

NUMBER V.

A Memorial for the Establishment of a Daily Mail Route between Winona, on the Mississippi river, and Mankato, on the Minnesota river.

To the Postmaster General of the United States :

The memorial of the Legislature of the State of Minnesota respectfully represents :

First. That the present necessities of that portion of the State to be affected thereby, urgently demand the establishment of a through daily mail route from Winona, on the Mississippi river, to Mankato, on the Minnesota river. In support of these assertions, permit us to introduce the following facts :

1. The country intervening between the two points named, embraces, on the direct line, the counties of Winona, Olmsted, Dodge, Steele, Waseca, Blue Earth and LeSueur. On either hand, there are in addition the counties of Houston, Fillmore, Mower, Freeborn, Faribault, Rice, Goodhue and Wabashaw, all of which would derive important benefits from a compliance with the request of your petitioners.

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2. The tract of country named, through the centre of which the proposed route would run, is the most thickly populated in the State, and is progressing in population and trade at a ratio far exceeding any other like portion within the State.

3. During the greater portion of the year, the route indicated from Winona to Mankato—but more especially as far as to Rochester, Mantorville and Owatonna—is the principal route of travel to the interior of Southern Minnesota, employing daily two lines of four horse passenger coaches.

4. By the proposed route, much the greater portion of the country embraced above, finds its nearest and most feasible access to the Mississippi river, at Winona, from which point diverges the trade as well as the travel of the

region named, and whence, also, the earliest intelligence by telegraph is obtainable, by reason of such superior accessibility.

5. The present mail facilities of the country named are wholly inadequate to the public requirements, and therefore an increase, as already indicated in the foregoing, is respectfully but urgently asked for.

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Second. By the recent publication of the United States mail schedule for Minnesota, inviting proposals for carrying the mails, we have ascertained that, instead of adding to our present mail facilities, as our necessities require, the department proposes to virtually cut off a considerable portion of the State from even the limited facilities which they now enjoy. Thus the present tri-weekly service between Winona and Rochester, *via* Stockton, Utica, St. Charles, etc., is reduced to a semi-weekly service, and transferred to the circuitous route by way of Elba and Whitewater, known in the schedule as route number 13,558. The effect of this is to deny all direct communication between Winona and Rochester, two of the most populous and important towns in Southern Minnesota, and whose interests and business dealings are of the most intimate nature. A more flagrant injustice to the two places, to the intervening towns and offices, and to all the country supplied by and through them, could not have been perpetrated, and your petitioners, with the greatest respect, most urgently remonstrate against carrying it into practice.

The attention of the department is earnestly invited to these grievances, with a view to the correction of the same by the establishment of the mail route herein described, with daily service thereon.

And your memorialists will ever pray, etc.

Approved February 26th, 1862.