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WASHINGTON: 1973

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October 12, 1922.

Mr. D. W. Branch,
Libby, McNeill & Libby,
Marion Building,
Seattle, Wash.

Dear Sir:

Your letter to Governor Scott C. Bone, of Alaska, dated Sept. 11, 1922, regarding the finding of prehistoric relics at Libbyville and asking for further information relative thereto, was handed to me by the Governor with a request that I furnish you with the facts as they came to us.

Please be advised that Mr. J. L. Abrams of the U. S. Customs service made a trip to the Western part of Alaska last June. While returning from Seward to Cordova he met one of your officials returning from Libbyville. Unfortunately Mr. Abrams does not remember the name of this gentleman. Your agent made the trip over the portage from Libbyville by way of Iliamna, had visited Kenai, and, on his trip out, boarded the steamer Northwestern at Seward. In a conversation on board the steamer this gentleman mentioned the finding of prehistoric relics under 30 feet of earth at Libbyville. He said the relics consisted of stone knives, stone tools, cooking utensils, spears, etc., that they were so old that the eldest native inhabitants had never seen implements of similar make and knew nothing of their origin or use. Naturally the officers of the Alaska Historical Association were very much interested and at once made every effort to procure them for the Alaska Historical Museum.

The stone lamps and hammer or maul so kindly donated by you to the Museum have arrived safely and are of great acquisition to us. We have a number of stone lamps from the arctic region and one from Kodiak Island. The ones received from you add very materially to our collection. We are very fortunate in being able to get the style of lamps as they are different in make and shape from the other specimens on hand. May we hope to get a little more data upon these specimens? We would appreciate if you could give us the locality from which they came, the position of the land, whether the place in question could have been an abandoned village or a burying ground.

Please accept the unanimous vote of thanks of the Board of Managers of the Alaska Historical Association for your donation.

Sincerely yours,

Director

December 1, 1921.

Copy to Gov. Row.
From MAURICE D. LEEHEY
Alaska Building
SITKA, ALASKA

Hon. Charles F. Curry,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Curry:

Pardon me, but the pending bills to coordinate Federal activities in Alaska omit what in my opinion is the most important item. I refer to the Bureau of Public Roads in the Department of Agriculture, which maintains a separate road building organization in Alaska.

You know the Alaska Road Commission is in the War Department. The Alaska Legislature by its Act of April 21, 1919 (1919 Session Laws, p. 15) provided for the coordination of territorial ^{road} work with Federal, and under this plan the territorial funds are expended by the Alaska Road Commission in some divisions and the Bureau of Public Roads in others, but of course the territory cannot coordinate its work with two separate Federal bureaus.

It seems to me that, whether Congress passes any of the pending bills or not, it should at least coordinate Federal road activities in Alaska, yet this is not provided for in either the Curry Bill or the New Bill, and while I have not seen a copy of the bill your committee has just reported, the press dispatches do not mention the Bureau of Public Roads. I cannot see what objection can be made to this, and I assume it possible that the matter has been overlooked. If, however, this coordination is opposed by your committee, I should like to know the reason why. I mentioned the matter to Mr. McPherson, who tells me he thinks it has simply been overlooked and that he will write you endorsing the suggestion I here made.

In my opinion the Alaska Road Commission should

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#2, Hon. Chas. F. Curry, 12-19-21.

be continued and kept in the War Department. It has done really wonderful work, all things considered. It has nothing to do with the public lands, and I see no reason for placing it in the Interior Department. Just turn over to it all Alaska road work. I believe the War Department can handle that work to the best advantage, and we know the influence of the War Department is most helpful in securing appropriations for roads and trails, the most essential Federal development work in the territory, one absolutely essential to provide feeders for the Government Railway. If Congress will adopt a liberal policy in this respect, we could well forego requests for other appropriations and the territory can be cared for with the revenue it produces. What Alaska needs after all is not more laws but less, - less interference, less regulations, yes, and less Federal appropriations, if the Government will give the territory a chance to take care of itself.

Yours very truly,



MDL:S

Copy to Senator New
Senator Jones
Delegate Sutherland