

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 5.

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES; THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE; THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES and THE DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA:

Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska respectfully represents that:

WHEREAS, the present law governing the Fisheries of the Territory of Alaska (White Act) passed June 6, 1924, prohibits commercial fishing for shipment out of the Territory of Alaska in or within Five Hundred Yards of the mouth of any river in the Territory of Alaska except the Kariuk and Ugashik Rivers; and

WHEREAS, the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers are navigable for more than Twenty-five Hundred miles, and along their banks are scattered a population of several thousands of people consisting of native Indians and Whites and many of these native Indians and White settlers in the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers have established permanent homes and live the year round in their respective homes, making a living off the country by trapping, fishing, prospecting and small scale mining; and

WHEREAS, every year there is caught and dried for dog feed more than One Hundred Thousand King Salmon from these two rivers, formerly used as food for dogs used as means of transporting mail and for general transportation purposes; and

WHEREAS, because of the advancement of the aviation industry, and the fact that airplanes are used almost entirely for the transportation of mail and for general transportation of passengers and supplies along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, there is no further use for dogs and dog teams as a means of transportation generally, this fish which is caught and prepared for use within the Territory of Alaska as feed for these dogs is unsalable and of no value; and the trails have become blocked with snow, because of general use of airplanes by traveling public and are of little or no use to the permanent residents for travel by dog teams. Thus has been eliminated to a large extent, the use for dog teams in these two valleys; and

WHEREAS, regulations now in force under the White Law permit the taking of Fifty Thousand King Salmon, Five Hundred yards of the mouth of the Yukon River, which said mouth is designated by markers at Nilak and Tin Can Point, which points are on the open sea; and

WHEREAS, the fishing under this regulation last season resulted in only Four Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty-nine

King Salmon packed out of the Fifty Thousand allowed because of the fact that fishing in the waters allowed under said regulation required the owning or securing of a sea-going power boat and fishing gear suitable for fishing in the open sea, and represented an investment of at least Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00), and that of the Four Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty-nine fish taken last season, Four Thousand Four Hundred and Twelve of them were taken by one man, who is the only person with proper boat and gear adjacent to the place where fishing is allowed; and

WHEREAS, the taking of Fifty Thousand King Salmon, Five Hundred yards outside the mouth of the Yukon River has not resulted in any economic relief to the people of the Yukon River who are permanent and bona fide residents of the Yukon Valley because of the fact that they are unable to fish in the designated waters due to lack of equipment suitable for such fishing; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to the Fifty Thousand fish allowed to be taken from the mouth of the Yukon many thousands of fish just as equal in quality are caught inside of the mouth of the Yukon and cannot be prepared for human consumption because of the prohibitions of the present laws and regulations, which fish are far in excess of the requirements for local use and are dried and under present conditions wasted; and

WHEREAS, the average income of the native Indian and the permanent White population of the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers has become greatly reduced through the low prices and poor catches of furs, and the income of many families has been wiped out entirely through the use of airplanes for the transportation of mail, passengers and supplies and want and destitution are prevalent among the Native and White inhabitants of these sections; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Igloo of Pioneers of Alaska by resolution, has condemned the present wasteful practice of drying King Salmon for dog food, and the Ninth and Tenth Sessions of the Alaska Territorial Legislature have Memorialized the Congress of the United States praying for relief and the platform on which the present Delegate to Congress from Alaska, and a large majority of the Alaska Territorial Legislature were elected demanded this relief,

WHEREFORE, your Memorialists, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in Eleventh Session assembled, most urgently request,

THAT the White Law be amended to permit the native Indians and permanent White inhabitants of the Yukon and Kusko-kwim River to catch and pack King Salmon for export from the Territory of Alaska in limited quantities and under suitable regulations to prevent depletion of the supply, and that the regulations permit co-operative or community canneries and cold storage facilities for mild curing the fish so taken.

And your Memorialist will ever pray.

Passed the Senate, April 13, 1933.

Passed the House, April 19, 1933.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 6.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE HONORABLE A. J. DIMOND, DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA:

Your Memorialists, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska in eleventh regular session assembled, do most respectfully represent that:

WHEREAS, mining is the basic industry of the Territory of Alaska upon which a large percentage of the population is directly and indirectly dependent; and,

WHEREAS, about ninety-eight percent or more of the area of Alaska is public land and contains great potential mineral resources, auriferous deposits, and large areas where mineralized gold bearing quartz occur, as has been determined by the United States Geological Survey; and,

WHEREAS, these vast areas of public lands are to a large extent unprospected, unappropriated and not subject to taxation by the Territory nor the United States, and yield no revenue to the Government of either the United States or the Territory of Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, the future development of all industries in Alaska, including agriculture and lumbering, depends on the development of the mining industry; and,

WHEREAS, this nation and the whole world is greatly in need of increased gold production as a means of rehabilitating industry