

## PACIFIC RAIL ROAD.

### CHAPTER 52.

#### **A Memorial to Congress Relative to the Location of the North Branch of the Pacific Railroad.**

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

Asking a change of the location of the north branch of the Pacific railroad so that it shall run through Dakota.

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota, do most respectfully represent, that

WHEREAS, The original Pacific railroad bill, passed by Congress in 1861-2, provided that the north branch of the Pacific railroad should start from Sioux city and unite with the Union Pacific railroad upon the 100th meridian of longitude and between the Republican fork and Platte river ; and

WHEREAS, The said route was found to be impracticable, and the said bill was amended by Congress in 1863-4, so as to permit the said north branch of the Pacific railroad to be constructed in such a manner as to benefit the northwestern territories, by allowing the said north branch (under sections 9 and 17 of the amendatory bill, approved July 2, 1864,) to connect with the Pacific railroad at any point westwardly of the initial point named in the original bill ; and

WHEREAS, The construction of the said north branch through the south-eastern portion of this Territory, and up the valley of the Niobrarah river through northern Nebraska, so as to join the Pacific railroad at or near Fort Laramie, would be of immense advantage in developing the rich agricultural and mineral resources of this Territory and of the Territories to the west of us, as was evidently the intention of Congress in the amendments made with reference to the said north branch ; and

WHEREAS, Under said amendments, (section 17,) a company has been organized in Iowa, and procured the designation of the President to construct the said north branch, who propose

to construct the said north branch from Sioux City, southeasterly, down the Missouri river to a point near Omaha, connecting with the middle branch of the Pacific railroad, on the Platte river; and

WHEREAS, The construction of this branch, on the route referred to, would be injurious to the people of this Territory, and, in our opinion, contrary to the spirit of the amended Pacific railroad bill and the intention of Congress, who undoubtedly desired the construction of the Pacific railroad by three branches starting from the Missouri, to benefit the people of all the north-western Territories, and that all three branches of the Pacific railroad should be constructed in a westwardly direction from their respective starting points; and

WHEREAS, Section seventeen of said amended bill is somewhat indefinite, inasmuch as it allows the said north branch to connect with the Iowa branch of the Union Pacific railroad from Omaha, or, the Union Pacific railroad proper, as the company designated to construct the same may select; and also requires that the said north branch shall be completed to the Pacific railroad, which commences on the 100th meridian of longitude, within ten years from the passage of said amendment.

Therefore, your petitioners would respectfully ask of your Honorable bodies such further legislation upon this subject as will clearly and plainly compel the construction of the north branch of the Pacific railroad in a westerly course from Sioux City through this Territory, making Yankton, the Capital of Dakota, a point on said branch railroad; thus conducing to the benefit of the people of northern Nebraska, Montana and Idaho, which result so earnestly hoped for, we believe to have been the intention of Congress, in providing for the construction of this great national work.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

Be it resolved, further, That our Delegate in Congress, be and he is hereby requested to urge the foregoing memorial upon the attention of Congress, and endeavor by all proper means to procure the legislation petitioned for, at the earliest day convenient.

Delegate to urge  
the matter on  
attention of  
Congress.