

embraced in one body around Leech lake, Cass lake, and Winnebegoshish lake, and no other lands.

Your memorialist requests that the governor of this state forward copies of this memorial to each of the senators and representatives of the State of Minnesota in congress, and to the secretary of the interior, the commissioners of the general land office and to the Indian commissioner.

Approved March 10, 1899.

CHAPTER 383.

H. F. No. 486.

Joint resolution and memorial to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, as to bridging and improving the Minnesota river.

Minnesota river; bridging and improvement of.

Resolved, by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, That the congress of the United States be and the same is hereby requested to pass appropriate legislation authorizing the bridging of the Minnesota river by permanent bridge structures, without draws, at all points above the city of Le Sueur, in Le Sueur county, State of Minnesota.

Congress requested to allow bridges without draws above Le Sueur.

Resolved, further, That the congress of the United States be, and the same is hereby, requested to make sufficient appropriations to place the Minnesota river from its mouth to the city of Le Sueur, in said state, in a safe and navigable condition.

Resolved, further, That our senators and representatives in congress are requested to urge this measure upon the attention of the congress of the United States.

Resolved, further, That the secretary of state is hereby instructed to forward copies of these resolutions to the vice president of the United States, the speaker of the house of representatives, and each of our senators and representatives in congress.

Approved April 17, 1899.

CHAPTER 384.

S. F. No. 674.

A joint resolution relating to the 15th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry.

Minnesota volunteer infantry.

Whereas, General Orders No. 22, headquarters Second

President of
U. S. and
war depart-
ment request-
ed to expunge
certain rec-
ords relating
to Fifteenth
Minnesota
volunteer
infantry.

Army Corps, dated March 16th, Augusta, Ga., indiscriminately attacks all the commissioned officers of the Fifteenth Minnesota Vol. Infantry, charging them with deplorable inefficiency, incapacity, weakness and timidity without a trial or hearing or any opportunity on their part of being heard, and

Whereas, the officers of this regiment were mustered out of the United States service on March 27th, with their characters blackened by these wholesale charges, the truth or falsity of which has never been determined, and they were deprived of the inherent right of every American citizen when charged with a crime or misdemeanor of having a full, free and fair hearing;

Now therefore be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, That the president of the United States and the war department be requested to expunge from the record the following portion of General Orders No. 22:

"The deplorable inefficiency, incapacity, weakness and timidity exhibited by nearly all those commissioned officers present at the disgraceful outbreak in the camp of the Fifteenth Minnesota Infantry on Feb. 4 and 5, 1899, is incredible, except on the abundant sworn testimony of said officers themselves, which testimony pervades the records of all cases promulgated in paragraph 1. Every officer present with the regiment, including all the field officers, must have known on the night of the 4th that a mutiny had actually broken out in the camp that evening, and that, although checked for the time being, the men were still in an excited and dangerous mood. Under such conditions each officer should have armed himself and kept up a vigilant and unremitting watch on the movements, behavior and temper of his men. But instead of this and despite the whole night of warning, when the outbreak was renewed the next morning only two or three of the officers who observed it were armed. No ammunition had been issued to the guard, nor had the guards been strengthened; and although the armed numbered not more than about 100 men, and were without ammunition, yet of the ten or twelve commissioned officers present, not one opposed any effective force to the attack on the ammunition storehouse, nor indeed at any other time. These ten or twelve officers stood there expostulating, exhorting, pleading, but not one of them attempted to shoot or fell the two or three leading men who only were actually breaking in the storehouse door. And this attack succeeding, and the men having taken all the ball cartridges they desired, all authority in camp seemed paralyzed with fear and the armed squad (many

having fallen away) was permitted to march out of camp without the least show of resistance and to get on its murderous and defiant errand.

These are merely the salient facts, but these court martial records are filled with astounding details of incapacity on the part of the officers, details only incidentally elicited too, for no commissioned officer was by the responsible officer brought to trial. In two cases, at least, it is believed that a court martial would have awarded the extreme penalty of the law. Finally the order from superior authority requiring the immediate muster out of this regiment is all that precludes the bringing before a court martial of those officers who during this mutinous outbreak proved themselves recreant, and it is with profound regret that the corps commander finds himself thus constrained to punish enlisted men, while through circumstances beyond his control, certain officers unworthy of the commissions they hold are permitted to go home with clean records."

Be it Further Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be transmitted by the governor to the president, secretary of war and to our senators and representatives of the United State congress.

Approved April 20, 1899.

State of Minnesota,
Department of State.

I, Albert Berg, secretary of state of Minnesota, do hereby certify that the foregoing general and special laws, passed by the legislature of 1899, have been compared with the enrolled copies of said laws deposited in the office of the secretary of state, and that they are true and correct copies of said enrolled laws, and are an official publication thereof.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of July, A. D. 1899.

(Seal.)

ALBERT BERG,
Secretary of State.