

NUMBER 8.

A MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS ASKING EXTENSION OF THE GRANT OF LANDS TO THIS STATE TO AID IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUTHERN MINNESOTA RAILROAD.

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 July fourth (4th), one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six (1866), granted to this State certain public lands to aid in the construction of a line of railroad from Houston, in the county of Houston, in this State, through the counties of Fillmore, Mower, Freeborn and Faribault, and thence to the west line of this State.

That said grant of lands was thereupon conferred upon the Southern Minnesota Railroad Company, with certain conditions of forfeiture to this State in case of non-construction, and thereupon said line of railroad was duly surveyed and located; the larger portion of said line being located through a then entirely unsettled country.

That on the faith of said grant, the unsettled portions of said line for over one hundred (100) miles beyond the present western terminus of said railroad have been largely settled and improved by persons who have purchased the even-numbered sections at double minimum prices.

That owing to the financial embarrassments, the visitation of grasshoppers and other causes, said company has only been able to complete its railroad to a point one hundred and sixty-seven (167) miles west from the Mississippi river, and about one hundred and thirty (130) miles of said road remains uncompleted.

That in consequence of the non-performance of the conditions of said grant to said company, this State is about to become invested with the title of said lands pertaining to the uncompleted portions of said road, in trust for the purposes in said act of Congress named.

That if said grant is extended to this State for the purposes aforesaid, this State will be able to secure the speedy construction of said entire line of railroad, and thereby meet the just expectations of the settlers who have purchased said even numbered sections, and afford to the people of the counties of Martin, Jackson, Nobles, Murray and Pipestone, the means of transportation from the large and increasing products of their industry.

Wherefore, your memorialists respectfully urge upon Congress an extension of said grant for four (4) years to this State, and not to such defaulting company, or any other 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, consistent with the objects of the original grant.

The Governor of this State is hereby requested to forward copies of this memorial to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Approved March 6, 1878.

NUMBER 9.

A MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS ASKING EXTENSION OF THE GRANT OF THE HASTINGS AND DAKOTA RAILWAY.

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 July four (4), one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six (1866), granted to this State certain public lands in aid of the construction of a line of railroad from the Mississippi river at Hastings to Big Stone Lake, in this State.

That said grant of lands was thereupon conferred upon the Hastings and Dakota and Red River of the North Railroad Company, now known as the Hastings and Dakota Railroad, with certain conditions of forfeiture to this State in case of non-construction, and that thereupon said line of railroad was duly surveyed and located, the larger portion of which then passed through an entirely unsettled country.

That thereupon, on the faith of said grant, the unsettled portions of said line for over a hundred (100) 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 owing to financial embarrassment and other causes, said company has only been able to construct and operate seventy-five (75) miles of said road, extending from Hastings to Glencoe, McLeod county, and that in consequence of the non-performance of conditions precedent by said company, this State is about to become invested with the title of said lands pertaining to the uncompleted portions of said road, in trust for the purposes in said act of Congress named, and that if said grant is extended to the State, this State will be able to secure the speedy construction of said entire line of railroad, and thereby meet the just expectations of the settlers, who have purchased said even numbered sections, and afford to the people of the counties of Renville, Chippewa, Swift and Big Stone, the means of transportation for the large and increasing products of their industry.

Wherefore, your memorialists respectfully urge upon Congress an extension of said grant for six years to this State, and not to such defaulting company or any other 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,