

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Minnesota, }  
 January 29, 1858. }

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

CHAS. L. CHASE, Secretary.

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NUMBER VI.

*Memorial to Congress in Relation to the Public Lands.*

*To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress Assembled :*

Your memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Minnesota, respectfully represent that, whereas, the prosperity and growth of the Great West depend mainly upon the development and maturity of its agricultural resources, the greatest liberality should be extended to those who will occupy and cultivate our soil, not only in procuring title thereto, but in enabling them to cultivate the same scientifically, and with the greatest degree of success.

Memorial to Congress for land grant to an Agricultural College, and for a homestead to settlers

Speculation in the public lands, although not in itself immoral, long experience has shown to be detrimental to the interest of the great mass of the people, and that it is the duty of Congress to protect them, as much as may be, against land monopoly, and in the primary disposition of the public domain, to place the same in limited quantities in the possession of actual and bona fide settlers, to be permanently occupied and cultivated, which object the legislation heretofore had granting the right of pre-emption, has failed to a great extent to secure.

Although the greater portion of the pre-empted land has been secured in good faith for the homes of the settlers, yet, the pre-emption laws have been a fruitful source of perjury, and a large quantity of land pre-empted in Minnesota and the adjoining States, has been solely for the purpose of immediate sale; and the same having passed into the hands of speculators, is wild and uncultivated as when first discovered. The demand of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre is really and practically a tax upon the producer for the privilege of cultivating the soil; and many of the pre-emptors, in some portions of this and adjacent States, have been obliged

to hire the money to pay for their claims at three and four per cent. a month interest, who are now struggling to support their families, erect buildings, and open up their farms, and meet these exorbitant rates of interest. This act is, so far, discouraging rather than fostering and protecting the agricultural interest of the country, the fountain which supplies every channel of industry, and constitutes the real and principal wealth of the nation.

While large appropriations have been made for Naval and Custom House establishments, and for Military Academies and Colleges, and extensive grants of land have been made for the improvement of rivers and harbors, for railroad purposes, and the like, yet but little or nothing has been done to aid the farmers and promote the interests of agriculture, and for the practical and industrial education of the people.

Your memorialists, therefore, pray that a liberal grant of land may be made to this State, and to others similarly situated, to aid in establishing and maintaining an Agricultural College; and also that a law may be passed, at an early day, securing to every person who will settle upon and occupy one hundred and sixty acres of land for five years, and have forty acres of the same, at the end of that time, under good cultivation, the right and power to purchase the same at a price not exceeding the actual cost and expense of survey and transfer.

GEORGE BRADLEY,

Speaker *pro tem.* of the House of Representatives.

RICHARD G. MURPHY,

President *pro tem.* of the Senate.

APPROVED—January the twenty-ninth, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight.

CHAS. L. CHASE, Acting Governor.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Minnesota, }

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CHAS. L. CHASE, Secretary.

## NUMBER VII.

*Memorial to Congress for a Special Pro-emption Law, for the Benefit of the Settlers on the Dakota or Sioux Half-breed Reservation.*

*To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled:*

The memorial of the Legislature of the State of Minnesota.