

PRISON

CHAPTER XLVIII.

A MEMORIAL AND JOINT RESOLUTION PRAYING FOR AN APPROPRIATION TO BUILD A TERRITORY- RIAL PRISON.

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

Asking an ap-
propriation to
construct a ter-
ritorial prison.

Your memorialists, the Legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota, would most respectfully represent, that the existence of good society requires the punishment of evil doers. Savages, as well as civilized communities, are compelled to restrain or destroy those who violate their laws. Their trial should be impartial, and their punishment humane and certain. Without a reasonable certainty of the punishment of offenders, individuals and communities smarting under the unredressed violation of these rights, will take the redress of grievances into their own hands. Mobs will take the place of courts, the trial of the accused will be dispensed with or become a mockery—putting in peril the innocent with the guilty—and severe and cruel punishment will be inflicted for minor offences, thus undermining the very foundations of society. It is clear, therefore, that we should have a secure territorial prison, in which to incarcerate those who may be convicted of crimes. Congress has uniformly made appropriations for the erection of prisons for the organized territories, and we know no reason for making Dakota an exception.

Your memorialists would further represent, that, as yet in our infancy, we have no secure county prison; and that, in having a secure place for the confinement of criminals, would deter many from evil doing, and rid the country of many unfit to run at large.

Your memorialists would therefore earnestly petition you to appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars for the erection of a territorial prison in said Territory; and we would further state that the saving to the general government of the large amounts annually expended in the Territory for guarding and keeping criminals, would soon make up the amount your memorialists petition for, and for which we shall ever pray.—
Therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota, that our delegate in congress be, and is hereby requested to use his influence to procure the objects indicated in the above memorial and resolution.

Resolved, That his excellency the Governor, be requested to forward an attested copy of the above memorial and resolution to our delegate in Congress, who is hereby instructed to lay the same before the Congress of the United States, and urge immediate and favorable action on the same.

Approved, January 13, 1864.

PUBLIC LANDS

CHAPTER XLIX.

JOINT RESOLUTIONS RELATIVE TO THE PUBLIC LANDS IN DAKOTA.

WHEREAS, The policy, thus far, pursued by the present national administration in withholding from market, and from the grasp of greedy speculators, the public lands within the territory of Dakota, thereby allowing the same to be located and improved by actual tillers of the soil, is eminently calculated to encourage immigration, and promote the settlement, development and general improvement and prosperity of this territory; be it, therefore,

Relative to the public lands in Dakota.