

our population an average of twenty thousand citizens per year ; and

WHEREAS, The relations existing between these countries and the United States are of the most intimate and friendly character, both as respects the governmental, social, and commercial intercourse of said countries ; and

WHEREAS, We deem it to the advantage of both the United States and the kingdoms of Sweden and Norway, that the friendly relations existing between said countries be fostered and strengthened in all proper ways ; and

WHEREAS, By reason of the large population of Sweden and Norway (numbering over six millions,) and the intelligence of their people, the said countries deserve to rank in their diplomatic relations with the United States on an equality with Austria, Switzerland, Russia, Turkey, Italy, Spain, Mexico, Peru, and Chili, in all of which countries our government support full second-class missions ; now therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Minnesota :

That our members in congress be and hereby are requested to urge the enactment of a law raising the rank of the mission to Sweden and Norway to that of a full second-class mission—known and styled as “Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary,”—the same rank that Norway and Sweden have always supported at Washington in their diplomatic representation to this country.

Resolved, further, That the governor be requested to forward copies hereof to our senators and representatives in congress at an early day.

Approved February 28, 1874.

NUMBER XV.

JOINT RESOLUTION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE MINNESOTA RIVER.

WHEREAS, The practicability and feasibility of improving the navigation of the Minnesota river is clearly shown by the surveys thereof made by the war department, by a system of locks and

dams, whereby permanent navigation of said river, during the season thereof, can be secured, to the great relief of the grain producing interest of this state :

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

That our senators be instructed, and our representatives in congress be requested, to use their influence and votes to procure an appropriation from the congress of the United States for the improvement of said river, by such means as said report recommends, from the Yellow Medicine River to Mendota, on said river; and that in expending the same the secretary of war be directed to expend out of such appropriation, in the first instance, so much thereof as may be found necessary to improve that part of said river between Yellow Medicine and the town of New Ulm.

Approved February 28, 1874.

NUMBER XVI.

JOINT RESOLUTION.

WHEREAS, A combination exists between many, if not all, of the publishing houses of the United States engaged in the publication and sale of text books for the use of common schools, whereby such publishing houses, aided by the laws of copyright, have secured to themselves a monopoly in the publication and sale of such American text books, adopted for use, and used in the common schools of the United States, thereby excluding competition and raising the price of such books to at least sixty per cent. above their cost with all fair and reasonable profits, and above the price at which they could be obtained if competition were permitted; and thereby imposing an unjust and onerous tax of many millions of dollars per annum, upon the education of youth; and

WHEREAS, It is believed that a majority of the needed books, in all respects equal in merit and usefulness to American books, are published in foreign countries, especially in Great Britain, and can be had at prices greatly reduced from the present cost, should the impost thereon by the United States be removed; and

WHEREAS, Such impost or duty is believed to yield no revenue