

[No. 12.]—Memorial to Congress praying for an amendment to the law granting pre-emption rights. November 1, 1849.

*To the honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:* The memorial of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota, respectfully represents, That the laws relative to pre-emption to public lands are now but of little benefit to the citizens of this Territory, that those who would take advantage of that law are in a manner prevented, from the fact that nearly all that has been surveyed is taken up, and many have from necessity, settled on unsurveyed land, and are liable to all the penalties attached to trespasses on public lands.

Preamble, etc.

The law of pre-emption was intended to benefit persons of limited means and industrious habits, and it contemplates giving sufficient time to improve the lands thus claimed, and reap sufficient profit therefrom to enter the same.

Your memorialists would therefore respectfully recommend that the law granting pre-emption rights, be so altered as to allow the pre-emption privilege to actual settlers on the unsurveyed lands in this Territory: it would facilitate the settling and be of great benefit to the Territory, and would in no wise prejudice the interest of the United States, on the contrary, it would further the interest of the public lands and encourage citizens of good habits, by enabling them to earn an honorable and respectable living.

Prayer, etc.

Your memorialists therefore respectfully pray that you grant their petition.

APPROVED, the first day of November, one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine.

[No. 13.]—Memorial to Congress for an appropriation to lay out and construct a road from the Iowa line to Mendota. November 1, 1849

*To the honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:* The memorial of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota, respectfully represents, That it is highly important to the interests and prosperity of this Territory that a road should speedily be laid out and constructed from the Iowa line in the county of Wabashaw, to Mendota, in the county of Dacotah, in said Territory: that the distance between said points is about one hundred and seventy-five miles: that said road would pass through a beautiful and fertile tract of country, the nature of which is such that such road might be completed at comparatively small expense: that Mendota is near the junction of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers, emigrants coming by land along that line and west of said proposed road with their teams and goods, would reach the valley of the Minnesota at that point, with ease, safety and advantage to themselves.

Preamble, etc.

And your memorialists would further state that the completion of said road would in their opinion, be highly beneficial to the Government of the United States, by enabling it much more rapidly to dispose of the lands on the west side of the Mississippi river convenient to the line of said road, and which will in all probability be soon in market.