

of the garrison stationed during the past year at Fort Randall, together with all the field-pieces, save one howitzer for the protection of the post; that the present force now at Fort Randall is quite insufficient to a successful resistance to any contingent attack by hostile Indians; that in view of the premises the peace and safety of the territory is greatly endangered, and therefore urgently request that the volunteers under command of Captain Fuller be immediately mustered into the service of the United States, to be stationed at such points in the territory as may best secure the public safety.

*Resolved*, That a copy of this memorial be signed by the speaker of the house and the president of the council, and transmitted to Brigadier General Cook by the chief clerk of this house.

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## MAIL ROUTE.

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### CHAPTER 65.

A MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MAIL ROUTE FROM MANKATO, IN BLUE EARTH COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA, VIA MADELIA, SIOUX FALLS, UPPER JAMES CROSSING, YANKTON, SMUTTY BEAR'S CAMP, BON HOMME, WANNARI, TUFTSVILLE, (OR NESHUDA), PHILBRICK'S CROSSING, (OR CHOTEAU), AND GREENWOOD TO FORT RANDALL, IN DAKOTA TERRITORY.

*To the Congress of the United States :*

The Legislature of the Territory of Dakota would respectfully represent, that a great inducement for emigration and settlement in a new country, is the early establishment of mail routes and postal facilities; that, affording the pioneer direct and accessible mail facilities with the east removes one of the greatest privations experienced by the early settlers, and induces others to join him in making the western country their home;

Route asked for.  
and benefits.

that although mail routes in sparsely settled communities may not pay in a pecuniary sense, yet the government may be doubly paid by more speedy settlement and advancement of the country. And your memorialists would more respectfully call the attention of your honorable body to the fact that, at present there is no mail connection between Minnesota and souther Dakota; and that it is of the greatest importance to the future growth and development of southwestern Minnesota, the Big Sioux valley, and the Missouri river country, that direct communication by mail be established, connecting the two sections. And they would further represent, that a large portion of the country lying between Mankato and the settlements on the Missouri, in Dakota Territory, is without convenient acceptable mail facilities, and that hereby the settlers of those regions have not the means of communication with the east; and that the settlement and advancement of the country is impaired and retarded. It is further believed that were postal facilities established connecting these two sections by way of the proposed route, that it would have great inducements and attractions, and great advantages over any other route leading into the territory; and in view of the prospect of the rapid settlement of the rich agricultural land in southwestern Minnesota and southern Dakota, and of the prospective rush of emigration, at a very early period, to the rich mineral regions of the latter, just west of the Missouri, known as the Black Hills; and in view of that fact that Fort Randall is gaining importance as a distributing and outfitting point for the vast regions up the Missouri, the Black Hills, the Pacific, via South Pass, and the Niobrara, or Running Water river; and that it is to be a starting point for a Pacific mail route, (as by schedule for the next mail letting); and in view of the fact that a large portion of the emigration which has already gone into the territory has gone by this route, the evidence is conclusive that it is the natural thoroughfare: Therefore, your memorialists, the Legislature of the Territory of Dakota, would most earnestly ask for the immediate establishment of a daily connection by mail, to be carried by first class conveyances, connecting Fort Randall, on the Missouri, with the nearest navigable waters in Minnesota, at Mankato, or the continuation, in fact, of route num-

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.

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## MILITARY POSTS.

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### 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.