

and to compel the oil manufacturing company to utilize this refuse to the extent that it may be profitable to do so,

And your memorialists will ever pray.

Passed the Senate, April 21, 1919.

Passed the House, April 24, 1919.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 12

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, TO THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR, TO THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND TO THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE:

We, your memorialists, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in Fourth Session assembled, earnestly represent that

There lie within the Territory of Alaska vast reaches of tundra country, unoccupied save for a few scattered bands of roving Eskimos and at present of little value to the people of Alaska and the United States, which nevertheless contain possibilities of becoming source of great income not only to the Territory of Alaska, but also to the United States, by the scientific establishment therein of food animals suitable to all local conditions; and

WHEREAS, it is the great desire of the people of Alaska to see not only the more favored regions of the Territory opened to industry, but also those districts not presenting opportunities within the reach of the individual settler.

We, your memorialists, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, therefore respectfully request that steps be taken, by Congressional action and appropriation, to re-establish herds of musk-oxen in northern Alaska, as it is known that they at one time inhabited the country and have even been killed in the wild state as late as the period of 1850-60. According to Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the Arctic explorer, musk-oxen can easily be domesticated and, being indigenous to the north, no experiments in the matter of forage or range are necessary. As an article of food, the flesh closely resembles beef, large bulls weighing approximately from 600 to 700 pounds. The long, shaggy guard hairs of the coat cover a soft, long fibered wool, which woolen goods manufacturers have stated is equal, if not superior, to the finest domestic sheep wool, and of about twice the quantity found on the best sheep. Musk-oxen have none of the roving instincts of cattle, their ordinary drift being not more than five miles per month, nor can they be easily stam-

peded by attacks of man or beast. When attacked the adult members of the herd quickly collect in a circle around the young and present a formidable front to the foe. They are not aggressive, except when directly attacked, but so sure is their defense that wolves, the principal enemy of game in the north, are ordinarily impotent against them. Milk is yielded in about half the quantity given by the average domestic cow, but it is richer, and the taste is practically the same.

Thus we have an animal which seems by nature to be designed to make a productive country out of lands now serving no purpose. In the musk-oxen are combined all the qualities most to be desired by a pioneer population of a desolate region. The northern portion of Alaska can never serve a better purpose than in becoming the grazing land of vast herds of reindeer and musk-oxen, and when so utilized will in time become one of the great sources of meat supply for the United States.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

Passed the Senate April 26, 1919.

Passed the House April 29, 1919.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 13

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS
ASSEMBLED:

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

WHEREAS, on August 1, 1918, the contract mail service between the United States and Alaska, was discontinued because of the inability of the Postal Department and the steamship companies operating vessels in the Alaskan trade to agree on terms of contract; and,

WHEREAS, ever since said date all mail to and from Alaska has been shipped by freight and express; and,

WHEREAS, such service is so inadequate, insufficient and unsatisfactory as to cause the greatest inconvenience to the people of the Territory and loss to business men and those engaged in industrial enterprises, because such service has resulted in,

First—Great and unusual delay in the unloading of mail, the same taking its turn with common freight;

Second—Great delay in distribution because of the discontinuance of mail clerks on steamships; and,