

# MEMORIALS and RESOLUTIONS

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## HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 2.

Whereas, more than three-fourths of the civil litigation in Alaska, calculated on a basis of the number of cases brought, is disposed of by the United States commissioners acting as ex-officio justices of the peace and probate judges, and practically all the criminal litigation is either disposed of or initiated before these officials, by virtue of which facts and the additional facts that they also discharge the functions of recorders and coroners and various other public duties, they are, under the present governmental system in Alaska, by far the most important functionaries in the Territory, coming in their official capacity in closer, more frequent and more varied contact with the mass of our citizens than any other officials and being thus of more importance to the good order, peace and general well being of the community than any other officials, and,

Whereas, these commissioners, under the present system, are dependant exclusively on fees for their remuneration, which fees are in the larger number of cases inadequate as recompense for the services rendered, and in many precincts are altogether insufficient to enable the commissioner to devote himself exclusively to his official duties for a livelihood, and such fee system affords constant temptation to the commissioners to encourage litigation, and, to that extent, is a menace to the conscientious discharge of the duties of the office, and, although there may be no case in which a commissioner has been induced by the hope of more fees to act other-

wise than as his sense of right and justice dictated, such officials are, by virtue of said fee system, especially in criminal cases, placed under suspicion by the public that their acts are influenced by a desire to augment their remuneration, a suspicion which in itself tends greatly to hamper these commissioners in the discharge of their varied duties; and,

Whereas it is deemed urgently necessary, as a most essential step in the improvement of governmental system for Alaska that these commissioners be placed upon salary affording them a reasonable and suitable income sufficient to support a family and sufficient to induce men of intelligence and ability to accept appointment to such offices;

It is resolved by the House of Representatives of the Territory of Alaska, the Senate concurring, that the Congress of the United States be and hereby is urgently requested to enact a law placing the said commissioners upon a salary of at least two thousand dollars per annum, and that all fees collected in civil and criminal cases be turned into Fund "C" of the District Court of the respective divisions in which the precinct is situated, to be expended for the benefit of the court, in the same manner as other money belonging to such fund.

Passed the House, March 21, 1913.

Passed the Senate, April 3, 1913.

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### HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 3.

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

Your memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of the Territory of Alaska, in legislative session assembled, most respectfully represent:

That during the years 1910 and 1911, surveys of several