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### Report of the Governor of Alaska, 1896.

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REPORT  
OF THE  
GOVERNOR OF ALASKA.

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SITKA, DISTRICT OF ALASKA,  
October 1, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to submit this my annual report for the year ending October 1, 1896.

The people of Alaska appear to have been especially favored during the past year. There has been no decline in the product of the gold mines previously developed, and many new ones have made encouraging returns for the capital invested and labor performed.

The salmon fisheries have been successful, fish abundant, with good weather prevailing during the whole season. Schools and missions have advanced, and the condition of the native has been improved. Law and order have prevailed to a degree that will compare favorably with older communities.

The civil officers of the Territory have exercised their authority with judgment and care, and have honestly and faithfully performed the duties incumbent upon them.

A sea voyage of a thousand miles over the placid waters of the inland passage, in view of majestic mountains, extensive glaciers, and beautiful scenery during the whole voyage, renders it one of the most interesting excursion, in the world. The elegant steamers of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company afford ample accommodations for all tourists.

Over 2,000 pleasure seekers visited Alaska during this season. The Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, Vice-President of the United States, honored Alaska with a visit last year. Hon. J. Frank Aldrich, Member of Congress from Illinois, was among the excursionists this year.

The mail service has been extended to the Yukon mining region, but the service has not been satisfactory, while that to the western part of Alaska, in charge of the Alaska Commercial Company, has been prompt and efficient, their steamer *Dora* making regular monthly trips.

FUR SEALS.

The following statement, presented to the members of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration while in session at Paris, August, 1893, by Mr. Justice Harlan, gives a concise history of the manner in which the Government of the United States managed the fur-seal fisheries on the Pribilof Islands, and the cause of the controversy between the United States and Great Britain:

After the acquisition of Alaska the Government of the United States, through competent agents working under the direction of the best experts, gave careful attention to the improvement of the seal fisheries. Proceeding by a close obedience to the laws of nature, rigidly limiting the number to be annually slaughtered, the Government succeeded in increasing the total number of seals and adding correspondingly and largely to the value of the fisheries. In the course of a few years of intelligent and

interesting experiment the number that could be safely slaughtered was fixed at 100,000 annually. The company to which the administration of the fisheries was intrusted, by a lease from this Government, has paid a rental of \$50,000 per annum, and in addition thereto \$2.62½ per skin for the total number taken.

The skins were regularly transported to London to be dressed and prepared for the markets of the world, and the business had grown so large that the earnings of English laborers, since Alaska was transferred to the United States, amounted in the aggregate to more than \$12,000,000. The entire business was then conducted peacefully, lawfully, and profitably—profitably to the United States, for the rental was yielding a moderate interest on the large sum which this Government had paid for Alaska, including the rights now at issue; profitably to the Alaskan company, which, under governmental direction and restriction had given unwearied pains to the care and development of the fisheries; profitably to the Aleuts, who were receiving a fair pecuniary reward for their labors, and were elevated from semisavagery to civilization and to the enjoyment of schools and churches provided for their benefit by the Government of the United States, and, last of all, profitably to the vast body of English laborers who had constant employment and received good wages.

This, in brief, was the condition of the Alaska fur-seal fisheries down to year 1886. The precedence, customs, and rights had been established and enjoyed by Russia or the United States for nearly a century. The two nations were the only powers that owned a foot of land on the continents that bordered, or on the islands included within, the Bering waters where the seals resorted to breed. Into this peaceful and secluded field of labor whose benefits were so quietly shared by the native Agents of the Pribilof Islands, by the United States, and by England, certain Canadian vessels in 1886 asserted their right to enter and by their ruthless course to destroy the fisheries, and with them to destroy also the resulting industries which are so valuable. The Government of the United States at once proceeded to check this movement, which unchecked was sure to do great and irreparable harm. It was cause of unfeigned surprise to the United States that Her Majesty's Government should immediately interfere to defend and encourage (surely to encourage by defending) the course of the Canadians in disturbing an industry which had been carefully developed for more than ninety years under the flags of Russia and the United States—developed in such a manner as not to interfere with public right or the private industries of any other people or any other person.

So injurious to seal life had the unrestricted and destructive slaughter of seals in the open waters of Bering Sea by Canadian vessels become that in 1890 the number of seals taken at the rookeries on the seal islands were reduced to 21,234, and from 1890 to 1895, inclusive, but 75,805 were taken on the islands by the United States or their agents, making a yearly average of only 15,161 seals for this period of five years. During the same period 415,049 seals were killed in the open sea by vessels engaged in the business of pelagic sealing, making an average of 83,000 seals slaughtered annually, 73 per cent of those taken at sea being nursing females, while those taken on land are young males, entirely superfluous so far as the seal herd is concerned. The following table gives a correct statement of the number of seals taken by the Government of the United States and the pelagic sealers:

Year.	Taken on the Pribilof Islands.	The pelagic catch.
1890.....	21,234	51,055
1891.....	12,071	68,000
1892.....	7,500	73,394
1893.....	7,500	80,000
1894.....	12,500	60,000
1895.....	15,000	82,000
Total.....	75,805	415,049

This clearly demonstrates that the Government of the United States is maintaining, at great expense, breeding grounds and propagating the race of fur seals for the benefit of our neighbors, the citizens of British Columbia, who it appears are intent upon totally destroying the fur-seal industry, without regard to the evil that may come to themselves, or the damage it will bring to mankind.

In 1890 the lease of the Alaska Commercial Company with the Government of the United States for the fur-seal islands expired, and the United States entered into a new contract with the North American Commercial Company, making a lease for a term of twenty years, which is not only more favorable to the Government, but also to the inhabitants of the islands than the former lease in the following respects: The rental is \$60,000, instead of \$55,000; the tax per skin is \$9.62½, instead of \$2.62½. Eighty tons of coal are to be furnished to the natives, instead of 60 cords of wood; the quantity

of salmon, salt, and other provisions to be furnished to them can be fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury; the company is to furnish to the natives free dwellings, a church, physicians, medicines, employment, and care for the sick, aged, widows, and children; instead of 100,000 seals per year, the company can take only 60,000 during the first year of the lease, and thereafter the catch is to be regulated by the Secretary of the Treasury. Under this lease it is difficult to see how the United States could have a more complete control over the seal industry on the islands, even if it took the entire management of the business.

If the rookeries on these islands were in the same condition as they were before pelagic sealing began in 1896, this industry would bring to the Treasury of the United States over \$1,000,000 annually, and the real value of these islands to the United States would be, at a small estimate, \$100,000,000.

From 1886 to the present time the Government of the United States has earnestly endeavored and used all legitimate means to defend and protect this valuable industry. After a protracted controversy and voluminous correspondence the Governments of the United States and Great Britain determined to end this long-standing dispute concerning the seal fisheries by a friendly arbitration. This Tribunal of Arbitration met in the city of Paris, France, March 3, 1893.

Hon. John W. Foster, agent of the United States, in his report of the proceedings and the result of the arbitration, says:

The case of the United States has established the following facts: That the fur seals which were the subject of this arbitration were begotten, born, and reared on the Pribilof Islands, owned by the United States; that they made these islands their home and had, so far as it is known, always done so; that they spent a large part of each year on these islands; that when they left them on their annual migration it was their fixed intention to return to them, which they did with unvarying regularity, never resorting to any other land; that they were domestic in their habits, and voluntarily placed themselves when on the islands within the control of man; that the existence of the race depended upon the care, industry, and forbearance practiced by the United States toward them, and that but for the protection given them by the United States the race would be destroyed; that the United States alone could take the increase of the seal herd without diminishing the stock, since it could make the necessary discrimination as to sex and age when taking the seals on the islands for commercial purposes; and that the taking of the seals in the sea was necessarily without discrimination as to sex, was wasteful, and would result in destroying the race. Upon these facts the counsel for the United States contended that as the seals could not possibly be preserved except by according a right of property in them to the United States, the law ought and did recognize such right of property, and, consequently, the right or protection claimed by our Government. Their proposition was, substantially, that whenever any useful thing is dependent for its existence upon the care and industry of man, the men who exercise such care and industry have a right of property in such thing.

The counsel of the United States presented these views to the tribunal at length, with great ability, persistency, and force, and I speak with assurance when I say that at the end of weeks of discussion on both sides their position was unshaken. So far from the British counsel refuting their arguments on this branch of the case, it may be said that they made no effort to refute the above proposition, and tacitly, if not openly, admitting that it ought to be the law, insisted that it was necessary to show that the seals had been distinctly recognized as property before the tribunal could hold them to be such.

The adverse decision of the tribunal does not, it must be confessed, seem to confirm this view, but its action is susceptible of explanation without any reflection upon the impartiality of the neutral arbitrators. I am pleased to state that they are gentlemen of ability and of the highest standing in their respective countries, and I have no doubt they were inspired by a most conscientious desire to discharge their difficult and somewhat complex duties upon a fair and just basis.

Having reached a conclusion in favor of the right of pelagic sealing, it became necessary, in their well-meant effort to reach a compromise between the conflicting interests, to frame such regulations as would, on the one hand, allow pelagic sealing to be carried on with profit, and, on the other hand, not seriously impair the seal herd. This insolvable problem doubtless occasioned them long and anxious deliberation and greatly delayed the final decision.

The concurrent regulations agreed upon by a majority of the Tribunal of Arbitration for the protection and preservation of the fur seal in or habitually resorting to Bering Sea have entirely failed to afford the intended protection or to prevent the destruction of these animals, as is proven by the continually diminishing number of seals arriving at the rookeries on the Pribilof Islands. Pelagic sealing in any form or

under any regulations will result in the practical extermination of the entire race within a very few years, and all the more rapidly even if no male seals were taken on the fur-seal islands.

Article 9 of the concurrent regulations reads as follows:

The concurrent regulations hereby determined with a view to the protection and preservation of the fur seals shall remain in force until they have been, in whole or in part, abolished or modified by common agreement between the Governments of the United States and Great Britain.

The said concurrent regulations shall be submitted every five years to a new examination, so as to enable both interested Governments to consider whether, in the light of past experience, there is occasion for any modification thereof.

No amendment or modification of these concurrent regulations should be considered by the Government of the United States unless they forever prohibit killing, capturing, or taking in any manner female fur seals, whether on the islands, in the North Pacific Ocean, or in the waters of Bering Sea. Any arrangement which shall permit the indiscriminate killing, or killing of female seals anywhere, must be a temporary one and disastrous so long as it lasts. No such killing on any scale such as to raise it above the dignity of poaching can be otherwise than fatal.

The question of the preservation of the fur-seal herds of the Pribilof and other islands is not one that concerns alone the persons or even the nations interested; the whole civilized world is vitally interested. I firmly believe that when the facts are fully known the good sense and love of fairness on the part of the English people will fully approve of the stand which the American Government has taken in this matter.

The appointment for the present year, by the British foreign office, of a commission of naturalists, unprejudiced and competent, under instructions to fully investigate the present condition of the seal herd on the Pribilof and Commander islands, strengthens my belief that a wise, honorable, and amicable settlement of this question may soon be reached. During the present summer, also, the Secretary of the Treasury on the part of the United States has, through a commission of competent naturalists, undertaken to settle, once for all, all questions of fact which were under dispute before the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration.

Both these commissions were on the seal islands in Bering Sea during the whole of the sealing season of this year, and performed the duties assigned to them with zeal and ability. Their conclusions will have great weight in settling the fur-seal question.

I do not think that we should, for a moment, consider the alternative of destroying the fur-seal herd, in the event of failure to protect it. We must not fail to protect. I fully concur with the remark of Dr. David S. Jordan, chief of the American commission, that—

this would be a confession of impotence unworthy of a civilized nation. It would transfer to the United States the odium which justly belongs to those who would destroy this valuable property and great industry so important to mankind. To protect this noble and valuable animal is our duty as well as our right. Sooner than exterminate the seal it would be wiser, cheaper, and in the long run more humane to exterminate the pelagic sealer. This end is, however, not to be obtained by force, but by mutual courtesy and concession.

Regardless of labor or expense, the Government of the United States has faithfully endeavored to enforce the regulations of the Paris Tribunal. Five United States revenue cutters, under the able command of Capt. C. L. Hooper, have patrolled the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea during the summer of 1895 and the summer of 1896. The cost of this expensive and burdensome patrol exceeds all the net profits of pelagic sealing, even if the latter were harmless.

By the courtesy of Captain Hooper, commander of the Bering Sea fleet, I am permitted to insert the following table, dated at headquarters Bering Sea fleet, Unalaska, September 19, 1896, which gives the names of all the vessels cruising in Bering Sea for the purpose of killing fur seals, the number of seals taken, the number of each sex, and also the total number of miles traveled by the patrol fleet, also the number of searches and seizures:

*Summary of seal catch, Bering Sea, season of 1896.*

Name.	Male.	Female.	Bodies.	Total.
Umbrina .....	99	193	1	293
Annie E. Paint .....	69	135		204
Saucy Lass .....	184	81		265
Annie C. Moore .....	221	244		465
Mermaid .....	40	125		165
Doris .....	50	152		202
Falcon .....	41	253		294
Dora Seward .....	309	472		781
Kate .....	37	129		166
Libbio .....	221	369	3	593
Viva .....	34	36		70
South Bend .....	44	216	7	267
Sapphire .....	453	502	2	957
Otto .....	33	155		188
Ada .....	109	257		366
Rattler .....	36	116		152
Ventura .....	195	232		427
Alton .....	55	104		159
Triumph .....	301	444	2	747
Selma .....	4	16		20
Mary Ellen .....	260	254		514
Beatrice (Shanghai) .....	172	348		520
Dolphin .....	321	265		586
Columbia .....	98	266		364
C. D. Rand .....	61	92		153
City of San Diego .....	88	251		339
Mascot .....	140	149	1	290
Ainoko .....	6	133		139
Ida Eita .....	52	255		307
San Jose .....	94	159		253
Beatrice (Victoria) .....	45	47		92
James G. Swan .....	15	38	40	93
Sadie Turpel .....	21	43	13	77
Labrador .....	134	145	20	299
Agnes MacDonald .....	82	113		195
Carrie C. W .....	128	287		415
St. Lawrence .....	52	280		332
Fawn .....	336	193		529
E. B. Marvin .....	105	140		245
Jane Gray .....	115	142		257
Deeahks .....	69	227		296
Aurora .....	6	49		55
Mary Taylor .....	28	100		128
Teresa .....	70	39	3	112
Vera .....	40	147		187
Ocean Belle .....	46	140		186
Pioneer .....	23	83		106
Walter L. Rich .....	43	344	2	389
Ocean Rover .....	82	119	2	203
Maud S .....	48	113		161
Florence M. Smith .....	72	106		178
Penelope .....	298	535		833
Osprey .....	57	123		180
Louisa D. .....	9	87		96
Minnie .....	77	99		176
Charlotta G. Cox .....	167	69		236
Zillah May .....	314	311		625
Victoria .....	170	223		393
Allie I. Alger .....	117	285		402
Borealis .....	33	150		183
Arietas .....	295	75	10	380
Bering Sea .....	32	363		395
M. M. Morrill .....	114	151		265
Willard Ainsworth .....	159	45		204
Favorite .....	434	591		1,025
Oscar and Hattie .....	302	236		538
Total .....	7,965	12,641	106	20,712

*Season of 1895.*

18 American vessels caught	6,454; average.....	358
36 British vessels caught..	24,762; average.....	685
<hr/>		
54 vessels caught .....	31,216; average.....	578
Number of boarding operations, 171.		

*Season of 1896.*

12 American vessels caught	2,907; average.....	242.2
54 British vessels caught..	17,805; average.....	323.7
<hr/>		
66 vessels caught.....	20,712; average.....	313.8

Number of boarding operations, 181.

Total number of miles steamed by the patrol fleet to date, 77,464.5.

Number of American vessels seized in Bering Sea, 2.

Number of British vessels seized in Bering Sea, 4.

Of the 66 vessels engaged in pelagic sealing, but 12 were American. The number of fur seals frequenting Bering Sea are becoming steadily less every year, and all engaged in the industry of pelagic sealing are beginning to realize that they have killed the goose that laid the golden egg.

Thirty thousand male seals were taken by the lessees of the Pribilof Islands this year of 1896. I see no reason why this or even a greater number should not be taken annually, as the number of males is largely in excess of the needs of the herd.

## GOLD MINES.

Two million three hundred thousand dollars in gold bullion have been taken from the gold mines within the Territory of Alaska during the year ending October 1, 1896. The greater part of this amount is the product of low-grade ores, much of which yielded less than \$4 per ton. The improved methods in mining and milling gold-bearing rock have so greatly reduced the expense that almost any grade of gold ores can be worked with a profit. One dollar and twenty-five cents per ton is the average cost of mining and milling the quartz rock at the Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Company's mines on Douglas Island, Alaska. Hunting or prospecting for new mines has been very active during the year last past, and a number of good mines have been located. Several of these new ledges are being rapidly developed, and on some stamp mills have been erected and are operating with satisfactory results. Confidence in Alaska as a gold-producing country increases as her resources are developed.

## SITKA DISTRICT.

A number of gold-bearing quartz ledges and placer deposits have been discovered in this district and several of them are being rapidly developed with good prospects. The "Pande Basin placer mine" is situated between high mountains about 8 miles from Sitka. About 150 acres of this placer are covered by the waters of a small lake. It is proposed to drain off the waters of this lake, which will enable the whole area to be mined.

## PLACER MINES OF THE YUKON.

The gold placers of the Yukon region still continue to attract the attention of gold miners and fortune seekers. The summit of the Chilkat Pass lies 4,000 feet above sea level and is covered with perpetual snow. The route over this pass is usually the one taken in going into the Yukon country. It is only 25 miles over this pass from tide water on this side to Lake Linderman, one of the sources of the Yukon River, on the other side. When Lake Linderman is reached, the prospector constructs rafts and boats and continues his journey with them 800 miles down the river to the gold fields. One thousand men and 40 women, traveling on snowshoes, went over this route to the mines during this season. A large number of those who have gone to the Yukon region will not realize their expectations and will immediately return to their homes.

Mining in that frigid region is attended with so much difficulty and labor that only those of great experience and endurance can expect to succeed. No rich developments or discoveries have been reported from there at this writing. It is estimated, however, that this season's output will be fully up to that of last year. The Government of the United States has given this part of Alaska but little consideration. No judicial or other officers have been sent there. The miners' meeting has full control and jurisdiction of every function of government. The miners make the local law which governs the people. They decide what the law is and execute the decrees and decisions of the miners' meeting, both as to persons and property. So long as these meetings are kept under the control of the actual miners and workingmen, the rights of persons and of property will be comparatively safe. Property rights will be decided without delay and crime promptly punished. But the time will come when other than honest miners will assume to rule the country; then the restrictions of law will be needed. It would be well to establish a small military post, or a police force, in that part of the Territory. The Canadian Government maintains a police force consisting of a company of 20 men, the captain of which is clothed with the powers of a trial magistrate. This company is located in the mining district, on the line between Alaska and British Columbia. It is reported that it is very efficient in punishing criminals and preventing disorderly conduct. Authority is exercised with fairness and discrimination, and is productive of great good on both sides of the line.

The following is quoted from my last year's report for general information:

OVER THE PASS.—The shortest, quickest, and cheapest way to the Yukon.

The following table shows the distances from Juneau to the various points named on the only practicable route to and down the great Yukon Basin, and is republished for the information of the scores of inquirers who weekly address the Mining Record upon the subject of the great auriferous regions of the far northwest. To them we would also say that outfits can be secured here more advantageously than at any other point, as long experience has taught our dealers the exact requirements, and their advice in the premises will be found invaluable.

This is no poor man's country; no one should arrive here with less than \$500; the road is long, supplies are costly, seasons are short, and fortune fickle; failure to find gold the first season entails suffering upon those whose funds are insufficient to carry them through the long winter when absolutely nothing can be done; not one in a hundred makes a strike the first season.

Inexperienced persons, unless prepared for long-extended delays, should stay away; gold finding is a science which can be acquired only in its native fields, and the art must be mastered elsewhere, for in Alaska there is no time for pondering; action must be quick and sharp or the season is lost.



	<i>Miles.</i>		<i>Miles.</i>
Haines Mission (Chilkat).....	80	Head of White Horse Rapids.....	228
Head of canoe navigation.....	106	Takaheena River.....	240
Summit of Chilkat Pass.....	115	Head of Lake Le Barge.....	256
Lake Linderman.....	124	Foot of Lake Le Barge.....	289
Head of Lake Bennett.....	129	Hootalinqua.....	320
Foot of Lake Bennett.....	155	Cassiar Bar.....	347
Foot of Caribou Crossing.....	158	Little Salmon River.....	390
Foot of Takou Lake.....	175	Five Fingers.....	451
Takish House.....	179	Pelty River.....	510
Head of Mud Lake.....	180	Stewart River.....	630
Foot of Lake Marsh.....	200	Forty Mile.....	750
Head of canyon.....	225		

While no actual survey has ever been made of this route, the distances given have been carefully estimated by competent travelers and will be found approximately correct.

#### COOKS INLET.

In my report of October 1, 1895, I spoke of the Cooks Inlet mines as follows:

This is a placer-mining district situated on the mainland 600 miles west of Sitka. For several years small amounts of fine gold had been found along the North Pacific coast. In the fall of 1894 it was rumored that rich deposits of the precious metal had been discovered, and during the spring and summer of this year about 300 miners visited that locality for the purpose of working the placers of which they had heard such glowing reports. But they were doomed to disappointment, and failed to find gold in paying quantities. After enduring much hardship and privation, they returned home and the placer mines of Cooks Inlet are deserted.

Later in the fall, and after nearly all the miners had left this field of unprofitable labor and returned to their homes, it was reported that rich and extensive gold placers had been found in the vicinity of the claims that had so lately been abandoned. This report was given extensive circulation and caused great excitement among gold miners in all parts of the country. Early in the month of February last the tide of travel commenced to set in toward Cooks Inlet, and both steam and sailing ships were in demand for the purpose of carrying passengers to this new El Dorado. By the 20th of May 2,000 men had arrived at Cooks Inlet and were encamped upon the supposed rich mining ground, which was at that date covered with 6 feet of snow. About the 20th of June the snow disappeared, when all that part of the country supposed to contain the precious metal was dug over and thoroughly prospected. Little or no gold being found, disappointment and misfortune was the lot of 95 per cent of all those who had gone to this unfortunate field. This unreasonable excitement brought hardship and suffering to many and loss to nearly all. Some men expended in getting there their last dollar, and have no means now with which to return. People are anxious to get away, and are at this time leaving the inlet as rapidly as transportation can be secured.

The steamship *Excelsior* left this port on September 7 for Cooks Inlet with the intention of bringing back to Sitka as many miners as the capacity of the vessel will allow. This steamer will make four voyages to the Cooks Inlet mines and return, which will enable a majority of the men to leave there before the coming of the winter months. Passengers arriving here connect with steamers for Seattle and other points on Puget Sound. There undoubtedly is gold in this part of the Territory. Large quantities of quartz rock have been found which will justify investigation. A few placer claims were discovered which paid for the working. Two incorporated companies are making expensive and permanent preparations for using hydraulic machinery on claims which they own, believing that gold can be found in paying quantities if these mines are properly manipulated.

## SALMON.

Of salmon, 619,379 cases were caught and packed in 1895. We could not ascertain the amount packed for 1896, but it will be in excess of last year. In addition to the 23 canneries in operation during 1895, 6 new canneries were added this summer, making in all 29 canning establishments in Alaska. These canneries employ 2,000 white men, 1,600 Indians, and 2,000 Chinese. The Indians received \$60,000 in cash for labor and fish during this season. A large amount was also disbursed in the Territory for lumber and boxes. The supply of salmon seems to be inexhaustible. After twelve years of fishing in these waters and taking 288,000,000 pounds, or 144,000 tons of salmon, there appears to be more fish this year than at any previous time. In July last at Karluk 100,000 were caught at one haul of the seine. By an act of Congress approved June 9, 1896, the Secretary of the Treasury was authorized to appoint an inspector of fisheries in Alaska and two assistants. These inspectors were appointed and immediately entered upon the duties of their office. They visited nearly all the canneries in the Territory. Their reports will be read with interest.

## SCHOOLS.

The cause of education throughout the Territory has been well sustained by the Bureau of Education with an able corps of teachers. The Indian children have been more punctual in attendance and have made gratifying progress in acquiring a knowledge of the elementary branches of learning. The new schoolhouses at Ketchikan, Douglas Island, and Unalaska have been completed, and are now occupied for school purposes. A new school has also been established at Circle City, in the Yukon gold-mining region, and a qualified teacher sent out to take charge. The following table gives the location of each of the Government schools, the number of children enrolled, the average attendance, and the name of the teachers:

	Enroll- ment.	Average attend- ance.	Teacher.
<i>Government schools for 1895-96.</i>			
Sitka, No. 1.....	40	27	Mrs. Gertrude Knapp.
Sitka, No. 2.....	156	32	Miss Cassie Patton.
Juneau, No. 1.....	70	39	S. A. Keller.
Juneau, No. 2.....	50	25	Miss Elizabeth Saxman.
Douglas.....	57	35	L. A. Jores.
Fort Wrangel.....	82	37	Miss A. R. Kelsey.
Haines.....	60	36	Rev. W. W. Warne.
Jackson.....	64	47	Miss C. Baker.
Saxman.....	31	16	J. W. Young and Henry Phillips.
Yakutat.....	58	29	Albert Johnson.
Hoonah.....	144	35	Mrs. M. E. Howell.
Kodiak.....	49	32	C. C. Solter.
Afognak.....	39	22	Mrs. C. M. Caldwell.
Unga.....	44	29	O. K. McKinney.
Unalaska.....	39	36	Miss E. Mellon.
<i>Mission schools for 1894-95.</i>			
Cape Prince of Wales.....	142	137	Thomas Hanna.
St. Lawrence Island.....	52	40	V. C. Gambell.
Point Clarence.....	56	21	Rev. P. L. Brevig.
Golovin Bay.....	49	25	August Anderson.
Unalaklik.....	64	30	David Johnson.
Kooreffsky.....	No report	.....	Rev. P. Tosi.
Nunivak.....	No report	.....	Rev. F. Barnum.
Ougavik.....	No report	.....	Rev. E. L. Weber.
Bethel.....	32	26	Miss Mary Mack.
Carmel.....	30	25	Miss Emma Huber.

The Greco-Russian Church sustains schools at the following places: Fort Kenai, Ninilchik, Tooyounok, Alexandrofsk, with a combined attendance of 60 scholars. It also maintains orphanages at Unalaska, Kadiak, and Sitka, in which there are now 40 children. The largest Russian school in the Territory is located at Nutchik and is taught by Mr. Andrew P. Kashivaroff, who had 42 scholars during the past year. The Greek mission and orphanage at Sitka is doing excellent work with Reverend Anatole as minister and A. Protopopoff as teacher. English is being taught in all these schools.

The Sitka Industrial Training School, founded by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, D. D., in 1880, is now a permanent institution, supported by the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions. To the Rev. A. E. Austin, its first teacher and present chaplain, is due much credit for the success of the school. Rev. U. P. Shull is now the efficient superintendent, and 160 children of both sexes are taught, boarded, and clothed at this mission. The Presbyterian Board of Home Missions also supports schools and missions at Chilkat, Juneau, Howkan, and Fort Wrangel. The marked improvement in the condition of the Indians since the establishment of the schools and missions is reason sufficient for their existence and continuance.

The missionary work of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Alaska is now in charge of the Right Rev. Peter Trimble Rowe, D. D., who was consecrated bishop of Alaska in St. George's Church, New York, November 30, 1895. Since entering his diocese, March 23 of this year, he has made and completed a trip of 5,000 miles, establishing several missions and visiting others.

A mission has been established at Juneau, where a rectory and church have been built, and placed under the care of the Rev. H. Beer. At Circle City property has been purchased and arrangements made for missionary work, which will comprise a hospital, native school, and church. Mr. Bowen has, for the present, been placed in charge.

Fort Yukon has also been occupied, a small log house erected for religious uses, and an educated native, Nen Laloo, appointed to conduct lay services. St. James Mission, Fort Adams, is in charge of the Rev. J. L. Prevost. Here Mr. Prevost has a school for the Indian children. This school has a registered attendance of 75 day scholars and 16 boarders. In addition to religious evangelization throughout an area of 100,000 square miles, and among an Indian population of 1,563 scattered in little bands within this area, Mr. Prevost has within the year given medical treatment to 347 cases, and furnished to the same 2,238 meals. Material is, in part, on hand for the erection of a hospital, hospice, and chapel.

Christ Church Mission, Anvik, is under the care of the Rev. J. N. Chapman. The mission operates a sawmill, where the natives are employed and have been largely taught regular habits of industry and greatly to their benefit. A boarding and day school is conducted here and in charge of Miss Sabine as teacher. The school is well attended, prosperous, and the children manifest great improvement. It is hoped to enlarge this school, making it a central training school for Indian children from all parts of the great Yukon country.

At Point Hope Dr. John B. Driggs has a school of 80 Eskimo children. He is a graduate in medicine and his services are invaluable among these peoples along the northwest coast of Alaska.

A schoolhouse should be built and a school established at Sunrise City, Cooks Inlet, for the education of white children. A schoolhouse should also be erected at Wood Island. Out here on the verge of civili-

zation, where neither the moral nor civil law has its accustomed restraining power, the school and the church, the teacher and the missionary, are the great conservators of peace, morality, and good government, and should be sustained by the Government and the people. I would earnestly recommend that the appropriation for school purposes in Alaska be increased to \$40,000.

#### POPULATION.

In my report of last year the white population of Alaska was estimated at 8,000. We would estimate that 1,000 have been added to the inhabitants of the Territory by immigration during the past year. The Indian population is not increasing.

#### INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

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 juries 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 white 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 plead 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. This was accordingly done. Indictments are now pending against forty-five 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 effects. 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 against it 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 its 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.

#### BOUNDARY.

The joint commission appointed by the Governments of the United States and Great Britain to survey and ascertain the exact location or the original boundary line between Alaska and British Columbia has not concluded its labors and has made no report. The whole question is as yet undetermined. The commissioners appointed on the part of the United States are gentlemen of high character and large experience, and will spare no pains in ascertaining all the facts connected with this question. This question will undoubtedly be settled to the satisfaction of the American people. Congress has made liberal appropriation and a competent corps of civil engineers has spent three seasons in trying to ascertain where this line shall be located.

#### INDIAN POLICE.

The Indian police have proven to be an efficient auxiliary in the preservation of order and the execution of the law. They are particularly valuable in reporting crime to the civil authorities as well as in compelling the attendance of Indian children at the Government schools which are provided for them. They are also energetic in preventing the manufacture of hoochinoo, or native whisky. There are but 22 Indian policemen in the Territory. A greater number is necessary.

#### REINDEER.

The importation of domesticated reindeer from Siberia into western Alaska appears to be successful. The herds already in the Territory are in a flourishing condition and a large number are expected to be added this year. This will be a valuable source of food and clothing for the natives of that part of the country.

The large influx of miners into the Yukon district furnishes an additional reason why the introduction of reindeer should be vigorously pushed. In that subarctic region reindeer transportation is necessary for supplying the miners with provisions.

#### LEGISLATION.

Juneau is a seaport and mining town of 2,000 inhabitants. It has schools and churches, three well and ably conducted newspapers, waterworks, electric-light plant, two good and substantial wharves, large mercantile houses, good hotels, paved streets, and fire and hose companies. The legal and medical professions are well represented.

And yet it has no municipal government, and can obtain no corporate existence either under the laws of the United States or those of the State of Oregon. I would respectfully recommend that Congress pass an act without delay making provision for the incorporation of municipalities by the United States district court for the District of Alaska. I would also respectfully recommend that Congress pass an act authorizing the governor of the Territory to appoint a commission, consisting of three or five members, who shall be residents of the District, whose duty it shall be to prepare amendments to the organic act, and to draft a code of laws, civil and criminal, for the government of the Territory, the same to be submitted to Congress for its approval.

I would earnestly request that provision be immediately made for taking care of insane persons. Several cases of insanity now exist in this Territory, some of which are dangerous to the public and have to be restrained of liberty. Two of these dangerously insane men are confined in the jail at Sitka at the expense of the United States marshal, as no appropriation or other means have been provided for their support.

I would suggest that a contract be made with the authorities of the State of Washington to receive and care for insane persons from the District of Alaska, at their State asylum, with an appropriation to cover such expense.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES SHEAKLEY,  
*Governor of Alaska.*

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