

RESOLUTION No. 2—S. F. No. 68

A concurrent resolution memorializing the Congress of the United States to pass such legislation as may be appropriate and effectual, together with proper arrangements made with the Dominion of Canada, for the relief of certain territory in Roseau and Kittson Counties, Minnesota, from flood damage incident to the discharge of waters into said territory from the Dominion of Canada.

WHEREAS, a condition exists destructive to the agricultural interests and lands in the counties of Roseau and Kittson, in the state of Minnesota, because of the flood waters of certain streams having their sources partly in the Dominion of Canada, the same being therefore beyond the control of the state of Minnesota and the counties referred to; and

WHEREAS, said lands lie within the basin of the Roseau River, comprising over one thousand square miles, a part of said river being in the Dominion of Canada, and a great part of the water of said river coming from the Dominion of Canada and being discharged into the state of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, at the time of the settlement of the lands referred to large areas thereof were naturally arable and cultivated lands and were settled by good, intelligent and industrious farmers, who developed valuable and productive farms and became prosperous citizens; and following the settlement of these farms there came the development of the meadow lands of said area, with additional prosperous farms and communities, until in the course of such development the run-off from said occupied lands was to the full capacity of said river; and

WHEREAS, after the development of said lands by the farmers referred to there were constructed certain judicial ditches, the discharge of the waters from said ditches causing great damage to said settlers and to all the districts so affected; and

WHEREAS, the state of Minnesota at several times endeavored to remedy this trouble by dredging out the channel of said Roseau River to increase its capacity, but in spite of this work so done the flood waters so discharged have backed out of the Roseau River on to the lands of said settlers, rendering them of little value, and with the probability that many of the settlers will be compelled to abandon them with loss of their life savings; and

WHEREAS, the trouble and damage referred to has been materially increased by additional ditching of lands in the Dominion of Canada into the Roseau River, and for which said flood waters from said additional ditches there is no sufficient outlet; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the several Canadian sources of the Roseau River have large watersheds with rolling contours capable of facilitating quick discharge of flood waters into an already overcharged river; and

WHEREAS, in answer to an appeal from Canadian settlers in one of the watersheds referred to, the Canadian Government engineers are making a survey and estimate for ditching the district to discharge larger quantities of water into its branch of the Roseau River, while there is absolutely no provision for the disposition of these waters in the United States and in the counties referred to, and the said flood waters will be discharged back on to the lands of the settlers of these counties, without recourse by them, and that it is reasonably to be expected that this will be followed by similar projects for the benefit of the other parts of the Canadian watersheds until these United States lands are entirely ruined for the purposes for which they were developed; and

WHEREAS, the Roseau River has its regular and proper outlet wholly through its channel across the International Boundary into the Dominion of Canada, and such channel and outlet are insufficient to allow the proper discharge of these flood waters which are so to be discharged into this river, and the amount of the flood waters now so discharged is said to be so large as to injure the agriculture of Canadian lands adjacent to this outlet, and said Canadian Government Surveyors are now at work in that district making an estimate in preparation for a system of dikes, whereby they may detain at about the International Boundary these flood waters, including what they may elsewhere discharge from this river into the United States until such time as they can run off through the regular channel, which is insufficient to discharge these waters in proper time and manner; and if the Canadian plan for the making of such dikes is carried out it will result in the destruction of the fields of the farmers of Kittson and Roseau Counties, and without the intervention of Congress these farmers will be helpless to prevent said destruction; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Drainage and Waters of Minnesota has caused to be made a survey of Roseau River from the foot of Roseau Lake to a point about sixteen miles below and across the Canadian Boundary Line, and finds it is practicable to dredge a new channel in the river to such point, with a fall of approximately .48 ft. per mile, which will release the flood waters of said river in time to relieve the farmers on both sides of the International Boundary Line from most of the damage now being inflicted by said floods; and

WHEREAS, it is beyond the power of the owner's of the affected lands or said counties or the State of Minnesota to deal directly

with the Dominion of Canada in this matter, and it is altogether likely that the Canadian authorities would be willing to enter into an arrangement with the United States by which the two governments would be able to do the dredging and other work jointly with a proportionate share of the expense to be apportioned to and borne by each; and

WHEREAS, the expense of this undertaking would be a sum far beyond the paying ability of the owners of the lands affected, and part of the lands covered by the basin of the Roseau River are Government lands subject to homestead entry and which, if they were improved by this proposed channel would become valuable lands and largely increased in value;

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it Resolved by the Senate of the State of Minnesota, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Congress of the United States be and it is hereby memorialized to enact such legislation as may effectuate the purposes and relief hereinbefore set forth to the end that joint action may be taken by the Government of the United States and the Dominion of Canada." and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED. *That copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the proper officers of both Houses, be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Secretary of War, the presiding officers of the Senate and House of Representatives and to each Senator and Representative from the state of Minnesota in the Congress."*

Approved January 20, 1927.

RESOLUTION No. 3—H. F. No. 64

A joint resolution memorializing the President of the United States relative to the St. Lawrence seaway.

WHEREAS, a joint board of engineers representing the United State and Canada have officially and unanimously declared ship channel connection between the Great Lakes and the Atlantic by way of the St. Lawrence to be practical, and

WHEREAS, The St. Lawrence Commission of the United States appointed to determine the need of such a seaway has unanimously declared, in its report to the President made December 27, 1926, that:

"The construction of the shipway from the Great Lakes to the sea is imperative both for the relief and for the future development of a vast area in the interior of the continent" and that:

"It has been estimated that the value in a single year to the farmers alone would equal the capital cost of the waterway"