

tion of a road, either according to the bill presented by our Senator, Hon. H. M. Rice, or according to the route herein named, to wit: from Saint Paul by way of St. Cloud and the Sauk River Valley, and Fort Clark and Fort Union to Fort Benton; and from Fort Benton, on the Missouri river, up that river, on the north side of it, till it reaches the north fork of the Hell Gate river, thence down the Hell Gate river, to a point near the mouth of the Bitter Root river; thence up the Bitter Root river to the Lou-lou fork, thence up the Lou-lou to the divide between the Lewis and Clark forks of the Columbia, thence across the headwaters of the Salmon river fork, and down the valley of the Clear Water river to the Lewis fork of the Columbia at Red Wolf; thence along the valley of the Lewis fork, by Gov. Stevens' route, to old Fort Walla Walla, on the Columbia, thence down that stream to the Pacific coast.

For the construction of a road from St. Paul to the Pacific coast

Approved, February 28, 1863.

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## NUMBER X.

*A Memorial to Congress to Indemnify the People of the State of Minnesota, within the shortest possible time, for Losses sustained by the Sioux Indian War, in the year 1862.*

*To the honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives, in Congress assembled:*

Your memorialists, the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, respectfully represent:

That the Sioux Indian war, in the year 1862, was characterized in most instances, especially in the counties of Brown and Renville, and in the western part of Nicollet county, by a total destruction of all the property

of the settlers ; that is to say : by burning their houses, with contents, farming utensils, and grain stacks, and by driving off and killing all their cattle and stock ;

That the surviving sufferers from said war have been mostly reduced to the utmost poverty and destitution, and that a great number of them are living at present upon public charity ;

That the aggregate value of the property destroyed and damage done by the Sioux Indians, in this State, cannot, in our judgment, be less than two millions of Dollars, and probably will not exceed the sum of two and a half millions of dollars ;

That the people of this State have felt the deepest gratification in witnessing that, at so early an opportunity, your honorable body has taken the relief of said sufferers under your consideration ;

That the bill for their relief, as passed by your House of Representatives, as well as the substitute of said bill, as passed by your Senate, in the month of January, would be entirely satisfactory to the people under ordinary circumstances, and in a more settled country ; but that under our present circumstances, the relief contemplated in said bills would fail, for the following reasons :

*First.* Most of the surviving settlers, driven off by said Indians, would return to their farms next spring, and resume the erection of their destroyed houses, and the cultivation of their lands, provided the means to do so should be furnished them in time.

*Second.* Taking into consideration the present excessively high prices of all necessaries, and of all other articles, and taking further into consideration, the destruction of all property, including the flouring and sawing mills : the contemplated immediate relief not to exceed the sum of two hundred dollars for each head of a family, would not be sufficient to induce the families to return to their devastated farms, to build houses, to purchase stock, seed grain, farming utensils and necessaries, so as to enable them to put in their crops next spring, and to live on their farms.

*Third.* If the settlers should not be enabled to return next spring, and their farms left lying waste, during one year more, all the fences on the same would be consumed in the meantime by prairie fires, all the once flourishing frontier settlements of our State would be reduced to a wilderness, and all the labors and privations where-

To indemnify the people of the State of Minnesota, within the shortest possible time, for losses sustained by the Sioux Indian war

by the same were once redeemed from wilderness, would be rendered thereby vain and fruitless.

*Fourth.* A timely and sufficient relief, and nothing else, to the sufferers from the last Indian war, will restore thousands of families to an independent and self-sustaining competency, and will save the settlements in a large portion of this State from a total annihilation.

Your memorialists, therefore, most earnestly appeal to your honorable body, to provide by law that the Commissioners to be appointed for ascertaining the damages occasioned by the Indians, may proceed at once to Minnesota, ascertain and report said damages to the Secretary of the Interior, with all possible diligence, and that said damages may be paid without delay, as soon as the report of the Commissioners shall be approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

• Approved, February 4, 1863.

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## NUMBER XI.

### *A Joint Memorial.*

*To His Excellency, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States :*

Your memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of the sovereign State of Minnesota, representing the loyal and good citizens thereof, beg leave respectfully to represent :

That the State of Minnesota has a frontier line of over seven hundred miles, bordering upon a savage Territory ; that the Indian title to a portion of the territory comprising the State has never been extinguished ; that there are numerous "reservations," nominally occupied

For the establishment of a military post at Bank Centre