

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.