

MEMORIALS.

NUMBER 1.

Memorial to Congress, praying for Pre-Emption Rights on unsurveyed Lands.

Feb. 21, 1854.

To the Honorable, Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled: The Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota, respectfully represents—

That the laws regulating pre-emption rights are of little value to this Territory, as those of our citizens who desire to avail themselves of the provisions of that act, are deprived of its benefits, by the fact, that all the most valuable portion of the lands of the United States, which are subject to pre-emption, have been entered; and many of our citizens are thus driven to the necessity of settling on unsurveyed lands, and are rendered liable to the pains and penalties attached to trespassers on the public domain.

Pre-emption
rights.

A class of the most deserving of our fellow citizens are thus left without any legal protection for their homes and property—giving the voracious speculator the means of depriving them of that which every freeman holds most dear.

Your memorialists would therefore respectfully recommend that the law granting pre-emption rights, be so amended as to allow pre-emption privileges to actual settlers on the unsurveyed lands of the United States in this Territory.

N. C. D. TAYLOR,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
S. B. OLMSTEAD,
President of the Council.

APPROVED—February twenty-first, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

W. A. GORMAN.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
St. Paul, March 20th, 1854.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a correct copy of the original resolution on file in this office.

J. TRAVIS ROSEN,

Secretary of Minnesota Territory.