

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 9.

TO CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Your memorialist, the Legislature of Alaska, respectfully represents:

That by far the greatest part of the legal business in the Territory of Alaska is transacted in the courts of the United States Commissioners, that these officials are remunerated for their services by fees paid by the litigants, that this system has proved nefarious and inadequate and so much so that in the larger number of precincts it has been found impossible to secure the services of competent men for those positions.

That your memorialist considers the present archaic system decidedly unsuited to the conditions of the Territory, and is a menace to its people.

NOW THEREFORE, Your memorialist prays that proper legislation be enacted to the end that the Commissioners appointed for the various precincts in Alaska be paid a fixed salary.

And your memorialist will ever pray.

Passed the House, April 17, 1931.

Passed the Senate, April 22, 1931.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 11.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND TO THE HONORABLE JAMES WICKERSHAM, DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA.

The Alaska Legislature has repealed the Alaska Bone Dry Law, Chapter 53 of the Public Laws of the Sixty-fourth Congress, Second Session, (39 Stat., 903-909).

There is substantial doubt upon the question of whether the Alaska Legislature is authorized to do this.

Your memorialist represents that the action taken by the Legislature was not taken either to endorse or repudiate Prohibition, but was taken solely to promote the interest of humanity.

The Alaska Bone Dry Law is not an enforcement Act, since there are no Territorial enforcement officers. The law enforcement machinery of the Territory is entirely in the hands of the Federal Government, so that the Volstead Act can be made to serve every purpose required of a Prohibition law.

The most serious objection to the Alask [Alaska] Bone Dry Law lies in the fact that it prevents the use of intoxicating beverages for medicinal purposes. When the law was first adopted it was supposed that medicinal liquors could, notwithstanding the provisions of the law, be supplied under the general statutes of the United States, but the courts held otherwise. This did not at first present a very serious situation, for the reason that there were in the Territory many small private stocks from which medicinal liquors could be supplied; and later when these became exhausted the situation was met by supplying the hospitals and physicians with liquors taken from the liquors which were seized by Prohibition officers. This was, of course, illegal, but under the circumstances no one could attach any blame to the action taken by the officials; it was advisable in order to save human life and therefore justifiable. The people of Alaska, are, at the present time, so situated that medicinal liquors can no longer be obtained.

We are not unmindful of the fact that there are those who maintain that intoxicating liquors have no medicinal value. It is not a question of whether such persons are right or wrong, for in matters such as this no man can have the right to set up his judgment as against that of the sick person's physician. Many believe that medicinal drugs are not only useless but harmful, yet no legislative body would because of this be justified in prohibiting the use of such drugs. The principle is the same in either case, and the responsibility assumed by the legislator is also the same in either case. It is so grave that we do not believe that any legislator can be justified in assuming it, even though he conscientiously believes that intoxicating liquors are lacking in medicinal value.

WHEREFORE your Memorialist prays that the Congress approve the Act of the Legislature of Alaska for the repeal of the Alaska Bone Dry Law and that the Congress make proper provision for the enforcement of the National Prohibition Act in the courts of the commissioners and ex-officio justices of the peace of Alaska as to all offenses within the jurisdiction of said justices' courts, or that the Congress grant

to the Legislature of Alaska the power to make such provision for the enforcement of the National Prohibition Act.

Passed the House, April 17, 1931.

Passed the Senate, April 28, 1931.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 12.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Your memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in Tenth Regular Session assembled, do most respectfully represent that:

WHEREAS, mining is the basic industry of the Territory of Alaska and upon which a high percentage of the population, trades and traffic of the Territory are directly or indirectly dependent, and,

WHEREAS, approximately 98 per cent of the area of Alaska is public land largely under the jurisdiction and control of the Interior Department and the development and utilization of the mineral resources within which are matters of concern and responsibility on the part of the Government of the United States, and,

WHEREAS, these vast areas of public land are not subject to taxation by the Territory of Alaska and therefore [therefore] yield no revenue to the Territorial Treasury; and,

WHEREAS, the future development of the agricultural industry of the Interior of Alaska depends almost entirely on the development of the mining industry; and,

WHEREAS, it is of the utmost importance in the continued growth of the mining industry that authentic information be secured and disseminated as to the economic importance and commercial availability of the mineral resources of the Territory and as to the extent and significance of the development of such resources, and that all possible assistance be given to prospectors in their search for and development of valuable mineral substances and in making contact with prospective investors in mining prospects; and,

WHEREAS, we are informed that such important mining States of the West as California and Idaho and also the Province of British Columbia, in Canada, realizing the importance to their mining industries of services such as those