

authority to convey the same to such company as it may see fit, subject to such conditions as it may desire to impose, consistent with the objects of the original grant.

The Governor of this State is hereby requested to forward copies of this memorial to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Approved March 6, 1878.

NUMBER 9.

A MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS ASKING EXTENSION OF THE GRANT OF THE HASTINGS AND DAKOTA RAILWAY.

To the Congress of the United States :

Your memorialists, the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, represent that the United States, by an act approved July four (4), one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six (1866), granted to this State certain public lands in aid of the construction of a line of railroad from the Mississippi river at Hastings to Big Stone Lake, in this State.

That said grant of lands was thereupon conferred upon the Hastings and Dakota and Red River of the North Railroad Company, now known as the Hastings and Dakota Railroad, with certain conditions of forfeiture to this State in case of non-construction, and that thereupon said line of railroad was duly surveyed and located, the larger portion of which then passed through an entirely unsettled country.

That thereupon, on the faith of said grant, the unsettled portions of said line for over a hundred (100) miles has been largely settled and improved by persons who have purchased the even numbered sections at double minimum prices upon the faith of said grants.

That owing to financial embarrassment and other causes, said company has only been able to construct and operate seventy-five (75) miles of said road, extending from Hastings to Glencoe, McLeod county, and that in consequence of the non-performance of conditions precedent by said company, this State is about to become invested with the title of said lands pertaining to the uncompleted portions of said road, in trust for the purposes in said act of Congress named, and that if said grant is extended to the State, this State will be able to secure the speedy construction of said entire line of railroad, and thereby meet the just expectations of the settlers, who have purchased said even numbered sections, and afford to the people of the counties of Renville, Chippewa, Swift and Big Stone, the means of transportation for the large and increasing products of their industry.

Wherefore, your memorialists respectfully urge upon Congress an extension of said grant for six years to this State, and not to such defaulting company or any other railroad company, to the end that the speedy construction of said entire line of road may be assured; and we hereby urgently request our Senators and Representatives in Congress,

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.