

4th. Our thanks are eminently due those heroic soldiers who volunteered to defend, not only our hearths and our firesides from the scalping knife and tomahawk of the savage, but to protect and defend the flag of the Union, and who have so bravely and nobly performed their duty, that they should ever be remembered with gratitude and favor by the American people. And that the memory of those heroes who have fallen in battles or by disease, for the many acts of sacrifice and devotion to the cause in which they were engaged, will be treasured in the heart of every true citizen as the brightest incentive to the pursuits of patriotic fame. Such recollections of the past will never be forgotten—for the fame of the patriot there is no grave.

MAIL ROUTES

CHAPTER 41.

A Memorial and Joint Resolution asking for the Establishment of a Mail Route from Sioux Falls, Dakota Territory, to Ponca, Nebraska.

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

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota, would respectfully represent, That since the establishment of the military post at Sioux Falls and the garrisoning of the same by troops of the United States, the interests of Dakota and of the country demand that a mail route should be established between said military post and the settlements along the valley of the Missouri in Dakota. We regard the establishment of Fort Brookings at Sioux Falls as a source of vital importance to the protection of the settlements in southeastern Dakota, especially to the protection of the settlements in the Big Sioux valley. The land along the Big Sioux river is unsurpassed in fertility by any section of the west, and will soon be one of the most populous sections of the Terri-

Asking for establishment of mail route from Sioux Falls to Ponca, Nebraska

tory. Ample protection is afforded to the settlers in this valley by the troops of said post. The settlers in this valley have no mail facilities, and this fact tends to greatly retard the settlement of this portion of the Territory. It is essential to the development of the agricultural resources of this valley, that inducements should be offered to encourage the settlement of the same by extending mail facilities to the inhabitants.

Your memorialists would respectfully represent, that there is no mail route on which there is mail service between the settlements on the Missouri river in Dakota and the settlements in Nebraska, from Yankton in Dakota, to the mouth of the Big Sioux river, a distance of sixty-five miles. This is a source of great inconvenience to the settlers on both sides of the Missouri river, and whereas, there is already a mail route between Elk Point and Brule Creek, two points between Sioux Falls and Ponca aforesaid, the establishment of a mail route from Sioux Falls to Ponca, would be but extending a route already established so as to accommodate the citizens of the territory, which is filling up with an industrious, enterprising and intelligent class of settlers.

Your memorialists would further represent, that the route herein asked for would extend through one of the richest agricultural portions of the territory, and would extend postal facilities to several flourishing settlements now destitute of such facilities.

We therefore pray your honorable body to establish the route herein named by way of Brule Creek and Elk Point, D. T., with weekly service thereon, and we your memorialists will, as in duty bound ever pray.

Copy sent to
delegate, who
requested to lay
subject before
Congress.

Be it resolved, That a copy of this memorial and joint resolution be forwarded to our delegate in Congress, Walter A. Burleigh, and he is hereby requested to use all proper means to bring this subject to the favorable consideration of Congress.

CHAPTER 42.

A Memorial to Congress asking for the continuation of Post Route No. 13,577, from St. Paul, the Capital of Minnesota, to Yankton, the Capital of Dakota Territory, via Mankato and Sioux Falls City.

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

The memorial of the legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota, would respectfully represent, That one of the greatest inducements for immigration and settlement in a new Territory, is the early establishment of mail routes and postal facilities, that extending to the pioneer of the west, direct and accessible mail communications with the eastern States removes one of the greatest privations experienced by our early settlers and induces others to join in making their homes in the western country; that although mail routes in a sparsely settled community are not immediately remunerative to the public treasury, yet the government may be doubly repaid by the more speedy settlement and advancement of the public domain.

Asking a continuation of mail route from St Paul, Minn. to Yankton, D.T.

And your memorialists would more especially call the attention of Congress to the fact, since the Indian outbreak in 1862 there has been no direct mail communication between the State of Minnesota and the adjoining Territory of Dakota; and that it is of the greatest importance to the future growth of southwestern Minnesota, the Big Sioux valley, and the Missouri river country in Dakota that direct communication by mail be established connecting the two sections.

And your memorialists would further represent, that a large portion of the country lying between Mankato on the Minnesota river and Yankton on the Missouri river, (a distance of 200 miles) is without any convenient mail connection with the east, and that the settlement and advancement of the country is thereby impaired and retarded.

And in view of the fact that a cordon of military posts has been recently established along the said route from Mankato to Yankton (via Fort Watonwa, Lake Scheteck, and Sioux City,) and in view of the steady and increasing settlement of south-

western Minnesota and the rich agricultural lands of southern Dakota, and the augmented tide of immigration following in the train of the new and short government wagon roads recently opened from this Territory to the great mineral fields of the Black Hills, Montana, and Idaho; and in view of the fact that the rapid increase in the navigation of the upper Missouri river is becoming the channel of communication with the east for all the travel, trade and commerce of the northwestern Territories; and whereas, the present difficult relations which the government entertains with many of the tribes of northwestern Indians, requiring to be stationed in their midst garrisoned military posts, with which the government has but a long and circuitous mail communication;

Therefore, your memorialists, the legislative assembly, of the Territory of Dakota, do most earnestly ask for the immediate establishment of mail communication, once a week, between St. Paul, Minnesota, and Yankton, the Capital of Dakota, by the continuation of post route 13,577; thus bringing the great valley of the upper Missouri within three days communication of the eastern states.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Be it resolved by the council and house of representatives of the Territory of Dakota, 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 rights petitioned for at an early day.

Be it further resolved, That the Secretary of the Territory is hereby respectfully requested to forward a certified copy of the foregoing memorial, in printed form, to the post master general of the United States.

Copy sent to
P. M. General.

CHAPTER 43.

A Memorial to Congress for the Establishment of a Mail Route from Fort Randall, Dakota Territory, to Fort Sully in the same Territory.

To the Congress of the United States :

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the Territory

of Dakota, would respectfully represent, that that portion of country between Fort Randall, D. T., and Fort Sully, D. T., is entirely destitute of all mail facilities. The distance is one hundred and fifty miles over a high rolling prairie country, and good road the entire distance. Along the line of the route the country is sparsely settled for about one half the distance. Ninety miles from Fort Randall, the Minnesota Sioux Indian Agency is located and about one hundred United States soldiers stationed. At Fort Sully about four hundred United States soldiers are stationed, and above Fort Sully there are about one thousand persons that the establishment of such a route would accommodate.

Asking Congress to establish a mail route from Fort Randall to Fort Sully.

Your memorialists are further of the opinion that this route would pay expenses and be a self sustaining route, besides enhancing very much the commercial interests of the upper Missouri.

Therefore, your memorialists would most urgently ask for the immediate establishment of said route, with a semi-weekly mail service on the same.

For which your memorialists will ever pray.

CHAPTER 44.

A Memorial to Congress for the Establishment of a Mail Route from Choteau Post Office, Dakota Territory, to Ponca Agency, Dakota Territory.

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

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota, would most respectfully represent, that the commercial and social interests of Todd county, in this territory, demands the establishment of a mail route with semi-weekly service on the same, from Choteau post office, Bon Homme county, to Ponca Agency, Todd county, territory aforesaid. That this section of country is destitute of all mail facilities at present, except what is carried by private individuals; the

Asking Congress to establish a mail route from Choteau P. O. to Ponca Agency, D. T.

distance between the two places aforementioned, is fifteen miles, and would serve to pay expenses.

Therefore your memorialists, would most urgently ask the early establishment of said route with semi-weekly service on the same, and as in duty bound will ever pray.

CHAPTER 45.

A Memorial to Congress for a Mail Route from Fort Sully, Dakota Territory, to Virginia City, Montana Territory.

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

Asking Congress to establish mail route from Fort Sully, D. T. to Virginia city, Montana.

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota, would most respectfully represent, That the commercial and social interests of the north-western states and territories would be very materially enhanced by the establishment of a mail route from Fort Sully, Dakota Territory, to Virginia city, Montana Territory, with a weekly or semi-monthly service on the same.

The distance from Fort Sully to Virginia city, is between five and six hundred miles, over what is reported to be a good country for a natural road, in short a good road has been opened the past year, the entire distance, with the exception of about one hundred and fifty miles, by the federal government, and the remainder is to be opened in early spring.

There is abundance of wood, water and grass, on this route, and it is the intention of the military authorities of this military department and district, to establish sufficient military posts along the route to protect emigrants on the same from all attacks of Indians. Fort Conner or Reno is already established about midway between Fort Sully and Virginia City, and there are several settlements between Fort Conner or Reno and Virginia City, at the present time.

Further, your memorialists would represent, that if this route to the gold fields of the Black Hills of Dakota, Montana and Idaho, is sufficiently protected by the military authorities of

this military district, against hostile Indians, there will be in the course of two or three years, flourishing settlements along this whole route.

Further, your memorialists would represent, that this is by far the most direct and shortest route to Montana, Idaho, and the Pacific states, for all the north-western states and territories.

Therefore, your memorialists respectfully ask the establishment of this route with a weekly or semi-monthly mail service on the same, at the earliest practicable period.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

MAIL SERVICE

CHAPTER 46.

A Memorial to the Post Master General requesting service on Mail Route No. 15,562.

To the Hon. Post Master General of the United States :

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota, would most respectfully represent, that it is important to the interests of the States and Territories of the north west that a direct mail communication be established between a point on the upper Missouri in the vicinity of Sioux city, Iowa, and Virginia or Bannock city, Montana Territory. Your memorialists would therefore pray that service, at least once per week, be ordered upon mail route No. 15,562, from Sioux city, Iowa, via Vermillion, and Yankton, in Dakota Territory, Niobrarah, in Nebraska Territory, Gallatin, to Bannock city in Montana Territory, on the route of Col. Sawyer's wagon road, as contemplated by the act of Congress providing for the construction of said road. And that this request may be promptly granted, your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Requesting
mail service on
route between
Sioux city, Iowa
and Bannock
city, Montana.

Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Dakota, That authenticated copies of this memorial be forward-