

Alaska may be aided in the development of their mines of great potential value.

We pray that there be given careful consideration to the petition herein presented.

Passed the House, April 2, 1921.

Passed the Senate, April 28, 1921.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 11

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AND THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

Your Memorialists, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, represent that:

WHEREAS there are vast areas of agricultural lands in Alaska susceptible of a high degree of cultivation which if developed will maintain in peace and content a permanent population so necessary to the welfare of the Territory; and

WHEREAS such lands, in the main, are still uncleared, wild and difficult of access, due to lack of wagon roads, and

WHEREAS the opening up of farms in Alaska will lend greatly to the material well being not only of the people at large, but also of the governmentally constructed and operated railroad;

THEREFORE, we, your Memorialists, respectfully urge that you exert your great influence in behalf of the Territory of Alaska to the end that the Territory may benefit from acts of Congress already passed or about to be passed more particularly.

1st. That the terms of the Federal Farm Loan Act approved July 17, 1911 be extended to the Territory of Alaska and, if possible, be so amended as to give assistance to not only such farmers as have acquired lands by patent, but also to bona fide settlers of family who through lack of funds are unable to bear the burden of primary investment.

2nd. That all acts affording to the various states in their internal development direct assistance or cooperation in the construction of roads be also made to include Alaska, notably:

The Rural Post Road Act, approved July 1, 1916; and

The Federal Aid Road Act, approved July 11, 1916.

3. That all bills now before Congress or to be presented to Congress, the purpose of which is to encourage the development of idle lands and to provide employment, farms and equipment for honorably discharged soldiers, sailors and marines of the United States, be made applicable to Alaska.

We respectfully draw to your attention that in the Farming District of the Tanana Valley alone during the year of 1919, in addition to locally grown produce, there was sold, in or near Fairbanks, Alaska, farm and meat products to the value of more than three-fourths of a million dollars, all of which could have been provided by the farmers of the Tanana Valley had they been financially able to have caused to be cleared and planted twenty-five thousand (25,000) or more acres of land, in addition to that now under cultivation. There are now one hundred and seventy-eight (178) homesteads taken up on the surveyed and unsurveyed lands in the Fairbanks District, half of which have been patented or patents are pending.

We also desire to call your attention to the fact that at the present time there is in course of construction at Fairbanks, Alaska, a flour mill of twenty-five barrels daily capacity, and that the farmers of the Tanana Valley are successfully growing wheat grain, the most of which is graded as No. 1 Northern which makes a very fine quality of flour, and

That the Matanuska farming district lying along the line of the Government railroad from Seward to Fairbanks, has become a decided factor in the markets of Southern Alaska in grains, sugar beets, and other vegetables, but should be governmentally assisted in the preparation of farm products for the United States and foreign markets, in the finding of which the various departments could render such signal service; and

That there are many other undeveloped districts which, with timely assistance, can be made the fertile happy homes for not only the present but future generations.

In furtherance of the ideas set forth we, your Memorialists will ever pray.

Adopted by the House, April 8, 1921.

Adopted by the Senate, April 16, 1921.