

NUMBER XXX.

*A Memorial for the improvement of the St. Croix River.**To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:*

Memorial for improvement of St. Croix River

The Memorial of the Legislature of the State of Minnesota respectfully represent, that the ordinance of 1787, ceding to the United States the North-west Territory, also the Enabling Act authorizing the people of Minnesota to form a State government, have declared the St. Croix River a public highway and forever free to all citizens of the United States, without any tax, duty, impost or toll therefor.

The Government of the United States in thus declaring the St. Croix River a national highway, have assumed the dictatorial right to improve as well as use the same, and have taken from the States bordering on the same their exclusive control.

Therefore, your memorialists would ask of your honorable body, an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars to be expended under the direction and authority of the proper department of Government, for the improvement of said river.

This appropriation judiciously expended, would open or improve one of the most important thoroughfares in the nation. It is a connecting link which will ultimately blend the commerce of the great lakes with that of the Mississippi. This being a national thoroughfare, such an appropriation cannot be deemed sectional; and your memorialists respectfully submit that the benefits which the Government would derive from the improvement thus contemplated in shortening the vast distance by way of the St. Marys River and Lake Michigan, thence across to the Mississippi and up the same more than one thousand miles, thus saving an enormous annual expenditure to the Government in the transportation of the Army and her supplies, would far exceed the amount required to remove the obstacles to the navigation of the said River.

GEORGE BRADLEY,

Speaker *pro tem.* of the House of Representatives.

RICHARD G. MURPHY,

President *pro tem.* of the Senate.

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

CHAS. L. CHASE, Acting Governor.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Minnesota, }
February 27, 1858. }

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

CHAS. L. CHASE, Secretary.