

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Minnesota, }
 June 10, 1858. }

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

FRANCIS BAASEN, Secretary of State.

NUMBER XXIV.

A Memorial to the President of the United States in relation to Land Sales in Minnesota.

To the President of the United States :

Your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Minnesota, in Legislative Assembly assembled, respectfully represent, that they most earnestly protest against any further sales of public lands in the State of Minnesota at this time.

Memorial to the
 President of the
 United States in
 relation to land
 sales

It must be apparent that the entire country is in the midst of financial embarrassments, from which the State is not exempt, and which would not only be aggravated by a land sale, but in Minnesota would result in the ruin and bankruptcy of a large majority of those hardy pioneers, who have settled upon, improved, and made valuable the public lands of the State. Very many have no means of pre-empting; they have no money themselves and such is the present condition of the business public that they cannot even borrow the necessary means, unless at ruinous rates of interest, tending thereby not only to protract, but render permanent the embarrassments under which they now labor.

Our settlers have sought homes in Minnesota, which they have hopefully labored to improve, expending upon them all their energy and in most instances their last dollar, expecting to be enabled to produce from the soil the means of paying for their homes; but if forced to pay now for these lands, made valuable by their labor, must in most cases, lose, not only all they brought with them, but the fruits of their toil, or what is still worse for the prosperity of the State and country, yield them to the exacting demands of the speculator and money-lender. For these injurious results of a sale at this time, and we have alluded to the most prominent, the Government urges the plea of its present necessity of look-

Memorial to the
President of the
United States in
relation to the
sale of lands

ing to the public lands as a source of revenue. If this result would follow, although purchased at so great sacrifice, we would not so earnestly protest against the policy, but it will not. The Government will not realize by the sale, a dollar of revenue. The treasury will not, we believe, receive in money sufficient to pay the expenses of the sale. The land when entered by the pre-emptor, or located by the speculator, would simply show the location of an increased number of land warrants, solely operating for the benefit of land warrant speculators, and to pay whom the farmers of this State will be impoverished. With the large number of outstanding land warrants, the public lands cannot be looked to as a source of money revenue.

Under these circumstances, we confidently believe the President, after the announcement in his first message of a policy so wise and generous toward the settler, will heed our request and protect our pre-emptors from the speculators. A public sale at this time is marked with irreparable injury to the labor of the country, and in no respect is the Government the beneficiary. There is no healthy demand for land at this time, certainly none sufficient to justify the payment of \$1.25 in gold per acre, when land warrants can be readily purchased at 90 cents per acre; nor even for the location of land warrants, except as is for the purpose of speculating upon the toil and enterprise of the pre-emptor, and exacting from their necessities a ruinous rate of interest. We look to the Executive to avert these results. In times of prosperity the policy of hastening public sales would not be opposed, for then a healthy demand should be supplied and the tendency would be to relieve the treasury. We proudly point to Minnesota as a State in which more land has been entered by pre-emptors than all the States or Territories of this Union, and claim that since her settlement, in no part of the country has so much land been sold to the actual settlers, as here. We ask, therefore, that the Executive should interfere to protect our people from the speculator, knowing that our settlers will, as they already have done, pay for their claims as fast as possible. We have reaped the advantages of the pre-emption policy as a State, resulting equally to the advantage of the Government, and while asking no indefinite postponement of the proposed public sales, desire that exercise of Executive discretion, which will, during the present year, at least protect our settlers from the inevitable disasters that must follow them, and that they be delayed until the financial condition of the country will warrant such sales. This matter is one so vital to our prosperity, that we trust it will receive, as it merits, the favorable consideration of the President.

GEORGE BRADLEY,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WILLIAM HOLCOMBE.

President of the Senate.

APPROVED—August the twelfth, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight.

HENRY H. SIBLEY.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Minnesota, }
August 12, 1858. }

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

FRANCIS BAASEN, Secretary of State.

NUMBER XXV.

Memorial of the Legislature of Minnesota.

To the President of the United States :

Your memorialists, the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, beg most respectfully to represent to your Excellency, that military protection should be, and we pray that it may be afforded to the settlements in Northern Minnesota and Northern Dakota, by the immediate establishment and occupation of a military post near Graham's Point on the Red River of the North, and your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

Memorial of the
Legislature of
Minnesota

GEORGE BRADLEY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THOMAS COWAN,
President *pro tem.* of the Senate.

APPROVED—June twenty-third, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight.

WILLIAM HOLCOMBE,
Governor, *ad interim.*

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Minnesota, }
June 23, 1858. }

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

FRANCIS BAASEN, Secretary of State.