

local officers, but preliminary only as to the delegate to the House of Representatives and territorial officers, and

Providing that upon the completion of said canvass by the division canvassing board, the returns be forwarded to the territorial canvassing board for a final canvass and confirmation as to the office of delegate to the House of Representatives and other territorial officers, and

And we, your Memorialists, will ever pray.

Passed by the House, April 12, 1917.

Passed by the Senate, April 18, 1917.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 7.

Petition to the Congress of the United States for the appropriation of sufficient funds for the establishment and maintenance of an insane asylum and sanitarium within the Territory of Alaska, for the purpose of caring for the insane of the Territory and the abolition of the present contract system at Morningside, near Portland, Oregon.

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

Your petitioners, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska represent as follows:

That the system now in vogue of caring for the insane of the Territory of Alaska under contract with an asylum and sanitarium located near Portland, Oregon, is productive of great harm to the unfortunate inmates of said sanitarium, and that for many years last past numerous complaints have been filed with the Legislature, with the Governor of the Territory and other Territorial officials and with various organizations in the Territory which said complaints have all been investigated from time to time and the facts set forth therein have been fully verified; that persons of unimpeachable veracity have been interviewed who have personally visited the said sanitarium and asylum and talked with many of the inmates and investigated the conditions which exist in said institution and such information has disclosed the fact that the care and treatment of the insane patients of the Territory of Alaska has been commercialized to the great detriment both physical and mental of all the insane who have been committed to said institution. It

has been proved to the entire satisfaction of the Legislature and of the other officials of the Territory of Alaska that an absolute lack of any humanitarian spirit in the conduct and management of said asylum prevails; that quarters provided for the inmates are wholly inadequate; that the sanitary conditions are bad and that there is absolutely no regard for the welfare of the patients; that there is not sufficient space nor room for the patients to enjoy sufficient fresh air in inclement weather and that no provision is made for physical exercise for those patients who are able to exercise, except when employed by the institution for its own profit.

It has been brought to the attention of your petitioners that many of the inmates of this asylum when committed have been suffering from very mild forms of mental derangement, and that by continued confinement in this institution their condition has become greatly worse until they become hopelessly insane, and physical and mental wrecks.

Your petitioners desire to again call your attention to the report of a committee of the House of Representatives of Alaska of the second session of the Alaska Legislature, dated March 24, 1915, a copy of which is hereto attached and made a part of this petition.

WHEREFORE, your petitioners pray that the contract system for the caring of the insane of Alaska be abolished and that an institution for the care of the Alaska insane patients be established in Alaska at some convenient and desirable location, any number of which can be obtained where the climate and facilities are conducive to the proper treatment, care and welfare of the insane patients.

And it is resolved by the Third legislative assembly of the Territory of Alaska, that this petition be forwarded to Congress of the United States with an urgent request that the same be given immediate consideration and that immediate steps be taken for the abrogation of the present contract system and for the establishment of an asylum and sanitarium for the insane in the Territory of Alaska.

It is further resolved that the Secretary of the Territory of Alaska be, and he hereby is instructed to forthwith transmit copies of this memorial and petition properly authenticated to the President of the United States, to the Secretary of the Interior and to the Delegate to Congress from Alaska.

Passed the House, April 17, 1917.

Passed the Senate, April 23, 1917.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker: We, your Committee on Judiciary and Federal Relations, to whom was referred the 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 person 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 floor, 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 footboards 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 working 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 patients or inmates 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 methods 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, JAMES P. DALY,
JOHN NOON, M. F. MORAN.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 8.

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

We, your memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Alaska, respectfully and earnestly petition that the provisions of Section No. 2324, of the revised statutes of the United States which require that on each claim located after the tenth day of May, 1872, and until patent has been issued therefor, not less than one hundred dollars' worth of labor shall be performed or improvements made during each year, be suspended in the case of any locator or claim holder who has enlisted in the service of the United States against any country with which the United States may at this time be at war, during the time that such person shall serve in the armed forces of