

NUMBER VI.

A Joint Resolution Requesting the Congress of the United States to Vacate that Portion of the Military Reservation at Fort Ripley, Minnesota, which lies East of the Mississippi River, and to open the same to Settlement and Occupation under the Homestead and Pre-emption Laws.

February 3,
1872.

WHEREAS, That portion of the Fort Ripley military reservation in the state of Minnesota, lying east of the Mississippi river, is not needed for military purposes, and contains an extensive tract of good farming lands, which if opened to settlement, would be soon taken up by actual settlers; and

WHEREAS, The extension of the branch line of the St. Paul and Pacific railroad to a junction with the Northern Pacific railroad at Brainard is already nearly graded across said reservation; and

WHEREAS, The officer of the United States army, in command at Fort Ripley, denies the right of way to said railroad across said reservation, and has of late issued an order forbidding contractors delivering ties, piling and bridge timber along the line of said railroad, and forbidding building the camps necessary for the convenience of their workmen, thereby subjecting said contractors to great damage by compelling them to suspend their work; and

WHEREAS, This order if not reversed, will defeat the building of said railroad, and greatly retard the settlement of that section of country. Now, therefore,

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

That our senators and representatives in congress be requested to use their efforts in behalf of legislation which will restore so much of the military reservation at Fort Ripley as is situated on the east side of the Mississippi river to the body of public lands for settlement like other public lands of the United States, and to secure an equitable adjustment of all rights and claims growing out of the sale of said lands by the war department in 1857.

To vacate military reservation at Fort Ripley, east of the Mississippi river.

Approved February 3, 1872.