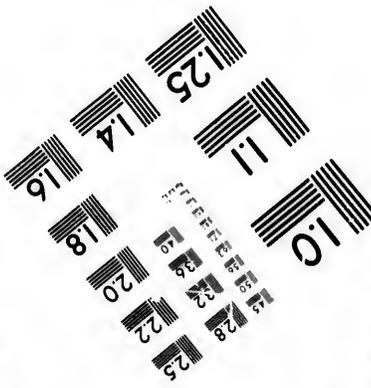
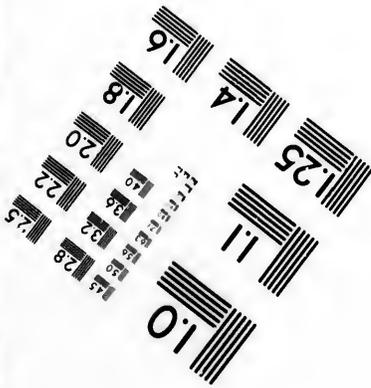
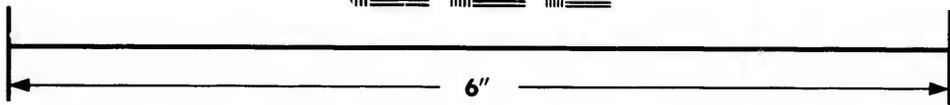
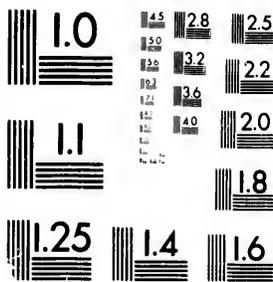


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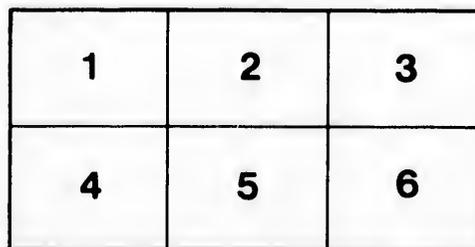
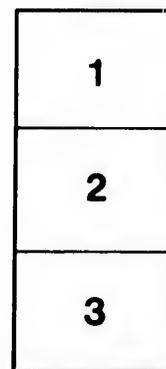
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INTERESTING AND RELIABLE INFORMATION
RELATING THERETO.

CONTAINING ALSO THE

Organic Act of the Territory.

By B. K. COWLES,

Commissioner for Alaska to the American Exposition,
New Orleans.

For Sale by Booksellers Generally, and Mailed to
any Address by the Publishers or Author
on receipt of Price.

MADISON, WIS.:
Democrat Company, Printers and Stereotypers,
1885.

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PREFACE.

I have adopted this method as a brief, concise and I hope satisfactory manner of replying to thousands of questions and dozens of letters received by me asking for information relative to the country which is just now attracting such widespread attention.

It has been my aim, not to elaborate on any particular point, but briefly to give such information as, judging from the general nature of the inquiries made a great majority of persons are desirous of acquiring.

B. K. COWLES,

Sitka, Alaska.

Where is Alaska? Strange as it may seem to many, this is a question often asked, and I will reply to it first. It is the extreme northwest portion of the United States, extending from latitude $54^{\circ} 40'$ to the totally unexplored regions of the Arctic Sea, and lying between longitude 131° and 193° west from Greenwich, that is to say, covering 62 degrees of longitude.

It was discovered by Vitus Behring in 1741, was originally known as Russian America, was purchased from Russia in 1867 for the sum of \$7,200,000, and is the largest possession of the United States. The land portion contains 531,491 square miles. Its extreme length north and south is 1,100 miles, and its extreme breadth 800 miles, a distance greater north and south, than from Lake Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico, and almost equal east and west from the same lake to New York City.

The Aleutian Islands, which are a part of Alaska, extend so far into the Pacific Ocean that the Geographical centre of the United States east and west is found in that body of water about 500 miles west of San Francisco. From the above figures a faint idea can be formed of the immensity of this territory.

HOW DO YOU GET THERE?

We will suppose your starting point to be east of the Rocky Mountains. You will go to Portland, Oregon, undoubtedly by the Northern Pacific R. R. That line offers the inducements of through trains from St. Paul with a deservedly popular Dining Car service. The ride from St. Paul to the Pacific Coast on the N. P. R. R. is replete with interest and combines the maximum of comfort, safety and speed. At Portland you can take the steamer between the first and third day of each month, direct to all points in Alaska.

If you desire to avoid the bar at the mouth of the Columbia River, as well as several hours of open ocean, you can go by rail to Tacoma, thence by boat on Puget's Sound to Port Townsend, where you can await the arrival of the steamer that you might have taken at Portland. By leaving Portland the same day that the steamer sails, your stay at Portland will not be tedious, having to remain there only about twenty-four hours. This steamer carries the Alaska mails and takes them on at Port Townsend, so there is no danger of one's missing the boat; and the trip from Tacoma to Port Townsend across Puget's Sound is a very delightful one. The fare in both cases will amount to about the same thing. (See table of fares). If you desire a short stay at Victoria on Van Couver's Island, instead of stopping at Townsend, continue your journey to Victoria by the same boat. A visit to this delightful island will fully repay any one, and the Alaska steamer can be taken at that point, as it stops there after leaving Port Townsend. The fare from Port Townsend to all points in Alaska is the same as from Victoria, and the latter place is by far the pleasanter of the two.

Should you make a stop at Victoria, by no means fail to call at the "Driard." The excellence of its table is famous the entire length of the Pacific coast, and the name of its proprietor, Redon, is a synonym for all that is hospitable, gracious and polite. Its charges are the same as other first-class hotels in the States.

Shopping in Victoria, however, is out of the question as persons of ordinary means can not afford to pay the prices asked by Victoria merchants. The chief point of interest is the harbor of Esquimalt where generally lie five or six English men of war. From Victoria the steamer will go to Nanaimo to take on coal. Nanaimo is on Vancouver's Island seventy-five miles from Victoria, and is the last point touched by the Alaska steamer before starting on its voyage of a thousand miles to Sitka. Leaving Nanaimo the steamer turns its head northward and plows its way through the waters of the Gulf of Georgia. At the further end of Vancouver's Island, Queen Charlotte's Sound is crossed, and here for about three hours is felt the swell of the Pacific.

The rest of the voyage is, with one or two exceptions, scarcely worth mentioning, made through the narrow channels of the Archipelago, and is spoken of as the inside passage, and without doubt is one of the most wonderful, beautiful and delightful trips, not only on this continent, but on the entire globe.

To latitude $54^{\circ} 40'$ the voyage is through British waters, but at this point the boat again enters the United States' possessions. Its first stop will be made at a trading post called Loring, its next at a fishing station called Kasa-an. This fishery is owned by Capt. Carroll the man in command of the steamer which carries you to Alaska. The next stop will be Ft. Wrangell though possibly the boat may put in at old Ft. Tougass, both of which places were formerly occupied by United States troops, but are now abandoned, and quiet and decadence reign supreme. At Ft. Wrangell parties who are desirous of visiting the Cassiar Mines in British Columbia, leave the Alaska boat and voyage up the Steekene River in canoes.

Leaving Ft. Wrangell the steamer makes its way to Juneau; the most important mining camp at present in Alaska, containing six hundred inhabitants. Opposite Juneau is Douglass Island, upon which is located the famous Treadwell Mine. The mill at this mine is said to be the most complete and largest of its kind in the world, having 120 stamps under one roof. The vein of gold bearing quartz is 430 feet

wide but of a low grade of ore. It is most favorably situated in relation to tide water and pays net, about \$6.75 a ton, turning out per month from \$70,000 to \$100,000. The property is owned by San Francisco parties.

About three miles back of Juneau is the Silver Bow Basin, phenomenally rich in gold bearing quartz and placer claims.

About 60 miles beyond Juneau is the Chilcat country. From this place the miners and Indians have a trail some 35 miles in length, to a chain of lakes about 300 miles long which connect with the lead waters of the Yukon River. This river is not only one of the largest on this continent, but one of the largest in the world, and from the point at which miners strike it, to its mouth, is a distance of two thousand miles. Valuable mineral discoveries have been made on the banks of the river and I have reliable information that one miner has staked a claim on a vein of gold bearing quartz, six hundred feet wide.

From Juneau the steamer makes its way 180 miles to the southwest to Sitka, the capital of the territory and located on Baronhoff Island. The population of Sitka is as follows: 60 native Americans, 240 Russians, and from 500 to 1,200 native Alaskans. The native American population of southeastern Alaska probably does not exceed 1,000 souls, though the white population of the entire territory is estimated by Gov. Swineford in his annual report at 1,900.

Tourists who have seen every harbor of note on the globe declare the Sitka harbor, in point of beauty, to have its equal only in the harbors of Rio Janeiro and Nagasaki, in Japan.

The government buildings are located at Sitka, also a Greek church and a Presbyterian Mission School. There are five trading stores, which do a considerable business, and a photograph gallery, and an establishment for the exclusive sale of Alaskan curios will be opened this coming spring of 1886. A United States man-of-war is generally found lying either at Juneau or Sitka, and at the latter place a body of marines are quartered under the command of a United States naval officer. The present commandant is Lieut. Bar-

nett, of the marine service, who hails from Wisconsin, and is a graduate of the Annapolis Naval School. The only physician in Sitka, is the surgeon of the man-of-war, and when that nomadic institution is not "present or accounted for" the capital of Alaska has no one to cure the ills that Alaskan flesh is heir to, and it occurs to the author that a fine opportunity is offered for a worthy disciple of Aesculapius to establish himself in a good business at Sitka, as the native Alaskans need the services of a physician to an alarming extent. The law is looked after by several able and talented followers of Blackstone.

On the Aleutian Islands and at Sitka, and throughout southeastern Alaska generally, root crops are raised without much difficulty. Extreme dampness and want of summer heat, prevent the ripening of grain. Many kinds of edible berries are plentiful and at the foot of Mt. St. Elias, strawberries in their season are found in the greatest abundance. Timber abounds both on the mainland and islands, and there are five species of valuable woods. Commercially considered they range as follows: Yellow cedar, spruce, hemlock, elder and a species of fir or black pine.

The yellow cedar, susceptible of taking a very fine polish, is considered valuable for boat building and finishing purposes. It sells for \$80 per thousand in San Francisco. It possesses a delightful odor which like camphor wood, it retains for a long time, and manufactured into boxes and chests is very valuable for packing furs and other goods as it is said to be a moth preventive.

A good quality of white marble is found on Lynn Canal. Valuable coal discoveries have been made near Killisnoo, at which place also the Northwest Trading Co. have a very extensive establishment, where they manufacture oil and guano from the herring, and pack and export codfish in large numbers. Gold, silver, copper, cinnabar and iron are found in apparently inexhaustible quantities throughout the territory, and in the vicinity of Sitka, the most valuable gold claims yet discovered, are about being developed by a company incorporated under

the laws of Wisconsin, which has lately purchased the properties. Ore taken at random from these mines has assayed into the thousands.

Twenty-four miles from Sitka is Mt. Edgecomb, an extinct volcano. The contour of the mountain plainly shows the old crater, and is an object of great interest to all visitors and tourists. Do not fail to take a look at this mountain of extinct fire and flame.

The fur-bearing animals of Alaska are numerous and among them are to be found the beaver, fox, marten, ermine, otter and wolf. Cinnamon and black bear are found in great numbers in all parts of southeastern Alaska, while further north, near the great river Yukon, the reindeer and the grizzly bear roam undisturbed by man. The islands literally swarm with deer and venison, and fish of various kinds are the main food supply of the Alaskans.

Game fish of many kinds are caught both in the fresh and salt water. At Sitka two distinct species of brook trout are taken in the mountain streams. Salmon trout are caught in the Indian River, and in the salt waters of the harbor. Rock cod, sea-trout, black bass and halibut afford great sport as well as delicious food for those who are piscatorially inclined. The Alaska Commercial Company has a monopoly of the fur seal business, for which they pay to the United States an annual rental of \$55,000, and a royalty of \$2.62½ for each seal killed and are limited to the killing of 100,000 seals annually. The principal points where the fur seal is caught are the Islands of St. George and St. Paul, belonging to the Pribyloff group, some 1,700 miles west of Sitka.

The territorial officers consist of a governor, district judge, district attorney, marshal and surveyor general, collector of customs, and a clerk of the district court, who is also ex-officio secretary and treasurer. The first two mentioned officers receive a salary of \$3,000 each, and the other mentioned officers a salary of \$2,500 each, with certain fees. The mean annual temperature of Sitka is about forty-four degrees, the winter temperature at that place being about the same as that of Washington, D. C. The

mercury seldom rises higher than eighty-two degrees in summer. The rain fall at Sitka is copious, the annual precipitation being sixty-five to ninety inches. The language spoken by the Indians at Sitka is the Thlinket, although to a great extent they use the jargon common to all Indians of the Pacific coast from Oregon to Mt. St. Elias.

There is a paucity of domestic animals in Alaska as yet, five mules, two horses, and not to exceed a dozen cows constitute the entire outfit in that line, in the southeastern portion of the territory. At Sitka there are a few chickens that sell for \$1,00 each; eggs bring 75 cents per dozen and milk 80 cents a gallon. There is good grazing on islands in the Sitka Harbor and a remunerative industry might be worked up raising vegetables, milk and poultry for the Sitka and Juneau markets.

TABLE OF RATES.

St. Paul to Sitka.....	\$153.50
St. Paul to Portland.....	93.50
St. Paul to Portland, Emigrant.....	53.50
Sleeping car fare, one birth from St. Paul to Portland.....	15.00
Meals on Dining Car, each.....	.75
Portland to Tecoma by rail.....	7.00
Tecoma to Port Townsend by boat.....	3.75
Tecoma to Victoria by boat.....	4.75
Meals on boat on Puget Sound, each.....	.50
Portland to Port Townsend by steamer.....	10.00
Portland to Victoria by steamer.....	10.00
Portland to any point in Alaska.....	60.00
Port Townsend or Victoria to any point in Alaska.....	50.00

The fare on the Alaska steamer includes state-room and meals.

N. B. The N. P. R. R. furnish free of charge sleeping accomodations to the purchasers of emigrant tickets, the purchaser furnishing his own bedding.

During the First Session of the Forty-eighth Congress, the following bill, originating in the Senate, became a law:

AN ACT PROVIDING A CIVIL GOVERNMENT FOR
ALASKA.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the territory ceded to the United States by Russia by the treaty of March thirtieth, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, and known as Alaska, shall constitute a civil and judicial district, the government of which shall be organized and administered as hereinafter provided. The temporary seat of government of said district is hereby established at Sitka.

SECTION 2. That there shall be appointed for the said district a governor, who shall reside therein during his term of office and be charged with the interests of the United States Government that may arise within said district. To the end aforesaid he shall have authority to see that the laws enacted for said district are enforced, and to require the faithful discharge of their duties by the officials appointed to administer the same. He may also grant reprieves for offences committed against the laws of the district or of the United States until the decision of the President thereon shall be made known. He shall be *ex officio* commander-in-chief of the militia of said district, and shall have power to call out the same when necessary to the due execution of the laws and to preserve the peace, and to cause all able-bodied citizens of the United States in said district to enroll and serve as such when the public exigency demands; and he shall perform generally in and over said district such acts as pertain to the office of governor of a territory, so far as the same may be made or become applicable thereto. He shall make an annual report on the first day of October in each year, to the President of the United States, of his official acts and doings, and of the condition of said district, with reference to its resources, industries, population, and the administration of the civil government thereof. And the President of the United States shall have power to review and to confirm or annul any reprieves granted or other acts done by him.

SECTION 3. That there shall be, and hereby is, established a district court for said district, with the civil and criminal jurisdiction of district courts of the United States exercising the jurisdiction of circuit courts, and such other jurisdiction, not inconsistent with this act, as may be established by law; and a district judge shall be appointed for said district, who shall during his term of office reside therein and hold at least two terms of said court therein in each year, one at Sitka, beginning on the first Monday in May, and the other at Wrangel, beginning on the first Monday in November. He is also authorized and directed to hold such special sessions as may be necessary for the dispatch of the business of said court, at such times and places in said district as he may deem expedient, and may adjourn such special session to any other time previous to a regular session. He shall have authority to employ interpreters, and to make allowances for the necessary expenses of his court.

SECTION 4. That a clerk shall be appointed for said court, who shall be *ex officio* secretary and treasurer of said district, a district attorney, and a marshal, all of whom shall during their terms of office reside therein. The clerk shall record and preserve copies of all the laws, proceedings, and official acts applicable to said district. He shall also receive all moneys collected from fines, forfeitures, or in any other manner except from violations of the custom laws, and shall apply the same to the incidental expenses of said district court and the allowances thereof as directed by the judge of said court, and shall account for the same in detail, and for any balances on account thereof, quarterly, to and under the direction of the secretary of the treasury. He shall be *ex officio* recorder of deeds and mortgages and certificates of location of mining claims and other contracts relating to real estate and register of wills for said district, and shall establish secure offices in the town of Sitka and Wrangel, in said district, for the safekeeping of all his official records, and of records concerning the reformation and establishment of the present status of titles to lands, as hereinafter directed: *Provided,*

That the district court hereby created may direct, if it shall deem expedient, the establishment of separate offices at the settlements at Wrangel, Oonalashka, and Juneau City, respectively, for the recording of such instruments as may pertain to the several natural divisions of said district most convenient to said settlements, the limits of which shall, in the event of such direction, be defined by said court; and said offices shall be in charge of the commissioners respectively hereinafter provided.

SECTION 5. That there shall be appointed by the President four commissioners in and for the said district, who shall have the jurisdiction and powers of commissioners of the United States circuit courts in any part of said district, but who shall reside, one at Sitka, one at Wrangel, one at Oonalashka, and one at Juneau City. Such commissioners shall exercise all the duties and powers, civil and criminal, now conferred on justices of the peace under the general laws of the state of Oregon, so far as the same may be applicable in said district, and may not be in conflict with this act, or the laws of the United States. They shall also have jurisdiction, subject to the supervision of the district judge, in all testamentary and probate matters, and for this purpose their courts shall be opened at stated terms and be courts of record, and be provided with a seal for the authentication of their official acts. They shall also have power to grant writs of habeas corpus for the purpose of inquiring into the cause of restraint of liberty, which writs shall be made returnable before the said district judge for said district; and like proceedings shall be had thereon as if the same had been granted by said judge under the general laws of the United States in such cases. Said commissioners shall also have the powers of notaries public, and shall keep a record of all deeds and other instruments of writing acknowledged before them and relating to the title to or transfer of property within said district, which record shall be subject to public inspection. Said commissioners shall also keep a record of all fines and forfeitures received by them, and shall pay over the same quarterly to the clerk of said district court. The governor

appointed under the provisions of this act shall, from time to time, inquire into the operations of the Alaska Seal and Fur Company, and shall annually report to Congress the result of such inquiries and any and all violations by said company of the agreement existing between the United States and said company.

SECTION 6. That the marshal for said district shall have the general authority and powers of the United States marshalls of the States and Territories. He shall be the executive officer of said court, and charged with the execution of all processes of said court and with the transportation and custody of prisoners, and he shall be *ex officio* keeper of the jail or penitentiary of said district. He shall appoint four deputies, who shall reside severally at the towns of Sitka, Wrangel, Oonalashka and Juneau City, and they shall respectively be ex-officio constables and executive officers of the commissioners' courts herein provided, and shall have the powers and discharge the duties of United States deputy marshals, and those of constables under the laws of the state of Oregon now in force.

SECTION 7. That the general laws of the state of Oregon now in force are hereby declared to be the law in said district, so far as the same may be applicable and not in conflict with the provisions of this act or the laws of the United States; and the sentence of imprisonment in any criminal case shall be carried out by confinement in the jail or penitentiary hereinafter provided for. But the said district court shall have exclusive jurisdiction in all cases in equity or those involving a question of title to land, or mining rights, or the constitutionality of a law, and in all criminal offenses which are capital. In all civil cases at common law, any issue of fact shall be determined by a jury, at the instance of either party; and an appeal shall lie in any case, civil or criminal, from the judgment of said commissioners to the said district court, where the amount involved in any civil case is two hundred dollars or more, and in any criminal case where a fine of more than one hundred dollars or imprisonment is imposed, upon the filing of a sufficient

appeal bond by the party appealing, to be approved by the court or commissioner. Writs of error in criminal cases shall issue to the said district court from the United States circuit court for the district of Oregon in the cases provided in chapter one hundred and seventy-six of the laws of eighteen hundred and seventy-nine; and the jurisdiction thereby conferred upon circuit courts is hereby given to the circuit court of Oregon. And the final Judgments or decrees of said circuit and district court may be reviewed by the supreme court of the United States as in other cases.

SECTION 8. That the said district of Alaska is hereby created a land district, and a United States land office for said district is hereby located at Sitka. The commissioner provided for by this act to reside at Sitka shall be *ex officio* register of said land office, and the clerk provided for by this act shall be *ex officio* receiver of public moneys, and the marshal provided for by this act shall be surveyor general of said district, and the laws of the United States relating to mining claims, and the rights incident thereto, shall, from and after the passage of this act, be in full force and effect in said district, under the administration thereof herein provided for, subject to such regulations as may be made by the Secretary of the Interior, approved by the President: *Provided*, That the Indians or other persons in said district shall not be disturbed in the possession of any lands actually in their use or occupation or now claimed by them, but the terms under which such persons may acquire title to such lands is reserved for future legislation by Congress: *And provided further*, That parties who have located mines or mineral privileges therein under the laws of the United States applicable to the public domain, or who have occupied and improved or exercised acts of ownership over such claims, shall not be disturbed therein, but shall be allowed to perfect their title to such claims by payment as aforesaid: *And provided also*, That the land not exceeding six hundred and forty acres at any station now occupied as missionary stations among the Indian tribes in said section, with the improvements thereon erected

by or for such societies, shall be continued in the occupancy of the several religious societies to which said missionary stations respectively belong until action by Congress. But nothing contained in this act shall be construed to put in force in said district the general land laws of the United States.

SECTION 9. That the governor, attorney, judge, marshal, clerk, and commissioners provided for in this act shall be appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall hold their respective offices for the term of four years, and until their successors are appointed and qualified. They shall severally receive the fees of office established by law for the several offices the duties of which have been hereby conferred upon them, as the same are determined and allowed in respect of similar offices under the laws of the United States, which fees shall be reported to the Attorney General and paid into the Treasury of the United States. They shall receive respectively the following annual salaries. The governor, the sum of three thousand dollars; the attorney, the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars; the marshal, the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars, the judge, the sum of three thousand dollars; and the clerk, the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars, payable to them quarterly from the Treasury of the United States. The district judge, marshal, and district attorney shall be paid their actual, necessary expenses when travelling in the discharge of their official duties. A detailed account shall be rendered of such expenses under oath and as to the marshal and district attorney such account shall be approved by the judge, and as to his expenses by the Attorney General. The commissioners shall receive the usual fees of United States commissioners and of justices of the peace for Oregon, and such fees for recording instruments as are allowed by the laws of Oregon for similar services, and in addition a salary of one thousand dollars each. The deputy marshals, in addition to the usual fees of constables in Oregon, shall receive each a salary of seven hundred and fifty dollars, which salaries shall also be payable quarterly out of the Treasury of the

United States. Each of said officials shall, before entering on the duties of his office, take and subscribe an oath that he will faithfully execute the same, which said oath may be taken before the judge of said district or any United States district or circuit judge. That all officers appointed for said district, before entering upon the duties of their office shall take the oaths required by law, and the laws of the United States, not locally inapplicable to said district and not inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby extended thereto, but there shall be no legislative assembly in said district, nor shall any delegate be sent to congress therefrom. And the said clerk shall execute a bond, with sufficient sureties, in the penalty of ten thousand dollars, for the faithful performance of his duties. and file the same with the Secretary of the Treasury before entering upon the duties of his office; and the commissioners shall each execute a bond, with sufficient sureties, in the penalty of three thousand dollars, for the faithful performance of their duties, and file the same with the clerk before entering upon the duties of their office.

SECTION 10. That any of the public buildings in said district not required for the customs service or military purposes shall be used for court rooms and offices of the civil government, and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby directed to instruct and authorize the custodian of said buildings forthwith to make such repairs to the jail in the town of Sitka, in said district, as will render it suitable for a jail and penitentiary for the purposes of the civil government hereby provided, and to surrender to the marshal the custody of said jail and the other public buildings, or such parts of said buildings as may be selected for court-rooms, offices, and officials.

SECTION 11. That the Attorney-General is directed forthwith to compile and cause to be printed, in the English language, in pamphlet form, so much of the general laws of the United States as are applicable to the duties of the governor, attorney, judge, clerk, marshals and commissioners appointed for said district, and shall furnish for the use of the

officers of said Territory so many copies as may be needed of the laws of Oregon applicable to said district.

SECTION 12. That the Secretary of the Interior shall select two of the officers to be appointed under this act, who, together with the governor, shall constitute a commission to examine into and report upon the condition of the Indians residing in said Territory, what lands, if any, should be reserved for their use, what provision shall be made for their education, what rights by occupation of settlers should be recognized, and all other facts that may be necessary to enable Congress to determine what limitations may be imposed when the land laws of the United States shall be extended to said district; and to defray the expenses of said commission the sum of two thousand dollars is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

SECTION 13. That the Secretary of the Interior shall make needful and proper provision for the education of the children of school age in the Territory of Alaska, without reference to race, until such time as permanent provision shall be made for the same, and the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated for this purpose.

SECTION 14. That the provisions of chapter three, title twenty-three, of the revised statutes of the United States, relating to the unorganized Territory of Alaska, shall remain in full force, except as herein specially otherwise provided; and the importation, manufacture, and sale of intoxicating liquors in said district except for medicinal, mechanical, and scientific purposes, is hereby prohibited under the penalties which are provided in section nineteen hundred and fifty-five of the revised statutes for the wrongful importation of distilled spirits. And the President of the United States shall make such regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

Approved, May 17, 1884.

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