaska into a light-house district. There is work enough to keep an inspector and tender busy. British Columbia is far surpassing us in this particular. Soon they will have completed four new lights at important points upon the inside passage. We should have as many now in operation between Tongas and Skagway.

COAL.

There is coal in different parts of the district. On this subject readers are referred to the United States Geological Survey Report on coal and lignite of Alaska, by William Healy Dall. This past season practical experts have been examining the region east of Prince Williams Sound, where a large area has been located. Mr. Charles Wells, of Juneau, a coal miner from Pennsylvania before coming to Alaska, is developing a vein at Murderers Cove, on the south end of Admiralty Island. Fuel upon the Yukon for 100 steamboats and for miners' camps and other purposes is a very important matter. Some of the companies are paying attention to this subject, and have begun to dig upon the places where coal appears on the Yukon and Tananna. The laws

relating to coal lands should be extended and every encouragement possible given to those who are willing to invest and open up this resource. As long as coal is king in the Navy it would be prudent on the part of our Government to know how available Alaska is for supplying coal.

PETROLEUM.

This comes to the surface on the main land across from Kadiak Island. Its existence has been known for years, but no attention was given to it until two years ago. Some people in Seattle have taken up the matter and have men skilled in the business making examinations. The quality of the article is reported to be all that could be desired when compared with what is produced elsewhere.

ALASKA'S FIRST RAILWAY.

At Unga, Berners Bay, and Douglas Island there are railways, but these are for the use of the mines.

After the approval of the act of May 14, 1898, granting the right of way, the first company to make a filing was the Pacific and Arctic Railway and Navigation Company. They went to work with a will to overcome all obstacles. The corps of engineers are young men who have had practical experience in railroad construction in other parts of the United States. Nothing has been done in a cheap and makeshift sort of way. The roadbed, bridges, ties, rails, all show that money has not been spared and that the best things have been aimed at.

It is a great surprise to the miners who are now returning from Dawson to step on a train drawn by a locomotive for 14 miles over ground where many of them labored and toiled for weeks in the summer and fall of 1897; where some of them lost their animals and outfits, and in sheer desperation sat down and cried.

The company now contract to deliver goods at the lakes. Pack trains are used from the end of the road.

SKAGWAY.

Here is a true American town, only a little over a year old, with a railway, waterworks, electric lights, four wharfs, lumber yards, hotels, and shops of all kinds, with one daily and one weekly newspaper. The town is well laid out and a vast amount of work has been done in clearing the ground and in building. It wears an air of permanency, for already a great many families are settled there.

At the first rush the bunco men and gamblers and prostitutes got in and became organized, and controlled matters pretty much their own way, and intimidated three United States deputy marshals. Matters came to a head early in July, when a returning Klondiker was robbed of his dust in open day. The people were aroused, and they determined to endure it no longer. While many of the law-abiding citizens were assembled and considering plans of action the leader of the lawless element undertook to pass the guard which had been stationed at the approach to the wharf. He was armed with a Winchester rifle loaded with explosive balls. When halted he became violent and pointed his gun to shoot. In the few seconds Frank Reid, the town surveyor, was shot through the groin and hip bone by the explosive charge from Jeff. R. Smith's Winchester, and Smith fell dead with a bullet through

his heart. This made the citizens determined. The United States commissioner was sent for and committees rounded up the lawbreakers before him. Among the rest was S. S. Taylor, the United States deputy marshal, complained of for willful neglect of his official duty by neglecting and failing to serve the warrant of arrest issued and placed in his hands against the three men who had robbed the Klondike miner. While some were in favor of lynching, counsel from men of sober judgment prevailed, and there was no hanging. Some whose company was no longer agreeable were given free transportation out of the country, and eleven were turned over to the United States marshal to await the action of the grand jury, which will meet about the middle of November. This was a self-purification. Skagway and Dyea are now models of good order.

The pay of a deputy United States marshal is \$750 and his fees. Ordinary workmen were obtaining from \$3 to \$5 per day. The amount of the salary and fees is so small and the price of living so great that the temptation to receive money from smugglers, gamblers, and prostitutes has been strong, and when once money was taken it would not be long until blackmail was regularly demanded.

THE FEE SYSTEM.

The clerk, the United States commissioner, and the deputy marshals receive part of their compensation in fees. The system is essentially wrong and should be abolished. Judged from its evil working in Alaska, it is worthy everywhere to be anathematized.

If the Government wants good and capable men in these offices, there is but one right method, and that is to pay a good, liberal salary to each officer and no fees whatever. If a fee is justly due for the service rendered by the officer, let it be collected and turned into the United States Treasury. We beseech Congress to give this matter consideration and free us from this vicious system.

TRANSPORTATION.

The officers placed here to execute the law are tied hand and foot. They have no certain and independent means of transportation. They can not go afoot, neither can horses be used, as in Arizona or New Mexico. Rowboats and sailing vessels are too slow and dangerous.

As stated above, the inspectors of fisheries need a steam vessel entirely to themselves. The United States marshal and his deputies are the executive officers of the court and the peace officers of the communities. When the number of canneries and employees in them, and their isolation, and the numerous mining camps along the coast are considered, it can be well understood why the marshal should be furnished with a fast and thoroughly equipped steam vessel. She should be furnished with a Gatling gun and the best of small arms. The officers and crew of this vessel should be sworn in as special deputies to the marshal. This will enable him to reach any point with dispatch, and carry out the orders of the court, make arrests in out-of-the-way places, transport prisoners, etc.

If Alaska, as recommended, is organized into a light-house district, a proper tender will be needed. Then a vessel for the governor and other officials should be furnished and placed under the direction of the governor. He is the officer who has most to do, and can accomplish most with the natives. They are in a state of change from their

old customs in reference to witchcraft, marriage, the laws and rights of property, relation, etc. They should be sharply looked after, and protected and punished whenever justice so requires.

The requirements of the revenue are so imperative that the Treasury Department will hardly allow the district to go any longer without a proper revenue cutter. It is estimated that four steam vessels for service as above indicated would cost \$300,000, and money could not be more wisely spent in behalf of Alaska.

EMERGENCY FUND.

There is not a dollar outside of the regular appropriations which can be spent for anything extraordinary. It would have been creditable for Alaska to be represented at the Omaha Exposition, but there was not a cent that could be used for such a purpose. If a whole town should be consumed by fire, or a vessel's crew thrown upon the beach, there is no fund that could be drawn upon for immediate relief. If the sources of revenue as suggested above are drawn upon, it is recommended that Congress ordain that at least 10 per cent of the amount collected shall be set aside as an emergency fund for Alaska, to be drawn upon by the governor of this district for such extraordinary expenses as shall meet the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. The executive arm finds that the lack of such a fund is a great weakness in governing such a territory as Alaska.

POSTAL FACILITIES AND TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION.

The Post-Office Department sent a commissioner here to straighten out matters in reference to the mails, and he did good work. It is a difficult thing for the Department to let the contracts to proper parties and to see that service is rendered accordingly. All feel grateful for what has been done. Men in these far-off camps become anxious and stirred up to a great expectancy when a mail is due. Some pay large sums to have their letters cared for and forwarded. The service from Sitka to Unalaska should be made monthly throughout the year. There will be a large number of men in Prince William Sound, Cooks Inlet, Unga, and other places who will not get any mail for five months. It would make them happier if they could have outside communication monthly.

The Government should no longer leave Alaska without cable connection, whether the cable can be made to pay or not. If private corporations are willing to undertake this work, they should be generously encouraged by Congressional action. It would make a vast difference in governing Alaska if Sitka were connected with Washington by telegraph.

CONCLUSION.

There is no desire to discuss in this report the features of the bill which passed the Senate and is known as the Carter bill. The fact that it was framed and offered as a law shows that much interest in Alaska. As the war with Spain and the legislation growing out of it so engrossed the time and attention of Congress, many friends of Alaska advised the House Territorial Committee to defer action upon it until the coming session. In the meanwhile many of our citizens have been counseling together and pondering over the proposed measures. They will

present to Congress their views, and no doubt they will have great weight. We know that the session is a short one, and the results of the war are momentous, and that they will demand serious discussion, but we plead that Congress may remember that Alaska is thirteen times larger than Cuba, that it has been in our possession for thirty-one years, and that its value has been unknown and unappreciated. In the light of the recent discoveries who will be so bold as to assert that any square mile of Alaska is a worthless possession? It was once called Seward's folly, but now his wisdom is honored. Above all, we beseech Congress to regard us as American citizens, and not undertake to classify us with Kanakas, Filipinos, and Cubans, and as worthy of a long state of probation before the full measure and blessing of the laws can be extended to us.

Very respectfully,

JOHN G. BRADY,
Governor of Alaska.

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

APPENDIX A.

SITKA, ALASKA, *September 28, 1898.*

MY DEAR SIR: Herewith I have the honor to submit such data as is at present available, which may be of some assistance to you in forming an estimate of the needs of this office.

I need not remind you of a fact with which you are already familiar, viz, that since the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, owing to the great and unprecedented influx of strangers into this district, the business of the court has probably quadrupled. There are now pending before the United States district court of Alaska 132 cases (criminal) where indictments have already been found. There are 33 cases pending where defendants have been held by United States commissioners to await the action of the grand jury. There are probably 150 cases, persons in the district openly engaged in selling intoxicating liquors in violation of law. These, as well as numerous other miscellaneous cases, will have to be presented to the grand jury for its consideration and action. There are some sixty prisoners, on an average, confined in the jail all the time at Sitka, a portion of them awaiting trial, others serving out sentences for petty offenses. In many instances liberation is attempted through the medium of habeas corpus. All of the cases, as a matter of course, demand the personal attention and time of the district attorney. There are five civil actions pending in the district court and circuit court of appeals in which the Government is a party, and one appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

An examination of the report of the Attorney-General for the year 1897 will show that in the following districts, viz, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Idaho, Massachusetts, Missouri (eastern district), Montana, Nevada, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee (eastern district), Tennessee (middle district), Tennessee (western district), Utah, Vermont, and Wyoming there were pending on June 30, 1897, only 135 cases on the criminal calendar, 16 districts, which in the aggregate have but two more cases pending for trial and disposition than the district of Alaska.

To do the business for the 16 districts above mentioned there are 16 district attorneys, 18 assistant district attorneys, and 16 clerks, in all 50 persons, while in Alaska 2 persons must attend to all the business in which the Government is interested (the district attorney and his one assistant), whose compensation is but \$50 per month, and who reside 300 miles from the main office.

While there may possibly be some small inaccuracies in the foregoing statement, an examination will prove it to be substantially correct. The needs of this office, from the foregoing, are apparent.

There should be, at least, a clerk in my office at Sitka, and, owing to the vast area of territory contained in the district, one assistant at the following places: Juneau, Wrangell, Skagway, St. Michaels, and Circle City. Owing to climatic conditions and the lack of facilities for travel, such a distribution seems absolutely essential.

There should also be an available fund from which to pay the expenses of a special agent to locate the places, get the names, where and by whom liquor is being sold; also to get the names of witnesses who will furnish proper proof.

It is impracticable for this office to procure the names of places and persons without adopting some method of this character.

As the cost of living in this Territory is from 25 to 100 per cent higher than in the States, the salaries of officials and employees ought to be such as would command competent persons.

Very respectfully,

ROBERT A. FRIEDRICH,
United States Attorney.

Hon. JOHN G. BRADY,
Governor of Alaska.

APPENDIX B.

THE DALTON TRAIL.

The Dalton trail commences from the Dalton Post, situate on the north side of Pyramid Harbor, at the head of navigation of the Chilkat Inlet, and about 80 miles northwest of Juneau. After leaving the post the trail leads along the west shore of Chilkat Inlet for about 4 miles, when it enters a beautiful meadow which extends for several miles along the west bank of the Chilkat. The Kalsekahin River is crossed about 9 miles from the post, where the trail detours from the main river and enters the high ground along the foot of the range reentering the level country about a half mile before arriving at the tollhouse, situate on the east bank of the Takhin River, a distance of thirteen miles from the post at the harbor. A very good bridge spans the main channel of the Takhin River, and as the other channels are narrow and shallow there is no trouble in crossing this stream even for foot travelers. Between the tollhouse and the post at the harbor there has been considerable money expended in corduroying the swampy places, removing the dense underbrush, and grading the uneven ground, sufficiently wide for a wagon road. Proceeding from the tollhouse the route trends in a general northwesterly direction along the crest of a low ridge lying midway between the Chilkat River and a beautiful lake of the same name.

At a point about 18 miles from the harbor post the trail comes out into a small clearing at the very edge of a high bluff overlooking the Chilkat River Valley, from which vantage ground the scenery is most beautiful, as the valley, with its numerous river channels, islands, and level meadows, can be viewed up and down for a distance of at least 20 miles. At a distance of 23 miles the Chilkat Valley is again entered, and the trail proceeds over a level country until the banks of the Takhin River are reached, 25 miles from the post. This stretch of 12 miles from the tollhouse to the Takhin River has been well constructed, for, as the country is densely timbered and quite rough in places, it required a great deal of labor to clear the way and to excavate the rock and earth in establishing an easy grade for riding horses and pack animals. There have been also a number of extensive bridges across the small streams constructed on this section of the trail. After striking the Takhin River it was found necessary to do considerable heavy grading along the south bank of the river for a distance of over a mile to the crossing of Clear Water, which forms the outlet of Chilkat Lake.

The trail from this point extends over the river bottom in a diagonal direction for a distance of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to near the confluence of Trout Creek, which latter stream is crossed at a point about 29 miles from the harbor post. At this point it is a good place to camp, as an extensive meadow borders the creek on the west side for several miles. Proceeding on our way, the trail skirts along the east bank of Trout Creek for a short distance, and then, passing over a low ridge, comes out on the banks of the Clahena River 31 miles from the post. The trail from Trout Creek to the latter river has been well constructed, considerable corduroy being used, and several bridges span the small streams and miry places. From where the river is first encountered the path has been constructed for a distance of 4 miles along the south bank of the stream at considerable expense, as in many places the banks are quite abrupt and required considerable excavating. Thirty-five miles from the post the Clahena River is crossed at a point where there are numerous channels on the river bottom, and consequently none of the streams are very large or difficult to cross. After the trail crosses the Clahena the route borders the north bank of the stream for a distance of 2 miles to Boulder Creek, which is another fine location for a camping ground, as the site is well supplied with an abundance of good, clear water, fine timber, and considerable grass for animals.

In this vicinity quartz croppings are quite numerous, and there seems to be many geological reasons for concluding that this locality is on the direct line of the quartz mineral belt, known as the mother lode of Alaska. From Boulder Creek to the

international boundary line between British Columbia and the territory of the United States, the trail has been graded along the foot of the range, a short distance from the river, and good work has been done on this section. At the boundary line, or at least where the boundary line is supposed to be, the route taken is over a rather steep hillside, which is well graded for a distance of about 5 miles to Pleasant Camp, the second post on the Dalton trail, established by the promoters of the route. This camp is now quite an important place, as it is the headquarters for the Canadian police and a convenient trading post for the numerous prospectors now in that vicinity and the many natives living in the neighborhood. The distance from the harbor post to Pleasant Camp is about 45 miles. The route has been well selected over the best ground, and the work done in a good and substantial manner.

In conclusion, I would say that this route into the interior of Alaska, British Columbia, and the Northwest Territory has been extensively traveled in the past two years, and is considered by far the best and, in fact, the only practical land route into the new and extensive gold fields of the Upper Yukon.

There has been a large amount of money and labor expended on the construction, made necessary by the nature of the country which the trail passes through and the necessity of establishing easy grades for pack animals and for driving stock over.

The promoters deserve great credit for the manner in which this route has been constructed, and it is also a great public benefit for all those who are interested in the interior mines, as it furnishes an easy way of ingress into the vast regions of the now famous Yukon watershed, where mining towns and cities are coming into existence, and where an army of men is directing its energy and ambition in the effort to grasp its wealth.

Very respectfully,

G. W. GARSIDE, *Mining Engineer.*

JUNEAU, ALASKA, *October 6, 1898.*

APPENDIX C.

Alaska publications within the district of Alaska.

Dyea.—The Dyea Press.

Skagway.—Skagway News; The Daily Alaskan.

Juneau.—The Alaskan Miner; Alaska Mining Record.

Wrangell.—Fort Wrangell News; The Stickeen River Journal.

Sitka.—The Alaskan.