

NUMBER 11.

MEMORIAL TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

Your memorialists, the legislature of the state of Minnesota, would respectfully but urgently represent:

That Big Stone Lake, which is but an enlargement of the Minnesota river, and Lake Traverse but five (5) miles distant therefrom, and which discharges its waters by way of the Bois de Sioux river into the Red River of the North at Breckenridge, are each about thirty-five (35) miles long, with a width of from one and a half (1½) to two (2) miles, and so situated in the great valley which extends from the northern boundary of the state to the mouth of the Minnesota river, that by embracing them in the "reservoir system" now being prosecuted by the government in this state, the excess of waters caused by the annual and disastrous spring floods in that region, could be permanently restrained, and so utilized as to render the Minnesota river navigable throughout its length, and also extend the navigation of the Red River of the North southward about one hundred (100) miles to the foot of said Big Stone Lake.

That preliminary surveys have shown the entire practicability of the project above foreshadowed, and at a comparatively small cost, while its immense advantages to the people of western Minnesota and eastern Dakota are too obvious to need repetition.

Wherefore, your memorialists respectfully urge upon Congress that you take such speedy and prompt action as will result in accomplishing the objects herein set forth.

Approved February 8, 1883.

NUMBER 12.

A MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS ASKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LIGHT HOUSE AT GRAND MARAIS ON LAKE SUPERIOR.

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

Your memorialists, the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, respectfully represent that the necessity for a harbor of refuge on the north shore of Lake Superior has been heretofore recognized by your honorable body by appropriations which have been made for the par-

tial improvement of such a harbor at Grand Marais; that the constantly increasing commerce of the lake demands that such improvements be pushed to an early completion; your memorialists therefore pray that such further and adequate appropriations may be promptly made as will insure a commodious harbor of refuge at Grand Marais, together with a light house, without which the improvements already made will be of little value.

Approved February 23, 1883.

NUMBER 13.

A MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS IN RELATION TO SHEAR BOOMS AT BRIDGES ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

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

The memorial of the Legislature of the state of Minnesota respectfully represents:

That the piers of many of the railway bridges crossing the Mississippi river are a very serious hindrance to navigation. That steamers frequently collide with them and sometimes great loss of life is thereby occasioned, and that there is annually a great loss of property, and that they are constantly a great source of danger and dread to those who have business or who travel upon the river.

That, in accordance with the act of Congress approved March third (3d), eighteen hundred and seventy-five (1875), a board of United States engineers was convened in St. Louis, and after an exhaustive examination of the subject, they submitted a report to the Honorable the Secretary of War, February nineteenth (19), eighteen hundred and seventy-seven (1877), in which they recognized the great necessity for shear booms, and recommended plans for the same at the various bridges.

That in eighteen hundred and eighty-two (1882), Major A. McKinzie, United States engineer in charge of the river improvements between St. Anthony's Falls and the mouth of the Illinois river, constantly witnessing the great danger to life and property at the bridge piers and the consequent necessity for protection thereat, submitted a report to the Chief of Engineers, United States Army, in which much important information was given upon the subject and the shear booms urgently recommended. Therefore, your memorialists would respectfully but urgently suggest that the interest of commerce, the security of property and the safety of life imperatively demand that, at the earliest possible moment shear booms be placed at the various