

of these corporations as being mediums of inter-state commerce as claimed by them.

WHEREAS, There is now pending in the senate branch of the congress of the United States, a bill for regulation of inter state commerce the application of the principles of which to the regulation of the common carriers of this state would be of great advantage to the agricultural, manufacturing and mercantile interests of our state, and

WHEREAS, Said pending bill does not, but should in our judgment, include a provision making it unlawful for any common carrier carrying freight from one state into another, to charge a higher rate per ton per mile for a longer than for a shorter continuous haul, and

WHEREAS, This conceded correct principle of traffic is constantly violated by the common carriers of this state and of the country, and its violation made a means to enforce unjust discrimination against and in favor of cities and towns of the state and country therefore

Be it Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota :

That our senators and representatives in congress be and they are hereby requested to give their active and earnest support to the pending Inter-State Commerce Bill, and to introduce and support an amendment thereto as above indicated.

Resolved, That a copy of the above preamble and resolutions be sent by the governor of the state to our senators and representatives in congress and to our state agent.

Approved January 18, 1887.

NUMBER 8.

[S. F. No. 155.]

A JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING OUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS TO SECURE THE CANCELLING OF ENTRIES OF THE PUBLIC LANDS MADE BY THE WINONA AND ST. PETER RAILROAD COMPANY AND OTHER LAND GRANT COMPANIES OF THIS STATE IN EXCESS OF THEIR GRANTS, OR COMPEL PAYMENT BY SAID COMPANIES THEREFOR.

WHEREAS, It appears from the report of the Hon. Commissioner of the General Land Office, of the United States, that the amount of lands approved to the Winona and St. Peter Railroad Company, by virtue of the grant of lands made by the Congress of the United States to the State of Minnesota, to aid in the construction of said road, over and above and in excess of the lands so granted, reaches

from three hundred thousand (300,000) to six hundred thousand (600,000) acres of land wrongfully abstracted from the public domain, in defiance of the rights of the people, the settlers of this state, and injurious to the welfare and prosperity of the citizens and tax payers thereof, and

WHEREAS, It further appears from said report that the amount of lands approved under the acts of congress to other land grant roads reaches thousands of acres in excess of the terms of the granting acts, and

WHEREAS, Upon the statements set forth in said report, of the Hon. Commissioner of said land office, large numbers of our citizens believing that said lands were unlawfully withheld from the public domain by said railroad companies, have in good faith settled thereon at great cost to themselves, yet liable to be ejected therefrom unless relief be afforded them by congress or the proper authorities, and

WHEREAS, Said entries should be canceled, and said companies compelled to restore said excess lands to the public domain to be open for entry for actual settlers, or that said companies should be required to account and pay therefor by legal process, methods and means, now therefore,

Be it Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota,

That our senators and representatives in Congress be requested to urge the enactment of such legislation, if any be deemed necessary, to secure such end, or the needful representations made to the proper officers of the government, that will compel the said railroad companies to restore to the public domain all lands found by the Department of the Interior to have heretofore been approved to said railroad companies in excess of the amount heretofore granted to the State of Minnesota, to aid in the construction of said railroads or the cancellation of such excess entries, or that in case of bona-fide sales to actual purchasers of any of said excess lands. That the proper Judicial officers be requested to take the necessary steps and proceedings in law or otherwise, against said railroad companies to recover the value of all such excess lands sold as aforesaid to bona-fide purchasers.

RESOLVED, That a copy of the above and foregoing joint resolutions be forwarded by the Governor of this state to our senators and representatives in Congress.

Approved Feby. 12, 1887.