

## NUMBER 12.

A MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS FOR RIGHT OF WAY AND GRANT OF LAND  
FOR RAILROAD PURPOSES.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled :*

Your memorialists, the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, respectfully represent that the rapidly increasing settlements of the northwest, the surplus agricultural products and material developments, demands greater and cheaper facilities than now existing, and a more direct transit to the Atlantic seaboard and European ports, and eastern products transported to the northwest.

That the saving in the distance to eastern markets of three hundred (300) miles, by a railroad route from St. Paul and Minneapolis to Sault St. Marie, will tend to more fully develop the great wheat growing region of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Dakota, Huron, and Montana.

The surplus of wheat which forms one of the most reliable exports from our government, in shortening the distance to European markets three hundred (300) miles, will give encouragement to this great source of wealth to our whole land, and deserves aid and protection.

That by reason of the facts set forth in this memorial, and many other considerations, the nearest transit makes cheap transportation, and thereby develops the country and increases prosperity.

To further these objects, we ask Congress to donate land to aid, and the right of way through government land to build a railroad from the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis to the Falls of Sault St. Marie, where it will connect with railroad enterprise, fostered and built by the Dominion Government.

Your memorialists, therefore, earnestly request the matters aforesaid may receive the early and favorable consideration of Congress.

Approved February 7, 1877.