

NUMBER 2.

MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled:

Your memorialists the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, would respectfully represent as follows:

That the rapid growth and development of the Mississippi Valley has forced upon the thought of the country at large, the question of cheap transportation.

That experience has taught us the fact that only by water routes can this grave question be solved so that the farmer, manufacturer and merchant may at all times be assured of a fair profit on their labor, industries, and investments.

Memorial.

That the necessity of improving the navigable streams of this great valley and the correlative duty of all the States and Territorial Legislatures, as well as that of the General Government to render material aid in order to complete, at the earliest moment possible, the improvements already contemplated, is shown from the fact that within the area of States and Territories drained by the Mississippi and its navigable tributaries is produced 90 per cent. of the corn, 73 per cent. of the wheat, 83 per cent. of the oats, 64 per cent. of the tobacco, 77 per cent. of the cotton, and 66 per cent. of the value of the live stock of the whole country. In addition to this vast supply of food and textile products, its superabundant mineral deposits, lumber, and other articles of commerce mark it as the grand seat of manufacturing industries and the unquestioned source of American production and national revenue.

That this region has furnished to the market of the world products that have changed the balances of trade in our favor and made us the creditor instead of the debtor nation.

That Minnesota stands at the head of the principal river and is one of the largest food exporting States in the Union, and as such, is entitled to all the benefits derived from cheap transportation.

That the question of practicability, safety, and expedition has been fully solved and set at rest forever, by shipments already made from this city under the most unfavorable circumstances proving conclusively that grain can be transported by barge to New Orleans, thence by ocean tonnage to any port in the Old World, not only with perfect safety, but more expeditiously and at less than one-half the usual cost by rail.

Petition.

THEREFORE, Your memorialists respectfully pray your Honorable Body to appropriate an adequate amount of money to be expended by and under the direction of the

proper department of the Government to secure the improvement of the navigation of the Mississippi river from St. Anthony Falls to New Orleans, in accordance with the action of the River Improvement Convention that assembled in the city of St. Paul, Minnesota, October eleventh (11th), A. D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven (1877.)

Resolved by the Senate of the State of Minnesota, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Secretary of State is hereby requested to transmit a copy of this memorial to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, and a copy to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives. Resolution

Approved November 17, 1881.

STATE OF MINNESOTA,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
SAINT PAUL, JANUARY 5, 1882. }

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.

FRED VON BAUMBACH,
Secretary of State.