

SURVEY OF WHITE RIVER.

CHAPTER XIX.

A MEMORIAL TO THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE PRAYING FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE PUBLIC LAND SURVEYS OUT THE WHITE RIVER VALLEY TO THE PINE LANDS OF THE BLACK HILLS:

To the Honorable the Commissioner of the General Land Office:

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota, most respectfully represent, that the parallel of forty-three degrees and thirty minutes north latitude, has already been extended through this territory from the N. W. corner of the State of Iowa, to the Missouri river, and a base line of public surveys has been established along said parallel terminating below the mouth of White river, which stream rises near the pine regions of the Black Hills, and flows eastward through a fertile and well wooded agricultural valley, for a distance of over one hundred miles, to its confluence with the Missouri river.

praying for the survey of the White river country.

Your memorialists would further represent, that the township lines of the public surveys, have, within the last year been extended along the eastern slope of the Missouri valley, to the intersection of said parallel of $43^{\circ} 30'$ north latitude with the Missouri river, south of the mouth of White river; and that said base line and township boundaries could be continued westward up the White river valley to the pine lands of the Black Hills, at the usual cost allowed per mile for surveys in the western territories, thereby opening to settlement, not only the fine agricultural valley of White river, but would lead the way to a speedy possession of the vast pine forest and mineral

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lands of the Black Hills, by armed bands of immigrants and miners.

Your memorialists would further represent, that the lineal distance of said survey from the Missouri river to the Black Hills, would not exceed one hundred and fifty miles, and that seven hundred and fifty miles of township and subdivisional lines, would sectionize the most desirable and valuable locations along said White river valley and among the forests of the Black Hills, by the settlement and sale of which lands the government would soon receive a four fold reward for the expenditure of said public survey.

Your memorialists would further represent, that by a treaty with the Sioux bands of Indians west of the Missouri river, ratified March 5th, 1866, the said Indians relinquished the right of way through said country, and are about to locate at the mouth of White river; and that a treaty of cession could easily be effected between the government and the said Indians; therefore,

Your memorialists, while fully aware that it is not the policy of the government to prosecute its public surveys in advance of the Indian title, we are also reminded that many of our western territories have grown up and become wealthy and populous on Indian lands, and that treaties of cession and the public surveys follow too slowly in the footsteps of the hardy pioneer.

Your memorialists, therefore, most earnestly pray that you will at an early day, recommend to Congress, the necessity and importance of an immediate purchase and survey of the White river valley and the Black Hills pineries, and the establishment of a western land district in this territory.

And your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

Approved, January 11, 1867.