

NUMBER 7.

A joint resolution asking Congress to appropriate twenty-five thousand dollars for the improvement of the Minnesota river at the borough of Belle Plaine, Scott county, Minn.

Be it resolved by the senate of the state of Minnesota, the house of representatives concurring:

That whereas, the borough of Belle Plaine in the county of Scott and state of Minnesota has, by a vote of its people, built a free-toll iron drawbridge across the Minnesota river, within its limits, and whereas, the consent of the national government was obtained before said Minnesota river could be bridged, and whereas, the importance of continuing the work of the improvement of the Minnesota river in the interest of cheap transportation is a matter of natural interest, and whereas, there is a large amount of travel and intercourse between the citizens of the United States carried on across the said "free-toll iron bridge," and whereas, the highway leading to said bridge on the north side is in imminent danger of being cut in twain by reason of the Minnesota river changing its present bed or channel and running north of said bridge, thereby rendering said bridge useless to the public at large, and at this point the navigation of the Minnesota river endangered if not made worthless, which would be a great calamity, therefore

Be it resolved, that our senators and representatives in congress be and they are hereby requested to use all reasonable efforts to secure an appropriation of twenty-five thousand dollars, to be expended under the directions of the engineer of the United States in such manner as to save to and for the public at large the use of said "free-toll iron bridge" and the unimpaired navigation of the Minnesota river at this place.

Be it further resolved, that the secretary of state be requested to send a copy of these resolutions and preambles to each of our senators and representatives in congress.

Approved January 31, 1893.

NUMBER 8.

A joint memorial of the senate and house of representatives of the state of Minnesota recommending the election of United States Senators by a popular vote.

Whereas, it is the sentiment of the people of the state of Minnesota that United States senators be elected by popular vote; therefore,

Resolved, by the house of representatives, the senate concurring, that our senators and representatives in congress be instructed and requested to use their influence in securing such an amendment to the constitution of the United States as will confer upon the electors of the several states the right to choose their senators at general elections.

Resolved further, that the secretary of state be and he is hereby requested to forward one copy of this memorial to each of our senators and representatives in congress at as early a day as may be convenient.

Approved March 3, 1893.

NUMBER 9.

The senate and house of representatives of the Legislature of Minnesota to the senate and house of representatives of the Congress of the United States at Washington, D. C., Greeting:

The thrilling scenes and horrors connected with the Indian massacre in 1862 have gone into history. Yet many who fought for their homes, friends, wives and children, are still living.

That your honorable body may readily understand the justice and consistency of this our recommendation and memorial, we herewith subjoin an extract from the report of Capt. Geo. C. Whitcomb, commanding detachment at Forest City in Meeker county, sixteen miles from Acton, where the first killing by the Indians was perpetrated on Sunday, Aug. 17, 1862. In his report Capt. Whitcomb says:

"On the first of September, 1862, Capt. Richard Strout ninth Minnesota infantry, was on the march with his company from Glencoe in McLeod county, by way of Hutchinson and Cedar Mills, to the little hamlet of Acton in Meeker county. On the second inst., while en route to Green Lake with 35 of my command to relieve some refugees said to be in imminent danger there, I was attacked by over 100 Indians, at Peterson's field, while the men were eating dinner. But we were not napping and made the best of a slow retreat to Forest City, ten miles away. I knew every foot of the ground and halted whenever the presence of lakes and marshes prevented our being flanked, and the Indians getting possession of the road in our front. We had five men badly wounded on this day and the day previous. We were five hours making the ten miles. On my arrival at Forest City I found a carrier with dispatches from Capt. Strout, saying he would camp at Acton that night. I took in the situation at once, and reasoned thus: Capt. Strout tells me he has encountered no Indians—has seen none—he asks are there any? If so, where are they? His men think they are chasing a phantom. His men will be tired to-night and will sleep soundly.

I knew Crow's scouts had dogged Strout's march that day to find where he camped. My better judgment told me (reasoning from what I had seen and the reports of my scouts) there were something more than 300 of Crow's choicest warriors which could be congregated by him for an attack on Strout's command that night. I knew that Crow was at Swede Grove in the afternoon, ten miles from where Strout would camp. I know Crow to be a wary foe, and would not let Strout get away if he can help it. If I can put Strout on his guard, it may be well, but if not, not a man of his command will see the sun rise to-morrow morning. My determination was fixed in ten minutes. Strout must be informed, of what was sure to come, by or before 12 o'clock that night, or all was lost. Beside this, his men were armed with the Bel-