

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 4.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress Assembled:

Your memorialists, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, do most respectfully and earnestly request that

Whereas, the law governing aquisition of title to homestead lands in the territory of Alaska is covered by the Act of Congress approved May 14, 1898 (30 Stat. at Large, page 409), which provided that no homestead in Alaska shall exceed 80 acres in extent. This law was amended by Act of Congress approved March 3, 1903 (32 Stat. at Large, page 1028) which provided that 320 acres could be included in the homestead, and which also made certain other provisions for filing of a location notice in the local recorder's office and for private survey of the land paid for by the claimant when he desired to make final proof and acquire title at the expiration of the time required for residence, and

Whereas, rules and regulations under the said acts of Congress were issued by the Interior Department on January 13, 1904, and

Whereas, on June 6, 1912, Congress passed an Act known as "The Three Year Homestead Law" (179) which provides that final proof could be made within three years from the date of entry; also that at least one-sixteenth of the homestead must be reduced to cultivation within the second year of the entry, and one-eighth the following year, and so on until final proof is offered. It also provides that claimants could be absent from the land five months during the year. (Public Circular No. 142, dated July 15, 1912) and

Whereas, on October 30, 1912, the Secretary of the Interior held that said "Three Year Homestead Law" applied to homestead entries in Alaska. (Public Circulars Nos. 181 and 176), and

Whereas, the Act of March 3, 1903, allows the loc-

ation of 320 acres in a homestead in Alaska, and the Act of June 6, 1912 requires that one-eighth of the area, or forty acres, must be cultivated before final proof can be submitted and this is an impossibility in most of the cases in Alaska, and especially along the Cape Coast where the homestead claimants, on account of the great expense in clearing the land, are unable to cultivate more than from two to ten acres;

Therefore be it resolved by the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska:

That, we respectfully and earnestly petition the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, to change the homestead law applicable to Alaska so as to allow only 160 acres in one location; and that one-fortieth of the said acreage need be cultivated the first two years, and that one-twentieth shall be cultivated the third year; this resulting to the great advantage of homesteaders in Alaska, especially those along the coast where there is considerable timber to be cleared; and who, on account of the long winter seasons in Alaska, should be allowed an absence of six (6) months from the land, and be it also resolved that we further petition that the homestead law applicable to Alaska be changed so as to require the filing of a homestead location or entry in the land office, the same as is required in the States, in order to prevent people who are not qualified to enter homestead nor file upon agricultural lands in Alaska. And that the law also be changed so that any person who has acquired title to homestead entry in the United States may file another homestead in Alaska, which the law at present does not permit, and which will encourage the homesteader who has acquired title to his land in the States to go to Alaska and to make his home here.

And be it further resolved, that whereas under the Act of March 3, 1903, a homestead claimant may submit final proof and acquire title providing he has

complied with the homestead law, by procuring a private survey of the land which in most instances costs from \$200.00 to \$1000.00, and which amount ninety-nine out of one hundred homesteaders are not financially able to meet; and whereas the public land surveys have not been extended to Alaska, it is almost impossible for the homesteader to acquire title to his land.

We therefore further petition, that, the law be changed so that at the end of the three year period the homesteader may, on satisfactory showing to the Register or Receiver of the Land Office, to the effect that he has complied with the law in respect to residence and location, receive a certificate showing compliance with the law on which the sale or conveyance can be made by the entryman, thus increasing the value of said land by making it saleable and creating some inducement for persons to take up homesteads in Alaska, which we believe will be taken advantage of if it is generally known that the sale of land will be allowed at the expiration of three years, providing the necessary proof had been made, and

Be it lastly resolved, that a copy hereof be sent to the President of the United States; the President of the United States Senate; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Honorable James Wickersham, Delegate to Congress from Alaska and the Commissioner of the General Land Office.

Passed the House, April 17, 1913.

Passed the Senate, April 19, 1913.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 5.

To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

Your memorialists, the Legislature of the Territory of