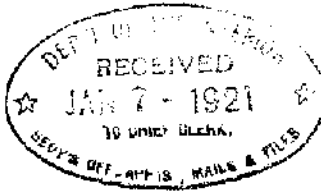


MORNINGSIDE HOSPITAL

Portland, Oregon



Washington, D. C.,  
January 6, 1921.

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Herewith is handed you copy of two enclosures, one, a letter from Hon. James A. Smiser, U. S. Attorney, First District of Alaska, Ketchikan, Alaska, which discusses the history and mental condition of one Patrick J. Shannahan, recently received at Morningside Hospital, Portland, Oregon.

A telegram was received by Morningside Hospital just before my departure for Washington, D. C. from Governor Riggs of Alaska, urging the closest care of this patient in order that he might not escape in the interest of the public, especially the citizens of Alaska.

In route to Washington I wrote Dr. Steiner, Superintendent of the State Insane Asylum at Salem, Oregon, asking if it would be possible for him to restrain this patient in the criminal ward at Salem until such time as some other provision could be made for the care of this patient in some other criminal place of detention.

Enclosed please find wire received today from Hon. R. B. Goodwin, Secretary of the Board of Control of the State Insane Asylum at Salem, in which the asylum expresses its willingness to receive this patient. I enclose you also herewith copy of H. R. 14072, which has been approved by The Honorable, The Secretary of the Interior and the United States Attorney General. Congressman McArthur is attempting to have this bill brought up and passed at the present session, although he does not give much encouragement that the bill will go through until the next session of Congress. From the enclosures relative to Shannahan it is apparent that he is a very dangerous insane person. With the small personnel which there is of the patients from Alaska, it is of course, impossible to maintain a separate criminal department, as it is only occasionally that a patient of this kind comes under our care. While the insane asylum is not a prison, and escapes will even take place from prisons, still the larger asylums have safer facilities for this type of individual. Salem has a first class criminal department. Although most insane persons who have committed a homicidal act in the

explosion which follows such commission rarely afterward again commit a homicide, yet on account of the apprehension of the Governor and many of the citizens in Alaska, and in order also that this patient may not mix to any possible detriment or discomfort to our otherwise peaceful family at Morningside, I am very anxious to make an immediate transfer of this patient to Salem, and would respectfully ask for permission to make this transfer, or if better, for an approval of our plans to make this transfer. This matter is urgent and immediate action on the part of the Department would be very greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

THE SANITARIUM COMPANY

By *Henry Kalbo Coe*  
President.

Enclosures.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

First Division, District of Alaska

Ketchikan, Alaska.

December 18, 1920.

Dr. Coe, Superintendent,  
Morningside Hospital for the Insane,  
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

One Patrick J. Shannahan is being conveyed from Ketchikan, Alaska, for incarceration in Morningside Hospital for the Insane, having been adjudged a lunatic by a jury and having been ordered to be transmitted to said asylum by judgment of the United States Commissioner's Court at this place.

This man was originally arrested for the murder of Mr. Steve Ragan, Assistant U. S. Attorney at Ketchikan, which murder was committed during October, 1919. He was placed in custody thereafter; was indicted by the grand jury, and his trial was called during the spring of 1920. At this time his lawyer put in a plea of insanity and the Court appointed a jury of twelve men to hear proof and decide this question. Upon the trial of this cause, one Dr. Doherty of New Westminster, B. C. was examined as an alienist in behalf of the defendant, and also three other physicians residing in Ketchikan testified, and they all agreed that Shannahan was insane and that he was what is known as a paranoiac.

As I learned the history of his case in the investigation of these charges, he was once arrested and detained in the asylum in New Westminster under the care of Dr. Doherty. This was about eight years ago. He was kept at the asylum for a few weeks, when he appeared to become sane and was paroled. He escaped his parole, and about six years ago came to Alaska, where he has remained since. He was a working man, engaged as a logger and had charge of the running of a steam donkey engine and was said to be a good workman. He occasionally was addicted to drink but was not known as an habitual drunkard nor a heavy drinker, at least since he has been in Alaska.

Upon his examination he recited his history, in which he detailed his life in British Columbia, especially on or about the time when he was arrested there charged with insanity, and it seemed, as related by him, he had hallucinations to the effect that "they" were after him, and that "they" were trying to dope him by putting poison in his drink

and food. This went to such an extent that every place he went in to take a drink of liquor he would get some dope and then he would suffer very greatly from pains in his head and hear strange noises.

He came to Alaska to escape from "them". After remaining here a while "they" found out that he was here, and some four years ago he was arrested at Juneau, Alaska and put in a jail as an insane person but was only detained for a day or two when he was turned out as sane, he having been under the influence of liquor at the time he was arrested.

Since that time he has been in Alaska, near Ketchikan, working mostly in logging camps. Finally, in 1919, he abandoned the logging camp and sold out his interest in the business, alleging some unreasonable cause for doing so, and came to Ketchikan, where he remained up until the time he committed the murder. During this time he had told a number of friends that he expected to get even with "them", that the "higher-ups", - referring to certain federal officials at Ketchikan, - were trying to do him harm and that he would get even with them, and used language that indicated that he intended to kill them.

One evening the latter part of October, he followed Mr. Ragan, Assistant U. S. Attorney, up the street for a block or two, walking up behind him, pulled a pistol from his pocket and shot him dead, the bullet passing through Ragan's head. Shennahan then went back to the hotel and when arrested was lying upon his bed in his room reading a magazine.

Since being confined in jail he has demanded a trial, says that he knows nothing about the death of Ragan; that there is no reason for holding him; that it is simply part of a persecution that has been following him. He stoutly maintains that he is not crazy, and nothing seems to irritate him nearly as much as to indicate that he is crazy. He is very much opposed to being sent to your asylum, or to any other asylum.

I regard him, as so does every one here who knows him, as a most dangerous man. I believe that he will kill any one who interferes with his liberty; and I believe further that he will not remain in Morningside unless he is forcibly detained. There is no doubt in my mind that he will commit murder if necessary to escape from Morningside. He is a very shrewd, quick-thinking man. I do not know whether he is really crazy or whether he is feigning; but in either event he is a most dangerous criminal. Should he escape from your institution, he either will hide

himself and go to some unknown part, if he be sane; or, if he be insane, he will probably return to this vicinity, and in that event has sworn to kill a number of people here who have been active in having him transported to your institution.

I therefore urge you to use special care in the detention of this man. He is still under indictment for the murder of Mr. Ragan, the Court simply declining to try him because the verdict of the jury established the fact that he was insane. But the case is still upon the docket, and if he should ever become sane he will be tried for murder.

You will therefore note this fact for record, and in the event that he should become sane and ready to be discharged from your institution, you will notify the authorities and he will be transported back to this place for trial.

Respectfully,

James A. Smiser.

U. S. Attorney.

COPY

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH

A4CH 48 4 EXTRA NL

Salem ORG 5

Dr Henry Waldo Coe

New Willard Washington D C

Your letter January first to Dr Steiner submitted to Board today  
Our Board has consented to care for criminal insane of Alaska  
until Congress can make other provisions cost to Government will  
be forty five dollars per month can accept one or two now

R B Goodwin

Secty Board of Control.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

CRB - 7 1671

Dr. Henry Waldo Coe,  
President, The Sanitarium Company,  
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the request contained in your letter of January 6, 1921, you are hereby authorized to temporarily provide for Patrick J. Shanahan, charged with murder in the Alaskan Courts and thereafter legally adjudged insane to the criminal department of the Oregon State Hospital for the Insane at Salem, Oregon, the expense of such transfer, as well as the cost of his care and maintenance, to be borne by the Company. It is to be distinctly understood that the Company is to be responsible in every way for this patient under its existing contract with the Department in the same manner as if he were in the institution at Portland.

This permission is accorded because of the dangerous character of the patient and the likelihood of his attempting to escape from Horningside, which does not maintain a separate criminal department, and in connection with the fact that the Oregon State Board of Control has consented to care at the Oregon asylum for this insane criminal from Alaska.

Cordially yours,

(Sgd.) JOHN BARTON PAYNE

Secretary.

C O P Y

STATE OF OREGON

OREGON STATE BOARD OF CONTROL

Salem

January 5, 1921.

Dr. Henry Waldo Coe,  
New Willard,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Doctor:

The Oregon State Board of Control met in regular session today, at which time Dr. R. E. Lee Steiner submitted for consideration your letter which was written from Missoula. The Board consented to care for insane of Alaska until such time as the Government can provide for them. We wired you as follows:

Your letter January first to Dr. Steiner submitted to Board today. Our Board has consented to care for criminal insane of Alaska until Congress can make other provisions. Cost to Government will be forty five dollars per month. Can accept one or two now.

Hoping this will meet with your full approbation, and wishing you the compliments of the season, I remain,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) R. B. Goodin

Secretary,  
Oregon State Board of Control

G-G



C O P Y

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

B 264 CH 9

B Portland Org. 505 P 8

1921 Jan 8 PM 8 27

Henry W. Coe

New Willard Hotel

Washington, D. C.

Patrick Shannahan transferred to State Hospital Salem this morning.

Wayne W. Coe.