

Resolved further, that the secretary of state be and he is hereby requested to forward one copy of this memorial to each of our senators and representatives in congress at as early a day as may be convenient.

Approved March 3, 1893.

NUMBER 9.

The senate and house of representatives of the Legislature of Minnesota to the senate and house of representatives of the Congress of the United States at Washington, D. C., Greeting:

The thrilling scenes and horrors connected with the Indian massacre in 1862 have gone into history. Yet many who fought for their homes, friends, wives and children, are still living.

That your honorable body may readily understand the justice and consistency of this our recommendation and memorial, we herewith subjoin an extract from the report of Capt. Geo. C. Whitcomb, commanding detachment at Forest City in Meeker county, sixteen miles from Acton, where the first killing by the Indians was perpetrated on Sunday, Aug. 17, 1862. In his report Capt. Whitcomb says:

"On the first of September, 1862, Capt. Richard Strout ninth Minnesota infantry, was on the march with his company from Glencoe in McLeod county, by way of Hutchinson and Cedar Mills, to the little hamlet of Acton in Meeker county. On the second inst., while en route to Green Lake with 35 of my command to relieve some refugees said to be in imminent danger there, I was attacked by over 100 Indians, at Peterson's field, while the men were eating dinner. But we were not napping and made the best of a slow retreat to Forest City, ten miles away. I knew every foot of the ground and halted whenever the presence of lakes and marshes prevented our being flanked, and the Indians getting possession of the road in our front. We had five men badly wounded on this day and the day previous. We were five hours making the ten miles. On my arrival at Forest City I found a carrier with dispatches from Capt. Strout, saying he would camp at Acton that night. I took in the situation at once, and reasoned thus: Capt. Strout tells me he has encountered no Indians—has seen none—he asks are there any? If so, where are they? His men think they are chasing a phantom. His men will be tired to-night and will sleep soundly.

I knew Crow's scouts had dogged Strout's march that day to find where he camped. My better judgment told me (reasoning from what I had seen and the reports of my scouts) there were something more than 300 of Crow's choicest warriors which could be congregated by him for an attack on Strout's command that night. I knew that Crow was at Swede Grove in the afternoon, ten miles from where Strout would camp. I know Crow to be a wary foe, and would not let Strout get away if he can help it. If I can put Strout on his guard, it may be well, but if not, not a man of his command will see the sun rise to-morrow morning. My determination was fixed in ten minutes. Strout must be informed, of what was sure to come, by or before 12 o'clock that night, or all was lost. Beside this, his men were armed with the Bel-

gian gun, and our ammunition would not fit a gun of foreign make of like calibre; he must be informed of the fact. It was nearly sundown. My best men had been in the saddle since six in the morning. The men fell in for roll call. I called for three men to carry dispatches to Acton who were acquainted with the topography of the country.

Jesse Branham, Jr., Albert H. Sperry and Thomas Holmes stepped forward with alacrity. I put the brave trio in charge of Branham with instructions to avoid the hard road, and to keep on the open prairie where the grass would give no sound of the horses' feet; full well I knew that at every grove on the traveled road Crow's satellites were waiting for messengers from me to Strout. As I put the package in Branham's hand, and took the hand of the three brave 'Paul Reveres' with a heartfelt good-bye, I thought there was forty-nine chances against them to one in their favor to get through in safety, yet I was proud of them, and I am proud of them to-day. The distance they traveled was over 25 miles. The sky became cloudy as they neared the camp; the instinct of the horses kept the trail. A dim camp-fire in the yard, beside which the tired, undisciplined guard lay sound asleep in fancied security. They were aroused. Strout was called up, my dispatch read, the ammunition was examined and found as I told him. A detail was put to work fitting cartridges, a council was held; other guards were posted, and some slept; others did not; some slept their last sleep. At daylight the bugle called to fall in, and Strout's command started on the march for Forest City, a point they never reached. With Branham to guide them by way of Kelley's bluff they started, but in ten minutes they were attacked by 300 Indians, stripped to the breechclout. Branham was shot through the body, a Springfield rifle ball passing through the left lung; Sperry's horse was shot twice under him. Holmes had several hands to hand encounters, but he bore a charmed life and came out of the fight more dead than alive.

It has been shown beyond any shadow of doubt that when Branham, Sperry and Holmes were within six rods of Strout's camp, a head warrior, a brother-in-law of Little Six, with his warriors, stood on the road, and on their approach fell back eleven on each side, which allowed them to pass in unobserved. The programme was to attack Strout at three o'clock in the morning. Red Dog was to lead the attack on the north, Mic-aw-pan-eta on the east, Little Six on the south, and Bald Eagle, a renegade chief of Standing Buffalo's band, on the west. Signals were given by hooting, in imitation of an owl, from the tops of tall trees, to show the localities of the leaders. Crow had the supervision of the attack. At 3 A. M. the final signal was to be given and the harvest of death begun, but the awful consequences were averted by the timely message carried by these three men who proved themselves to be of the bravest of the brave."

We therefore deem it but justice that these men should be in some measure rewarded for saving the lives of those 76 men at a risk to themselves which seemingly could only be averted by their wearing a charmed life.

They are all still living, but in indigent circumstances. Branham is greatly enfeebled, naturally, by having a Springfield rifle musket-ball hurled through the most vital part of his body.

We therefore memorialize congress in the name and on behalf of the house of representatives of the state of Minnesota, the senate concurring, that an appropriation of such a just and reasonable sum may be made as will enable those brave men to pass the remainder of their lives in a reasonable degree of comfort, and that they will neither be dependent on the charity of others, nor want for the necessaries of life.

Approved March 9, 1893.

NUMBER 10.

A joint resolution asking Congress to appropriate fifty thousand dollars for the improvement of the Blue Earth river, at the city of Mankato, Blue Earth county, Minnesota.

Be it resolved by the senate of the state of Minnesota, the house of representatives concurring:

That, whereas the city of Mankato has, at great expense, built a free iron wagon bridge across the Blue Earth river within its limits, and whereas, there is a large amount of travel and intercourse between the citizens of the United States carried on across said free bridge, and whereas, the highway leading from said bridge on the easterly side thereof is in imminent danger of being cut away by reason of the Blue Earth river changing its present bed and channel and running east of said bridge, thereby rendering said bridge useless to the public at large, and whereas, the changing of the present bed or channel of said river to the east of said bridge would not only render the bridge useless to the public but would greatly endanger the homes and property of the people living in the vicinity thereof and would be a great calamity to all concerned, therefore

Be it resolved, that our senators and representatives in congress be and they are hereby requested to use all reasonable efforts to secure an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars to be expended under the direction of the engineers of the United States in such manner as to save to the public at large the use of said free bridge and for the protection of the homes and property of the citizens of the United States living in the vicinity thereof.

Be it further resolved, that the secretary of state send a copy of this resolution and preamble to each of our senators and representatives in congress.

Approved March 27, 1893.

NUMBER 11.

A joint resolution relating to a canal between Lake Superior and the Mississippi river.

Whereas, the usual rate of transportation of hard coal from Buffalo to St. Paul by railway is \$4.28 per ton and by water from Buffalo to Duluth only about 30 cents per ton; dockage at Duluth 50 cents a ton, and from Duluth to St. Paul and Minneapolis, by railroad \$1.50