

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.

Memorial to the
President against
and sales

Our experience has demonstrated to us that such policy has heretofore, and will again throw large quantities of the best soil and timber lands into the hands of capitalists, by whom they will remain uncultivated, and driving the actual settler elsewhere, or else obliging him to take inferior or refuse land.

Further ; That there are now hundreds and thousands of actual and *bona fide* settlers who have expended their last dollar in selecting and opening their claims, and planting themselves and their families thereon, which said claims they would be compelled to surrender, were the same offered at public sale ; for so stringent is the monetary world now, with no hope of immediate relief here, that they are without the power of helping themselves, nor can assistance be obtained from friends immediate or remote. And provided that said lands do not fall directly into the hands of speculators at the time of sale, private entry by Land Warrants would soon absorb every improved claim, thereby crushing the very life of the hardy pioneer, and rendering abortive the pre-emption invitation. Time alone therefore will render the aid necessary to draw from the soil and their own labor the means whereby to pre-empt the same.

The proof of these facts and the results are so familiar to the whole community, that conviction deep and strong has been fixed on the public mind that no more land sales, except to actual settlers by pre-emption, should take place in Minnesota during the next two years, nor until the *actual* settler who comes from States or the old world have an opportunity of making their claim and improvements under the pre-emption laws of the United States.

We therefore most earnestly and respectfully ask your Excellency to regard the prayer of this Memorial and permit our future State to be filled by an upright, industrious, and productive class of actual settlers.

GEORGE BRADLEY,

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

RICHARD G. MURPHY,

President *pro tem.* of the Senate.

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

CHAS. L. CHASE, Acting Governor.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Minnesota, }
January 22, 1858. }

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

CHAS. L. CHASE, Secretary.