

Preamble, etc.

*Territory of Minnesota, showeth: That the improvement of the Mississippi river above the Falls of St Anthony, by the removal of the rock in the channel of the Sauk and Pike Rapids, and other obstructions, if any, necessary for the free navigation of steam boats and other water crafts, is of very great importance to the growth and prosperity of the Territory of Minnesota, as well as to the prosperous prosecution of further inland trade, which already extends from the Gulf of Mexico to the Falls of St. Anthony.*

And your memorialists would urgently press upon Congress the benefit of the improvement, not only to the Territory of Minnesota, but the benefit which the Government of the United States will eventually receive from such an improvement. It is well known to your honorable body, that thousands of dollars in goods and money, at a heavy expense to government is annually transported by a long and tedious land carriage to the Winnebago and Chipewa Indians and to the different Forts in the course of erection, and that the amount thus transported, will annually increase. It will therefore be apparent to your honorable body, that a few thousand dollars properly expended, will not only be a lasting benefit to this Territory but will in the end, effect to the government a saving of a large amount.

Your memorialists believe that the time has arrived when this channel of communication which already extends from the Gulf to the foot of the Falls, should be considered of national importance.

Your memorialists would further represent, that by the removal of the obstructions presented in the Sauk and Pike Rapids, an uninterrupted channel for steamboat navigation would be opened for the distance of, from three to four hundred miles above the Falls, and your memorialists would therefore, respectfully urge upon your honorable body that an appropriation be made by Congress for that purpose.

APPROVED, the twentieth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine.

October 27, 1848.

[No. 8.]—Memorial to Congress relative to School Lands.

Preamble, etc.

*To the honorable, Senate and House of Representatives of the United States: The memorial of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota, respectfully represents, That in the early settlement of our country, the frontier population has always labored under many disadvantages in the establishment and maintenance of common schools, arising principally from the want of available means to sustain a sufficient number of schools to place the inestimable blessings of education within the reach of all the scattered settlements, the consequence of which is, that a large proportion of the children and youth are compelled to pass that period of their lives in which only the common school can be of benefit to them, without being able to avail themselves of its advantages.*

That your memorialists believe that Congress in making the liberal donation of the thirty-sixth section of land in addition to the usual quantity as contained in the act organizing the Territory of Minnesota, contemplated a remedy for this evil without reducing the amount of national liberality to the community of the future State, and recognizing in the above object, a principle sanctioned

by the uniform experience of our rapidly advancing frontier settlements, as well as by a wise public policy: your memorialists would respectfully request your honorable bodies to place the said thirty-sixth section under the control of the Legislative Assembly to be by them sold, leased or otherwise appropriated, as to them may seem best calculated to effect the object above set forth.

APPROVED, the twenty-seventh day of October, one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine.

Thirty-sixth section.

[No. 9.]—Memorial to Congress for additional mail facilities.

October 27, 1849.

*To the honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled:* The memorial of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota, respectfully represents, That at the present time the citizens of this Territory are greatly in want of additional facilities to accommodate the business wants of its rapidly increasing population; there is but one mail route leading to this Territory, on which is now transmitted a weekly mail from Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, during the season of navigation, and a semi-monthly mail from the same place during the winter season, and the citizens of this Territory are consequently deprived of any communication by mail, with the different parts of the Union, between the periods specified.

Preamble, etc.

Your memorialists therefore pray, that Congress will, at the earliest period practicable, establish a tri-weekly mail during the period of navigation, from Prairie du Chien to Stillwater and St. Paul, in this Territory, and that the same be continued semi-weekly during the winter season.

Prayer, etc.

APPROVED, the twenty-seventh day of October, one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine.

[No. 10.]—Memorial to Congress in relation to establishing Mail Routes therein named, and for other purposes.

October 30, 1849.

*To the honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:* The memorial of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota, respectfully represents, That the present and rapidly increasing interests of the people inhabiting the country bordering upon the Mississippi river above St. Paul, and those of the Red River settlements of the North, those of the people connected with the Indian sub-agency at Long Prairie, and the military occupants of Fort Gaines, seriously requires a mail route to be established from St. Paul, via St. Anthony Falls, Sauk Rapids, the mouth of Swan river, to Fort Gaines, and a side route from the mouth of Swan river to Long Prairie.

Preamble, etc.

And your memorialists further represent, that according to the best information of your memorialists, the distance from St. Paul to the Falls of St. Anthony is nine miles, thence to Sauk Rapids, eighty-one miles, thence to the mouth of Swan river, twenty-eight miles, thence to Fort Gaines, eighteen miles, and from the mouth of Swan river to Long Prairie, thirty miles: and your memorialists