

NUMBER XXXVI.

A Memorial to Congress for an Appropriation of Fifteen Thousand Dollars for the Construction of the Mendota and Wabashaw Road.

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

SECTION 1. That a continuation of the Mendota and Wabashaw road from the lower terminus of said road, down the valley of the Mississippi river, as near as practicable, to the southern boundary line of Minnesota Territory, by the way of White Water, Winona, Homer, Hokah and Brownsville, would greatly promote the interests of a large number of the inhabitants of this Territory.

For an appropriation for construction of Mendota and Wabashaw Road

SEC. 2. That after the close of navigation in the month of November, for two months, the people are almost wholly deprived of their mail, owing to the extreme difficulty experienced in the transportation of the mail along said route; and then again, in the spring, after the breaking up of the ice in the river, until the opening of navigation, the same difficulty is experienced.

SEC. 3. Your Memorialists therefore pray your Honorable Body to make an appropriation of the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, (\$15,000) for the construction of bridges over the Zombro, White Water, Rolling Stone and Pine rivers.

CHARLES GARDNER, *

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN B. BRISBIN,

President of the Council.

APPROVED—Feb'y 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 ROSSETT, *Secretary of Minnesota Territory.*

NUMBER XXXVII.

Memorial for an Appropriation to Improve the Navigation of the Mississippi River and other Purposes

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

That the public interest and convenience demand the facilities of immediate communication between the head of Lake Superior and the Upper Mississippi river. That all the lands embracing the head waters of the said river have been purchased from the Indian tribes, and are now open to settlement. That a large portion of these lands is of the first quality for

For an Appropriation to Improve the Navigation of the Mississippi River

farming purposes, and most of the other portion is covered with dense bodies of pine timber. That immigrants are now rapidly entering upon and improving that part of said lands that lies along the Mississippi and its western tributaries, including Crow Wing and Long Prairie river, and between the last mentioned and the Minnesota river. That soon, such is the fertility of the soil and rapidity of settlement, the amount of the products of this the northern portion of our Territory, will exceed the demand for home consumption; that then the surplus can find its only market by way of Lake Superior.

The distance from the mouth of the St. Louis river to Buffalo, by water, is not greater than that from Chicago; and hence, agricultural products can be transported eastward from the port of Superior, at the same cost as from the southern point of Lake Michigan. The region lying around Lake Superior, abounding as it does in minerals, with a scarcity of farming lands, its population must look elsewhere for provisions; which can be supplied so well from no quarter as from the rich country west of the Mississippi. Superior, the largest lake on the continent is now made accessible, equally with lake Michigan, to vessels sailing directly from the ports of Europe. Its western extremity penetrates the country two hundred miles further west than Chicago. These facts cannot but cause an important diversion of the channels of the commerce and travel of the Lakes. A large number of emigrants, bound to Minnesota, will seek to enter by the northern route, and so disembark at the head of Lake Superior. To enable them to reach the Mississippi river from that direction, as well as for other considerations before mentioned, your memorialists would recommend the opening and construction of a road from the mouth of the St. Louis river, via Mille Lac, to the Mississippi, and also the improvement of the said river above the Falls of St. Anthony, which with the removal of a few obstructions, would be navigable for several hundred miles. The improvement of this part of said river, and the construction of said road, would open to trade and cultivation a vast territory, equalled in extent only by its richness; the introduction of troops and the munitions of war, destined for the Northwestern frontier above the forty-fifth parallel could be greatly facilitated, all to the advancement of the glory and prosperity of our common country.

Your memorialists would therefore invite your honorable bodies to make suitable appropriations for accomplishing the objects above specified, and as in duty bound will ever pray.

CHARLES GARDNER.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN B. BRISBIN,

President of the Council.

APPROVED—Feb'y eighteenth, 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.