

NUMBER IV.

A Joint Resolution relating to extending the grant of lands to aid in the construction of a railroad from St. Croix River or Lake to Superior and Bayfield, in Wisconsin. January 25, 1871.

WHEREAS, It is of vital importance to the interests of the people of Minnesota that they should have railroad communication with those portions of Northern Wisconsin lying east of the St. Croix river and south of Lake Superior; and

WHEREAS, Such railroad communication will utilize to the people of this state the undeveloped mineral, lumber and agricultural resources of the region now practically inaccessible, and also extend the benefits thereof to the people of those territories west of the state which are soon to be brought into connection with our railroad system by the construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad, and of the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad, and of the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad; and

WHEREAS, The want of such railway communication through Northern Wisconsin has hitherto, by rendering impracticable the settlement of said region and the development of its great resources, been of material detriment to the people of this state, impeding their progress in many respects, and totally depriving them of any advantage from the said mineral, lumber and agricultural resources; and

WHEREAS, By reason of the facts hereinbefore stated, our people are wholly deprived of the great advantage which would result to them from railway communication with the harbors of Lake Superior lying east of the extreme westerly portion of said lake; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Relating to extending the grant of lands to aid in the construction of a railroad from St. Croix Lake to Lake Superior.

First.—That our senators and representatives in congress be requested to use their influence and to cast their votes for those measures now pending in congress to renew and extend to the state of Wisconsin the grant of land heretofore made to it by the United States by the acts of congress in that behalf, approved June third, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, and May fifth, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, to aid in building a railroad from St. Croix River or Lake to Superior and to Bayfield.

Second.—That the secretary of state forward forthwith to each of said senators and representatives a certified copy of this resolution.

Approved January 25, 1871.

NUMBER V.

March 4, 1871.

Joint Resolution requesting a change in the Pre-emption act of July fourteenth, one thousand eight hundred and seventy, by extending the time of payment of Pre-emption Claims.

WHEREAS, The act of congress of July fourteenth, one thousand eight hundred and seventy, requiring settlers upon the public lands of the United States to make proof and payment for their respective claims within eighteen months from date of such settlement; it is evident that the law, as it now is, practically abrogates the pre-emption act, for not one in ten of the frontier settlers can meet its requirements. The grants to the several railroad corporations in this state having increased the price of nearly all the lands subject to pre-emption to two dollars and fifty cents per acre, thus requiring the sum of four