

SCHOOL FOR INDIAN CHILDREN IN ALASKA.

FEBRUARY 4, 1882.—Recommitted to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HALLENBERGER, from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, submitted the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, to whom was referred the letter of the Secretary of the Treasury in regard to the transfer to the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church of a building in Sitka, Alaska, for the purpose of conducting a school for the training and civilization of Indian children, respectfully report:

That they have given partial consideration to the subject, and without being ready to finally dispose of it, report the same to the House, and ask that it and accompanying papers be printed and recommitted to the committee.

(Alaska file.)

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
December 14, 1881.

Hon. J. W. KEIFER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.:

SIR: I have the honor to submit for the consideration of Congress a petition addressed to this department by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions, for the transfer to that board of a building located in Sitka, Alaska, which the board desires to obtain for the purpose of conducting a school for the training and civilization of Indian children.

The building is described in the papers accompanying this letter, and is practically of no use to the government. It is very much out of repair, and will require a considerable expenditure to fit it for the purposes named.

The board is not willing to make these expenditures unless the title to the building can be transferred to it. I see no reason why this may not be properly done, and I would recommend Congress to adopt such legislation as may be necessary to carry this project into effect.

Very respectfully,

CHAS. J. FOLGER,
Secretary.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 9, 1881.

Hon. CHAS. J. FOLGER,
Secretary of the Treasury:

MY DEAR SIR: When the United States troops were withdrawn from Alaska in 1867, the government buildings at Sitka were, of course, vacated, and have remained empty since.

Through the depredations of the natives in breaking windows, carrying off lumber, &c., as well as the ravages of a wet climate, the buildings are rapidly rotting down.

In 1879, through the courtesy of Colonel Ball, collector of customs at that port, with the consent of the honorable Secretary of the Treasury, a school for the training and civilization of Indian children was opened by Henry Kendall (of New York), myself, and other gentlemen interested in Indian education.

We are now clothing, feeding, and teaching 30 Indian boys in elementary English, and carpentering, house-building, &c. We also have an average attendance of 230 to 250 day-pupils, boys and girls.

The building, however, needs \$2,500 worth of repairs, and we cannot repair it unless we can secure possession. Capt. J. W. White, of the United States Revenue Marine, in Senate Ex. Doc. 179, Forty-sixth Congress, second session, page 22, says concerning them: "I found many windows broken, locks taken from a number of the inside doors of several of the houses, and all the lead piping removed. The roofs of most of the houses are in a leaky condition, and the property is fast going to destruction."

The lot stands a fourth of a mile from the main group of government buildings, and fronts on Seward avenue, and east of the lot of the Greek church. It is 131 feet from 310 feet deep within the inclosure, and extends to the beach in front.

The building is 96 by 43 feet in size, two stories high, built of logs, and weatherboarded on the front and sides. It was erected about 75 years ago. The foundation is rotted out, the shingle roof rotted, and the whole building in a generally dilapidated condition.

The building will never be needed for government purposes, and is so far out of repair that it would not be used if needed; and as the government is fostering Indian schools, and we are prepared to repair said building and carry on said school in the same, we respectfully ask you to ask authority from Congress to turn over said property, together with the stable on the opposite side of the avenue, in front of priest's house (see diagram) to *Henry Kendall and Sheldon Jackson, of New York, and John G. Brady, of Sitka, and their successors, as trustees in trust of Sitka Indian Industrial School, Alaska.

Very truly yours,

SHELDON JACKSON.

* Or to trustees for the purpose of carrying on an industrial school for training Indian children.

