

way—so long as Government officers are compelled, because of lack of boat service, to stand helpless on shore while the smuggler plies his illegitimate trade beneath their very eyes, so long will the present state of affairs continue to curse Alaska and to be a disgrace to our whole country.

While at Juneau in May I was informed of an attempt that was about to be made to land a cargo of liquor destined for the Yukon Valley trade, and one of the most energetic inspectors in Alaska was on the watch to capture it if possible. He did not succeed, however, for by the time he secured a boat to transport him to the rendezvous of the smugglers he found he was twenty-four hours late. Speaking of the affair afterwards he said to me: "If I only had a boat that was always at my disposal I think I could break up a great deal of this smuggling; but, hampered as I am now, I am powerless, for no sooner do I hire a boat to go anywhere than the signal flies over the district. It will require the presence of a revenue cutter and half a dozen steam launches to kill off smuggling in Alaska." Every word of which I indorse.

The peculiar conditions surrounding the Alaskan liquor question have not been taken into account by many men of extreme views who have written or spoken on the subject; indeed, I question if they ever understood it. The truth is that if there is a climate under the sun where liquor is a necessity to man that climate is in Alaska, and consequently white men demand and must have it at any cost and in spite of all obstacles.

This is the reason we find 99 per cent. of the white population bitterly opposed to the present prohibitory law. This is why no officer can be found to attempt to enforce the law or a jury to uphold it. And where public sentiment and public opinion are so plainly against a law, no matter how well intentioned or good in itself, it is wise to heed the sign and amend or repeal it. During a conversation with the assistant district attorney, Mr. Hoggert, on this subject he said: "During the past four years \$148,000 were spent in Alaska on cases of Indians and half-breeds who had gotten drunk or had peddled whisky without any lasting or definite results. Had we had a high license during that time we could have saved that expense to the Government and collected revenue enough to make the Territory self-supporting."

#### DESTRUCTION OF GAME-FOWL EGGS.

The stories told of the wanton destruction and the systematic stealing of wild game-fowl eggs have no foundation in fact.

I have traveled over thousands of miles of the coast line of Alaska, making diligent inquiry into this matter, without finding one person who knew anything about it. I have conversed with men who spent twenty to thirty years in the interior of Alaska, mining, hunting, and trading, men who had gone over every mile of habitable land in the Territory, without ever hearing of such a thing until I asked them. I have written to traders whose business takes them to the Upper Yukon country, far into the British possessions, men who travel from the source to the mouth of the great river; I have written to missionaries whose labors call them into all the native settlements on the Yukon, Kuskokwim, and other rivers, and the unvarying reply is, "We never heard anything about such things."

As a matter of fact, it is not yet known for certain where the wild fowl lay their eggs. They certainly find some island, marsh, morass, swamp, or tundra where man can not penetrate, or, at all events, where