

MEMORIALS,

PASSED AND APPROVED AT THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE, COMMENCING JANUARY SEVENTH, ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SIXTY-TWO, AND TERMINATING MARCH SEVENTH, ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SIXTY-TWO.

NUMBER I.

A Memorial to Congress for a Donation of Lands and Money to Aid in the Construction of a Railroad from Saint Paul to the Head of Lake Superior, in Minnesota.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled :

Your Memorialists, the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, would respectfully represent that a communication from the head of navigation on the Mississippi river to the head of Lake Superior is of vast and vital importance to the interest of the whole of the State of Minnesota and the Lake Superior district. That as a military arm there is no route which more strongly commends itself to the immediate attention of congress than the one proposed by your memorialist. That in the event of war with the English government, the entire commerce of Lake Superior, now amounting, in the aggregate, to over fifteen millions dollars annually, would be hopelessly cut off and destroyed by fortifications on St. Mary's River, thus depriving our country of the iron and copper, so important to our government in the construction of ordnance.

To congress for a donation of lands to aid in the construction of a railroad from St. Paul to Lake Superior

That in case of war with Great Britain there could be no route so good as the one proposed, for the transportation of supplies and munitions of war for the defense of the commerce on that great inland sea. Also that in the event of our government building a Fort at the head of Lake Superior, this would be the only route which could be depended on for the sending of supplies.

The spirit of the age, advancement in the arts of war, and the experience of the past year, all tend to show the imperative necessity of providing means for the rapid transport of troops and munitions of war, and has convinced all that no method of transport can be so promptly effective as railroads. That the geographical position of this proposed road is one which must commend it to the confidence and attention of all, as one of the most important in the whole of our great railroad system. In this connection it may not be inappropriate to remark that railroads, as a means of inter-communication, are now acknowledged as an absolute necessity, adopted in almost every other portion of the United States. This necessity becomes more apparent in our own, not only as a commercial means of transportation in time of peace, but as of the highest importance in time of war, as the only effective method of transporting troops.

To congress for a donation of lands to aid in the construction of a railroad from St. Paul to Lake Superior

The Canadian government has already granted to rail roads, running to Sault St. Marie river, over four millions acres of land, thus showing that the English government is fully convinced of the vast importance of opening an avenue of rapid communication with their valuable interests on Lake Superior. Shall we neglect our interest until it is hopelessly too late? Lake Superior is an inland sea of thirty-two thousand square miles, and over two thousand miles of coast, two-thirds of which, including the most valuable mineral districts in the world, belong to the United States.

Your memorialist would further represent, that the railroad for which this aid is asked, may pass through, for at least seventy-five miles of its route, a rich, though uncultivated country, capable of sustaining a dense population; that it only requires an avenue through it, to cause emigration to flow that way; that a large portion, in fact nearly all, of the lands lying along the line of the proposed road, are yet in the hands of the United States government, and that it will be but consulting the best

interest of the State and general government to set apart for this improvement the aid asked, both in lands and money. That a preliminary survey of a route from St. Paul to Lake Superior has been made, and that the survey and estimated cost of construction show that a railroad can be constructed over this route as cheap, and we believe cheaper than any railroad in our whole country. But inasmuch as the intrinsic value of land along the immediate line of this proposed road, as a source of revenue from the proceeds of their sale, is too remote to be of present value in the construction of said road, your memorialist would ask that the company constructing said road be allowed to select one half of the land asked in this memorial from any vacant lands belonging to the United States, lying in the State of Minnesota. Believing this enterprise to be of such general advantage to our whole State, your memorialist have no doubt that the interest of all would warrant that the lands asked shall be selected in the manner above named.

Your memorialist would further represent, that in consideration of the grant of lands and pecuniary aid, asked in this memorial, that said railroad shall be and remain a public highway for the use of the government of the United States, free from all toll or other charge upon the transportation of any property or troops of the United States, and also that the United States mails shall be transported over said railroad, under the direction of the Post Office Department, at such price as congress may fix by law, or the Postmaster General may determine.

The advantages of this road to our whole country are altogether too numerous to present in the limits of a memorial, and your memorialist will content themselves in conclusion by saying, that in the opinion of this legislature, no public measure could be devised which would do more to stimulate business, give confidence and energy to both agriculture and commerce, enhance the value of property and labor and increase the productions of the country. That the agricultural, commercial, and mineral interests of Minnesota and Lake Superior, imperiously demand the construction of a safe and sure route for the transport of the exports and imports of this country, so rapidly increasing in agricultural commercial, and mineral wealth. Believing that it has ever been the intention of the national legislature to dispense its bounties where

To congress for a donation of lands to aid in the construction of a railroad from St. Paul to Lake Superior

the greatest benefits shall be conferred on the country at large, it is to be hoped that congress, throwing aside all objections such as improper estimates of its importance as a military arm, the increased expenses of the government in prosecuting the war, and other matters of like character, will grant the aid required to accomplish this important enterprise, the necessity of which every citizen acquainted with the vast agricultural resources of Minnesota, and the immense mineral wealth of Lake Superior, and the important geographical position of the road, will at once acknowledge as of vast and absorbing importance.

To congress for a donation of lands to aid in the construction of a railroad from St. Paul to Lake Superior --

Your memorialist would therefore ask your honorable bodies to donate to this State, along the line of this proposed road, lands to the amount of one million acres, also that other land to the amount of one million acres, which may be selected from any vacant land lying in the State of Minnesota, belonging to the United States also pecuniary aid to the amount of one half million dollars, to aid in the construction of said railroad.

Approved February 13th, 1862.

NUMBER II.

A Memorial to the Congress of the United States, to Indemnify the State of Minnesota for certain expenses.

The Legislature of the State of Minnesota, memorializing your honorable bodies, respectfully represent :

That there were certain just debts and liabilities incurred by the territory of Minnesota, which the people of the State, upon its admission into the Union, believed they ought not to have been called upon to pay and were unable to pay, but for which congress made no appropri-