

in Congress assembled, will appropriate sufficient funds or direct the expenditure of any unused portion of the \$35,000,000 now appropriated for railroad construction in Alaska for the purpose of providing railroad transportation facilities from the tide waters of Behring Sea to the town of Taylor, Kougarok Mining District, which is the center of the interior mining section of said Peninsula;

Be it Resolved, that a copy of this memorial be sent to the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, to the Honorable Secretary of the Interior, Franklin K. Lane, and to the Honorable James Wickersham, Delegate from Alaska to the House of Representatives;

And your memorialists will ever pray.

Passed the House, April 22, 1915.

Passed the Senate, April 27, 1915.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 23.

Petition to the Congress of the United States to enact such legislation as will be necessary for the establishment of an insane asylum within the Territory of Alaska, instead of caring for the Alaska insane by means of the contract system at Morningside, near Portland, Oregon:

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES ASSEMBLED:

Many complaints have been lodged with various members of the present Alaska Territorial Legislature with respect to the improper (and in some cases inhuman) treatment of the Alaska insane patients sent from Alaska to the Morningside Sanitarium, near Portland, Oregon.

The complaints were referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Federal Relations of the House for investigation and report.

This Committee, after hearing the statements and testimony of persons who testified of their own knowledge of the facts, made the following report to the House of Representatives of the Alaska Territorial Legislature, dated March 24, 1915, and which report is made a part of this petition, to-wit:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

House of Representatives,
Juneau, Alaska, March 24, 1915.

Mr. Speaker: We, your Committee on Judiciary and Federal Relations, to whom was referred House Joint Resolution No. 1, relating to the investigation of the conditions and conduct of "Sanitarium Company, Inc.", of Portland, Oregon, having care of the insane from Alaska, under a contract made and entered into with the Government of the United States, have had the same under consideration, and we respectfully report the same back to the House with our findings, information received and recommendations to be considered by the House, and more particularly report that:

Your Committee, upon good and reliable information, gathered from persons who personally visited the said Sanitarium institution and talked with many of the inmates, states such information disclosed to them not only the utter lack of humanitarian spirit in the conduct and management of said Sanitarium institution as far as it affects the Alaska charges or insane, but that the said Sanitarium institution has commercialized the sacred duty of caring for the insane and mentally helpless at so much per head or persons per day.

The Committee learned that 190 (or thereabouts) Alaska insane are in said Sanitarium Co's. institution, in cramped, crowded and packed quarters, no reasonable space for living or sleeping room quarters, some of the patients sleeping on the floors, the beds in the different wards being and standing so close together that the insane patients, some of them very feeble, were compelled to climb over the high foot boards of the beds as best they could in order to get into their respective beds; that the sanitary conditions generally were bad, uncleanly, no regard being had for the welfare of the patients—in fact it has been charged that the sanitary conditions [condition] of said Sanitarium institution is not sanitary at all, absolutely unclean, no proper and

clean toilet facilities, no space or room for patients to enjoy the fresh air in stormy, wet or cold weather, no space in and about said Sanitarium institution where the patients can obtain exercise, excepting when worked in the said institution for its own profit.

Your Committee further reports that it has been presented to them that some patients are confined in said Sanitarium institution who are not nor ever had been insane, but because under the earlier Alaska laws there was no fund or money provided, as well as no law, by or under which the aged, infirm and destitute could obtain support and maintenance, except by private charity, and under some pretext such persons were sent to the Sanitarium institution as "insane" merely for the purpose of providing care, support and maintenance, which practice cannot be too severely condemned.

Your Committee further says that it desires to impress upon the House the view that the contract system for caring for the mentally needy and helpless is the most inhuman and iniquitous that can be devised, since the contractor has only his eye to the profit he may reap or gain from and out of such contract, and the commercial greed outweighs human love and Christian charity.

The Committee has obtained the reliable information that the sum paid by the United States Government to the said Sanitarium Company, Inc., of Portland, Oregon, is \$1.28 per day of each Alaska inmate, a sum in excess of the cost for good care and maintenance of the same kind of patients at Steilacoom, Sedro Wooley and Medical Lake, Washington; the cost of good and complete maintenance, care and medical attendance at said Steilacoom is forty cents per day, at said Sedro Wooley is fifty cents per day, and at Medical Lake is seventy cents per day.

Granting to the said Sanitarium Company, Inc., the highest cost above given, viz: seventy cents each per day, the said Sanitarium institution makes a profit of fifty-eight cents per day on each person for maintenance on one hundred and ninety patients, equalling a profit of \$110.20 for each day, a profit out of all proportion when derived from the lives and existence of these poor unfortunates who are supposed to be in an asylum; the definition of asylum being "a sanctuary or place of refuge, protection and relief of the unfortunate". Your Committee states that this Sanitarium Co., Inc., does not come within the definition of "asylum".

Your Committee further states that it knows of some

good localities or places in Alaska with hot springs, where the Alaska insane patients can be much better cared for than at said Sanitarium at Portland, Oregon.

Your Committee further presents that in all about eight (8) men or persons are employed at said Sanitarium Co's. institution; this includes doctors, nurses and druggists. The harmless inmates or patients are required to do the general work, such as working in the kitchen, also as waiters and all general work which they are able to perform. The Committee also heard that some of the patients who are not insane and some who have recovered had difficulty in securing their release or discharge, since the \$1.28 per day is too weighty a motive to keep them in the Sanitarium institution; however, the Committee does not vouch for this statement, yet it was made as a positive statement to this Committee.

The Committee is inclined to believe that too much politics is injected into this contract and for that reason the unfortunate inmates at said Sanitarium Co's. institution are, practically, at the mercy of the management thereof.

This Committee recommends that this Legislature memorialize the Congress of the United States to order the contract made with said Sanitarium Co., Inc., of Portland, Oregon, for the caring of the Alaska insane, be abrogated, for the reasons herein set forth, and that a copy of this report be sent to the President of the United States with the request that he order a thorough investigation of said Sanitarium Co's. method of caring for the Alaska insane, and that some other institution be given the contract, if contract it must be, because the Sanitarium Co. seems to look upon this contract as its pension, having had it for more than ten years last past, and that this House take such action in carrying out the suggestions contained in said House Joint Resolution No. 1 as it may suit its pleasure, this Committee being of the decided opinion that some prompt steps should be taken by this Legislature to bring about a speedy remedy of the evil complained of.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN G. HEID, Chairman.

We concur in this report:

A. G. SHOUP,
JOHN NOON,

JAMES P. DALY,
M. F. MORAN.

The Legislature of the Territory of Alaska is fully satisfied that the statements and showing above set forth (and corroborated by individual letters) make out an urgent and serious prima facie case, sufficient to move the Congress and the President to cause a thorough and searching investigation of the facts charged.

Your petitioners, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, further show and state that the Alaska climate is fully as beneficial to the insane sick as the climate of Portland, Oregon, can possibly be.

At Fairbanks, Alaska, a perpetual dry and pleasant climate at all times of the year, varying only in temperature according to the seasons of the year, there now is an institution properly equipped, and belonging to the United States, where the sick and insane, as well as the infirm and helpless, are temporarily and comfortably cared for and housed, with proper medical treatment when necessary, until they can be removed to the contract asylum at Morningside, near Portland, Oregon.

At Nome, Alaska, there also is an institution belonging to the United States, a similar institution, where the insane patients are temporarily housed and cared for, with medical treatment as at said Fairbanks, Alaska, until they can be removed to the contract asylum at Portland, Oregon.

Your petitioners further show that a permanent asylum for the Alaska insane should be established permanently at some point on the Alaska (Pacific) coast to which the Alaska insane patients can be removed from the interior of Alaska for permanent care and custody unless sooner discharged, and to which institution the Alaska insane now in said Morningside institution can be removed.

Your petitioners also state that, at Skagway, Alaska, the United States own a large stone building which is only used for an office of the U. S. Commissioner at that place and a local jail, which building is far too large for that purpose, and which building can be used for and put

in order for the use of an insane asylum for Alaska, and can be enlarged as the necessities may require.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That we, the Second Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Alaska, do hereby petition the Congress of the United States for the passage of necessary legislation at as early a date as possible, providing that an insane asylum be established or built within the Territory of Alaska, at some point on the Pacific coast, for the care of the Alaska insane patients; that an investigation of the charges (herein contained) against said Sanitarium Co., Inc., be investigated and its said contract with the United States for the care of the Alaska insane be abrogated.

Be it further Resolved, That the Secretary of the Territory of Alaska be and is hereby instructed to forthwith transmit copies of this memorial, properly authenticated, to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, and Hon. James M. Wickersham, Delegate to Congress from Alaska.

Passed the House, April 26, 1915.

Passed the Senate, April 28, 1915.

LETTERS ACCOMPANYING H. J. MEMORIAL NO. 23.

Territory of Alaska,
Governor's Office,
Juneau, April 8, 1915.

Honorable John G. Heid,
Chairman Judiciary and Federal
Relations Committee,
House of Representatives, Juneau, Alaska.

Sir:

For your information I am transmitting herewith a copy of a letter received by this office with reference to conditions alleged to exist at Morningside Sanitarium, near Portland, Oregon, where the Alaska insane are confined under contract with the United States.

Respectfully,

Enclosure.

J. F. A. STRONG,
Governor.

San Francisco, Cal.,
March 28th, 1915.

Governor J. F. A. Strong,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Governor Strong:

Just before leaving Juneau I noticed an article in one of the papers stating that you had visited the Morningside hospital at Portland, and that you found conditions very unsatisfactory. It is concerning conditions as I saw them that I wish to direct your attention. A friend of mine (A. L. Maxey), from the Tanana Valley, has been an inmate of Morningside for the past two years. On my way here from Seattle I stopped at Portland and went to see Maxey. My visit was unexpected, and I think it likely that conditions would have been different had visitors been expected. Dr. Luckey explained to me that Maxey was in a very bad way, and expressed the opinion that he had but a short time to live under present conditions, but thought if he was given his liberty he might recover strength. He had an attendant show me to Maxey's room and stay while I talked with Maxey. The room occupied by Maxey was in a horrible state of filth, and Maxey himself looked more like a corpse than a living person. The stench in the place was something awful. Maxey is too weak to leave the room to go to a toilet, and he said it was impossible to get proper attention, so you can imagine the condition of his quarters. I spoke to Dr. Luckey about the matter, asking him if something couldn't be done to keep the room in better condition, but he placed the entire blame on Maxey, saying that he (Maxey) did everything possible to make things disagreeable. But it seems to me that something could and should be done to remedy conditions as they are at present. I heard that a bill was being prepared demanding an investigation of the Morningside institution, and as a citizen of Alaska I sincerely hope it will accomplish its purpose. I have taken the liberty of writing you concerning this simply because I feel that if the public could see conditions as I saw them there would be an investigation at once. As I haven't the pleasure of your acquaintance I will refer you to W. W. Casey, Chas. Goldstein and Geo. F. Forrest as to my responsibility. I return to Seattle in a few days. My address there will

be 854 East 57th street. And if I can be of any assistance in the above mentioned matter, please command me.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) W. D. HALE.

P. S.—Was at Morningside March 16th.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 24.

Be it Resolved, by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that we do hereby petition the Honorable, the Postmaster General of the United States, that the mail now going to Nome over route from Cordova and Fairbanks, and thence down the Yukon River, be in the future routed from Seward through Kaltag, which last route is four hundred miles shorter and over which the mail was successfully carried during the past winter, thus improving the mail service to Nome, and shortening the time materially.

Passed the House, April 22, 1915.

Passed the Senate, April 28, 1915.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 25.

Resolved, by the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, that we do hereby respectfully petition the Congress of the United States that necessary appropriation be made for, and immediate construction ordered for a capitol building for the Territory of Alaska at Juneau, for the accommodation of the Territorial Legislature and all Federal and Territorial offices, except Federal Courts.

Passed by the House, April 24, 1915.

Passed by the Senate, April 28, 1915.