

NUMBER XI.

A JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS IN FAVOR OF THE EXTENSION OF TIME FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota

WHEREAS, It is the universal expression of the people of the northwest, that the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad is a matter of vital necessity to the interests of this section of the country, and

WHEREAS, Its extension westward will carry the road into the heart of the rich mining and agricultural territory of Montana, now only awaiting railroad communication to bring about rapid and substantial development, also opening the way for settlement of the rich agricultural lands of Washington territory, and greatly aiding the general government in the difficult transportation of Indian and army supplies to that inaccessible region; and

WHEREAS, The parties in interest having effected a speedy and economical adjustment of their financial difficulties, and from their own resources are making every effort to extend the road, and

WHEREAS, The land grant of the company will expire in 1877, and in view of the commendable disposition the company has shown to help itself in surmounting difficulties, considering the vast scope of the enterprise, the munificent aid already extended to the Union and Central Pacific Roads, the present company should have reasonable time to demonstrate its ability to push the enterprise to completion; now therefore

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

That the congress of the United States be urged and requested to pass the measure now pending to renew and extend to the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, the grant of land heretofore made to it by the act of congress, approved July 2, 1864, and the amendments thereto, to aid in the building of a railroad from Lake Superior to Puget Sound. *Provided however*, that, any act of congress extending the time for the construction of said road should in the judgment of this state contain a provision requiring the said company to offer for sale its lands within a definite period of years at a maximum price, to be fixed by congress.

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

Approved January 27, 1876.