

NUMBER 5.

A MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE BARS IN THE BED OF THE MINNESOTA RIVER AT ITS MOUTH AND JUNCTION WITH THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

This memorial of the Legislature of the State of Minnesota respectfully represents that in the Minnesota river in said State and at its mouth and junction with the Mississippi river, below and on the south side of Pike island, and extending up said Minnesota river for nearly one mile, bars are formed by the action of said river, which in low water, prevent the passage of boats from one of said rivers to the other. That the said Minnesota river is navigable from its said junction with the said Mississippi river up to Little Rapids, forty miles, at the lowest stage of water of said Minnesota river, and that it is greatly to the interest of the people living on said Minnesota river that said bars should be removed, to the end that said Minnesota river may be navigated by steamboats during low water.

Your memorialists therefore, respectfully request that an appropriation sufficient to defray the expenses of removing said bars between said rivers be made by Congress, and expended under the direction of the government of the United States for the purposes aforesaid.

Approved January 30, 1879.

NUMBER 6.

MEMORIAL RELATING TO SWAMP LANDS GRANTED TO THIS STATE.

The Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

Your memorialists, the members of the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, respectfully represent that doubts exist as to the validity of certain grants made by the Legislature of this State in aid of the construction of railroads of a portion of the swamp lands granted by Congress to the State for the purposes of internal improvement.

These legislative acts have been made in good faith in the full belief that the appropriation of a portion of such lands are a legitimate exer-

cise of the power of disposition, and that a grant of such swamp lands in aid of railroad construction thereby opening up the State for settlement, developing its resources by the construction of these necessary public improvements were consistent with the provisions of the grant by Congress and a legitimate execution of the trust. That on the faith of these grants to the several railroad companies, these companies have sold portions of said lands to actual settlers, who have paid for and improved the same. The companies have in like good faith mortgaged the lands so granted and not sold, and have realized and expended in the construction of their several lines of road, millions of dollars, which have been advanced by the purchase of such bonds, in like good faith, the expenditure of which has secured the construction of hundreds of miles of railroads.

Your memorialists, therefore, pray that an act of Congress be passed confirming said grant, and we further ask such enactment by your honorable body as will enable the Legislature of this State to make such further disposal of said lands as may by such Legislature be deemed expedient in extending aid to works of internal improvement; and your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

Approved March 10, 1879.

NUMBER 7.

To the Congress of the United States:

Your memorialists, the legislature of the State of Minnesota, represents:

That a large number of the surviving union soldiers of the late and Mexican war are now poor and landless, and none have received the full measure of reward which their patriotic services deserve—

That the speedy settlement of the unoccupied government lands will be better secured by the early transfer thereof by the government to many persons in small tracts.

Wherefore, your memorialists would urge upon congress to give to each living soldier and officer who served in the army of the United States nine months or longer, during the late civil or Mexican war, and was honorably discharged therefrom, one (1) quarter section of government land now or hereafter to be subject to entry under the laws of the United States.

Approved February 19th, 1879.