

Passed the House, April 13, 1925.

Passed the Senate as amended, April 16, 1925.

Senate amendments concurred in by the House, April 18, 1925.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 9.

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR:

Your memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in seventh biennial session assembled, respectfully represents:

That the lack of proper medical and hospital facilities in the northern and northwest sections of the Territory of Alaska has ever been a stumbling block to the development of these sections of the Territory, for people are loath to settle and make their homes where danger of sickness and accident is ever present and no relief may be expected;

That from a humanitarian standpoint, the experience of the inhabitants of Seward Peninsula and the Lower Yukon, both during the recent diphtheria epidemic at Nome and the influenza epidemic of 1919 when over 1100 lives were lost, is practically without parallel, and every precaution should be taken that it never be repeated;

That in the whole of the Second Division of Alaska there are but three physicians and surgeons, and by reason of the scattered population, the lack of necessary facilities and the high cost of living, it is difficult and in fact impossible to get physicians in private practice to locate where their services are most necessary;

That Candle is the geographical center of the northern half of Seward Peninsula, and there is at that place a fully equipped hospital building, owned by the community, which, however, is not used because there is no resident physician there; That this building and equipment has been offered to the Government for the use of such Department thereof as may maintain it;

That Fortuna Ledge is the logical center of that section of the Territory lying along the lower Yukon River, between Norton Sound and Kuskokwim Bay, which section has absolutely no medical or hospital service nearer than Nulato on the Yukon River, about 350 miles distant, or Nome, still farther away;

That at Nulato, on the Yukon, there are now stationed, as employees of the U. S. Bureau of Education, a physician and a nurse, but the hospital accommodations and living quarters furnished them are in a deplorable condition and consist of one three-bed ward, which is constantly overcrowded, of a living room about eight feet square and a small kitchen; that there is no operating room nor store room, and whenever more than three patients apply for admission, which is frequently the case in the summer, the overflow must be cared for in the living quarters of the staff.

WHEREFORE your memorialist respectfully prays:

(1) That immediate steps be taken, either by the Bureau of Education or the Public Health Service, to take over the hospital building and equipment at Candle and station a physician and nurse at that place;

(2) That a hospital be established at Fortuna Ledge and a physician and nurse assigned to duty there; and,

(3) That the Bureau of Education be authorized to immediately construct suitable hospital buildings and living quarters for the staff at Nulato.

And for the establishment of these necessary aids in order that proper medical and hospital attention be available to the many white and native inhabitants of the country surrounding these places, and that further fatalities, such as heretofore have occurred, may be prevented, your memorialist will ever pray.

BE IT RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be sent by the Secretary of the Territory to the Secretary of the Interior, to the U. S. Commissioner of Education, to the Surgeon General Public Health Service, and to the Hon. Dan Sutherland, Delegate to Congress from Alaska.

Passed the House, April 11, 1925.

Passed the Senate, April 16, 1925.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 12.

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SECRETARY OF THE
TREASURY:

We, your memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, respectfully represent that: