

NUMBER IV.

JOINT RESOLUTION RELATING TO EXTENSION OF THE PROVISIONS
OF THE TIMBER CULTURE ACT OF MARCH THIRD, EIGHTEEN
HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-THREE.

WHEREAS, In the United States land districts on the western prairies, a large portion of the sections are reserved for the benefit of various railroad corporations, and two sections of the even numbered sections in each township are also reserved for school purposes, besides more or less other land is reserved as insuring [inuring] to the states, under swamp land grants; thus leaving but a small fraction of these vast treeless tracts in said land districts subject to the provisions of the timber culture act of March 3d, 1873; therefore

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives :

That our senators and representatives in congress are hereby requested to use their influence to secure the passage of an act extending the provisions of said timber culture act, so that two quarter sections on each section of the government lands set apart for settlement may be taken under said act, and that any quantity of land not less than forty acres, nor more than one hundred and sixty acres, in any shape designated by government subdivisions, lying contiguous, may be taken under said act, of which one-fourth part so taken shall be planted to trees; and that the time of planting the trees be extended to two years. That the secretary of state be requested to forward immediately to each of said senators and representatives a certified copy of the foregoing resolution.

Approved February 5, 1874.

NUMBER V.

A JOINT RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO THE SALE OF TIMBER ON
THE SCHOOL AND SWAMP LANDS EMBRACED IN THE RED LAKE
AND THE LEECH LAKE INDIAN RESERVATIONS IN THE STATE OF
MINNESOTA.

WHEREAS, It appears by the inaugural message of his excellency, governor C. K. Davis, that large quantities of valuable pine and cedar timber, situated on the Red Lake and the Leech Lake Indian reservations, within this state, embracing at least sixty thousand acres of school lands, and also extensive tracts of swamp lands, in which the state possesses a large property interest, have been sold, or contracted to be sold, by agents of the United States government; and

WHEREAS, The principal value of said lands is in the timber thereon growing, and that with the sale and removal of the timber therefrom the lands will become comparatively worthless to the state, thus unjustly robbing unborn generations of their patrimony; and

WHEREAS, The sale of such large quantities of timber, on extensive tracts of land, to one person or company of persons, must as a natural consequence, create a timber and lumber monopoly of vast proportions, for an unlimited and indefinite time, which, in the nature of things, must soon become detrimental to the best interests of the people of the state; and

WHEREAS, Common prudence would seem to dictate a preservation of the forests of timber now in the country, instead of their destruction at the hands of selfish and greedy speculators; and

WHEREAS, By act of congress, approved March third, eighteen hundred and forty-nine, and by act of congress approved February twenty-fifth, eighteen hundred and fifty-seven, the title to sections sixteen and thirty-six in each township became vested in the state; and

WHEREAS, By act of congress approved March twelfth, eighteen hundred and sixty, the state has a valuable property interest in the timber on the swamp lands embraced within the limits of said Indian reservations; and

WHEREAS, We consider the sale of large bodies of timber or tracts of land to one person, or company of persons, as detrimental to the best interests of the people of the northwest, and as opposed to a just and sound national policy; therefore

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

That we earnestly protest against the consummation of these alleged sales of timber on the Red Lake and the Leach Lake Indian reservations—this attempted perversion of a portion of our school land estate, which justly and legally belongs to the children of this commonwealth, to other and illegal purposes—the unwise policy of the government in placing large domains of timber and land under the control of one man or company of men, in advance of settlement,

thus planting and fostering a timber and lumber monopoly in our midst; and we earnestly request the congress of the United States to interpose its power to cancel said contracts, and protect the state from all future attempts of this kind. *Resolved further*, That the governor of this state be requested to forward copies of this preamble and these resolutions to our senators and representatives in congress, to the secretary of the interior and the head of the Indian bureau, at Washington; and that said senators and representatives be requested to lay the subject before congress at an early day, and urge immediate action by that honorable body; and that they take such further action in the matter as they may deem necessary and expedient to protect the state in its legal and equitable property interests in the timber growing upon the public lands of this state.

Approved February 11, 1874. •

NUMBER VI.

A JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTING MINNESOTA IN CONGRESS TO USE THEIR EFFORTS TO SECURE A POST ROUTE IN THE COUNTIES OF LYON, YELLOW MEDICINE AND LAC QUI PARLE.

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

That our senators and representatives in congress are requested to use their efforts to secure a postroute from Marshall (a station on the Winona and St. Peter Railroad), in the county of Lyon, and thence by way of Stavanger post office, in the county of Yellow Medicine to Lac qui Parle, in the county of Lac qui Parle, a total distance of about forty miles.

Resolved, That the postmaster general is respectfully requested to place the requisite service on the said route so soon as the said route shall be duly authorized by act of congress.

Resolved, That the governor of this state be requested to forward copies of these resolutions to our senators and representatives in congress and the postmaster general.

Approved February 12, 1874.