

on the Minnesota, which now are obtained in Iowa and Wisconsin, and transported by way of St. Paul to their points of destination, could in a short period, if a good road was opened, be obtained in the southern portion of our Territory, and transported by land direct, at a cost much below the prices which government is now obliged to pay.

That a military road has already been constructed from Wabashaw to the Cannon river, on the line of the road from that point to Fort Ridgley.

That the construction of a Road from some point on the Mendota and Wabashaw Road to Fort Ridgley, would open to settlement a large district of heavily timbered land that is now almost impenetrable, thus securing to the government, in the sale of those lands, a measure far exceeding any expenditure necessary for the construction of the road.

Your memorialist therefore respectfully ask your honorable body to make an appropriation sufficient to open and construct a good wagon road from some point on the Mendota and Wabashaw Road, between Red Wing and Cannon River on the most direct and feasible route to Fort Ridgley, on the Minnesota river.

And as in duty bound your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

CHAS. GARDNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives*  
JOHN B. BRISBIN,  
*President of the Council.*

APPROVED—March first, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

W. A. GORMAN.

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.*

## NUMBER XVI.

*A Memorial to Congress for an Amendment of that part of the Trade and Intercourse Laws that relates to the payment of damages for depredations committed by Indians upon the property of the Whites.*

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled: Your Memorialists would respectfully represent:

Memorial for a  
change in the  
Trade Laws

That the country in Minnesota Territory, purchased by the United States from the Dakota Indians, has now become settled to a considerable extent, by persons variously engaged, but principally in the pursuit of agriculture. That these settlements extend from the north line of the State of Iowa, and from the mouth of the Minnesota river, up to the Dakota Reservation.

Your Memorialists would further represent, that from the very recent removal of these Indians from their former homes and hunting grounds to their present location, and from the fact that arrangements to subsist them by agriculture, are at present so limited and imperfect, in connection with their roving and unsettled habits, it is not to be expected that they will remain on their own lands, and cultivate the soil, for many years to come.

Your Memorialists would further show, that since the settlement of the country above mentioned, the Winnebago Indians have been transferred from the Upper Mississippi river and located in the midst of the white settlements, and within four miles of the town of Mankato, a large and flourishing community.

It is a notorious fact that the Dakota Indians inhabit the same country that they did before the cession of their lands to the United States, never going to their Reservation, except to receive their annuities, and then immediately returning to the vicinity of the white settlements, where they remain during the entire year.

Scarcely a farmer in the whole valley of the Minnesota, and many persons residing further south, but have suffered from the depredation of these Indians. They have killed oxen, stolen horses and annoyed our citizens grievously, which condition of things will, in all probability, continue, unless some measures are taken in the premises, and may lead to trouble and bloodshed on our frontier.

The construction put upon the statutes concerning redress for this species of grievance, by the Indian department in this Territory, compels the citizens to seek relief at the Department in Washington, if the savage refuses voluntary compensation, which construction your Memorialists concede to be correct, but insist in a denial of justice, because the Indians will never make adequate reparation, and the resort to Washington is attended with delay and expense, that renders it a greater infliction than the original trespass.

In view of the above facts, your Memorialists respectfully pray that the fourteenth section of an act of Congress, entitled "An act to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes, and to preserve peace on the frontiers," approved March 30th, 1802, be amended so as to confer the power upon the Superintendent, Agents or some other officer of the Indian Department in this Territory, or upon some other tribunal, to hear and determine all claims for depredations committed by the Indians, on the property of the whites, and pay the same out of the annuities of the offending Indian, if sufficient, and if not, to pay out of the annuities of the band to which he may belong; or that Congress pass an act to effect the above purpose.

Your Memorialists believe that what is herein prayed for will not only be an act of justice to the white settlers in this Territory, but will, in a great measure, check the commission of further offences on the part of the Indians, and tend greatly toward preserving peace on the frontier.

And your Memorialists will ever pray.

CHARLES GARDNER,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

JOHN B. BRISBIN,

*President of the Council.*

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

W. A. GORMAN.

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.*