

REPORT  
OF  
THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
*Sitka, Alaska, October 1, 1890.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of my official acts and doings and of the condition of the district with reference to its resources, industries, population, and the administration of the civil government thereof, for the year ending June 30, 1890.

THE CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

Alaska has a threefold legal aspect. As a judicial district it does not so much differ from other judicial districts of the United States, though in some respects it is peculiar and the uncertainty of the application of the laws of Oregon in many cases adds very much to the perplexities and responsibilities of the judge of the United States district court, who is at the head of the judiciary in the district and by his supervision over the inferior courts in great measure determines their procedure also. For the collection of the customs and the internal revenue it varies from other collection districts mainly in its different and more difficult conditions, of which I may speak hereafter. In other respects it may properly be regarded and spoken of as a territory of the United States, though only partially organized and incomplete and unsatisfactory as a matter of course. The administration of the civil government is in the hands of the following-named officers, to wit:

Governor, Lyman E. Knapp; judge United States district court, John S. Bugbee; marshal, Orville T. Porter; district attorney, Charles S. Johnson; clerk of court, Nicholas R. Peckinpugh; collector of customs, Max Pracht; United States commissioners, T. Carlos Jewett, Sitka; William R. Hoyt, Juneau; James Sheakley, Fort Wrangell; Louis H. Tarpley, Unalaska.

Judge Bugbee succeeded Judge John H. Keatley on the 7th day of December, 1889. Marshal Porter took the oath of office on the 1st day of October, 1889, succeeding Marshal Barton Atkins. The present incumbent of the office of district attorney followed District Attorney Whit M. Grant, being inducted into office on the 7th day of December, 1889. The office of clerk of the court was held by Henry E. Hayden during the whole of the year which this report is supposed to cover, the present incumbent taking the office on the 16th day of August, 1890. Of the commissioners, two only have held the office during the year. Judge Louis L. Williams gave up the office to his successor at Juneau on the 9th day of August, 1890, and Judge Tarpley took the oath of office and went to assume the duties incumbent upon him at

Unalaska on the 28th day of February last. The above-named officers are assisted by deputies and clerks, and appointees of the governor, such as justices of the peace, constables, notaries public, policemen, etc.

These officers make up the machinery of the civil government of the Territory. Considering the anomalous condition of things, the want of communication and means of transportation in the Territory, and the fact that the different departments of the Territorial government report to the different Departments of the General Government directly, and only by courtesy to one another, it is almost remarkable that there has been no friction in the workings of the machinery, but full and hearty co operation and entire harmony. It is also a source of much gratification to me to be able to acknowledge the hearty co-operation and cordial assistance of the naval officers stationed in these waters, in the complicated and difficult work assigned me. I wish to make especial acknowledgment of the courtesies and assistance received from Lieut. Commander Charles H. Stockton, of the U. S. S. *Thetis*, and O. W. Farenholt of the U. S. S. *Pinto*.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The jail statistics for the Territory show the number of prisoners in custody on the 1st day of July, 1889, to have been 9. There were received during the year 68, making a total of 77. Of these 64 have been discharged, mostly on the expiration of their sentences, leaving 13 still in custody at the close of the fiscal year. Of these prisoners 70 were serving sentences and 7 awaiting trial. Twenty-three whites, 20 male and 3 female, 50 Indians, 43 male and 7 female, and 4 Chinamen, make the full number. The offenses committed were as follows: Murder, 1; manslaughter, 1; assault with intent to kill, 3; assault with dangerous weapons, 5; resisting an officer, 5; rape, 1; adultery, 1; larceny, 9; assault and battery, 12; selling liquor to Indians, 15; landing liquor without permit, 2; contempt of court, 3; drunk and disorderly, 17; indecent exposure, 1; insanity, 1.

United States district court held two regular and three special sessions during the year, convening twice at Juneau and three times at Sitka.

No trials were held at the November term. The sessions held after the arrival of Judge Bugbee covered, in the aggregate, fifty-eight days. On the civil docket 52 new causes were entered, 48 were finally disposed of, and 38 remain for future disposition; 4 more than stood upon the docket at the beginning of the year. Of those disposed of 26 were by judgments for the plaintiffs, amounting in the aggregate to the sum of \$77,523.41. Judgments were rendered for the defendants in 3 causes, aggregating \$1,371.16. Nineteen causes were dismissed. There were 11 causes other than criminal prosecutions, in which the United States was plaintiff, to wit: 1 for nuisance, 1 complaint in equity, 5 for ejectment from the public lands, and 4 for the penalty for importing foreign labor. Of these causes 6 were abandoned and dismissed.

The criminal business returnable to this court included thirty-eight indictments by the grand jury, one of which was for 3 persons and six for 2 persons each, and in the case of 5 respondents there were two indictments of each. The offenses classified are as follows:

Murder .....	1
Burglary .....	1
Perjury .....	1
Assault with dangerous weapon .....	1
Grand larceny .....	1
Illicit distillery .....	2
Rape and attempt to rape .....	2

Smuggling opium.....	1
Attempting to kill.....	2
Assault and battery.....	2
Destroying property.....	3
Manufacturing liquor.....	4
Keeping dance-house.....	4
Resisting an officer.....	5
Selling intoxicating liquor to Indians.....	8

Twenty-six of these respondents were tried by jury and 17 were found guilty and sentenced, while 6 were found not guilty and discharged. In three cases the jury failed to agree. Of the respondents tried, 15 were Indians, 7 whites, and 4 Chinamen. Five of the respondents sentenced to the penitentiary have been taken to the San Quentin prison.

In the Sitka commissioner's court during the year warrants were issued and returned without arrest in five cases, in two of which the failure to arrest occurred for want of transportation. Twelve examinations resulted in holding the respondents for trial. Trials in which the commissioner took jurisdiction numbered 54, as follows:

Disturbing assembly for religious worship.....	1
Larceny.....	6
Drunk and disorderly.....	14
Furnishing liquor to Indians.....	2
Assault and battery.....	23
Disturbing the public peace.....	2
Civil causes.....	3
Contempt of court.....	1
Application for discharge of poor convict.....	1
Coroner's inquest.....	1

*Statement of causes in United States commissioner's court at Juneau.*

Charges and nationality.	Tried.	Held.	Discharged.
<b>Disturbing the peace:</b>			
Indian.....	92		
American.....	17		
French.....	1	105	6
Russian.....	1		
<b>Assault and battery:</b>			
Indian.....	6		
American.....	4	9	1
<b>Acts injurious to public morals:</b>			
Swede.....	2	2	
<b>Larceny:</b>			
Indian.....	4		
American.....	3	4	3
<b>Selling liquor to Indians:</b>			
Russian.....	3		
Indian.....	2		
Dutch.....	1		
American.....	8	12	2
<b>Keeping bawdy-house:</b>			
Dutch.....	1		
American.....	4	4	1
<b>Manufacturing liquor:</b>			
American.....	2		
Indian.....	3	5	
<b>Assault with dangerous weapon:</b>			
American.....	2	1	1
<b>Assault with intent to kill:</b>			
Indian.....	1	1	
<b>Rape:</b>			
Indian.....	2	1	1
<b>Wanton injury to water trench:</b>			
American.....	3	3	
<b>Malicious injury to personal property:</b>			
Indian.....	1		
Dutch.....	1	2	
<b>Cases tried.....</b>			164
<b>Convictions.....</b>			122
<b>Acquittals.....</b>			15
<b>Examinations.....</b>			27
<b>Civil suits tried.....</b>			18
<b>Inquests.....</b>			5

An assistant district attorney and interpreter are very much needed for this court.

*Disbursements by Orville T. Porter, United States marshal, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1890.*

Appropriation:	
Fees of jurors.....	\$2,702.00
Fees of witnesses.....	1,932.00
Support of prisoners.....	8,932.86
Miscellaneous expenses.....	1,505.65
Pay of bailiffs.....	264.50
Fees and expenses of marshal.....	2,408.19
Total.....	17,806.20

The greatest hindrances to the prompt and efficient administration of justice in this district are the lack of transportation facilities, the great distances, want of means for communication, and the difficulty of securing competent and reliable juries. If a moderate sized steam-vessel were furnished the civil government for its use in the discharge of the duties and work of the several departments and under its control, these difficulties would, in part at least, disappear. It seems unnecessary to repeat what I said in my report for 1889, but the experiences of the last year have served to confirm and strengthen the opinion then expressed that provision for transportation, not now readily available, is absolutely essential to the proper administration of the government and effective enforcement of the laws.

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.

Last January many of the best citizens of Juneau, apparently influenced by a desire to regulate and restrict the sale of intoxicating liquors, which they believed could not be entirely prevented, held consultation together and with the officers of the civil government, and undertook to devise a partial remedy of the evils of indiscriminate sale. It was finally proposed that the governor grant licenses for sales according to law to such persons as should deposit the sum of \$250 for expenditure, under the direction of road commissioners, upon the streets and sidewalks of the city or town where the vendor resides, the applicant to also give bonds that he would keep an orderly house and would not sell to Indians, or minors under the age of eighteen years, the license to be revoked in case of failure to fulfill these conditions, or for other cause. The only protection expected was in the support of public sentiment and the influence it might have upon juries and officers of the law. No license has yet been granted and no application made for one. Legislation which would provide more effective machinery for the enforcement of the present law, or the substitution of something more practical in the place of it, would undoubtedly afford a more satisfactory solution of the perplexing question.

I feel constrained to call attention again to the inadequacy of the provisions of the laws for the administration of justice, preserving the public peace, holding criminals for trial, and affording convenient facilities for taking oaths required by law and in the transaction of the public business in places remote from the four localities where the United States commissioners reside. There are about three hundred towns and villages in the Territory, some of which are at least 3,000 miles from the nearest commissioner, or other person authorized by law to administer oaths, and without roads or regular communication of any kind. An act of Congress authorizing the governor to appoint justices of the peace, notaries public, constables, policemen, etc., while it would not wholly remedy the evil, would do much to relieve the situation. It is now a constant question whether the acts of appointees of the governor will be sustained by the courts, and comparatively few are willing to risk the embarrassments and perhaps more serious consequences that are always possible. Besides, there can now be no compensation for services rendered or responsibilities taken.

As business increases in the Territory and new complications arise it becomes more and more urgent that something be done to relieve the embarrassment growing out of a want of laws adapted to the peculiar conditions of the country. All the other Territories, except the District of Columbia, which has a commission with especial powers, are provided with authority to legislate for themselves. It is at least doubtful if Alaska at the present time is in a condition to successfully assume the responsibilities of self-government. We are scarcely prepared to meet the expenses of a local government or to hold elections for any purpose whatever. But if citizenship and the qualification of voters were defined and the machinery and regulations for elections furnished, many people who think such a step would be premature and of doubtful expediency at the present time would advocate it as a choice of evils. Nothing but hardship and embarrassment is possible under the policy of neglect by the National Government in the present dependence of the Territory upon it for laws and facilities for enforcing them. I do not desire to be understood as impugning the motives or actions of Congress in its treatment of this Territory, but it must be recognized that the conditions are not favorable for their giving it the attention necessary for its proper protection and the conduct of its affairs. It is remote and unexplored, and has no political influence and no representative in the legislative halls, and very few know enough about the country even to be interested in it. Hence irresponsible and interested parties make improper representations, and measures not the wisest and those not calculated to promote the general welfare of the Territory are allowed to usurp the place of measures of infinite importance to the whole country.

If no general revision of the political conditions of the Territory are thought advisable, I would advise the preparation of a few laws adapted to our peculiar conditions. To save time a commission consisting, in part at least, of gentlemen acquainted with the country and its needs might be selected to prepare a short code of special laws, to be supplemented, if thought best, by a general application of the laws of Oregon, as now; and the code thus prepared might be submitted to Congress entire, and some of the more serious difficulties now confronting us might be speedily met. The suggestion has been made to me several times, by gentlemen whose opinions carried great weight, that a commission might be appointed to act in concert with the civil gov-

ernment as now existing, or independent if deemed best, who should have the authority to make regulations for the Territory in minor matters that should have the force of law, those regulations, of course, to be subject to the approval of the President and Congress. Whether any better plan could be adopted is not for me to say, but I should hope for very beneficial results from the appointment of such a commission, which would do much toward meeting contingencies arising from time to time, and in its reports to the President and Congress could speak authoritatively as to matters appertaining to the welfare of the Territory.

An application for executive clemency in behalf of Sallie, an Indian woman serving a sentence for being drunk and disorderly, was made to me by Dr. Rogers, the attending physician at the jail, on the 9th day of May last, and, after carefully considering the evidence presented, I suspended the further execution of the sentence and forwarded the petition for revision to the President.

#### EDUCATION.

As member of the Territorial board of education and during the larger part of the year its president, I had occasion to give much attention to the schools and the educational work throughout the Territory, and I can speak of some matters, therefore, with a confidence not otherwise possible. Fourteen Government day schools have been in session during the year, eleven of which were attended wholly by natives. These schools are as follows :

Location.	Teacher.	School.
Unalaska .....	John A. Tuck .....	Native.
Ungo .....	John H. Carr .....	Do.
Kodiak .....	W. E. Roscoe .....	Do.
Afognak .....	John Duff .....	Do.
Juneau, No. 1 .....	Miss Rhoda Lee .....	White.
Juneau, No. 2 .....	Miss Cassia Patton .....	Native.
Douglas, No. 1 .....	Mrs. W. S. Adams .....	White.
Douglas, No. 2 .....	C. H. Edwards .....	Native.
Killsnoo .....	Miss May Ransom .....	Do.
Sitka, No. 1 .....	Miss Anna D. Beatty .....	White.
Sitka, No. 2 .....	Miss Gertrude Patton .....	Native.
Fort Wrangell .....	Mrs. W. G. Thomas .....	Do.
Klawak .....	Henry G. Wilson .....	Do.
Howcan .....	Miss Clara Gould .....	Do.

The schools at Klawak and Douglas City, No. 1, were not in session the whole year. The work of all these schools was measurably satisfactory, though the attendance was not as full as could be desired. Neither the native children nor their parents have yet come to fully appreciate the value of education, nor the necessity of regularity in attendance, while their tastes and life habits have a strong tendency to tempt them to the forests or the waters for hunting and fishing in preference to the confinement of the school-room. A mildly compulsory attendance law, with an appropriation for native policemen to insist upon their regularity at school, would be of great service. In a few cases I have been able to find natives who would serve without compensation temporarily, with the hope that an appropriation might be made at the next session of Congress. We can not hope, however, to retain their services gratuitously very long. In addition to these Government day schools the Commissioner of Education has entered into contracts for Government assistance with schools under the care of several different missions, as follows :

At Point Hope and Anvik, Episcopalian; Sitka and Point Barrow, Presbyterian; Nulato and Koffskureffsky, Roman Catholic; Cape Prince of Wales, Congregational; Bethel and Carmel, Moravian; and Metlakhtla, Independent.

There were also schools in connection with other missions, not assisted by the Government, as follows: At Hoonah, Presbyterian; at Yakutat, Swedish; at Unalaklik, Swedish; at Nuklukahyet, Church of England; at Juneau, Roman Catholic, and seventeen Græco Russian churches. The Alaska Commercial Company, in accordance with their contract with the Government, maintained schools on St. Paul and St. George Islands. These with the two homes for children under the control of the Presbyterians, at Juneau and Howcan, make up the forty-eight schools reported. Neither the mission schools nor the Alaska Commercial Company's schools reported to the Territorial board and I have been able to visit only eight of them in person. Very satisfactory reports of their work have been received unofficially. School buildings have been erected at Douglas City, Kodiak, Karluk, and Afognak, each at the expense of \$1,200, and school furniture put into the Douglas City schoolhouse at an additional expense of about \$500. The Territorial board which had the immediate supervision of the schools during the last year has been abolished and the whole local supervision committed to the General Agent of Education, with certain local committees to assist him. This change is not regarded with favor by the people of the Territory. I am informed by the General Agent of Education that if the appropriation for 1890 will justify an enlargement of the work for the next year contracts will be made with the Swedish Society for schools at Unalaklik and Yakutat, with the Methodists at Unalaska, the Baptists at Kodiak, the Cumberland Presbyterians at Nuchuk, and the Reformed Episcopalians at Kenai. Several new Government day schools are under consideration.

#### COMMERCE.

The facilities for gathering statistics of the commerce of Alaska are so poor that this report will necessarily present somewhat disconnected statements, from which general inferences only can be drawn, and the figures will be in part estimates. That the commerce of the Territory is already large and important and constantly increasing in volume and value is certain. The exports consist for the most part of furs, skins, deer horns, ivory, bone, oil; gold, silver, and other valuable ores, bullion, fish and canned products of fisheries, fertilizers, Indian curiosities, berries, etc. The imports are goods of all kinds for trade with the natives and resident whites, coal, lumber, machinery, furniture, provisions, material for canning and other manufacturing enterprises, etc.

The fur trade has become a very important one, securing recognition as such throughout the whole country. The fur-seal alone would make the business and the country from whence taken famous. About 100,000 full-sized skins were taken by the Alaska Commercial Company during the year, under their contract with the Government. Probably half as many more were captured at sea and stolen by poaching vessels. A list of fur-bearing animals in this country in numbers sufficient to warrant enumeration as affording furs for export would embrace brown, black, white, cinnamon, and Mount St. Elias bears; marten, mink, fur-seal, hair-seal, sea otter, land-otter; wolf, black and grey; wolverines; blue, white, cross, red and silver gray foxes; mountain sheep, squirrels, ground-hogs, lynx, beavers, reindeer, wild goats, moose, and common

deer. The catch of whales was a little less than the year previous, but still an important item. The cod-fishing industry in Alaska, though far from insignificant, is only a tithe of what it should be. A reference to the vessels employed in the business of fishing in Alaska may give some idea of the importance of this industry in a commercial point of view, though part of the carrying business was given to the regular line of mail steamers in southeastern Alaska. And in this enumeration no account can be taken of the steam-launches, tugs, fishing-boats, and scows employed by the various canneries in the direct work of taking and preparing the fish for the market. It may be safe to assert that of this class of sea-craft each of the thirty-six canneries in the Territory has at least one steam-launch or tug, two or more scows, and ten or twelve small boats; and each ship carries its complement of boats with it. The ships employed in transportation to San Francisco and ocean work may be briefly enumerated as follows: Engaged in the cod-fishing business, 7; the whaling fleet, 9 of which are steam ships, 44; the salmon fleet, two of which were wrecked, 55; mail steamers during the year, 29 trips.

In addition to this number must be counted two or three vessels having headquarters elsewhere than in San Francisco. The salmon and cod fishing vessels made several trips each.

The following computations and estimates give the aggregate results of my information as to the value of the exports from the Territory of Alaska during the last year, to wit:

231,981 pounds of whale bone.....	\$1,159,905
1,500 pounds of ivory .....	7,500
575,00 gallons of oil.....	172,500
925,000 cpdfish .....	555,000
671,000 cases of salmon .....	3,355,000
6,930 barrels of salt salmon .....	69,300
Gold (bullion, ore, and du-t), estimated.....	2,009,000
Silver .....	50,000
Skins, deer, mountain sheep, and hair-seal, estimated.....	8,625
Fur-seal (estimated), 140,000 .....	2,000,000
Bears, sea and land otters, foxes and other furs, estimated.....	416,500
Berries, estimated .....	2,000
Fish fertilizers, 800 tons .....	14,400
Curios, bric-a-brac, etc., estimated .....	20,000
All other exports, estimated .....	10,000
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>9,840,730</b>

No definite information can be obtained as to the value of the imports. Probably not less than 130 ships' cargoes were transported from the States to Alaska during the year. These facts of transportation, imports and exports, signify quite extensive internal traffic and exchange, and the numerous stores and trading posts through the territory confirm the inference.

#### AGRICULTURE AND STOCK-RAISING.

There is very little change of situation in regard to agriculture and stock-raising since my report of last year, and I see no reason for modifying the statements then made or the positions then taken. A few more cattle and horses may be seen, larger gardens have been cultivated in some cases, and the season has proved more favorable for curing hay and carrying on the operations of cultivating the soil. The same difficulty exists in the want of titles to land; the preparation of the soil to receive seed is no less formidable, and the climatic conditions peculiar to this region continue.

Very little can be said of the agricultural capacities of Alaska from experience and nothing from statistics. The Territory may be considered under three heads with regard to its agricultural resources. The Yukon Valley region has one class of conditions, the Aleutian islands and peninsula of Aliaska another, and southeastern Alaska still another. In the first-mentioned region very few, if any, experiments have been made. Of the experiences of those making the experiments in the last two-named regions no records have been kept. Newspaper statements, and even so-called official reports, have been conflicting and uncertain. In fact, it is doubtful if we shall ever have any reliable data from which to judge intelligently unless systematic experiments shall be made and records kept. So long as the information is, as now, mere individual opinion, we shall never know whose opinion is of value and whose not. Ought not the Government to establish experimental stations in all these regions? It might be done without great expense by employing for that purpose institutions already established. The industrial school at Sitka might easily keep records and furnish statistics for this section. Some missionary at Kodiak or Unga might keep the record for the Aleutian region, and some person at Anvik would be favorably situated to represent the Yukon district.

Another year's observation and inquiry have strengthened my impression that southeastern Alaska has sufficient land capable of cultivation for the local demands for such products as are adapted to the climate and soil, and that root crops, vegetables, berries, and hardy fruits may be raised with satisfaction and profit, and that dairies will, when the local demand is sufficient, afford profitable investment for a considerable amount of capital. Reports from the Kenai peninsula and Kodiak indicate a more extensive agricultural and stock-raising industry, in the progress of events in those regions. But the possibilities of acquiring titles to land is a *sine qua non* for the realization of any considerable progress. Dr. F. H. Bean, United States Fish Commissioner, says Kodiak Island is one of the finest grazing countries he has seen. Many cattle and sheep are now kept and these are left out during winter and still remain fat and healthy. The climate is very mild, hay is cured, and vegetables grow finely.

It is stated that there are eleven kinds of edible berries in northern Alaska and that the Yukon Valley is full of the natural foods for birds and animals. Hence it has become the breeding place for many varieties of birds, especially aquatic fowl. For miles the country is covered with myriads of geese, swans, ducks, and a hundred other varieties of the feathered tribe who feed on the wild berries. There are other indications of fertility of soil and a climate suitable for certain classes of vegetable growths and which gives promise of valuable returns for industries adapted to the peculiar conditions of the country. It is impossible, however, to speak definitely as to the resources of this region for the purposes of agriculture or stock-raising. The proposition lately made in Congress for an investigation of the Yukon Valley and its resources seems to me to be a movement in the right direction. Until the Government acts in this matter it is not likely that there will be any practical solution of the question of the value of that vast region.

#### SETTLEMENT OF THE PUBLIC LANDS.

On the 30th day of June, 1890, the real estate held in fee in the Territory of Alaska may be enumerated as follows:

- (1) Twenty-one pieces originally conferred under Russian rule and

confirmed by the treaty of transfer to the United States, consisting of twenty small lots in Sitka and one in Kodiak. (2) Certain church properties in the city of Sitka belonging to the resident congregation of the Russian church. (3) Fourteen mining claims and five mill-sites for which patents have been issued by the United States, under its mining laws, which have been extended to Alaska. Of these, six patents for mining claims and one mill-site were issued during the last year. Many more applications for patents have been filed, ten of which were filed during the last year.

It has been repeatedly asserted, officially and otherwise, and scarcely needs reiteration, that under existing laws it is impossible to acquire titles to land other than mineral lands for mining purposes in this Territory. That this state of things should most seriously retard the progress of development of the resources of the country is not strange. The evidences of the paralysis caused by it are apparent to the most casual observer. Inquiries are frequently made as to the reason why the houses, fences, sidewalks, and other structures of our towns have such a dilapidated appearance, why water is brought from the river for domestic uses in demijohns, when water-works delivering an ample supply to the consumers might be built with comparatively small cost; why roads are not constructed, the land for gardens subdued, and the spirit of improvement evoked generally. The answer is stereotyped. "There is no encouragement for any one to make improvements of which he has no assurance that he will have the enjoyment." Some have ventured to make limited improvements upon the public lands with the expectation that legislation for our relief would not be long delayed. The towns of Juneau and Douglas City have attained to considerable proportions in spite of the discouraging situation. Buildings and improvements by private individuals in hundreds of other places have disclosed the confidence felt that ultimate relief will be afforded. But when compared with what must have been the result under more favorable circumstances, the contrast is very striking. A Territory exporting annually about \$10,000,000, requiring the constant employment of hundreds of vessels in her carrying trade, having a capital investment in her business enterprises of many millions of dollars, with resources sufficient to attract and hold thousands of enterprising people upon its shores under unfavorable conditions of uncertainty and neglect for twenty-three years, we can readily see would, under conditions of encouragement, speedily develop into thriving communities and be filled with towns and villages which would command the respect and attention of the world. Why is not this Territory accorded the privileges never before withheld, without reason, from any land claiming protection under the American flag? Who is responsible for this delay of nearly a quarter of a century in giving to American citizens the privileges of acquiring, by purchase or otherwise, titles to the land they have occupied and improved? Is it possible that the selfishness and greed of parties whose interests are better served by keeping the country a howling wilderness as a preserve for fish and game are secretly exerting an influence with members of the national Congress to prevent legislation which would promote the development and settlement of this country? Is there any other way of accounting for the fact that, somehow, all bills for the relief of this Territory are lost before reaching final action? I prefer to shut my eyes to the possibility of such baseness. But the fact remains, and we must contemplate it with such equanimity as we can command, that it seems impossible to secure legislation for this Territory which is essential to its prosperity and prog-

ress while measures of less importance are allowed to become laws. Without legitimate representation it is always possible for persons with unworthy motives to assume the role of patriotic citizens and representatives of the district, and do infinite mischief by their selfish and unfair representations.

The brevity of my suggestion last year led to misapprehension as to the thought in mind when referring to the size of farms. The areas at the foot of the mountains in southeastern Alaska suitable for agricultural purposes are comparatively small, containing from 1 to 10 square miles, perhaps.

Populations, from the very nature of the physical conditions of the country, will always reside in villages and not in remote and isolated farm-houses. If single individuals are allowed to locate large farms in the immediate vicinity of established towns like Sitka, Juneau, and Douglas City, they will have more land than they can prepare for cultivation for many years, and many men desiring to prepare and cultivate gardens or small farms will find no land near them suitable for the purpose. There is, doubtless, land enough for every person who desires it to have a farm of 160 acres, or even of 640 acres. But how much more rapidly the country will be developed if the land within a mile of an established village of five hundred or more people is divided up among them in the first instance? Why may not the provision be made in the law to allow only a fraction of their farms to be taken from the land immediately adjoining the town, and the balance to be taken elsewhere? I see nothing impracticable in this proposition. As an illustration, Sitka has a population of perhaps one thousand six hundred people. The area of land around the town at the foot of the steep mountains may contain 6 square miles, some of which is reserved for public uses and for the missions located here. Shall the remainder of the land be taken and kept from cultivation by a few men, or shall it be more generally divided up among the people who desire it for purposes of cultivation? There are other areas of level land a few miles away, across the bay and up and down the coast, and the balance of their farms might be located there. A law giving homestead privileges, to be available under our anomalous conditions, should allow residence in some neighboring village instead of limiting it to the farm itself.

#### TAXABLE PROPERTY.

There has been comparatively little change in the taxable property in the Territory during the year, though business has greatly increased, and the remarks upon this subject in my last report are equally applicable at the present time. I do not care to enlarge upon the subject. If some measure of relief could be enacted by which municipal taxation could be allowed for the purposes of street building, maintenance and burial of paupers, and some other objects appealing to the pockets of charitable people, the now severe tax upon those benevolently inclined would in some measure be transferred to the whole people. But it is so difficult to secure the attention of Congress to the little details of life in this remote province that it may not be best to urge this matter.

#### CLIMATE.

Much misapprehension exists in the popular mind in regard to the climate of Alaska. The great extent of territory, extending as it does over more than twenty degrees of latitude and forty-four degrees of

longitude, together with its varied relations to the sea and ocean currents, affords necessarily very great variety of climate. The Yukon district, including all that part of the territory north of the Alaskan range of mountains, has severely cold and long winters and very hot and short summers. A large portion of it lies within the Arctic circle. Southeastern Alaska, including the narrow strip of the mainland from Portland Canal northwestward to Mount St. Elias, together with the large group of islands known as the Alexander Archipelago, is warm and moist. This is supposed to be on account of the Japanese current of warm water flowing through the Pacific Ocean from the torrid zone along the coast of Japan and eastward until divided into two parts on striking the American coast—a portion then following southerly along the shores of Washington, Oregon and California, the other portion following the bend of the North Pacific shore and along the chain of the Aleutian islands westward again. As the warm air from the ocean reaches the snow-capped mountains of the Alexander Archipelago and the coast the moisture condenses and is precipitated in rain, and farther inland in snow during the cold season. Hence the climate of all the islands and the extended coast line is modified from the natural severity of its high latitude to an equable but somewhat rainy one. The mean annual temperature is about 45 degrees above zero and the temperature during winter seldom reaches zero. Last winter, in January, the thermometer at Sitka once indicated 5 degrees above zero and at Juneau 4 degrees below zero, which was much the coldest weather realized. The highest registry during the summer of 1889 was 69°, and in the summer of 1890 the highest was 84° above zero. In the Aleutian district the winters are a little colder and the summers a little warmer with less rainfall, especially on the mainland, at Kenai, and on the coast of the Aliaska peninsula next to Bering Sea. The coldest weather in the Yukon valley in January 1890 was 43° below zero. The temperature of tide water a little below the surface varies less than that of the atmosphere during the year, the thermometer ranging from 36° to 59°. There was no very severe frost until the 2d day of December last, at Sitka. Snow fell during the winter to the depth of 1½ feet.

#### SHIPWRECKS.

Ten shipwrecks occurred in Alaskan waters during the year, as follows, to wit: Whaling bark *Ohio*, in the Arctic; bark *Lizzie Williams*; schooner *Edward K. Webster*; bark *Wildwood*, at Nushegak; steamer *Ancon*, at Naha Bay; steamer *Dispatch*, in Seymour Channel; bark *Corea*, at Kalgin Island, in Cook's Inlet; ship *Oneida*, near Sanak Island; schooner *Alpha*, at Yakutat; schooner *Nellie Martin*, near the mouth of Karluk River.

A wreck was reported at Prince William Sound, but I have been unable to verify the report or learn the name of the schooner reported as lost. Quite a number of other vessels were damaged. These accidents are likely to occur with greater frequency as business increases and a larger number of vessels ply in these waters, unless new and more accurate surveys are made. The coast is a dangerous one on account of unaccountable currents and sunken rocks.

#### DEMAND FOR REPRESENTATION.

The people of Alaska exhibit strong feeling upon the subject of having a delegate to represent them in the National Congress, and attribute

the failure to secure legislation for their relief to the fact that we have no person there who has a recognized position as such. As bearing upon this subject I submit copy of correspondence which has created some excitement here. It explains itself, and needs no comment. It is as follows, viz:

To His Excellency, Lyman E. Knapp, Governor of Alaska:

We, the undersigned citizens of the District of Alaska, believing that the time has come when we should have a Delegate in Congress, and that it is necessary that we should have one in order that the interests of the people may be advocated in Congress, respectfully ask that Your Excellency issue a call for a general election for Southeastern Alaska for a Delegate in Congress, to take place on October 17, 1890, and that said call be issued at the earliest possible moment:

C. F. DEPUE,  
Supt. E. A. M. & M. Co.  
F. H. NOWELL,  
Mangr. S. B. B. Mng. Co.  
KOEHLER & JAMES,  
Merchants.  
W. R. HOYT,  
Commissioner.  
L. L. WILLIAMS.  
W. A. SANDEES,  
Supt. Equitable M. Co.  
NELSON BROS.,  
Merchants.  
F. S. REYNOLDS,  
Supt. Silver Queen Mine.  
DELANEY & GAMEL.  
EUGENE S. WILLARD.

JUNEAU CITY, ALASKA,  
August 19, 1890.

REPLY.

SITKA ALASKA, August 25, 1890.

GENTLEMEN: I am in receipt of your favor of the 19th instant requesting me to issue a call for a general election for Southeastern Alaska, for a delegate in Congress, to take place October 17, 1890. I recognize the patriotism, the earnest desire to promote the interests of the Territory and the deservedly high standing and character of the gentlemen whose names are signed to the petition. I too have come here to make this country my home and yield to none in my desire to promote the well-being of Alaska.

I have, therefore, given much thought to the matter of your request, hoping that I might see my way clear to comply with it. But thus far I have been unable to find authority of law, or justification in conditions, for official action on my part, in the direction you desire.

The governor of the Territory has no power, or authority, except such as has been conferred by Congress, either directly or by implication, and all unauthorized acts are extra official and void. I do not believe you wish me to become a party to any action which will not be recognized by Congress as legitimate and proper. Then let us see how this matter stands. The organic act of 1884 only provides for a collection and judicial district and a partially organized Territory. There being no provision for a legislature, a legislature is prohibited. In like manner we can have no Representative or Delegate in Congress. If we need a precedent to convince us, we have only to recall the farce of sending ex-Collector Ball to represent Alaska in Congress, and the fact that his assuming a false position destroyed what little influence he might have had with members of Congress as a private citizen. I also recollect another case, perhaps from Dakota, in which a Delegate elected by the people was refused recognition by Congress and obliged to ignobly retire. Besides, if as governor of the Territory I were to issue a call for an election of Delegate for the Territory, I should be obliged to make the call general, not local. I am bound to consider the interests of every section alike, the Bering Sea region, the Yukon valley and the Aleutian Archipelago, as well as Southeastern Alaska. Then all should have an equal chance. A proclamation for an election to be held October 17, 1890, would sound rather farcical when it reached Kodiak, St. Michael, Anvik, and Point Barrow next summer.

I suppose, of course, that it is desired that I issue this call officially. As a private citizen my call would, perhaps, have just as much weight, and no more, than that of

any other private citizen. But if to be issued by private citizens, it is better that the call be signed by those who approve it. I am free to confess that the proposition does not, at the present time, commend itself to my judgment. It seems to me to be premature, impracticable, and inexpedient.

No representation other than by the chosen representative of the people can be satisfactory, or consistently advocated, except as a temporary expedient. But are we prepared for an election at the present time? Are the conditions of the Territory such that an election would now fairly voice the sentiments of the people? Are not some preliminaries of legislation and arrangement necessary? Citizenship and the qualification of voters have not been sufficiently defined to avoid friction and perhaps serious trouble. The machinery so necessary for fair and honest elections is wanting. Sectional representation can be approved by no one, and yet a general election this fall, with our limited means of communication, is impossible. A partial poll on account of insufficient notification would lay the whole business open to the charge of unfairness. If a delegate were to be elected, even without being handicapped by charges of unfairness, he would receive no recognition by Congress and have no standing except as a private citizen. And last but not least, there being no provision in law for the payment of a delegate, or for defraying his expenses, it follows as a natural sequence that the person selected would be a man who has personal reasons for desiring to be in Washington, and we can readily see why one who has personal interests to be subserved should be the last person to be thought of as a public representative.

With all respect, therefore, for your judgment in the matter, and overcoming my own desire to please you, I must decline for the present, to comply with your request.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LYMAN E. KNAPP.

#### MINING AND MINERALS.

A large part of the attention given to mining during the year was in the practical development of claims already located and doing assessment work to keep claims alive, though the prospector has been abroad as usual, and a large number of locations have been made. Six patents have been received at the land-office, with cash payments to the amount of \$1,802.50, making the total number of patents actually received to this time fourteen. Ten new applications have been made for patents.

Considerable activity has been manifested, but no excitement, in connection with the various mining interests. Placer-mining is carried on in at least eight districts, viz: Silver Bow Basin, near Juneau, Sum Dum and Shuck, some distance south, Latuya Bay, on the coast north of Cross Sound, Yakutat, Kenai Peninsular, the Fish River District, on Norton Sound, and the Yukon District, including the rivers flowing into the Yukon. About 50 miners passed over the divide from Chilkot in the early spring to take the places of those who returned in the fall from the Yukon District, where it is thought there are at least 275 men engaged in the placer-mining of the region, most of whom remained there during the winter. The results of their work are not definitely known, and reports are somewhat conflicting. One report says that 120 men, wintering on Forty Mile Creek, cleaned up from \$2,000 to \$3,000 each; another says 30 men wintered on Stewart River and all did well. At Latuya Bay and Kenai it is thought that the mines have afforded rich yields. Great expectations were announced as to the Shuck and Sum Dum regions, since which time very little has been said about them, from which it may be inferred perhaps that the expectations have been moderately realized. The Silver Bow Basin placers which have been worked have yielded satisfactory returns. A consolidation of a large number of claims in the Silver Bow Basin Mining Company, F. H. Nowell, manager, has reduced the number of separate concerns, but has not diminished the amount of work done. This company is digging a tunnel under the mountain to tap the pocket

of the basin from below, and the work has been pushed vigorously and systematically. Relays of workmen keep the rock moving night and day, summer and winter. It is thought the tunnel will be through to its first opening by December next. This enterprise is considered an assured success. The character of the deposit is known, and the improved method of securing the gold will facilitate the work and enhance the profits.

Quartz lodes are worked in ten or more districts, some of which are large and contain many distinct claims. The ten districts referred to are as follows, to wit: Sheep Creek region, which affords ore containing silver, gold, and other metals; Salmon Creek, near Juneau, silver and gold; Silver Bow Basin, mainly gold; Douglas Island, mainly gold; Fuhter Bay on Admiralty Island, mainly gold; the Silver Bay mining district near Sitka, gold and silver; Berner's Bay, in Lynn Canal, mainly gold; Fish River, mining district on Norton Sound; Unga district and Lemon Creek. Many of the ores containing silver and other metals, notably the Sheep Creek, Salmon Creek and Lemon Creek ores, are sent to smelters long distances away for reduction, the necessary conveniences not being found near at hand. Some of the ores are simply piled up waiting for future opportunities, or the erection of mills. The number of mills for crushing the ore and obtaining the free gold, within the Territory, is, I believe, thirteen, only one or two of which have chlorination works to reduce the sulphurets. The mills may be enumerated as follows:

	Stamps.
On Douglas Island, the Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Company .....	240
The Bear's Nest Company .....	80
The Alaska Union Mining Company .....	120
The Mexican .....	10
In Silver Bow Basin,	
The Equitable Mining Company .....	10
The Takou Consolidated .....	10
The Webster Mill .....	5
Archie Campbell's Mill .....	10
In Fuhter Bay, Admiralty Island, Willoughby's Mill .....	10
In Berner's Bay .....	5
In Silver Bay District, Sitka, Stewart's Mill .....	10
Lake Mountain Mining Company .....	5
In Fish River mining district .....	10
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>525</b>

The Treadwell mill is said to be the largest stamp mill in the world. It has 240 stamps, 96 concentrators, 12 ore crushers, a 500-horse-power water wheel, and all the conveniences for reducing the ore with the least expense. The ore is low grade, yielding from \$6 to \$12 per ton, but it is convenient to tide-water and the expenses have been reduced to a minimum. The capital stock of the company is divided into 100,000 shares. The first dividend was paid in August, 1885, and was 25 cents per share. Since that time the record of dividends may be tabulated, as follows:

Years.	Dividends	Amount.
1885.....	3	\$75,000
1886.....	3	75,000
1887.....	5	125,000
1888.....	3	75,000
1889.....	12	300,000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>650,000</b>

It is not supposed that these dividends represent the measure of profits, for much of the earlier earnings was put back into the business in adding to the facilities. About \$15,000 were expended in development work upon the mines of Sheep Creek during 1889, and considerable ore was taken out and transported to San Francisco for reduction. Sixty tons of ore from the Silver Creek mine gave an average return of \$200 per ton. The smelting returns show that the lowest grade of ore shipped, which came directly from the surface workings, ran 66 ounces of silver and \$4 in gold to the ton, while the first-class ore gave returns of 341 ounces of silver and \$22 of gold. In many of the mines the work of the last year was mainly preparatory to future operations, consisting of excavations, tunneling, road building, etc.

Southeastern Alaska was divided into three recording districts by order of the United States district court on the 6th day of February, 1888. The recording for the Sitka recording district is done by the clerk of the court, who resides at Sitka. The recording for the Juneau district is done at that place by the United States commissioner residing there, and the United States commissioner at Fort Wrangell has charge of the recording in the Wrangell district. All mining claims are filed in the recording district where located, but patents must be sent to the land office, which is at Sitka.

Of the other minerals than gold and silver all discussions must be based upon surface observations, except to a very small extent in regard to coal which has been taken out in comparatively small quantities at Killisnoo, in Kachekmak Bay in the Kenai Peninsula, at Unga, Port Muller, Yakutat, Murder Cove on Admiralty Island, and Cape Lisburne. And these places can scarcely be said to have been worked. They have only been prospected. The coal found thus far is generally soft, pitchy, and bituminous, though the Kenai coal is reported to be lignite. The Killisnoo coal is generally of the character mentioned, but one claim that has been worked to quite a depth during the last year by Messrs. Brady and Whitford is thought to afford a coal having better qualities and which is especially valuable for coking purposes. All the coals of Alaska are free burning coals. The products of the Port Muller mines are said to be better suited for steaming purposes, being harder and more enduring than most of the coals of the territory and quite free from sulphur. Vessels running short of coal frequently take on supplies from the surface outcroppings at Cape Lisburne, at Unga and at Kenai, though the coals obtained at these places are not first class steaming coals. Indications are abundant of valuable deposits in other places, especially on Sullivan, Kuiu, and Revilla-Gigedo Islands and in the Yukon Valley. The main land deposits have not been investigated at all.

Marble deposits are frequent on Admiralty, Prince of Wales, Long, and Baranoff Islands, and have been observed in many places upon the main land. No surveys have been made and no careful observations taken, so far as I know. The Halleck stone has been used for the manufacture of lime, producing an excellent article, and small specimens of the deposit near Killisnoo have been cut and found to receive a fine polish. From personal observations of many of the locations and specimens, I am satisfied that if sound stone can be obtained from anywhere near the surface, profitable business will eventually grow up at several points. Whether skilled experts can judge from surface indications as to the soundness of the rock beneath, I am unable to say. But with two or three exceptions the outcroppings do not indicate soundness to the uninitiated. At Shakan there is a magnificent exposure of white and dove

colored marble which appears very much like the bared surface of the rock at the Vermont quarries. The texture of the stone is all that could be desired. The location is very fine, being near tide water, in a fine harbor, and with plenty of water power near by for cheap manufacture. A careful survey by competent judges might determine the value of this deposit without much expense in development work.

A hasty examination from a row-boat, along shore in Taiya Inlet, disclosed what appeared to be a valuable deposit of granite in a position to be very accessible and easily worked. Granite and porphyry largely compose the smooth worn pebbles and small stones of the Chilcat River for 25 miles up from its mouth.

On several occasions at places quite remote from each other, I have found specimens of jade, among the natives, but in no case was I able to learn from them where the specimens were obtained. Their manner, when inquiries were made, gave the impression that they were unwilling to give information.

Native copper and copper ores, taken from the region about Copper River, are on exhibition, though but little is known of these deposits. The natives have frequently brought down to the coast pieces of pure copper, knives and bullets of the same, since long before the American occupation of the country. Barnite, a sulphuret of copper, seems to be quite abundant. The Chyttyto and Chytyne Rivers branches of the Copper, have both furnished fine specimens of native copper. Late last fall some very rich, grey copper ore was found about 50 miles south of Juneau. This ore also contains silver. Flint and pyrites are considered valuable minerals by the natives, who use them instead of matches for kindling fires.

#### FISHERIES.

An enumeration of the food-fishes of Alaska would include most of the specimens of the ichthyology of North America. Those most in use at the present time are the following, to wit: salmon, halibut, cod, herring, black bass, sea and brook trout, red fish, oolichon, capelin and anchovy. All classes, white and native, use these, in their several varieties, freely. The natives, in addition to the foregoing, use the octopus, porpoise, whale, shark, dogfish, hair and fur seal, and many other kinds.

As an industry, salmon fishing is the most important and perhaps no other salt-water fish suits the palate of so many people all over the world. It certainly forms an important item in the subsistence account of all classes in this country. Every native family lays by his store of dried salmon and halibut for winter's use, perhaps not less than 500 pounds each, and their diet is varied by fresh salmon in the season of it, and other varieties of fresh fish when the salmon are not running. The number of salmon canneries in operation during the last year in the Territory, which with their equipments represent a capital of more than \$4,000,000, was thirty-six. Their pack amounted to the enormous sum of 702,993 cases of four dozen 1-pound cans. A comparison with former years will afford a better illustration of the growing importance of the business than can be afforded by any other statement. The record stands as follows:

Year.	Total pack (cases).	Year.	Total pack (cases).
1883.....	36,000	1887.....	190,200
1884.....	45,060	1888.....	439,293
1885.....	74,800	1889.....	702,993
1886.....	120,700		

The record for the year previous to 1889 may have included only the exports to San Francisco. I have embraced in the total pack for 1889, in addition to the number of cases sent to San Francisco, which was 652,993, also those sent to Portland and Astoria, Oregon, some 18,007 cases, as well as about 50,000 cases destroyed in the shipwrecks of the *Ancon* and *Wildwood*. The total value of the pack for 1889 was about \$3,514,965. This amount increased by the value of 1,386,000 pounds of salt salmon, some \$69,300, and about 5,000,000 pounds of dried salmon put away by the natives for home consumption, some \$250,000, and we have a total of \$3,834,265, as the value of the cured products of this one fish industry. It has been before mentioned that this industry gives employment to 55 vessels used for purposes of transportation to and from San Francisco, some 36 steam-tugs, from 70 to 100 scows, and perhaps 360 small boats, engaged in the direct work of preparing the fish for the market; besides, the Pacific Coast Steamship Company's large ships made 29 trips from the sound to Alaska and return, heavily laden with freight, in part made up of supplies for and the products of the canneries of southeastern Alaska.

Seven vessels with their accompanying small boats were engaged in the cod-fishing business for the San Francisco market, mostly in the banks about the Shumagin group of islands, catching 925,000 fish, of the total estimated weight of 9,250,000 pounds, of the value of \$555,000. There was no attempt to fish systematically in the immense cod banks of the Fairweather Ground, about Kodiak, in Bering Sea, or in Revilla Gigedo Channel. It is safe to predict a business in this line, within the waters of Alaska, in the near future, exceeding that now carried on in the Atlantic Ocean. While the salmon fishing is carried to the extent of wise economy, perhaps, the cod-fishing might, without detriment, be increased indefinitely.

Forty-four vessels with a capacity of 12,963 tons, 9 of which were steamers, were engaged in the whale fisheries in the Arctic Ocean last year. The U. S. S. *Thetis*, also cruised about in those waters to be ready to render these vessels any assistance which might be needed. The total catch of this fleet yielded 12,834 barrels of oil, 231,981 pounds of bone, and 1,500 pounds of ivory. The catch this year is expected to very much exceed that of last year. The bark *Northern Light* has captured the largest whale on record during the last twenty-five years. They took from its carcass 3,000 pounds of bone, and about 170 barrels of oil. The bone alone is worth \$15,000.

Very little attention has been paid to halibut fishing, though these fish are abundant through the whole extent of our shores and inland passages, and of the finest quality. Some have been sent to the market fresh, but the demand is not yet sufficient to command the conveniences for transportation necessary to lay it before the consumer in the best condition. It is only a question of time, however, when this fish will become an article of extensive export. It is already much used for home consumption, and is of great value because it is taken at all seasons of the year. To a limited extent salted halibut has been shipped from southeastern Alaska. I can furnish no statistics.

Herring in large quantities have been salted and shipped in kegs, and the Alaska Oil and Guano Company, of Killisnoo, made 160,000 gallons of oil and 800 tons of fish fertilizer last year from these fish. They resort in immense schools to the quiet waters of Sitka Bay and other sheltered spots for the winter, and thousands of porpoises, sharks, and other large fish follow them there. Millions of birds constantly hover over waters where they are during the winter to prey upon them.

In some places schools of herring, about the size of sardines, afford fine opportunities for the location of sardine-packing establishments, but none of these opportunities have yet been utilized.

That the seal fisheries are not confined to the catch upon the Pribyloff Islands, where 100,000 only are allowed to be taken, is well known. Of those captured by the revenue-cutters because illegally taken in the waters of Alaska during the year, 2,468 skins were sold in May last by Marshal Porter for the round sum of \$24,256, and it was claimed that more than 20,000 skins were successfully carried away by the poachers to Victoria. A large number of skins, including many hundreds of pups, were taken, as it is claimed, legitimately, in the North Pacific Ocean. The natives, and many whites also, engage in the business of sealing every season along the coast, in the track of the seals on their way north to their breeding places in Bering Sea. From the nature of the case, it is impossible to obtain statistics of the amount of this irregular business.

The importance of protecting the fishing business in Alaska by effective legislation is more and more apparent every year. In many places the salmon fishing is overdone, and in many more unwise and destructive methods are employed. So far as the business enterprises of the white people are concerned, it matters little perhaps. But with the natives it is different. They are bound to their local resorts and the fishing grounds and habits of their ancestors by strong ties. They know no other way of life, no other means of subsistence.

The interior Indians, if deprived of their salmon supply for winter use, would suffer seriously and perhaps be in danger of starvation. I have endeavored to protect the natives as far as possible, and in a few instances have had occasion to defend them against the invasion of their rights by white men. On the other hand, more frequently, perhaps, by reason of their ignorance and failure to comprehend just what their rights were, they have been the aggressors and made extravagant claims, and I am happy to be able to state that in most cases the white people have been very forbearing and have gone more than half way in taking conciliatory measures, and less friction has occurred than might have been anticipated.

#### THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The Government owns all the buildings occupied as offices by the Government officials, and for the most part those used as residences. These buildings are old and very much dilapidated and in need of repairs. Several buildings have passed beyond the stage of profitable rehabilitation, and have been abandoned to the ravages of time and decay. The old Russian governor's house, known as the "Castle," has become a spectacle to bring sadness to the hearts of all those who have heard the narratives of its former magnificence and its historical associations. It is a log structure, and the foundation timbers decaying have caused it to become crippled and unsightly. It might still be saved by immediate repairs, but will soon be past redemption. It is not needed for present official uses, but might be put into condition for living purposes for the Government officers. Whether such an outlay as would be requisite for the purpose would be considered advisable, I do not assume to say; if not to be repaired it might be sold with the site upon which it stands, for quite a snug little sum of money. This, however, could not be done until legislation is had authorizing the acquisition of titles to land in Alaska. The repairs now in progress upon the warehouse and wharf,

under the supervision of Mr. Frank Grygla, of Washington, are timely and a source of great satisfaction to the people here. Since the Government took possession of the wharf, the old system of charging an enormous wharfage from every citizen receiving freight over it has continued, but just why it is difficult to see. The policy of the Government, as exemplified elsewhere, does not seem to be thus exacting. The Ohio Falls Canal, at Louisville, Ky., will serve as an illustration. The Government purchased that canal of a private company at great expense, and opened it for the free use of the public. So with other Government works. Why should there be discriminations against the people of Alaska? Attention has heretofore been called to the need of marine barracks and a court-house at Juneau, and I believe steps have been taken to supply the same, much to the gratification of the people of the Territory.

#### POPULATION.

The people of Alaska have been spoken of as Americans, Russians, Hydahs, Tsimpseans, Thlinkets, Aleuts, Innuits or Eskimos and Tinnehs, or Athabascan Indians. Eight distinct languages and several dialects are spoken. The Tsimpseans embrace only the settlement at Metlakahltla, about one thousand people who came over from British Columbia with Mr. Duncan. The Hydahs have some five or six villages on the south end of Prince of Wales Island with about nine hundred people. The Thlinkets reside in from forty to fifty villages in the Alexander Archipelago and along the coast from Cape Fox to Copper River. All these have become partly civilized by contact with the whites and through the influence of schools and missions and there is a large number of those who can speak English and have become excellent citizens. The Aleuts are also partly civilized, but with a civilization conforming more nearly to that of the Russians than our own. These reside upon the islands of the Aleutian chain, the Shunagin and Kodiak groups, the Aliaska Peninsula and the islands of St. Paul and St. George in Bering Sea.

There are a few Aleut half-breeds in Sitka. Many of these people talk the Russian language. The Innuits and Tinnehs can not be said to be civilized, though their barbarism has been modified by contact with white people. The Innuits reside along the coast from Nushegak, in Bering Sea, to the eastern limit of our dominion in the Arctic region. Lieutenant Ray speaks of them as living in a state of anarchy, making no combinations, offensive or defensive, having no punishment for crimes and no government. Given to petty pilfering, they make no attempt to reclaim stolen property. They are social in their habits and kind to each other. These people are obliged to devote all their energies to procuring the necessary food and clothing to maintain life. Their intelligence is of a low order and the race is apparently diminishing. Physically they are strong and possess great powers of endurance.

The Tinnehs occupy the interior, the Yukon valley, except the portions near its mouth, and come down to the sea-shore only at Cook's Inlet. They are called "Stick" Indians by the Thlinkets. These people have many traits of the North American Indian elsewhere, and may properly be designated as Indians. The other natives of Alaska are not true Indians and have not generally been treated as such by the government. They have no real tribal relations, though formerly the heads of families were recognized as chiefs and called such.

At the present time, among the Hydahs, Tsimpseans, Thlinkets and Aleuts, the so-called chiefs have very little if any, power, or influence,

as such. Among the Eskimos, it may be doubted if the office ever amounted to anything.

The progress of the natives of Southeastern Alaska towards civilization is steady and certain, though it must not be supposed that these people yet take high rank in learning, intelligence or morality. The educating and elevating influences of the schools and missions, though doing much, perhaps more than we should expect under the circumstances, must be continued a long time in order to effect anything like satisfactory conditions. Sensational writers, inditing their effusions from the decks of steamers passing through our waters and drawing upon their imaginations and the statements of ignorant and irresponsible persons willing to interest them at the expense of truth, have done much to mystify and confuse the opinions of the reading public upon the condition of the natives of Alaska, and a few words upon the subject may not be amiss in this connection.

#### CONDITION OF THE NATIVES.

In some respects the physical condition of the different native tribes is alike and in others not. All are strongly built, rather short, and by their habits of living inured to hardship and endurance. The men have very light or no beards, and frequently trim the scattering hairs on their chins closely, or pluck them out. The average height is less than that of Europeans. They have an Asiatic cast of features and the coast people are generally thought to have originated from Japanese stock. The Eskimos have a language very similar to the Eskimos of Labrador and almost identical with a small population upon the Asiatic side of Bering Strait. Physically they differ from the Eskimos of Greenland and Labrador, being more robust and healthy. All of the natives of Alaska have small and delicately formed hands and feet and rather a massive head, straight black hair, dark eyes, high cheek-bones and a nut-brown complexion. All are to a large extent fish eaters, though the Tinnehs living in the interior, or Ingalik tribes of the Yukon, are compelled to subsist to a greater extent upon game and land products.

Their dwellings, not so unlike originally, have now become quite different in style and manner of construction. Those residing in Southeastern Alaska have frame or block houses wholly above ground, with sleeping apartments partitioned off from the main or living-room where the central fire-place is located, like the state-rooms of a river steamboat, and many of the Thlinkets have substituted the modern cooking stove and pipe for the fire-place, and open chimney hole in the roof. Mr. Duncan has, wisely as it seems to me, retained the ventilation principle of the open roof in all the dwellings in his model settlement at Metlakahla, though greatly improving it by constructing a metallic bell-shaped chimney which is suspended from the roof, the bottom of the bell being about 7 feet from the floor.

These people are all self-supporting; the Hydahs, Tsimpseans, Thlinkets and Aleuts living comfortably with plenty of food and blankets. The Eskimos, especially those of the Arctic region, have a hard time of it to keep from starvation and death by freezing. The Tinnehs, or Ingaliks, have less of the conveniences, not to say luxuries of life, than any of the coast tribes. The last-named two tribes have small, poorly built, partly underground houses, and their winter dwellings are entirely covered with earth.

The prevailing diseases among the coast people are consumption,

rhenmatism, syphilis, and scrofula. Epidemics of erysipelas, small-pox, measles, and whooping-cough also occur and constitute a standing menace to the whole population of the Territory. "Venereal disease is so common," says Past-Asst. Surgeon H. B. Fitts, U. S. Navy, who has been stationed here for some years and had much to do with the natives, "that they have come to consider it as a necessary, or at least unavoidable evil." Neglected, like other diseases among them, the results are terrible, both with the present generation and to their posterity. They manifest an unaccountable apathy as to health and even life itself, while exercising intelligence and forethought in all the minor details of their everyday life. The women frequently die in childbirth, or are rendered martyrs to constant suffering for the remainder of their lives because of neglect. The doctor further says:

The nakedness and filth, the wretched poverty and lingering sufferings of some of these poor creatures are awful to contemplate. They live in huts which afford next to no protection from the weather, or are crowded into the most uncomfortable corners of better houses. They eat such scant food as may be donated by their more fortunate friends and their drinking water is contaminated by drainage from cess-pools and grave-yards.

In 1886 Dr. Pitcher took similar views of the situation when he said:

Consumption is the natural enemy of the Alaskan Indian. Bright's disease exists to a certain extent and gonorrhoea is frequently met with. The disease most to be dreaded is syphilis, handed down as it is from generation to generation, making itself terribly apparent in the shape of necrosed bones, scrofula, foul ulcers, enlarged lymphatics and iritis which soon destroys the sight.

All agree that something ought to be done by the Government to mitigate these evils. How shall this naturally fine race be saved from ultimate extinction? Dr. Fitts, well says: "It would not be sufficient to provide free medicine and medical attendance," for better shelter, food, clothing, and nursing, as well as compulsion to submit, would be absolutely essential to adequate results of medical treatment.

A course of hospital treatment would probably prove efficacious for the eradication of these diseases, and no other method, so far as I know, has ever been suggested as adequate to remedy the evils referred to. The hospital was suggested by Dr. Pitcher, and is urged by Drs. Fitts and Arnold, and every other person informed of the condition of things here, and having the welfare of these natives at heart. The missionaries of the Yukon, and Bering Sea regions express themselves strongly on this subject. Under the old Russian regime, which we are accustomed to think lacked some of the elements of civilizing power, there was at least a freer expenditure of money for the humane purposes of guarding human life and health. In 1860 four hospitals with 14,550 patients were reported, though I presume this number includes every person to whom prescriptions were given.

The waters of the sulphur hot-springs of Sitka, Hoonah, and other places in the Territory are thought to have curative properties for the more prevalent diseases, and hospitals located at these points would be measurably central and convenient. Whether these hospitals should be entirely free or not may be a question. The Thlinkets, Hydahs, and Aleuts are quite generally able to pay small sums for their keeping, though sometimes not. But the main expense should, undoubtedly, be borne by the Government. The need of this additional appliance for the promotion of the physical and moral well being of the natives is so urgent that I am tempted to enlarge upon it with a more extended discussion, but refrain from indulging further because its importance is so evident that suggestion only is necessary. For mortuary statistics see Dr. Arnold's report in Appendix.

The moral condition of the natives of Alaska is undoubtedly sad enough, though there are rifts in the clouds which afford glimpses of better things ahead. Bad as their morals are, the moral degradation and obliquity of these people have been much overdrawn. Having heard of statements being made by persons of standing and character to the effect that "medicine men tear with their teeth and eat the flesh of dead men," "women slaves are killed and buried under the corner-posts of the houses newly erected," "the natives practice female infanticide as a religious duty," and allegations of the frequent occurrence, in public, of practices too vulgar and obscene for narration here; having heard of these statements I took occasion, on my recent cruises in Southeastern Alaska, to inquire into their truthfulness. I had with me, part of the time, a native interpreter whom I trusted fully. I found occasionally legends of some such things that had happened "long time ago," but the oldest people remarked, "that was when I was very young."

I came to the conclusion that the killing of slaves had never been a practice, but only a crime, like the Whitechapel murders of London; that female infanticide never was general, and had entirely ceased for many year past, except as it sometimes occurs among so-called civilized people; that the roasting, drowning, and burying alive of persons suspected of witchcraft, if practiced at all among the Thlinkets, where the practice was especially located, was exceptional. The practice of "tying up" persons suspected of witchcraft is of recent date, but could not be safely indulged in at the present time anywhere along the coast. It is now practiced only when it is thought detection is impossible. Very few Shamans now openly practice their sorceries in this part of the Territory.

The savage nature of the natives is not wholly eradicated from many of the older men, but the presence of a war-ship seems to be all that is required to keep them in a docile condition of mind. The young people seem to be growing up with different ideas of life and its duties. They have higher aims, a taste for better living, a desire to conform to American customs. The influence of schools and missions and church services has had much to do with this transformation in the native mind.

#### MISSIONS AND CHURCHES.

The Græco-Russian church has been established in Alaska many years, and has been an active force during the latter part of its existence, at least among the Sitka tribe of Thlinkets and the Aleuts. At this time they have 12 churches with resident ordained priests, 67 chapels in the immediate charge of unordained assistants, 17 parish schools, and about 12,000 members in regular standing, within the territory of Alaska.

The churches are located as follows: At Sitka, St. Michael's cathedral, 1 chapel, 1 school; Killisnoo, 1 church; Kodiak, 1 church, 1 school, 8 chapels; Kenai, 1 church, 1 school, 7 chapels; Belkofsky, 1 church, 1 school, 9 chapels; Unalaska, 1 church, 1 school, perhaps 20 chapels; Nushegak, 1 church, 1 school, perhaps 15 chapels; St. Paul's Island, 1 church; St. George's Island, 1 church; Atka, 1 church, 1 school; Attu, 1 church, 1 school; Michaelofsky, 1 church, 1 school, perhaps 7 chapels. The chapels are within the district of which the churches are the headquarters, or center, and the priest of that church has general supervision of the district.

The Presbyterians have seven important mission stations, at Fort

Wrangell, Hoonah, Howcan, Juneau, Haines, Sitka and Point Barrow. The native Presbyterian Church at Sitka numbers about 300. The Industrial Training School has about 170 students and 21 teachers. There is also a white Presbyterian Church at Sitka.

The other missions are as follows, viz: Friends, at Douglas City; Methodists, at Unalaska and Unga; Baptist, at Kodiak and Afognak; Episcopalian, at Anvik and Cape Prince of Wales; Swedish, at Yakutat and Unalaklik; Moravian, at Bethel and Carmel; Church of England, at Nuklukahyet and Buxton; Congregational, at Point Hope; Reformed Episcopalian, at Kenai; Independent, at Metlakahltla; Cumberland Presbyterian, at Nuchuk; Catholic, at Juneau, Wrangell, Sitka, Nulato, Leatherville, and St. Michaels.

The mission movement, except the Russian Church, may be said to have been begun since 1878. and the results of their work are much greater than should have been expected. The loose and impatient assertions sometimes made that mission work among the natives of Alaska amounts to nothing, that the native children by going to school only acquire more power and skill for deviltry, or that those who have been educated in the mission fall right back into their old ways just as soon as they leave the school, are not justified by the facts. The improvement in the lives of the children is reflected and produces a less measure of improvement in the family, like the reflection of the rainbow upon the clouds.

The missionaries and teachers can always be relied upon for cooperation and help to the civil government in its work, and as such helps, are valuable agencies for good. I believe them worthy of all the encouragement and aid which the Government can legitimately give them.

#### TRANSPORTATION AND POSTAL FACILITIES.

The regular and distinctively public lines of transportation in Alaska are limited to the Pacific Coast Steam-Ship Company's line from San Francisco to southeastern Alaska, the small steam tug carrying the mail from Fort Wrangell to Shakan and Klawak, and possibly, in a limited way, the Alaska Commercial Company's steamers plying between San Francisco and Michaelofsky, or St. Michaels, as it is more commonly called. The Pacific Coast Steam-Ship Company's steamers made twenty-nine trips last year, carrying the mails on contract with the Government, usually touching at seven places though not always, and occasionally delivering freight and mails at ten or eleven places. The Klawak steamer touches at three places making twelve trips, but has a very limited capacity for freights and passengers. It is doubtful if the Alaska Commercial Company can be considered as having been a common carrier, though they were very accommodating to all who desired to take passage with them and never refused to carry mail matter for the convenience of the isolated settlers of the Northwest and cruisers in Bering Sea and the Arctic Ocean. The various sea craft plying the waters of the North Pacific and Bering Sea on their private enterprises, have very kindly lent a helping hand whenever needed. The opportunities open to the general public for travel in the territory, except by the favor of private parties, or the special charter of boats for the occasion, is limited to the few places above referred to.

By the courtesy of the Navy Department, I have been personally favored with transportation, upon the U. S. S. *Thetis* and the U. S. S. *Pinta*, to all parts of southeastern Alaska, and availing myself of

the opportunities, I have visited a large proportion of the waters, islands, rivers, towns, and villages, mines, canneries and fishing establishments, schools, etc., of this part of the territory. These vessels could not, however, convert themselves into transportation boats and I was allowed to take with me only an interpreter. I consider that these cruises have been of great value to me and I trust the information I obtained will be serviceable in my work while remaining in the territory.

There are eleven post-offices served with mail within the district, though some of them at rather infrequent intervals, Sitka; Juneau, Douglas and Wrangell, receiving mails from the States twice a month.

There is a strong feeling, not without reason, that Alaska is not fairly used in this limitation of her mail facilities.

With a resident population of nearly 40,000 people living in about 300 towns and villages scattered through a territory containing 580,000 square miles, Alaska ought to have more facilities for communication than were required for her accommodation twenty-three years ago when her one business company desired only to traffic with the natives for furs, and the entire population were unable to read or write. Fully nineteen-twentieths of our towns, villages, and business establishments are absolutely cut off from public mail communication with their territorial and national capitals. In these villages are located 48 schools, 47 important missions and churches, 14 saw-mills, 14 mills for crushing ores, 36 canneries and many salteries and other business establishments employing skilled and intelligent workmen. The district has a civilized and educated population of not less than 7,000 people, and more than as many more of the people are partially civilized.

Not only the people and the business of the Territory demand better postal facilities, but the Government, to be efficient and to exercise its functions as such, must, have means of communication with the whole Territory. The organic act provides for the appointment of a governor and charges him with the duty of seeing that the laws are enforced, and with the interests of the United States Government that may arise within the district. He is then placed upon one of its eleven hundred islands without facilities of any kind, except those above mentioned, for communication with the territory in his charge.

Formal application was made to the Postmaster-General, by the officials, civil and naval, last fall, in behalf of the people of the Territory and themselves, asking that a mail route be established between St. Michael's and Sitka and intermediate points, with four annual trips between Sitka and Unalaska and two between Unalaska and St. Michael's during the eight months of the year most suitable for travel. Accompanying the application, or following it, was sent a proposition from reliable parties offering to enter into a trial contract to carry the mails according to the request, for the term of one year, at rates which seemed to be entirely reasonable and much lower than should have been expected. To this petition no direct response was made by the Postmaster-General to the petitioners. In reply to Senator Dawes and other Senators who gave the proposition their indorsement, it was promised that the question of extending the service should be carefully considered as soon as the appropriation for that class of service would justify. Perhaps action has already been taken to give us such mail service as is necessary to meet the requirements of the Territory, but I have heard nothing further in regard to the matter, and it seems necessary to call attention to it anew.

## LABOR SUPPLY.

The number of men employed as laborers in the Territory during the last year was considerably in excess of the number employed in any previous year, but I am unable to furnish any reliable statistics. Business enterprises have multiplied, especially in the fisheries. Probably there is very little difference in the amount of labor performed in the mines. Laborers have been obtained from three classes, to wit: The natives have been largely employed in fishing, working the mines, packing for all purposes, as general assistants in excursions by land and water, and to some limited extent as carpenters and skilled workmen; some five hundred or more Chinamen have been employed about the salmon canneries, manufacturing and packing the cans, as cooks and waiters, etc., and a less number of Americans have been employed as foremen and skilled laborers. There have been no disagreements amounting to antagonisms between employers and employed. Some canneries have hired the Indians by the day, and others have purchased their fish at a stated price for each.

As the natives become acquainted with the English language and learn the civilized methods of doing their work they are thought to be desirable help. Two young men, graduates of the Sitka Industrial School, have been employed with much satisfaction as carpenters upon the Government and other buildings during the present season.

Some of the female graduates are employed as household servants and cooks.

## VISITORS AND EXPLORING EXPEDITIONS.

A large number of summer vacation travelers have visited South-eastern Alaska during the present season, probably not less than 2,500. These people have manifested much interest in the country, and it is thought the knowledge they acquire as to the condition, resources, and needs of the country may prove of service to this Territory. Several scientific and exploring expeditions have also been made into the unknown portions of the district. Mr. Seaton Karr, an English traveler, with a party of personal retainers, entered the wilderness from the Chilcat River, in April, returning the same way in June. Following soon after, the Frank Leslie Illustrated Paper Expedition, including several gentlemen of scientific and literary reputation, ascended the Chilcat River, passed over the divide, and, separating, two of the party passed down the Alsek River to its mouth in Dry Bay, not far from Yakutat. These gentlemen are now here awaiting transportation to the States. The remainder of the party went on to the upper waters of the Yukon, and have not since been heard from.

The Mount St. Elias exploring expedition, headed by Prof. Israel C. Russell and Mark B. Kerr, prominent scientists, were dropped at Yakutat by the U. S. S. *Pinta* in the latter part of June. They purposed proceeding across the mountain range and spending some months in taking scientific observations in the vicinity and upon Mount St. Elias. They expect to be taken up at Yakutat in October. It is hoped that much useful information will be obtained and published by these and other parties making tours of observation in the Territory.

## PRESSING NEEDS.

In conclusion permit me to suggest a few of the more pressing needs of the Territory which ought to be met by departmental and legislative action.

Provision for acquiring titles to land is essential to progress and the development of the country.

A town-site law adapted to the peculiar conditions of Alaska ought to be made at once.

Citizenship and the qualification of voters ought to be defined before elections are authorized.

Municipal organization and authorization of taxation for local purposes are important.

An extension of mail facilities to meet the reasonable requirements of the Territory ought not longer to be delayed.

The establishment of Government hospitals and provision for supporting insane paupers are demanded by the claims of justice and humanity.

A steam-vessel should be furnished for the use of the civil officers for the purposes of transportation and the administration of the government.

The public buildings are sadly in need of repairs for their preservation and to render them suitable for occupancy and the various purposes to which they are devoted. A new court-house should be erected at Juneau.

Agricultural experiment stations ought to be established in at least three places in the Territory, viz, in southeastern Alaska, in the Aleutian Archipelago, and in the Yukon Valley.

The interior of the Territory ought to be carefully explored to determine its character, climate, and resources, and examined as to the value and feasibility of an international railway to Bering Sea.

The coast surveys along the shores of Alaska are progressing too slowly for the requirements of commerce. Ten shipwrecks in one year suggest the need of haste in preparing accurate charts for the use of mariners navigating these dangerous waters.

The development of business and the growth of communities all over this extended territory render it necessary that there should be additional facilities for conducting the public business and protecting the people. More deputy marshals and more commissioners should be provided.

It seems absurd that with timber one of the most prominent features of this country, it should be necessary to import lumber to build the houses needed to protect the people from the inclemency of the weather. Provision ought to be made for cutting timber upon the public lands.

The laws applicable to this Territory have become inadequate to the protection of the persons and property of the people. Unnecessary and unfortunate complications are frequently arising and becoming more numerous every day. Relief is only possible through legislation. Something must be done. Shall it be attempted by the enactment of a code or by the authorization of a commission with enlarged powers, or by giving a full Territorial government, or shall some other remedy be devised?

The presence in Washington every winter of unauthorized persons assuming to voice the sentiment of the people of this Territory as to their condition and needs, and by their mistakes, to use no stronger term, doing us infinite mischief, ought to suggest to our statesmen the reasonableness of the demand for some authorized and recognized representation. I do not assume to determine the form of representation which should be provided. As soon as the conditions are suitable, and citizenship and the qualifications of voters are defined, and election districts and the machinery necessary for fair and honest elections can be

provided, duly elected representatives of the people should be admitted to the privileges and duties of Delegates in Congress. While preparing for the elections, the Territory ought still to be represented by some recognized and legal agent.

There ought to be provided for Alaska a board of public charities with an appropriation for the relief of suffering want and the maintenance of paupers. Our pauper class is not large considering the character of our population, but it can not be supposed that among 40,000 people there is no destitution, no combination of sickness and poverty, no insanity or idiocy, no blindness, no pauper burials. Our condition is not favorable for organizing private charities on a basis broad enough to meet this need. Our white population is transient and neither large nor wealthy. Our native peoples are all poor and unaccustomed to giving. And under favorable conditions this method of relief would not meet the demands of humanity. The humane instincts of the world have long since decided that the generous impulses of men busied with the active interests and pursuits of life are too fitful and uncertain for the relief of prolonged cases of suffering and want.

It has been held that the natives of Alaska are not Indians, and that appropriations for Indian police do not apply to this Territory except when especially mentioned. But the native policeman is an important agent in the enforcement of peace regulations in our native villages and even more important as a factor in promoting the efficiency of our native schools. Provision ought to be made for at least fourteen native policemen to be selected and located in the joint discretion of the governor and the general agent of education. Twelve or fifteen dollars per month would answer all purposes of compensation.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LYMAN E. KNAPP,  
*Governor of Alaska.*

## APPENDIX.

SITKA, ALASKA, September 10, 1890.

MY DEAR SIR: In compliance with your request of the 30th ultimo, I have the honor to present the following incomplete figures as to the comparative healthfulness of this portion of the Territory, and my impressions from personal observations elsewhere.

There have been about 75 interments since my arrival in Sitka. I have records of 43 in the Russian Church since October 1, and of these 38 were Indians out of an average membership of this race of nearly 600. Since the first of this year the Mission has buried 19 Indians, and my own mortuary list will increase this number to 22. Hence, at an estimate of the native population of this ranch of 1,000, the annual death rate is above 60 per 1,000, when it should not exceed one-half of that number. It is to be remarked that only 2 of these deceased patients that I attended could properly be called old, and 1 of these committed suicide. In the absence of the most common cause of infant mortality (summer diarrhea), this high death rate in the early periods is significant; and it is almost wholly attributable to tuberculosis, to the spread of which by infection nothing could be more conducive than their habits and mode of life.

As has been elsewhere observed (*e. g.*, India, *vide* Surgeon General's Report, 1888) the common prevalence of syphilis has a noticeable effect in the way of predisposing to tuberculosis; but deaths due to it directly are comparatively rare.

The late epidemic visitation, la grippe, was the cause of a mortality of almost 2 per cent. of the population of Port Chester. From other places at which it prevailed I have no exact accounts.

I have no doubt that an epidemic of a kind usually thought almost harmless would materially augment the death rate stated above, which I think should be considered as nearly the normal one.

A practicable remedy for this condition is not easy to suggest while present conditions prevail. The weather will continue to favor an overcrowding in houses that many circumstances conspire to keep not only dirty and badly ventilated but actually teeming with disease germs; and the employment of blankets as a circulating medium of trade makes it undesirable to destroy those palpably infectious; while they have no efficient way of disinfecting them, as they do not, to my experience, boil their clothes which they at very long intervals consider it desirable to wash.

Continuance is not their virtue and their disorders are those that only patient attention will influence.

There is a splendid site for a hospital at the hot springs on this island, where the water could be used to heat the buildings, thus minimizing the danger of destruction by fire.

If an institution of this kind could be established there and its directors were empowered to employ methods of suasion suited to the natures of the patients, much good could be accomplished not only in the way of alleviating suffering, but in teaching the natives how to attend intelligently to the needs of one another.

A palliation less likely of appreciable results is the encouragement of the almost abandoned custom of cremation, including in the pyre of the candidate his apparel and all the bedding used in his later illness.

With apologies as well for the delay I have occasioned you as for the hurried nature of this communication, I am, sir,

Yours, respectfully,

WILL F. ARNOLD,  
*Asst. Surgeon, U. S. N.*

Hon. LYMAN E. KNAPP.