

## SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 13.

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE POST-MASTER GENERAL AND SECRETARY OF COMMERCE:

WHEREAS, it has ever been the policy of this government to foster and aid the settlement and development of this country, which has been made manifest in the past by congressional enactments, of which the following are among the most important, to-wit: the national homestead laws, the aid to construction of our first trans-continental railroads and the great national reclamation projects, which peopled and made productive and valuable, vast areas of sterile, barren, lands of the west, thus increasing the wealth of the nation by untold millions.

WE RESPECTFULLY REPRESENT, that Alaska is the last, most vast and richest, in undeveloped resources, of the territories of the United States, on the American continent; her waters are rich in fish in great variety, and other ocean contents, her southeastern shores and islands are densely covered with timber of great commercial value her entire length and breadth is a mine of inestimable wealth; agriculture, reindeer and varied stock raising, and fur farming, are all coming industries, already assuming attractive proportions.

WE FURTHER REPRESENT, that, altho Alaska has no sterile lands to be reclaimed, there is a most urgent need of better transportation facilities, one feature of which we herein present for your consideration, and appeal to you for relief, to-wit: in advertising for the awarding of mail contracts over the various waterways of Alaska, no consideration of freight tonnage or passenger service seems to have been given, in consequence of which, the contracts are usually awarded to small gas boats just large enough to carry the mail with a reasonable assurance of safety, with little cargo capacity and too small to be fitted up for the carrying of any number of passengers or to arrange for any degree of comfort for the few, who can, in some instances be given passage, thus making it a matter of dread and hardship to travel on them.

WHEREAS, there are many more or less, remote points, accessible only by water, with attractive possibilities to induce investigation, with probable improvement and settlement, which is very much retarded from being so difficult of access, and,

WHEREAS, the development of Alaska means greatly increased wealth to the Nation; We most urgently request that a new system be adopted in the advertising for bids for mail contracts on the various water routes of Alaska, whereby freight

and passenger service will be a requirement, to be determined by the length of the route and nature of the waters traversed.

We recognize that compliance with the requests of this memorial will add costs to the mail service of Alaska, but we represent that it will render rich returns.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

Adopted by the Senate, April 23, 1923.

Concurred in by the House, April 26, 1923.

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### SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 14.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Your memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Territory of Alaska, respectfully present:

That the conditions among many of the Indians and native settlements in the Interior of Alaska are fast becoming intolerable by reason of the loss of lives by influenza of many of the male inhabitants and the women are without support and are leaving native settlements to find a means of livelihood in the towns where they become the prey of the unscrupulous. At Fairbanks many Indian women from the native village of Chena, where all but three of the men died of influenza are without means of support. Four were recently sent to detention hospitals as vagrants, and for drunkenness; another unmarried, in the hospital for confinement.

Your petitioners most respectfully ask that an Indian Reservation be made in the Interior, for such Indians without means of support, and that an Industrial school be provided to suit their needs, wherein they may be taught trades and given training that will tend to make them self-supporting.

We most respectfully ask that a thorough investigation of this matter be made at once, that needed relief may be given.

Respectfully submitted.

Passed by the Senate, April 30, 1923.

Passed by the House, May 2, 1923.