

under no circumstances to permit any extension of said grant to be made which does not vest the same in the State of Minnesota, with full authority to convey the same to such company as it may see fit, subject to such conditions as it may desire to impose, and the Governor of the State shall forward copies of this memorial to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Approved February 6, 1878.

NUMBER 10.

A MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS IN RELATION TO THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF TREE CULTURE UPON THE PUBLIC LANDS OF THE UNITED STATES.

To the Congress of the United States:

Your memorialists, the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, represent that the existing law enabling citizens of the United States to enter public land under the tree culture act, and to obtain patents to tracts of one quarter section of the same, upon proof that they have planted forty (40) acres with trees not more than twelve (12) feet apart has proved to be substantially a failure, inasmuch as it is found almost impossible for the settler to plant and protect so large a tract of land for the period required by the law. The trees planted twelve feet apart do not shade the land so as to keep down the growth of grass and weeds, and the task of cultivating the land becomes an endless one.

Your memorialists recognize the question of tree-planting as one of the first magnitude to the people of the prairie regions of our country. Without tree-culture much of the territory of the United States will be uninhabitable. The necessities of the people for fuel, fencing and shelter from the winds, all unite in demanding such legislation as will encourage the people to grow timber.

Your memorialists would therefore ask that you would amend the Timber-culture act so as to reduce the number of acres to be planted to trees from forty (40) acres to ten (10) acres; *Provided, however,* that the trees shall be planted not more than four (4) feet apart instead of, as at present, twelve (12) feet apart. A change of this character would produce more trees than at present, while the Timber-culture act would thereby be made a success.

Your memorialists would also ask that parties who have entered land heretofore under the existing Timber-culture act, would be permitted to take advantage of the proposed amendment on such terms as Congress may prescribe.

Approved February 12, 1878.