

of the laws in their midst: Your memorialists would further state, that the forty thousand dollars so generously placed at the disposal of the Governor and Legislature, to erect public buildings, has been by them, ordered for these purposes, to be expended in Ramsey and Washington counties, to wit: at St. Paul and Stillwater; both at a great distance from the settlements of Benton, whither it would be very inconvenient and expensive to the county to transport each petty trespasser, even if it were proper to use a penitentiary for common jail purposes. Now therefore, in consideration of the premises, and of the fact that a large portion of the land in said county is unappropriated by sale or settlement, your memorialists respectfully ask a donation of one township of land therein, in behalf of said county, to be located by the County Commissioners, and placed at their disposal, to be by them applied to the speedy erection of county buildings. Your memorialists are the more earnest in their prayers, as Benton is the only organized county in the Territory which has not received a liberal portion of the public appropriation to Minnesota.

Prayer, etc.

M. E. AMES,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
 D. B. LOOMIS,
President of the Council.

APPROVED, March thirteenth, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one.

ALEX. RAMSEY.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, }
 St. Paul, May 13, 1851. }

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the original act, remaining on file in this office.

C. K. SMITH,

Secretary of the Territory of Minnesota.

[No. 3.]—*A Memorial to Congress relative to Settlers on Sections number Sixteen and Thirty-Six.*

March 31, 1851.

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, *Whereas*, sections numbered sixteen and thirty-six, are by the Organic Act of this Territory, reserved from sale, for school purposes, and no provisions made to secure the rights of those who in good faith, entered upon and improved said lands previous to the survey, or before the passage of said act of reservation: that great injustice is done those persons who belong to that meritorious class, that sacrificing the comforts and conveniences of the older settlements, push their way beyond the confines of civilization, constituting its advance guard, encountering the dangers, and enduring the hardships and privations ever incident to the settlement of new countries; who subdue the soil, converting the wilderness into cultivated wealth, smoothing the path for the thousands who follow after, who give value to lands that without them would

Preamble, etc.

remain an unfruitful waste—creating a market for the sale of the public domain, from which revenue flows into the Treasury of the General Government. In many cases, the improvements in buildings, fences and breakings, have cost the labor of years, and constitute the all of these worthy pioneers; and where they happen to be upon said reserved sections, they must be dispoiled of all these and driven again to commence improvements, and possibly again to the same misfortunes, unless your honorable body enact a law securing to them their obviously just rights.

Prayer, etc.

Your memorialists therefore respectfully pray for the passage of a law securing to persons who shall prove to the satisfaction of the proper land officers, the fact of a *bona fide* settlement previous to the survey of the lands, or previous to the passage of said act of reservation, the right to enter lands so settled upon, sufficient to cover their improvements, not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres; and that provisions be made for the selection of lands equivalent in value, which shall be granted to the Territory for school purposes in lieu of the school lands thus sold to actual settlers.

M. E. AMES,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

D. B. LOOMIS,

President of the Council.

APPROVED, March thirty-first, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one.

ALEX. RAMSEY.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, }
St. Paul, May 13, 1851. }

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy from the original on file in this office.

C. K. SMITH,

Secretary of the Territory of Minnesota.

March 26, 1851. ¹ [No. 4]—*A Memorial to Congress relative to the Construction of a Railroad.*

Preamble, etc.

To the honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States: The memorial of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota, respectfully represents: That, *Whereas*, the subject of Internal Improvements is now deeply engaging the attention of the American people, and Railroads are extending in all directions of the Union as arteries of communication, and their incalculable benefits universally acknowledged and felt by all; and in view of the contemplated construction of the great Central Railroad, already projected from Mobile, Alabama, to Chicago and Milwaukee, a continuation of that great thoroughfare through the State of Wisconsin to Saint Paul, the Capital of Minnesota, is most desirable; by which the "frigid North" and sunny South would be linked in constant communication with bands of iron: and *Whereas*, constant communication by Railroad from the Capital of this Territory, to the South and East, is becoming more indis-