

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, fencings 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 28, 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-

pensible every year, in consequence of the extensive and increasing trade carried on with the Indian nations within our borders, and commerce with the settlements on the Red River of the North, as well as the rapid increase of our own population, and the necessity of furnishing facilities and inducements for the thousands who are destined to emigrate to Minnesota, yearly: and

Whereas, the benefits accruing to the General Government from the facilities furnished by such a road for the rapid conveyance of mails, and the transportation of men, munitions of war and provisions, to the military posts upon the North Western frontier, and the necessary effect of facilitating the sale and settlement of large tracts of public lands through which it passes in the fertile regions of Minnesota and Wisconsin—commend it most strongly to the attention and patronage of the General Government.

Therefore, your memorialists would respectfully urge upon your honorable bodies the necessity of providing for a survey and location of a route for a Railroad leading from St. Paul, in the Territory of Minnesota, upon the most direct and eligible route, to the city of Milwaukee, or such other port on the western shore of Lake Michigan, as may be deemed advisable: and that a liberal donation and appropriation of public lands, lying upon the line of said proposed road, be made at the next session of Congress for the construction of said Railroad.

Prayer, etc.

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

APPROVED, March twenty-eighth, 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.

[No. 5].—*A Memorial to the Secretary of War for a continuance of certain Explorations in the Territory of Minnesota.*

March 13, 1851.

To the honorable, the Secretary of War: The memorial of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota, respectfully represents: That a large, and as we believe, valuable portion of our Territory is as yet, but very imperfectly known, save to the wandering Red men of the forest, and feeling assured that a much greater degree of confidence is generally entertained in the reports of Government officers than in those of individuals in a private station, and believing that the climate, soil and resources of Minnesota need only be understood, in order to be fully appreciated, and that when known, they will greatly tend to enlarge the tide of emigration which for the past season has tended hitherward, and

Preamble, etc.