

NUMBER 6.

Memorial to Congress for a Military Road to Oregon and California.

Feb. 10, 1854.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

The Memorial of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota respectfully represents:

Preamble, &c.

Sec. 1. That the great and increasing emigration from the Northern States to California and Oregon, commend the establishment of a direct, feasible and expeditious overland route to the Sierra Nevadas, the point at which the emigration diverges, as one of National importance; and appreciating the inconveniences which at present surround the overland emigration, the Legislative Assembly of this Territory has, at its present session, appointed Commissioners to survey and mark a road from St. Paul by way of Fort Ridgely, to the Missouri River—the limits of this Territory: From thence to the summit of the Sierra Nevadas, the point at which the roads diverge to California and Oregon, also requires to be marked by way of Nobles' Pass; for which means and authority is now asked from your Honorable Bodies.

Sec. 2. That with a view of interesting the National Legislature in the importance of a route having for its proposed eastern terminus some point on the Minnesota River in this Territory; in support of this route, as the most direct and practicable, your memorialists beg leave to present the following statistics:—

Sec. 3. The main starting places of the overland emigrant are St. Joseph, Independence, and Council Bluffs, on the Missouri. These points are accessible only by way of St. Louis and the Missouri river, or a transit across the marshes of Iowa, which are impassible for loads during the greater portion of the year.

Sec. 4. By reference to maps and the authorities, it will be observed that Fort Ridgely on the Minnesota River, is at least one hundred miles nearer Fort Laramie than either of the above named places on the Missouri. The Minnesota being navigable as far as Fort Ridgely for boats of any calibre, the land travel via St. Paul and Fort Ridgely, is one hundred miles less than from any point on the Missouri; leaving the distance between St. Paul and Fort Ridgely, being about one hundred miles, to be set off against a thousand by the St. Louis route.

Sec. 5. The route herein contemplated is healthier, inasmuch as it lies nearly upon the same parallel of latitude, and the traveler is not subjected to fluctuations of climate; it is more amply supplied with wood, water, and facilities for grazing; the soil being sandy, becomes earlier settled and is almost entirely devoid of the marshes which abound upon the other routes, and render them at many seasons of the year impracticable.

Sec. 6. It is, therefore, confidently submitted that the road herein indicated, possesses the advantages of being nearly one hundred miles shorter; passing through a more abundantly fruitful and healthy country; and that it is much cheaper and more expeditious than any now known route which can be opened from the Northern States to Oregon and California.

Sec. 7. In view of these facts, (authenticated by the observa-

Prayer.

tions and experience of actual travellers over the line of the contemplated road,) and of the increasing necessity for a more facile, safe, comfortable and economical means of transit by land to Oregon and California, which route would also open the means of favorable movement of troops from Fort Ridgely through the Indian country to the Missouri River, thence to Forts Kearny and Laramie, your memorialists deem it their duty to solicit from your Honorable Body, an immediate appropriation of Fifteen Thousand Dollars, to the end that a survey and exploration may at once be made, and a road opened, that the early spring emigrants may enjoy the advantages of this road, which are believed to be important and unquestionable—one-third of said appropriation to be devoted to the survey of the road from St. Paul by Fort Ridgely, to the Missouri River, and the remainder to the survey and marking a route from the Missouri River, by way of Nobles' Pass, to the summit of the Sierra Nevada.

N. C. D. TAYLOR,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

S. B. OLMSTEAD,

President of the Council.

APPROVED—February tenth, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

W. A. GORMAN.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, }
Saint Paul, April 3, 1854. }

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a correct copy of the original memorial on file in this office.

J. TRAVIS ROSSER,

Secretary of the Territory of Minnesota.

NUMBER 7.

Feb. 21, 1854.

Memorial to Congress for the establishment of a Road from St. Paul, by way of Little Canada to Rum River.

Preamble, &c.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled: This memorial of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota respectfully sheweth; that, that portion of said Territory included within the limits of the northern portion of Ramsey, and the western portion of Chisago, and north-western portion of Ramsey Counties, is composed of lands which are fertile and inviting to the emigrant, both on account of the quality of the soil, and the abundance of excellent timber, which, but for the difficulty of communication, owing to the present want of bridges and other improvements necessary to establish and open a Road, which may be travelled with ordinary facility, would short-