

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, }

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.

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.

respectfully represents: That the present mode of disposing of the lands on the Dakota or Sioux Half-breed Reservation, is constantly affording opportunity to the speculator to locate scrip on the claims of actual settlers, and thereby, in numerous instances, depriving the honest farmer of his home, and his only means of protecting his family from want and misery. And that there are now on said Reservation about eight thousand inhabitants, a large majority of whom are in the above named perilous situation, and many others who have been scriped already, and must, without your aid, give up their homes to the remorseless speculator. Therefore, we most respectfully pray your Honorable Body to pass an Act extending the right of pre-emption over this Reservation, similar in its provisions to the Act of September, A. D. 1841, and recognizing the claims of all who were actual settlers on this Reservation at the time of the relinquishment of said lands, by the Half-breeds, to the United States, and those made subsequently and prior to the passage of said Act. And to this end your memorialists will ever pray.

Memorial for a
special pre-emption
law

GEORGE BRADLEY,

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

RICHARD G. MURPHY,

President *pro tem.* of the Senate.

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

CHAS. L. CHASE, Acting Governor.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Minnesota, }

January 11, 1858. }

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

CHAS. L. CHASE, Secretary.

NUMBER VIII.

A Memorial of the Legislature of the State of Minnesota to the President of the United States.

We, your memorialists, do most respectfully represent that we have attentively observed and considered the effects upon the growth and prosperity of Western States, produced by putting into market large bodies of public land at any one time.