

ber thirteen thousand five hundred and seventy-seven, (13,577), from St. Paul to Mankato, to Fort Randall, in Dakota territory, an initiatory step to a project ardently desired by both sections: that is, a railroad connecting the large pine and timber forest of Minnesota with the rich and fertile prairies of southern Dakota, and your memorialists will ever pray.

MILITARY POSTS.

CHAPTER 66.

A MEMORIAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE TERRITORY OF DAKOTA, PRAYING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MILITARY [POST] ON THE BIG SIOUX RIVER, NEAR SIOUX FALLS.

To the Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War :

Your memorialist, the legislative assembly of the territory of Dakota, would most respectfully represent that the frontier settlements of western Minnesota, north-western Iowa, and southern Dakota will require for several years to come, military protection to guard the inhabitants and their property from the attacks and plundering of roaming hostile bands of Indians who are constantly ravaging that section of country; further, that all the frontier settlements of south-western Minnesota, north-western Iowa, and almost the entire valley of the Big Sioux river in Dakota, have been depopulated during the past summer through fear of hostile Indians, the inhabitants having been partially butchered in several of these settlements; further, that for the last six years, the Minnesota Sioux and the Yankton Sioux have been in the habit of coming down the river of the Big Sioux, to a rendezvous near Sioux Falls, then making that a base, strike off into north-western Iowa and southern Dakota, where they steal, ravage, and harrass the settlers, then escape before any assistance can arrive from either Forts Ran-

Establishment
of military post
asked for.

dall or Ridgley, and had it not been for the soldiers stationed at Sioux Falls during the late massacre in Minnesota, it is more than probable that a large number of the settlers in this territory would have met with the same fate as those of the state of Minnesota: Therefore, your memorialists would most respectfully ask, that a military post be established and occupied at an early day as possible on the Big Sioux river, in the vicinity of Sioux Falls. Your memorialists would further represent that said Sioux Falls is about half way between Forts Randall and Ridgley, on a direct line with the same, and that a military post at said point would not only protect the immediate vicinity of Sioux Falls, but would amply protect the frontier settlements of south-western Minnesota, north-western Iowa, and southern Dakota. A small force of cavalry stationed at said post would be able to keep all hostile Indians north and west of a line running from Fort Ridgley, in Minnesota, to Fort Randall in Dakota. Further, your memorialists would represent that there is abundance of building material, stone, &c., at said Sioux Falls, and your memorialists will ever pray.

APPROVED January 2, 1863.

CHAPTER 67.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America:

Establishment
of line of mili-
tary posts
asked for.

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the territory of Dakota, would most respectfully, yet earnestly represent, that the northern frontier of the territory of Dakota is in the most pressing need of military protection; that the only military post within the geographical limits of this territory, the largest in extent of any organized, is that of Fort Randall, situate on the Missouri river, about one hundred and fifty miles from the southern boundary line, and so remote from northern Dakota as to be of no possible availability or benefit as a tower of defense; that the region composing the counties of Sheyenne, Stevens, Chippewa, and important as the basis of imports and exports between the States and British America, is completely isolated from all nature of armed support and protection, and invites, in a special manner, the timely attention and aid of congress.

Your memorialists would submit and recommend to the favorable action of congress, a line of military posts from Fort Abercrombie to the town of St. Joseph, in Kittson county, in said territory, commencing at Georgetown, a distance of fifty miles from Abercrombie, at the following points, to wit: One on Elm river, twenty-five miles distant from Georgetown; one on Goose river, forty miles from Elm river; one on Turtle river, fifty miles from Elm river; one on Tongue river, fifty miles from Turtle river, and one at St. Joseph, twenty miles from Tongue river. Their location.

The line of these several posts would be on the only practicable route from St. Paul through this portion of the territory to British America, and on the line of a heavy trade (imports and exports,) between the States and the British Possessions, and is the only line of communication and travel, and the mail route for all the mails passing to and from the same. Such a line of defense, would, also, by imparting security, incalculably increase the navigation of the Red River of the North, and with it, open up strong inducements to a large immigration from the States and Canada. This line of posts would likewise traverse the heart of the Sioux country, and in the event of a league of this nation of Indians, which is now ascertained to be formed for aggressive warfare, the advantage of these posts cannot be over-estimated, and appeals strongly to congress to take immediate action in the premises.

There is an abundance of timber conveniently accessible for the prosecution of the work on all the above mentioned streams, and while the outlay to the general government would not be great, these posts would, at the same time, amply compensate for any and every needful expenditure. A small garrison at each of these points would achieve more, in a military point of view, than the concentration of the same requisite force at any one point, and in view of this fact, your memorialists have herein recommended the creation of several posts in lieu of one post at one of the places designated.

Your memorialists, trusting that the subject will commend itself to the favorable consideration of congress, pray that this relief may be granted at this session, and, as in duty bound, your memorialists will ever pray.

CHAPTER 68.

A MEMORIAL AND JOINT RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO
MAKING FORT RANDALL A DISTRIBUTING POST.

To the Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War :

Asking that
Fort Randall be
made distribut-
ing post.

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the territory of Dakota, respectfully represent, that your department could materially enhance the business and growth of this territory by making Fort Randall the distributing depot for the north-west, instead of Fort Leavenworth. Your department must be aware that freights can be transported via Fort Randall to Fort Laramie and Salt Lake much cheaper than by any other route. While the route by Niobrara valley is equally practicable, the distance in overland transportation is at least three hundred miles less than from Fort Leavenworth. It is needless to remind you of the obvious advantage to border settlements resulting from the establishment of an important military depot in this [their] midst. It is an assistance with which all other territories have been favored except Dakota. We ask what we believe will result in a great saving to the general government, and at the same time confer substantial benefit upon the people of Dakota, and we shall ever pray.

Be it resolved by the Council and House of Representatives of the Territory of Dakota, That our delegate in Congress be and is hereby instructed to use all honorable means to bring this matter to the attention of the proper department.

APPROVED January 3, 1863.