

That owing to the prevalence of ice, water transportation is impracticable for about five months in the year leaving the producers of the north-west during all that time to the tender mercies of private railroad companies, so that through the exactions or necessities of these inter-state corporations, the products of our fields are so heavily taxed as to be almost ruinous to the producers, as well as to the consumer.

That by reason of the facts aforesaid and other considerations that need not be suggested herein; the question of cheap transportation can be best solved and the development of the country and its prosperity assured by the speedy construction, on the part of the general government, of a double track freight railway, extending from one or more of the principal cities of the east, westwardly to the Missouri River, with a branch extending into the great producing region of Minnesota; such railway to be under the control and management of the United States, and transportation charges thereon so regulated as to cover only operating expenses.

Such a railway with the connections that must necessarily be made by its extension as aforesaid, would at once insure to the producer the legitimate fruits of his labor, cheapen the price of bread to the eastern consumer and insure a development and general prosperity the extent and value of which cannot be over estimated.

The wise policy of the national government in the construction of the "Cumberland National Road," by which the settlement and development of the great states of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois were rendered possible is a precedent, if one is needed, for the appropriation necessary to construct the great public work above indicated.

Your memorialists therefore earnestly request the matters aforesaid may receive the early and favorable consideration of congress.

Approved February 25, 1876.

NUMBER XIX.

A JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING OUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS TO USE THEIR EFFORTS TO SECURE THE SAME MODIFICATION OF THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE PORTS OF ST. PAUL AND DULUTH AS ARE NOW EXTENDED TO OTHER PORTS IN VARIOUS STATES.

WHEREAS, The vexations, delays and expenses incident to the appraisal of foreign goods at the Atlantic ports of the United States, more especially at the port of New York, has prevented the proper development of the legitimate trade appertaining to the designated ports of entry and delivery of the state of Minnesota, which embargo has been obviated by statute enactment of the United States so far as the ports of Evansville Indiana, Milwaukee Wisconsin, &c. &c., are concerned; therefore,

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

That the senators and representatives in the congress of the United States from the state of Minnesota, be requested to urge a modification of the laws of the United States, so that the privileges accorded to certain enumerated ports in the various states by sections 2,990, 2,991, and 2,997, revised statutes of the United States, be extended to the ports of St. Paul and Duluth in this state.

Resolved further, That the secretary of state be requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to each of our senators and representatives in congress.

Approved January 25, 1875,

NUMBER XX.

A JOINT RESOLUTION FOR RELIEF OF SETTLERS UPON HASTINGS AND DAKOTA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA RAILROAD LANDS.

WHEREAS, A large number of people have settled upon what is known as contested land, within the land grant of the Hastings and Dakota and Southern Minnesota Railway Companies.

AND WHEREAS, Those people settled in good faith upon said lands, having been permitted by the local land offices to file for pre-emption upon the same, and which local land offices now refuse to allow these settlers to make final proof, although the law for pre-emption of public lands has been complied with in every particular; therefore, be it,

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota :

That the senators and representatives of this state in congress be and are hereby requested to use their influence to secure such legislation as will provide for the relief of settlers upon contested lands, within the grants of the Hastings and Dakota and Southern Minnesota Railway Companies.

Resolved, That the secretary of state is requested to forward copies of this resolution to each of our representatives in congress.

Approved March 4, A. D. 1876.