CIVIL GOVERNMENT FOR ALASKA.

MAY 11, 1882.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. VAN VOORHIS, from the Committee on the Territories, submitted the following as the

VIEWS OF THE MINORITY:

[To accompany bill H. R. 5900.]

Dissenting views of members of the Committee on the Territories on the bill providing a civil government for the Territory of Alaska.

The undersigned members of the Committee on the Territories are of opinion that the bill reported by the committee should be amended by restoring to it sections 11 and 12 of H. R. No. 3754, which sections provide for the election of a Delegate to represent the Territory of Alaska in the House of Representatives.

The total population of Alaska is upwards of 30,000. Of these, 392 are whites, 1,683 creoles, 2,214 Aleutes, and the balance Indians, a portion of them to a certain extent civilized. We know of no other way in which Congress may be informed concerning the business affairs and government interests of Alaska than by permitting it to be represented. There can be no objection except upon the score of economy. The economical argument fades when it is remembered that Alaska pays more revenue into the Treasury by far than any other Territory, and probably all the other Territories together, and no State west of the Rocky Mountains, except California, pays as much. While the revenue derived at present from the Territory of Alaska is something above $300,000, we are very strongly inclined to the opinion that if the government interests were looked after as they should be that the revenue would amount to a million, and, in time, much more. We therefore recommend the passage of the bill reported by the committee, with sections 11 and 12 added to it, which sections are as follows:

SEC. 11. That a Delegate to the House of Representatives of the United States shall be elected by the qualified voters of said district, who shall be a citizen of the United States and reside in said Territory, and shall serve for the term of two years, and be entitled to the same rights and privileges as are exercised and enjoyed by Delegates from the Territories of the United States to the said House of Representatives. The first election for such Delegate shall be for the Forty-eighth Congress, and shall be upon the Tuesday after the first Monday in September, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two; and thereafter such election shall take place on the same day in every second year. The district court hereby created shall appoint judges of election, and direct where the polls shall be opened at each of the white settlements in said district, and arrange the details of said election. The said judges of election shall make their returns to the board of canvassers that may be appointed, who shall certify the same to the attorney hereby provided for, and he shall issue a certificate of election to the person elected, which shall be attested by the clerk of said court, under his official seal, and forwarded as in such cases provided.

SEC. 12. That all male residents of said district over the age of twenty-one years, who shall be citizens of the United States by nativity or naturalization, or by the terms of the treaty with Russia, or who, having the other qualifications required by law, shall have declared their intention to become citizens, who shall have resided in the said district for six months prior to any election held, shall be qualified to vote thereat: *Provided,* That no person shall be deprived of the right to vote or hold office in said district on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

JOHN VAN VOORHIS.
WM. ALDRICH.
JOHN S. RICHARDSON.
S. H. MILLER.

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