

## NUMBER 5.

A JOINT RESOLUTION ASKING CONGRESS TO PASS AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE LANDS OF THE FORT RIPLEY RESERVATION TO BE ENTERED UNDER THE PRE-EMPTION AND HOMESTEAD LAWS.

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

THAT WHEREAS, Many persons have settled upon and opened farms on the Military Reservation of Fort Ripley, in this State, with the just expectation that they would be enabled to secure the title to said lands in the same manner as the titles are secured by settlers on other public lands of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The said military reservation is no longer used by the Government of the United States for military purposes, and

WHEREAS, The plan that is now being carried out of appraising and selling said lands in accordance therewith, will do (if consummated) great injustice to all who have settled upon said lands; therefore,

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

That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be and they are hereby requested to secure if possible the passage of an act by Congress, authorizing the settlement of the lands of said reservation under the pre-emption and homestead laws, with full and complete protection for those who are at this time *bona fide* settlers thereon.

Approved March 1, 1878.

## NUMBER 6.

A JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING OUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT A BILL GRANTING LANDS TO THE TERRITORY OF DAKOTA IN AID OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY FROM BISMARCK AND FORT LINCOLN TO THE BLACK HILLS.

*Be it [resolved] enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:*

THAT WHEREAS, Experience has abundantly demonstrated that the development of the new States and Territories of the west and northwest has been largely due to successful railroad enterprise within their borders, and

WHEREAS, Such development has been in the past, and must continue to be in the future, a public blessing and a national benefit, inasmuch as it rapidly increases the wealth-producing capacity of the country; and

WHEREAS, The government lands of the frontier are comparatively worthless until made accessible, and their improvement and cultivation possible and profitable by the completion of railroads through them; and

WHEREAS, The true interests of the government are best subserved by disposing of a portion of these lands in such a manner as will ensure the most speedy development of the entire region which they occupy; and

WHEREAS, The unparalleled rapid development of the Black Hills within the last eighteen months, has made apparent the necessity of railroad communication with Minnesota, not only as a means of benefit and better protection to the settlers of that country, but as the most economical means of communication and transportation for the government; and

WHEREAS, A railroad company known as the "Bismarck, Fort Lincoln and Black Hills Narrow Gauge Railway Company" has been organized under the General Laws of the Territory of Dakota, for the purpose of building a narrow gauge road from Bismarck to the Black Hills; and

WHEREAS, A bill has been introduced into the lower house of Congress by Hon. J. P. Kidder, representative of Dakota, asking for a grant of ten (10) sections of government land to the mile, to be acquired by the said company as they complete said road; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be respectfully requested to use all legitimate means in their power to press to a successful result the passage of said bill, and that they be further requested to make known to their respective Houses of Congress our wishes in this matter.

*And be it further Resolved*, That the Secretary of State, upon the passage of this resolution, officially forward to each of our Senators and Representatives a copy of the same.

Approved March 9, 1878.