

hundred dollars to consummate an entry of one hundred and sixty acres, it must be apparent to all, that but a small per cent. of claimants under the provisions of the present act can meet its requirements; therefore,

Be it Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Minnesota, the Senate concurring:

That our senators and representatives in congress be requested to procure a change in the act of July fourteenth, one thousand eight hundred and seventy, extending the time of payment of pre-emption claims to five years from date of settlement.

Requesting a change in the pre-emption act of July 14, 1870, by extending the time of payment of pre-emption claims.

Resolved, further, That the governor of this state be requested to forward copies of these resolutions to our senators and representatives in congress at as early a day as practicable.

Approved March 4, 1871.

NUMBER VI.

Joint Resolution asking Congress for an amendment of the Homestead act. February 24, 1871

WHEREAS, By the terms of the homestead act of the twentieth of May one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, persons availing themselves of its benefits, are required to appear personally before the register and receiver of the land office, and file the affidavit required by the second section of that act, and are required thereafter to reside continuously on said land for five years, with the provision that upon an absence of six months therefrom, the settler will forfeit his title thereto; and

WHEREAS, As a matter of universal experience in this climate, the emigrant arriving in the spring or early summer, can raise no crops for the first year from the fact

Preamble.

that the prairie sod must be broken in the months of June and July, and then must be allowed to lie through the winter and rot before it is in a condition to raise crops, and that consequently it generally happens that from inability to break his land at the proper time the first year, the emigrant must wait two years, or two years and a half, before he can realize any returns from the soil, during all which time he must support his family from the little fund he brought with him; and

WHEREAS, If the provisions of the homestead act were so modified, that any person desirous of availing himself of its provisions, might be permitted to make his affidavit in any court of record in the county where he resides, and to file it by an agent, with the register and receiver of the land office, and in lieu of personal residence on the land for the first year, if he were permitted, either in person or by an agent, to locate his homestead and prepare a certain quantity of land thereon ready for putting in his crops, and to build a house thereon for the reception of his family.

This arrangement would do away with the great hardships, privations and expenses which are now generally incurred by the unassisted pioneer in settling his homestead, and would at the same time greatly facilitate the settlement of the public lands and promote emigration and the development of the country; now therefore,

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Asking Congress
for an amend-
ment of the
homestead act.

That our senators and representatives be, and are hereby requested to use their best endeavors to obtain such an amendment of the homestead act, as far as it applies to Minnesota and the territories in the same latitude, as will allow of the making of the required affidavit in any court of record, and the location, cultivation and improvement of homestead lands, without actual residence thereon for the first of the five years in which a continuous residence is required.

Approved February 24, 1871.

STATE OF MINNESOTA,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE; }
Saint Paul, May 25, 1871.

I hereby certify that the foregoing laws and joint resolutions have been carefully compared with the originals on file in this office, and that the same are true and correct copies thereof. Certificate.

H. MATTSON, Secretary of State.