

nesota, October 11th and 12th, 1877, and the objects of which have already been presented to your honorable body in the form of a memorial by the committee of said convention.

Approved February 21, 1878.

NUMBER 13.

A MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS ASKING THE EXTENSION OF THE LAND GRANT OF THE ST. PAUL AND PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY.

To the Congress of the United States :

Your memorialists, the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, represent that the United States, by an act approved March third (3d), one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven (1857), and subsequent acts amendatory thereto, granted to the Territory and State of Minnesota, certain public lands to aid in the construction of a branch line of railroad from St. Cloud to St. Vincent, on the Red river, in this State, in connection with a main line from St. Paul to Breckenridge, in this State.

That said grants of land were conferred upon the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company, with certain conditions of forfeiture to this State in case of non-construction.

That thereupon said line of railroad was duly surveyed and located, a large portion of it at the time of such location, passing through an unsettled country.

That upon the faith of said grants, the unsettled portion of said line for one hundred and fifty (150) miles has been largely settled and improved by persons who have purchased the even numbered sections at double minimum prices upon the faith of said grants.

That said St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company has completed its said main line, and has expended over four millions of dollars (\$4,000,000) obtained from the sale of its bonds secured by trust deed of the lands covered by said grant, in the partial construction of said extension line between St. Cloud and St. Vincent, in said State, and has completed and is operating about one-half of said line of road between St. Cloud and St. Vincent, and has graded nearly all the road-bed of said railroad, leaving said line partially incomplete and unfinished.

That owing to financial embarrassment, and to the pending of various suits in the courts of said State and the United States, growing out of said trust deeds, and from other causes, said company has not been able to fully complete said line of railroad from St. Cloud to St. Vincent, and that in consequence of the non-completion of the same, this State is about to become invested with the title to said lands pertaining to the uncompleted portion of said road, in trust for the purposes in said acts of Congress named; and if said grants are extended to this State, it will be able to secure the speedy construction of said entire line of rail-

road, and thereby meet the just expectations of settlers who have purchased said even numbered sections, and afford to the people of the northern part of this State means for the transportation of the rapidly increasing productions of their industry, and also afford a connection with the railroad system of the Province of Manitoba, which would be of great value to the people of this State and of the United States.

Wherefore, Your memorialists respectfully urge upon Congress an extension of said grant for three (3) years to this State, and not to any railroad company, to the end that the speedy construction of said entire line of road may be assured, and we hereby urgently request our Senators and Representatives in Congress, under no circumstances, to permit any extension of said grant to be made which does not vest the same in the State of Minnesota, with full authority to convey the same to such company as it may see fit, subject to such conditions as it may desire to impose; and the Governor of the State shall forward copies of this memorial to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Approved February 22, 1878.

STATE OF MINNESOTA,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
St. PAUL, March 19, 1878. }

I hereby certify that the foregoing joint resolutions have been carefully compared with the originals on file in this office, and that the same are true and correct copies thereof.

JOHN S. IRGENS,
Secretary of State.