

Indian departments of Government on the Upper Mississippi river, forms an important item of the expenditure of money for these departments in this Territory.

That although a Military Road has been constructed from St. Paul to Fort Ripley, on the east side of the Mississippi river, the expense of constructing a road would be much less, and the distance much shorter, from Fort Ripley to Pembina, on the west side of the Mississippi river, than it would on the east side of said river.

2nd. That late in the fall, before the river is closed entirely by the ice, and while the ice is running out in the spring, it is impossible to cross the Mississippi river at Fort Snelling and Fort Ripley, consequently supplies may be detained at a time when they would be of the utmost importance to our frontier.

3rd. That by constructing a Military Road from Fort Snelling to Pembina, on the west side of the Mississippi river, by way of Minneapolis, Dayton, Monticello and St. Cloud, the obstructions in the river would be avoided and a far better road secured; and further, that it would be the means of settling up a vast tract of valuable agricultural lands along the line of the road, now almost inaccessible to the settler, and thus by the increased value of the Government lands, contribute largely towards refunding to the National Treasury, any expenditure made by Government in constructing said road.

4th. That nearly every other section of Minnesota has received donations from Congress, for the purpose of developing her resources, while this large and valuable tract of country lying on the west side of the Mississippi river, has been suffered to pass almost entirely unnoticed.

5th. We, your Memorialists, would therefore most respectfully, but earnestly ask your Honorable Body, to make an appropriation for the construction of the above road, and thus open up a way to develop the resources of the country, and subserve the interest of the Government.

And for which, as in duty bound, your Memorialists will ever pray.

CHARLES GARDNER,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

JOHN B. BRISBIN, *President of the Council.*

APPROVED—February twenty-sixth one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

W. A. GORMAN.

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

J TRAVIS ROSSER, *Secretary of Minnesota Territory.*

## NUMBER XXVI.

### *A Memorial to Congress for a Grant of Lands to improve the Navigation of the Minnesota River.*

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 to your honorable bodies, the propriety and expediency of making such a grant of the public domain, as may be necessary, or as you may in your wisdom be

*For grant of land for improvement of Navigation of Minnesota River*

willing to bestow, for the improvement of the navigation of the Minnesota river, from its mouth to the Sioux Agency.

Second. The principal obstructions to the navigation of the said river are, a bar at its mouth called the Mendota bar, and a rapid about forty miles from its mouth, which in low water are impassible to boats of any kind, and the upper portions of the river are to some extent rendered dangerous of passage for steamboats, by the presence of snags in the channel.

Third. It is estimated by competent engineers and experienced mechanics, that the various impediments now existing to the navigation of said river can be overcome by the erection of three locks, and the removal of the snags above mentioned, thereby securing an uninterrupted navigation of said river during the entire season. It is also estimated that the expense of said work would not exceed for each lock, ten thousand dollars, and for clearing the channel and removing the Mendota bar, about thirty thousand dollars.

Fourth. Your Memorialists would represent that a donation of unoccupied lands which are overflowed by the said river in seasons of high water, would be sufficient to accomplish the work above described.

Fifth. The advantages resulting from the proposed grant and improvements are strictly national in their character. Fort Ridgely and the Sioux Agency are situated on this river, and the Winnebago Agency within ten miles of it, and severally, one hundred and fifty and three hundred miles above its mouth. A new Fort is to be constructed at Pembina, on the Red River of the north, near the 49th parallel of north latitude, which posts are and will continue to be in the annual receipts of large quantities of supplies, which must of necessity be transported through the valley of the Minnesota river. The present condition of said river renders the period of navigation so uncertain, that freights on the United States and Indian goods have, and must continue to be high enough to meet the emergency of a large portion of them being transported by land, which invariably occurs. The amounts which were paid by the United States for the carriage of goods to the points above named, during the past year, are as follows: To the Sioux Agency, fourteen thousand two hundred and fifty dollars; to Fort Ridgely, about twelve thousand dollars; to the Winnebago Agency, about four thousand dollars. It is estimated that the supplies, men and munitions of war, that will pass over this route for the new Fort at Pembina will be fully equal to those at Fort Ridgely, and for the first year or two of its establishment will exceed the same, at least \$5,000. The United States is then paying annually for freighting its goods to the various points reached by way of the valley of the Minnesota river, for the distance covered by this river, the sum of \$44,750. It is estimated by those who have been long engaged in the carrying trade to the Indian and Military posts above named, that by the improvement of the said river as prayed for in this Memorial, the freights on all United States and Indian goods would be reduced two-thirds, with more profit to the carrier, thereby decreasing the expenditures of the Government in this Department annually, \$29,832.

Sixth. Viewed as a national enterprise, this work presents itself for consideration in other aspects than that of a retrenchment of the national expenditures. The country watered by this river and its tributaries, and dependent on its navigation for an outlet for its surplus products, is the most extended and fertile valley in the north-west, although now, in a great degree, a wilderness; yet, possessing undeveloped resources that destine it to become the heart of a populous and wealthy State.

**Seventh.** With these facts before us, your Memorialists feel it to be their duty to urge most earnestly upon your consideration the grant hereby prayed for, as by it sufficient would be saved in three years, from moneys now necessarily expended by the government, to reimburse the treasury for the donation in this Memorial prayed for. By it, trade and commerce between distant and estranged portions of our Territory would be enlivened and protected. By it, vast regions of the public domain now sparsely inhabited would be made to teem with an active and thrifty population, adding to the national wealth, and hastening the sale and improvement of the public lands.

**Eighth.** Where so much good can be obtained by legislative action at no sacrifice or cost to the nation, your Memorialists are confident in their belief that what is herein asked will be cheerfully bestowed.

**Ninth.** Your Memorialists, therefore, respectfully pray that a donation of the lands overflowed by the rise of the Minnesota river, be made to the Territory of Minnesota to aid in the improvement of the navigation of said river.

CHARLES GARDNER,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

JOHN B. BRISBEN,

*President of the Council.*

APPROVED—February eleventh, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

W. A. GORMAN,

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

J. TRAVIS ROSSETT,

*Secretary of Minnesota Territory.*

## NUMBER XXVII.

*A Memorial of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota.*

To the Postmaster General of the United States of America, and to the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

For new mail routes

The Memorial of the Legislative Assembly of Minnesota Territory respectfully represents: That the routes on which the mails are now carried are not, owing to the extension of the settlements within our Territory, sufficient to afford our population the necessary mail facilities, and your Memorialists feel a strong reliance upon the wishes of Congress, to render all proper mail facilities to the people of this Territory, whenever the wants of the community are made known, and with this conviction, your Memorialists would most respectfully ask that the following mail routes may be established during the present session of Congress, viz:

**First.** From La Crosse, in Wisconsin, by way of section twenty-four, township one hundred and four, range four west, Hokah, Houston, Rushford, Chatfield, and High Forest to Mankato, in Blue Earth county, Territory of Minnesota.

**Second.** From Decorah in the State of Iowa, to La Crosse in Wisconsin, by way of Belleville, Caledonia and Hokah.