

NUMBER XXXIII.

A Memorial to Congress for the Relief of certain Settlers upon the School Lands.

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 under the provisions of the act of Congress, extending the provisions of the pre-emption law of 1841, over the unsurveyed lands of Minnesota, many of our settlers have heavy investments, both of money and labor, in the opening of farms, erection of buildings, and the laying out and improving of town sites, (lots in which said town sites were frequently transferred before the Government survey, at high prices, to the occupants thereof,) who were found when the Government survey was made, to be upon the school sections, and that the said settler had no means of ascertaining previous to the survey, where the school sections would come.

That it is a great injustice and hardship to compel such persons to re-purchase or lose entirely the improvements and homes, made by themselves in good faith, in the expectation of pre-empting or entering them according to the provisions of the statute. Therefore, your Memorialists would respectfully request your Honorable Body to pass an act, giving such persons in this Territory as have, previously to the Government survey, settled upon the school sections, (and have otherwise the right of pre-emption,) the right to pre-empt the same, as other Government lands are pre-empted. And also providing for the entry of the town sites in this Territory, which are on school sections and were occupied as such, previous to the Government survey, as other town sites upon unoffered Government lands are entered.

And also allowing the County Commissioners of the county in which such lands may be situated, to enter in lieu thereof, for the benefit of the school fund of the township in which such land so as aforesaid settled or occupied may be, and without charge, an equal amount of such surveyed lands, subject either to private entry or pre-emption, in the same Land District as they may select.

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—Feb. twenty-six, 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 RUSSELL, *Secretary of Minnesota Territory.*