

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 15.

To the Congress of the United States:

The Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, respectfully presents to your honorable body this its memorial, the purpose of which is to call attention to the limited area for the extension and development of the town site of Juneau, and to the fact that under the laws of Congress and regulations of the Department of the Interior certain lands which would furnish an outlet for the growth and extension of said town are withheld from acquisition and settlement, and to request your honorable body to grant certain lands to the town of Juneau for disposition by said town to homeseekers, under the conditions hereinafter stated:

I.

The town of Juneau is located on the mainland on the easterly shore of Gastineau Channel, a body of tidal water approximately twenty miles in length, separating the mainland from Douglas Island. On said island, almost opposite the town of Juneau, is located the Treadwell Mine, one of the largest low grade gold mines in the world. The mineral zone in which this mine is found is extensive in area and a company subsidiary to the Treadwell Company is actively engaged in the development of a similar property within said mineral zone in the immediate vicinity of Juneau, and will erect this summer a stamp mill and reducing plant within the corporate limits of said town for the purpose of crushing and reducing the ores of the mine.

An independent organization known as the Alaska Gastineau Mining Company is spending several millions of dollars in the development of its mining properties near Juneau and in building dams and installing machinery for an electrical power plant to be used in its operations.

Still other companies have invested in mining properties in the immediate vicinity of Juneau and plans for

their development have been announced, but no work has yet begun on an extensive scale.

II.

The result of this activity is that within the last year the town of Juneau has increased in population approximately one hundred per cent with every indication that the next few years will witness the development of an extensive mining industry, which must necessarily cause a much greater increase in population.

Available building space to meet this growth is limited. In most places on the mainland side of the channel the mountains rise so precipitously as to leave no suitable space for the construction of buildings and such buildings if constructed would be menaced by snow and land slides.

The available area within the townsite of Juneau comprises approximately ten blocks square. In a northerly direction from said town and almost immediately adjoining it is an extensive tide flat which is used for no purpose except to convey across it an electrical transmission line and a telephone cable and pipe line. This tide flat by means of the construction of bulk-heads could be filled in and made available for the erection of business, residence and municipal buildings.

III.

Continuing in a northerly direction on the mainland side of the channel the land slopes back from the beach to the foot of the high mountains and a large part of this slope which varies in width from several hundred yards to a half a mile might be made available for building purposes and gardens.

A portion of the land on this slope between Juneau and Lemon Creek, a distance of approximately five miles has been entered under the public land laws of the United States, but because of the frontage of said land on navigable water intervening spaces between such claims have been left, in accordance with the provisions contained in

32 Statutory Laws 1028 and the regulations of the Department of the Interior thereunder, which Department has construed the Act of Congress to mean that between each entry of land on the shore of navigable water a space of eighty rods is reserved to the Federal Government.

Under this construction of the law, the intervening spaces between the claims above referred to are not open for acquisition and settlement. It is respectfully urged that the purpose of Congress in reserving the space of eighty rods between claims was to prevent the acquisition of valuable and extensive shore line by a single interest to the exclusion of others, and that it was never intended to hold title indefinitely in the Federal Government to such reserved spaces throughout the 25,000 miles of shore line in Alaska and thereby strangle the normal growth and development of the Territory.

IV.

It is asked that the Congress of the United States do cause to be surveyed the tide flats above referred to and all the land suitable for building and garden purposes lying on the easterly shore of Gastineau Channel in a northerly direction from said town of Juneau to Lemon Creek, and thereafter do cause its proper officers to investigate and determine the rights of all private claimants to any portion of such lands, and that pending such determination the said lands, title to which is now in the Federal Government, be withdrawn from entry and settlement, and that upon the determination of the rights of private claimants all of such lands, the title to which at the time of such withdrawal was still in the Federal Government, be transferred by proper conveyance in fee simple to the town of Juneau, to be by said town disposed of in small holdings under the direction of the common council thereof, upon such conditions as may be imposed by the Federal Government.

It it further respectfully urged upon your honorable body,—

1st. That as the streets of the said town of Juneau on and near the water front are plank streets built on wooden piles above the tide flats, and since the large increase of traffic thereon the cost of maintenance thereof is great, and said streets must, as rapidly as the resources of said town will permit, be graded and made permanent;

2nd. That a few blocks from the water front the streets of said town are precipitous and the cost of construction and maintenance of said streets, and sewers and sidewalks, much exceeds the usual cost of such work;

3rd. That the rapid growth of said town has made inadequate the school facilities thereof, to meet which situation efforts are being made to raise money by private subscription pending the action of your honorable body upon a memorial heretofore introduced in the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska praying authority for the creation of a bonded indebtedness for school purposes;

4th. That the mining and other industries of Alaska give employment to large numbers of technically trained young men, and it is desirable that educational facilities be created to fit the young men of Alaska for such work. At the present time, after completing the ordinary high school course, further training can be had only by going great distances to points in the States. It is desirable to inaugurate at Juneau, as soon as funds are available therefor, a trade and professional school, offering instruction covering a suitable period, which will fit the young men taking advantage thereof for the better class of employment in the mining and other industries of Alaska;

5th. That if the request herein made is granted, the said town will be able to realize from the sale and development of the lands which your honorable body is asked to grant, a sufficient sum to meet the demands made upon it by reason of the facts herein recited, and to lay the

foundation for the establishment of the trade school referred to.

V.

That in the absence of favorable action by your honorable body herein, and because of the restrictions placed upon the territorial Legislature and upon municipal corporations in said Territory, the proper development of said town will be retarded and the maintenance of educational facilities for its children will be dependent upon private enterprise, while the first steps in the creation and maintenance of a technical training school cannot be begun until Congress assumes a more liberal policy towards education in Alaska.

VI.

That at the present time the support of public schools as provided by the Federal Government is, to the mortification of the people of Alaska, dependent upon the revenues derived from the conduct of the liquor traffic.

VII.

That action has heretofore been taken by the Juneau Commercial Club with the purpose of securing title to said town of Juneau in said tide flats, without reference to the shore land referred to, which action is hereby endorsed, and it is respectfully urged that such lands not being open to acquisition by any method except the grant of Congress that the grant thereof be executed as promptly as may be possible, and that the conveyance of said tide lands to said town of Juneau be not delayed pending the action by the Government with respect to the shore lands referred to in this memorial.

At the request of the Commercial Club of Juneau, attached hereto is a copy of the report of their Special Committee on Tide Flats.

VIII.

Therefore be it further resolved, that the honorable Senate of the United States and the honor-

able House of Representatives in Congress assembled are respectfully urged to take action as soon as possible, as an urgent necessity for additional ground, for the future growth of the city of Juneau does now exist.

Further resolved, that copies of this memorial be sent to the honorable President of the United States Senate, the honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives in Congress assembled, and to the honorable James Wickersham, Delegate to the United States House of Representatives from Alaska.

Passed the House, April 22, 1913.

Passed the Senate, April 23, 1913.

(Memorial accompanied by an exhibit relating to the redemption of the Juneau tide flats.)

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 16.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in Congress Assembled:

Your memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of the Territory of Alaska, respectfully represent

That experience has demonstrated the system of rebating permitted by Section 2 of the Act of Congress entitled: "An Act for the protection and regulation of the fisheries of Alaska," approved June 26, 1906, wherein the owners of private hatcheries for salmon propagation in Alaska have obtained undue advantage; also, has resulted in great dissatisfaction among the independent salmon packers of Alaska, and such system has become most obnoxious to the people of Alaska,

Therefore, your memorialists pray the repeal of said Section 2 of said Act, and that all fish hatcheries in