

NUMBER VII.

A Memorial to Congress for an Additional Grant of Land to Aid in the Construction of the Root River Valley and Southern Minnesota Railroad.

To the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress Assembled :

Your Memorialists, the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, respectfully represent :

For an additional grant of land to aid in the construction of the Root River Valley and Southern Minnesota Railroad

That at some time prior to the passage of an act of Congress, entitled "an act making a grant of land to the Territory of Minnesota, in alternate sections to aid in the construction of certain railroads in said Territory, and granting lands in alternate sections to the State of Alabama, to aid in the construction of a certain railroad in said State, and granting certain lands to railroad companies therein named," approved March 3, 1857, a United States land office had been located at Brownsville, Houston County, within eight miles of the eastern terminus of that section or branch of the Southern Minnesota Railroad known as the Root River Valley Railroad, running from LaCrescent via Rushford and Chatfield to its intersection with the Transit Road, at Rochester; and in 1856 after a public sale had taken place at Brownsville, said United States land office was moved to Chatfield, in Fillmore County, and located on the line of said Root River Road, within twenty miles of its western terminus.

The lands therefore appertaining to the Root River branch of the Southern Minnesota Railroad, in consequence of having been located as stated above in the immediate vicinity of a United States land office, were nearly all taken up before said act of Congress, approved March 3, 1857, was passed, or before the lands were granted by the Territorial Legislature to the company in pursuance of the act of Congress aforesaid, leaving, according to the returns in the office of our State Auditor, only about twenty-eight thousand four hundred and nine-

ty-seven (28,497) acres of land, and that of an inferior quality, within the six mile limits on the whole length of said road, a distance of seventy miles.

Your memorialists would further represent, that a little over twenty miles of said Root River Road has been graded ready for the superstructure, and that no part of the land granted by Congress to aid in construction of said road, has been in any way squandered by the company; that the Root River branch of the Southern Minnesota Railroad has an eastern connection at LaCrescent, with the Milwaukee and LaCrosse Railroad, and on that account becomes one of the most important railroad routes in the State of Minnesota.

In relation to the
Root River Valley
and Southern
Minnesota Rail-
road

Your memorialists would therefore most respectfully ask that such an additional grand of land may be made to aid in the construction of said Root River Railroad, as will put it upon an equal footing with other lines of railroad that were more favorably situated at the time the land grant aforesaid was made by Congress.

Approved, February 19, 1863.

NUMBER VIII.

A Memorial to the President of the United States, requesting that a Company of Cavalry be Stationed along the Military Road from Lake Superior to the Junction of the Mille Lac and Crow Wing Roads, and as far as Oshongwatonna, Pine County.

To His Excellency, the President of the United States :

Your Memorialists, the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, respectfully but earnestly represent :

The absolute necessity of a suitable guard, of not less than one company of Cavalry, for the protection of our