

NUMBER X.

Memorial for an Appropriation for Certain Improvements in this Territory.

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

Memorial for
Improvements

That the navigation of the Mississippi river between the Falls of Saint Anthony and Sauk Rapids, a distance of about one hundred miles by the river, and between the mouth of the Minnesota river and the Falls of St. Anthony, a distance of about ten miles by the river, is during the season of low water, obstructed by rocks and other impediments, which a moderate appropriation, judiciously expended, would easily remove and render the navigation of the said river between the points above named, free to steamboats and other water crafts during the entire season of navigation.

And your Memorialists respectfully submit that the benefits which the Government would derive from the improvement above contemplated, would far exceed the amount required to remove the obstacles to the navigation of the said river.

Large amounts of goods are annually transported by the government at a heavy expense, over a long and tedious land route, to supply the different nations and tribes of Indians in the Northern portions of the Territory, and also the military forces stationed at Fort Ripley.

These heavy expenses would be materially lessened were these improvements herein prayed for, made.

The rapidly increasing settlement on the upper Mississippi river, and the new towns building up, is a further reason which respectfully urge in favor of the improvements of said river.

Your Memorialists therefore ask an appropriation of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to be expended under the direction and authority of the proper department of the Government.

CHARLES GARDNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN B. BRISBIN, *President of the Council.*

APPROVED—January sixteenth, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

W. A. GORMAN.

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

J. TRAVIS ROSSER, *Secretary of Minnesota Territory.*

NUMBER XI.

A Memorial to Congress for an Appropriation to open a Road from Fort Ridgley to the South Pass in the Rocky Mountains.

Read to South
Pass of the
Rocky Mountains

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:

1st. That the great and increasing emigration from the Northern and Mid-

the States to California and Oregon, demands at the hands of Congress additional facilities for travel, which can be effectually provided by the survey and opening of a good Wagon Road from Fort Ridgley, (to which place roads have been opened,) to intersect the great emigrant route near the South Pass in the Rocky Mountains.

2nd. That the route above designated would afford a cheaper, shorter and more convenient route for that portion of the California and Oregon emigration which reaches the Mississippi at or above Rock Island, than any route now traveled, while the health of the emigrant would be promoted by being exempt from the transition from a northern to a southern climate, which is inevitable to those who leave the Northern States and travel by the Missouri route.

3rd. That the supply of wood, water and pasturage would be found much more abundant by the proposed route than by any other of the routes traveled. While the time gained by this route would be of incalculable advantage to the emigrant, by enabling him to reach the South Pass with far less fatigue to his stock, and consequently enabling him to prosecute the remainder of his journey with greater promptitude and certainty.

4th. That in proof of the great difference in the distance on the routes now traveled, your memorialists would submit for your consideration the following table of distances :

From Galena to St. Louis,	- - -	500 miles.
From St. Louis to St. Joseph	- - -	900 miles.
From St. Joseph to South Pass,	- - -	900 miles.—2,200 miles.
From Galena to St. Paul,	- - -	320 miles.
From St. Paul to Fort Ridgley,	- - -	100 miles.
From Fort Ridgley to Missouri river.	- - -	300 miles.
From Missouri river to South Pass.	- - -	380 miles.—1,100 miles.

Making a difference of one half or 1,100 miles between Galena and South Pass.

5th. That it is therefore confidently submitted that the road above indicated would be shorter by one-half from Galena to the South Pass, and consequently your Honorable Body will readily perceive the great advantage to be gained in the transportation of Indian supplies to that portion of country lying west of the Missouri river, and even as far south as Fort Laramie, and also for the transportation of troops from the Upper Mississippi to the Upper Missouri, at the same time affording three hundred per cent. greater facilities for carrying the mails : and your memorialists would further represent that the proposed route would pass through a country abundantly provided with wood, water and pasturage, and almost entirely free from marshes or other natural impediments to travel.

6th. That the Legislature of the Territory of Minnesota, in view of the necessity for a more facile, safe, comfortable and economical route from the Northern and Middle States to California and Oregon have appointed competent commissioners to locate a road from Fort Ridgley to the Missouri river at or near the old Fort aux Cedar, which road will pass through to the Indian country and be of much benefit to the Government in the movement of the troops among the Indians inhabiting the country near the Missouri river as aforesaid.

7th. Your memorialists would therefore respectfully urge your Honorable Bodies to make an appropriation of twenty thousand dollars to defray the expenses of surveying and opening said road, and to procure the

extension of said road from near or at the above mentioned point on the Missouri, up the valley of the White Water to intersect the great emigrant route on the Sweet Water, near the South Pass in the Rocky Mountains.

8th. Your memorialists would further represent, that the sum above mentioned would be sufficient to open and make a good road the entire distance from Fort Ridgley to the Missouri river, with the exception of the crossing of large streams where ferries will be immediately established for the accommodation of travel, for the establishment of which, your memorialists would respectfully ask your Honorable Bodies to consider the propriety of establishing Forts at certain points along said route.

9th. That your Honorable Bodies grant the right of pre-emption to persons establishing said ferries, of one-half section on each side of the above mentioned streams, for the purpose and use of said ferries. Whereas, the Hon. Wm. H. Nobles has expended much money and time in exploring different routes of communication from the Mississippi to the Pacific, and has made valuable discoveries which have been of inestimable advantage to the emigrant in making the long and dangerous transit across the Plains to California and Oregon; and whereas, by his discovery of a route from the Humboldt to the Sacramento, a distance of two hundred and fifty miles of travel has been saved to the emigrant, who at the same time has been enabled to avoid the "Great Fifty Mile Desert," between the sinks of the Humboldt, Carson and Turkey River, and by his discovering also of the Pass through the Sierra Nevadas, which bears his name, and which, as represented by him four years since, it is believed is the best and most feasible of all for an emigrant road or railroad through these mountains, he has rendered a very important and lasting service to the country at large.

And whereas, large sums of money have been expended by the General Government in exploring different portions of these plains and mountains, with a view to ascertain the most favorable route through the same, without detracting in the least from the representations of Mr. Nobles, or the merits of his discoveries.

In consideration of the premises, therefore, the Congress of the United States is earnestly but respectfully requested to appropriate to him such sum of money or such an amount of land as shall be deemed to be an equitable and adequate remuneration for his expenses, labors and discoveries before mentioned.

And as in duty bound your memorialists will ever pray.

CHARLES GARDNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN B. BRISBIN,

President of the Council.

APPROVED—February twenty-fifth, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

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

J. TRAVIS ROSSER,

Secretary of Minnesota Territory.