

MEMORIALS.

NUMBER 1.

A MEMORIAL 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, most respectfully beg leave to petition your honorable bodies to take immediate action in the matter of opening the Black Hills of Dakota for settlement, because of its great mineral wealth and its being so well adapted for agricultural pursuits, and respectfully call your attention to the following reasons:

Opening of
the Black Hills

1st. That General Custer has explored the Black Hills, and reports the finding of gold in every locality where the miners prospected.

2d. That no section of country in the west has more beautiful valleys than this hitherto unknown country, all being well watered, and so favorably adapted to farming and stock raising.

3d. That gold, silver, platinum, and inexhaustible pine forests were found.

4th. That the most favorable reports published in the press throughout the country will scarcely convey an idea of the actual and enormous wealth of the region when developed by the diggers of our "nation's specie basis."

5th. That Prof. Hayden and Gen. Warren in their several explorations and surveys of exterior portions of the Black Hills report "officially" that they found gold, silver, iron, and forests of unknown limits, within 130 miles of steam-boat navigation on the Missouri river.

6th. That the Sioux Indian treaty, still respected by the government, but numberless times violated by the Sioux Indians, prevents white men from acquiring homesteads, pre-emptions or mining rights within the great Sioux reservation.

Opening of
the Black Hills

The legislative assembly of Dakota territory most earnestly petitions congress to abrogate the treaty now in force, or if such action be deemed unjust to the Indians, in lieu thereof, extinguish the Indian title to that portion of the reservation known as the Black Hills of Dakota, so that the nation may receive the benefit of its great wealth, and we further pray that congress during the present session will make due and ample provisions to buy the right of way, or treat for the same with said Indians, so that all men may pass through said reservation in pursuit of peace, happiness and prosperity.

Your memorialists would further represent that some legislation as prayed for in this memorial is absolutely needed at the earliest possible day, if the government wishes to prevent a repetition of the bloody scenes in California between the miners and the Indians, which resulted in the almost total destruction of the latter.

Humanity, justice, and the rights of a free and enlightened people respectfully ask for speedy action on this important question.

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

Be it resolved by the legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota: That a copy of this memorial be forwarded to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate, and speaker of the House, and our Delegate in Congress, and further, that his Excellency, Gov. Pennington, be requested to sign this memorial and unite with us in securing favorable action by congress.

NUMBER 2.

A MEMORIAL to the Congress of the United States, praying for a division of Dakota Territory, and the organization of a new territory out of the northern part thereof.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled.

Division of Da-
kota territory.

Your memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Dakota, most respectfully petition your honorable body for the passage of the bill now pending in Congress for

the erection and organization of the Territory of Pembina, ^{Division of Dakota territory.} out of the northern portion of Dakota Territory, or of some bill of a similar character, that will provide for a division of the territory as it is now constituted.

The principal settlements in the territory extend along the Missouri river and tributary streams in the southern portion of the territory, forming a belt of from sixty to one hundred miles in width, and along the Northern Pacific Railroad and in the Red river valley in the northern portion. The two sections have no interests in common, and a vast unsettled tract of country divides them, so that communication between the northern and southern settlements is difficult and almost impossible except by way of St. Paul, in Minnesota, by which route the expense is necessarily large and the distance great. No north and south lines of communication within the territory can be expected soon. The trade, commerce and enterprise, the markets and communications of each part are distinct and separate. Different motives and interests govern the citizens of each part, and it is hardly practicable to represent and promote the best interest of both sections in the same territorial legislature, or under the same territorial government. In all matters of local enterprise, the encouragement of immigration and the settlement of the country, the best good and the largest results can only be attained through separate organizations.

The late election showed a population in the territory north of the forty-sixth parallel, of fully eight thousand persons, and the prospect is that this will be largely increased within the next two years; while the rapid settlement of the southern portion indicates that within that time it will have both a population and wealth that will justify the admission of this territory into the Union as a state.

For these, and other reasons, your memorialists earnestly ask that the division of the territory be authorized at an early day.

And your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

I approve the object of this memorial,

JOHN L. PENNINGTON,

December 19, 1874.

Governor.

NUMBER 3.

A MEMORIAL to his Excellency, the President of the United States.

Concerning
land offices in
southern Da-
kota.

Your memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Dakota, would most respectfully represent that at least one-half or more of the entire population of this territory, engaged in agricultural pursuits, are persons of foreign birth, composed principally of Germans and Scandinavians; that the immigration to this territory of the people who settle upon and occupy the public lands under the homestead and pre-emption laws, is composed principally of those classes of immigrants, are industrious, frugal, sober and prosperous people, of incalculable benefit to the territory, and eventually to the Nation.

Your memorialists would further represent and call to your attention the fact that there are three land districts and three land offices in Southern Dakota, and not one of the officers thereof can speak or understand any other language than the English. That in consequence, at least one-half of all the persons taking advantage of the homestead and pre-emption laws cannot communicate with such officers or transact their business with them, except through the aid of an interpreter, that this occasions them much trouble, expense and annoyance, and frequently leads to the grossest errors and consequent wrongs and losses to these people. There are many educated gentlemen in the territory perfectly competent to fill those positions, who speak fluently and write readily both the English and German, or English and Scandinavian languages, and in many instances all of these languages.

Your memorialists therefore ask and most earnestly pray that to the appointment to those positions in this territory, the evil may be corrected, and that one of the officers in each of the districts shall be a person speaking and writing at least two of the languages.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

Resolved, That in addition to the usual number of copies, a copy of the memorial be sent to the Hon. J. P. Kidder, delegate elect, and that he be respectfully requested to use his influence to have the object of this memorial carried out.

NUMBER 4.

A MEMORIAL to the Postmaster General of the United States, asking for an increase of service on mail route No. 13,910, from Yankton to Sioux Falls, Dakota Territory.

To the Honorable, the Postmaster General of the United States:

Your memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Dakota, would respectfully represent that there is already an urgent necessity for a daily mail between Yankton, the capital of Dakota, and Sioux Falls, Dakota Territory. That owing to the fact that there is but a tri-weekly mail between these places, the commercial relations between the two points, as well as those of the towns and settlements intermediate, are greatly retarded and injured. That the county of Turner, now containing about one thousand voters, and other counties contiguous mainly rely upon this route for the carrying and delivery of their mail matter, and it is a general cause of complaint and a positive hindrance to the improvement of the intermediate points, that the mail accommodations are insufficient to meet the present demand. That almost daily, urgent public business, requiring intercourse with citizens of Turner, Minnehaha, Moody, McCook and other counties, arises at Yankton the capitol of Dakota, which would be facilitated to the great benefit of all parties by the increase of service on this route to a daily mail. That the settlement and occupation of the public lands in the district of country referred to has progressed with unprecedented rapidity during the year now drawing to a close, and the promise of a speedier growth during the coming year, is of the most reliable character.

Daily mail
from Yankton
to Sioux Falls.

Your memorialists would therefore request that daily service be ordered on the said route No. 13,910, as soon as expedient, and we, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Resolved, That copies of this memorial, properly enrolled, and signed by the officers of the respective houses and the Governor, be forwarded, one to the Honorable, the Postmaster General, and one to Hon. M. K. Armstrong, our Delegate in Congress, and that the chief clerk of the House be instructed to forward these memorials.

NUMBER 5.

A MEMORIAL to the honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled.

**Mail route
from Yankton
to Childstown.**

Your memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Dakota, respectfully ask that a mail route may be established by your honorable bodies between Yankton, Yankton county, and Childstown, Turner county, Dakota Territory, *via* Jamesville, that weekly service be put upon the same at an early day.

Your memorialists, as a reason for said request and prayer, would respectfully represent and make known to your honorable bodies that the nearest mail route at present established by law is at a distance varying from eight to fifteen miles from the places through or to which this proposed route is to run, by reason of which a numerous and growing population are compelled to depend wholly upon uncertain and private sources to obtain their mail or any of the facilities or benefits of the postal laws of the United States.

That the distance of said route, which your memorialists pray may be established, will not exceed forty miles, and the road through and between said points is in good condition at all seasons of the year, viz: From Yankton, north, following the county road to Jamesville, in township 96, range 56; thence through the German Russian settlement in townships 97 and 98; thence on the most practicable route to Childstown, in Turner county.

That the road is in good condition at all seasons of the year, having been established and improved the greater part of the way for many years.

That at all points along said route there is a dense and permanent population of enterprising and industrious citizens, being mostly settled by the German Russian and Menonite immigrants. And your memorialists will as in duty bound ever pray.

Resolved, That our delegate in congress be requested to call the attention of the proper committees of congress to the object of this memorial.

NUMBER 6.

A MEMORIAL to Congress for the establishment of a mail route from Lake Kampeska, the terminus of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, by James river, to Ashmore, on the Missouri river.

The people of Dakota represented in Council and House of Representatives, respectfully represent that the interests and convenience of the people of a large extent of country would be greatly promoted and the settlement of the country encouraged by the establishment of a mail route from Lake Kampeska, the terminus of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, by James river, to Ashmore, on the Missouri river, and they respectfully ask the Congress of the United States to establish said route.

Mail route
from Lake
Kampeska to
Ashmore.

NUMBER 7.

A MEMORIAL to the Postmaster General of the United States, praying that mail service may be ordered on that portion of the established mail route No. 35,027, between the city of Yankton and the town of Lodi.

To the Honorable Postmaster General of the United States:

Your memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Dakota, would respectfully represent that the town of Lodi is on mail route No. 35,027, established between the city of Yankton and the town of Eden, and that at present there is no mail service on said route between Yankton and Lodi, a distance of about twenty-five (25) miles, and that there is service on that portion of said route between Lodi and Eden.

For mail ser-
vice from
Yankton to
Lodi.

And that the most direct line of communication by mail between Yankton and Lodi is by the way of Vermillion, and that in consequence thereof, it is carried over a circuitous route many miles further than if service was established on the whole route.

And your memorialists would further represent that all the land south, and many miles north of said route is settled by a permanent population of enterprising and industrious citi-

For mail service from Yankton to Lodi.

zens, and that it is very important to their interest that mail service be established on the whole route between Yankton and Eden.

Your memorialists would therefore most earnestly pray that service be ordered on the whole mail route No. 35,027, from Yankton, D. T., *via* Lodi, to Eden, D. T.

And that this request may be promptly granted your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

NUMBER 8.

A MEMORIAL to the Postmaster General of the United States, praying that the mail service on Route No. 35,029, from Vermillion to Canton, Dakota Territory, be increased.

For increase of mail service from Vermillion to Canton.

SIR:—Your memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Dakota, would most respectfully represent that the increase of mail service on route 35,029, from Vermillion to Canton, Dakota Territory, is necessary for the public good. That said route runs across a prairie where several towns and villages are springing up along said route, and for the want of greater mail facilities the growth and prosperity of the same is retarded, and that an increase of service would do much to advance the future prosperity of the country.

Your memorialists would therefore earnestly request that service be increased to three times per week.

And as in duty bound your memorialists will ever pray.

NUMBER 9.

A MEMORIAL to the Postmaster General of the United States, praying that the mail service on Route No. 35,018, from Yankton via Ziskov to Tarbox, Cooley and Springfield, Dakota Territory, be increased.

For increase of service on mail route No. 35,018.

Your memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of Dakota Territory, would most respectfully represent that an increase of mail service on Route No. 35,018, from Yankton via Zis-

kov to Tarbox, Cooley and Springfield, Dakota Territory, is necessary for the public good.

For increase
of service on
mail route No.
35,018.

That the said route runs through the most densely populated portion of Yankton and Bon Homme counties, a distance of thirty (30) miles; several towns and villages are springing up along said road, and for the want of greater mail facilities the growth and prosperity of the same is retarded, and that an increase of service would do much to advance the further prosperity of the country.

Your memorialists would therefore request that service be increased to two (2) times per week.

And as in duty bound your memorialists will ever pray.

NUMBER 10.

A MEMORIAL to the Second Assistant Postmaster General of the United States, asking increased service on mail route No. 35,028, from Canton to Milltown, Dakota Territory.

To the Honorable Second Assistant Postmaster General of the United States:

Your memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Dakota, would respectfully represent that there is a necessity and urgent demand that the service on mail route No. 35,028, from Canton to Milltown, be increased in early spring to a semi-weekly service, at least as far as from Canton to Childstown, and your memorialists would further represent that Maple Grove post office, on said route, at a flourishing village in this territory, has but this one mail, weekly, and consequently business men therein have their mail sent to offices 12 miles away, and send after it, which would be remedied by the increased service asked for.

For increased
mail service
from Canton to
Milltown.

And your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

Resolved, That the chief clerk of the House forward one copy each of this memorial to the Second Assistant Postmaster General and our Delegate in Congress, at Washington.

NUMBER 11.

A MEMORIAL to Congress asking the establishment of a mail route from Sioux Falls via Pennington and Rosedale, in the county of Minnehaha, and Territory of Dakota, to Pipestone and Lake Benton, in the county of Lincoln, in the State of Minnesota; and that service from Sioux Falls, in said territory, once a week, be ordered on said route.

For a mail route from Sioux Falls to Lake Benton, Minnesota.

Your memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Dakota, would most respectfully represent that the commercial and social interests of Sioux Falls, Dakota, and Lake Benton, in the State of Minnesota, demand the establishment of a mail route with weekly service on the same from Sioux Falls, Dakota, to Lake Benton, in the State of Minnesota, a distance of sixty-five miles, and that service should be placed on same. That there is no mail route established between said Sioux Falls, Dakota Territory, and Lake Benton, in the State of Minnesota, and they are destitute of mail facilities except what is carried by private individuals.

Therefore your memorialists would most earnestly ask the early establishment of said route, with weekly service on same, from Sioux Falls, Dakota Territory, and Lake Benton, in the State of Minnesota.

And as in duty bound will ever pray.

NUMBER 12.

A MEMORIAL to the Postmaster General of the United States, praying that mail service on route No. 35,011, from Elk Point, Dakota Territory, to Ponca, Nebraska, be increased.

To the Honorable Postmaster General of the United States:

For increased service from Elk Point to Ponca, Neb.

Your memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Dakota, would respectfully represent that an increase of mail service on route No. 35,011, from Elk Point, Dakota Territory, to Ponca, Nebraska, is necessary for the public good; and that the interests of the citizens both at Elk Point and Ponca, and also along the mail route between said places, require increased mail facilities on said route.

Your memorialists therefore urge that service be increased on said route to six times per week.

And as in duty bound your memorialists will ever pray.

NUMBER 13.

A MEMORIAL to Congress, asking mail service from Beloit, Iowa, to Firesteel and Fort Thompson, Dakota Territory.

To the Honorable Postmaster General of the United States, and Congress Assembled:

Your memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Dakota, would respectfully represent that the interests of the people residents of this territory require the establishment of a post route and weekly service thereon from Fort Thompson east to James river, to a settlement known as Sauttees; thence south through the Belcher settlement to Firesteel; thence east, through the Prairie Settlements, *via* Pleasant Home and Canton, to Beloit, in Iowa, the terminus of stage lines from the east and of railroads now building. And that service should be placed on this route in July, 1875, as the settlements are now so numerous that post roads along the rivers do not accommodate the settlers, some of whom at the settlements named, now have to go thirty miles to the nearest post office.

For mail service from Beloit, Iowa, to Firesteel and Ft. Thompson.

And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

Resolved, That the chief clerk of the House cause a copy of this memorial to be sent to the Postmaster General, the Second Assistant Postmaster General, and to our Delegate in Congress, to present and urge before the proper authorities.

NUMBER 14.

A MEMORIAL to Congress asking an appropriation of lands to the University of Dakota.

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 while the appropriation of public lands by your honorable body for

For an appropriation of lands to the University of Dakota.

For an appropriation of lands to the University of Dakota.

the maintenance and support of common schools to the future State of Dakota, is large and magnificent, it is of no practicable benefit to the present territorial condition of our people, who feel an active interest in the education of the youth of the territory; nor can we confidently look forward to any very early period when Dakota can, by being admitted as a state into the Union, be in a position to make any practical use of the school lands. At the time the policy of granting public lands to foster and support educational institutions was adopted by the government, less than two-thirds the population now required was then deemed ample to entitle a people to organize a state government and ask admission into the Union on an equality with the older states.

In the Territory of Dakota, an excellent system of public schools is now maintained, and the most perfect methods of educating the youth in common schools has been adopted, and is now in successful operation; yet there is an urgent demand for a more advanced system of education in a territorial school of a higher grade and character, and it is an established fact that such an institution is as essential to the perpetuity of republican institutions as is the common school.

And your memorialists would further represent that the initial steps have already been taken for the organization of a University in Dakota. Its location has been amicably fixed upon, and we now appeal to your honorable bodies to grant to this territory a small proportion of the public school lands or of other lands as to you may seem best, to enable us to erect our University and set its educational machinery in motion.

And we as in duty bound will ever pray.

Resolved, That copies of this memorial, duly enrolled and attested, be forwarded to the Speaker of the House of Representatives at Washington, and two copies to Hon. M. K. Armstrong, our Delegate in Congress, and the enrolling clerk of the House be instructed to forward such memorials.

NUMBER 15.

A MEMORIAL to the Congress of the United States, praying for an appropriation to erect a Territorial Prison in Dakota Territory.

Your memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Dakota, respectfully represent, that while Congress has uniformly made appropriations to erect prisons in other organized territories, not a dollar has been appropriated for Dakota for this purpose, and that this territory is without a prison, where convicts may be securely confined, but that all persons convicted and sentenced by both the Federal and Territorial district courts must be sent to prison in distant states: and that the expense of conveying convicts to such prisons, and of keeping and maintaining them there amounts to several thousand dollars annually, which might be saved to the general government and to this territory if a suitable and secure prison should be erected in this territory.

For an appropriation for a territorial prison.

That the peace and prosperity of the people of the territory largely depends on the speedy and certain punishment of criminals, which can be best secured by the establishment of a prison within the limits of this territory.

Therefore, your memorialists respectfully ask that an appropriation of twenty thousand dollars be made for the object above mentioned.

And in duty bound your memorialists will ever pray.

NUMBER 16.

A MEMORIAL to Congress asking for an appropriation to erect a building in Dakota Territory for the use of the Governor, Secretary, Supreme and District Courts, and Legislative Assembly.

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 the interests of the United States government, as well as those of this

For an appropriation to erect a capital building.

For an appropriation to erect a capitol building.

territory, requires the immediate erection of a suitable building for the accommodation of the Governor, Secretary, U. S. Marshal, Internal Revenue officers, U. S. Supreme and District Courts, and the Legislative Assembly of Dakota, at the capital of Dakota.

That Congress has in times past made abundant appropriations for the erection of suitable buildings in the former territories of Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska, and the assistance thus rendered met the unanimous approval of the citizens of the United States, who will unquestionably sustain and endorse a similar appropriation made to this territory, now so much in need of a suitable edifice for the accommodation of its various public officers, its courts and legislature, and the large amount of valuable public property and records which have accumulated since the organization of the territory.

Your memorialists would further represent that it would be in the interest of economy for the parent government to erect a suitable building at the capital of Dakota, for the accommodation of the federal officials, courts and legislature, as hereinbefore set forth.

That the annual rental of suitable offices, legislative halls, storerooms and rooms for the United States court, now amounts to a sufficient sum to pay fifteen per cent. per annum on twenty thousand dollars, which sum would be nearly sufficient to erect such a building as would comfortably accommodate this territory at present, and until we would be able as a state, to erect our own public buildings.

Your memorialists therefore firmly believing in the justice of this request, and further believing that the parent government should treat its wards, the territories, impartially, urgently request your honorable bodies to make an appropriation of not less than twenty-five thousand dollars, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, in the erection of a building at the capital of Dakota Territory, for the use and purpose hereinbefore set forth.

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 copies of this memorial, properly enrolled and signed by the officers of the two houses, and the Governor of the territory, be forwarded, one to the

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. James G. Blaine, one to Hon. Columbus Delano, Secretary of the Interior, and three copies to Hon. M. K. Armstrong, Delegate from Dakota, and that the chief clerk of the House be instructed to forward these memorials.

For an appropriation to erect a capitol building.

NUMBER 17.

A MEMORIAL to the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled.

Your memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Dakota, in behalf of the citizens whose petitions have been laid before us, would most respectfully represent that there are many of the inhabitants of our territory who suffered the loss of their crops by the "grasshopper plague," some of whom are now destitute of the necessaries of life owing to said plague, and many more will require assistance before another crop can be raised, while of the more fortunate ones who raised enough to support themselves there are very few who have more than is absolutely necessary for their own support, thereby making it inevitable for us to apply for aid outside of the territory. And as there is a bill now pending before congress making an appropriation for the relief of the destitute inhabitants of the northwestern states; therefore your memorialists would most respectfully pray that the said bill be so changed as to include Dakota Territory, and that such provisions may be made in our behalf as your honorable body may deem just and requisite.

For relief for the destitute.

And your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

NUMBER 18.

A MEMORIAL to the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled.

Your memorialists, the people of the Territory of Dakota, through its General Assembly, respectfully represent to your honorable body that while the lands in the eastern part of

For a grant of land to aid in building rail-roads.

For a grant of
land to aid in
building rail-
roads.

said territory are rich in soil, they are with few exceptions destitute of timber of any kind, and the distance from timber of most of the land will, in the opinion of your memorialists, prevent their settlement unless means of transportation shall be devised to connect such lands with the timber region beyond. This timber region is too far distant to be reached without a railroad, and never can be of any benefit to most of the territory unless cheap means of transportation shall be created to bring the timber to the vast prairies lying east of it; that while there is on White river and in and around the Black Hills immense forests of pine and other timber and vast deposits of coal, they are worthless so long as they are inaccessible. The cost of providing the only proper means of bringing these staples to the prairie country and thereby make the lands valuable, is a railroad, and this cannot be built without the aid of the government, which your memorialists ask for in such form as it seems to them can be given with profit, both to the people of the Territory and the government of the United States.

The long residence in the Territory of most of your memorialists has convinced them that the Territory has the elements to make it one of the greatest states in the Union if its growth is encouraged and promoted by the government with the same liberal spirit that has built up all the states east of here, and your memorialists feel that they have a just claim upon the government for its protection and aid in equal measure to that which has been given to Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota.

The land in the territory west of the Missouri river is Indian reservation, and yet a part of this reservation is the richest portion of the Territory of Dakota because of the great forests of pine and other timber, and the immense deposits of coal and minerals of various kinds. These lands with their promised stores of wealth to the Territory and nation, should at once be made free to every citizen of the Republic, and by means of railroad communication be accessible so as to bring out the timber and coal so much needed east of the Missouri river.

Your memorialists therefore, do earnestly appeal to your honorable body, for the right to be granted to them and all citizens of the nation to occupy so much of the Territory of

Dakota west of the Missouri river as lies between latitude forty-three (43) and forty-six (46) degrees, north; and that the one-half of the proceeds of the sale of thirty (30) sections of land to the mile be granted to assist in the building of a railroad from Yankton, D. T. to the Great National Park, by way of the Black Hills.

For a grant of land to aid in building railroads.

In making this request your memorialists feel that they ask nothing more than what is due to them, and what should be freely granted. The lands if a railroad is built would sell for two dollars and fifty cents per acre, whereas, without the road they will not sell at all; therefore, what is asked for can be given without any cost to the government or the people, and will result in a great good to your memorialists and the nation's citizens.

NUMBER 19.

A MEMORIAL AND JOINT RESOLUTION asking Congress for a grant of land for right of way, and not exceeding four sections of land for each ten miles, for stations, timber culture, etc., to aid in the construction of railroads from Beloit, Iowa, by Canton and Sioux Falls, to Fargo or Pembina. Also from Sheldon, Iowa, *via* Canton, to the Missouri river at or near Brule City. Also from Yankton, *via* Beloit, to a connection with the St. Paul railroad.

To the Honorable 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 by act of Congress approved May 12th, 1864, a grant of land was made to aid in the construction of a railroad from McGregor, Iowa, westward, as near as practicable on the 43d parallel, to O'Brien county, Iowa, intersecting a railroad from Sioux City to St. Paul, to which congress also made a grant of lands to aid in its construction, and

For a grant of land to the Canton and Pembina railroad.

WHEREAS, the said railroad from McGregor is mostly built and the next season will undoubtedly finish it in accordance with its line as provided in said act, and as the said

For a grant of land to the Canton and Pembina railroad.

railroad must eventually build westward into Dakota Territory, where the country is now rapidly being settled up, the lands being subject only to homestead, pre-emption or tree-culture entry, it is impossible to secure right of way except from the government, or lands suitable for stations and timber culture. And as the portion of Dakota mentioned in the title hereto is a large, unbroken, beautiful and fertile prairie, well watered and capable of being a very productive and highly cultivated agricultural country, which must depend upon coal for fuel, and lumber from the pine regions of Wisconsin and Minnesota until a railroad can be built to the Missouri river, and as it is now impracticable to raise grain, being so far from market, and the Sioux City and St. Paul Railroad is now built to within a few miles of the Territory and desire to get a line of road, if the right of way and aid could be secured through the Territory, to the capital at Yankton, which is not in any way connected by railroad with the large settlements along the Red river and Northern Pacific railroad, except by St. Paul, at least 300 miles out of the way, and a railroad is now being built, the Sioux City & Pembina, as far north as Beloit, Iowa, on the borders of Dakota, having subsidies voted to there. Therefore your memorialists do ask, and claim it as a right, that your honorable body do make a grant of land to the territory of Dakota wherever it is owned by the United States at the time the surveys shall be made along the lines of the proposed railways from Beloit, Iowa, by Canton and Sioux Falls, to Fargo or Pembina; also from Sheldon, Iowa, *via* Canton, to the Missouri river, at or near Brule City; also from Yankton, *via* Beloit, to St. Paul, to aid in the construction of the same, under regulations as you may impose, granting to said railroads a strip of the government domain of not less than eight rods in width, and as often as every five miles at least two sections of land. That the lands surveyed and selected by the companies in compliance with this request be withheld from entry on homestead or other filings, and when each ten miles shall be graded that the right of way and one-half of the land for the next ten miles be confirmed by patent to the company; and when the iron is laid that the remaining land be confirmed by patent to the company, or in lieu of the land above asked for, that a strip of land not over 160 rods

in width where the lands are surveyed be granted in aid of the proposed roads.

For a grant of land to the Canton and Pembina railroad.

Resolved, That a copy of this memorial be sent to our Delegate in Congress, Hon. Jackson Orr, M. C. from Iowa, to the Secretary of the Interior, and to the Commissioner of the General Land Office.

NUMBER 20.

A MEMORIAL to the Congress of the United States, for aid to the Northern Pacific Railroad.

Your memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Dakota, respectfully represent that the interests of the great, undeveloped northwest, and of the entire country, require the speedy completion of the Northern Pacific Railway across the continent, and we most respectfully but earnestly recommend the passage of one of the bills now pending in congress by means of which the aid required to insure the completion of this National enterprise may be given with safety and security to the government, and with certainty as to the object sought.

For aid to the Northern Pacific railroad.

And your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

NUMBER 21.

A MEMORIAL to Congress asking for an appropriation to improve the navigation of the Red River of the North.

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 call the attention of your honorable body to the carrying trade on the Red River of the

For an appropriation to improve the navigation of the Red River of the North.

For an appropriation to improve the navigation of the Red River of the North.

North, both by steamboats and flatboats, in the year 1874, to-wit. By steamboats from Moorhead, Minnesota, down said river: freight, seventeen thousand two hundred and forty (17,240) tons; passengers, three thousand nine hundred and ten (3,910): Freight up said river, two hundred and eighty-five (285) tons; passengers, six hundred and seventy-six (676), and from Breckenridge, Minnesota, four hundred (400) flatboats, loaded with eight thousand nine hundred and fifty (8,950) tons of freight, besides flatboats built and loaded at various points along the river, whose number cannot be definitely ascertained, which would at least make an aggregate of twenty-seven thousand (27,000) tons, most of which went into the British province of Manitoba, which is rapidly filling up with emigrants both from Europe and Canada, and whose only practicable inlet to said British province is through the United States by way of the Red River of the North; besides our own Territory in the valley of the said river is being rapidly settled by an industrious population, all of which leads us to believe that the carrying trade on the said Red River of the North will continue to increase in a much greater ratio than it has done in the last five years, and more especially if the "Goose" and "Conly Rapids" in said river are improved so as to admit of unimpeded navigation for steamboats of one hundred and fifty (150) tons burthen from Breckenridge, Minnesota, to Pembina, Dakota Territory.

Therefore, your petitioners considering such an improvement a work of national importance and of vital interest to the northern portion of this Territory, would respectfully ask your honorable body for such an appropriation as may be necessary to make the foregoing improvements, reference being made to the reports of engineers on file with the Hon. Secretary of War.

And your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

NUMBER 22.

A MEMORIAL to the Congress of the United States, praying for an appropriation to aid in the construction of a wagon road from some point on the table lands in Union county, Dakota, across the marsh lands to the Ponca landing, on the Missouri river.

For an appropriation to aid in the construction of a wagon road in Union county.

We, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Dakota, having been petitioned by the citizens of Union county, Dakota, praying for an appropriation to aid in the construction of a road from the village of Richland, or some other point on the Big Sioux, would most respectfully represent as follows:

That, whereas, the character of the land in the valley of the Missouri river is such, that during certain seasons of the year, travel is greatly impeded by reason of a partial overflow of low marsh lands, which extend from the table lands to the Ponca landing, a distance of twelve miles, rendering the transportation of grain and other products of the country, very difficult.

And, whereas, the products of the soil for a distance of seventy-five miles in a north and northwesterly direction, are for the most part marketed at Elk Point, Dakota, (which necessitates the crossing of said low lands), that place being the nearest and most available market town.

And, whereas, the native lumber, which by reason of its cheapness, is universally used in the construction of all buildings in the surrounding country, together with all the fuel by which said country is supplied, has to be transported across said low lands of the Missouri bottom.

And, whereas, the United States mails which are transported daily from Elk Point by the same route, are oftentimes delayed and put to great trouble and inconvenience, by reason of the bad, and at times impassable, condition of the roads across said low lands above mentioned.

And, whereas, owing to a partial failure of the crops, low prices of products and consequent scarcity of money, the inhabitants of the section of country alluded to, are unable to take upon themselves the entire burden of constructing a public road across the said low lands without some assistance.

For an appropriation to aid in the construction of a wagon road in Union county.

Therefore, we, your memorialists, earnestly request of your honorable body, that an appropriation of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) be made to aid in the construction of a suitable public road, from the village of Richland across said low marsh lands, to the Ponca landing, on the Missonri river, a distance of twelve miles, which will prove a great and lasting benefit to the inhabitants of said section of country.

And for which your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

NUMBER 23.

A MEMORIAL to the Congress of the United States, praying for an appropriation to construct a wagon road from Rockport, in Hanson county, Dakota Territory, to Jamestown, on the Northern Pacific Railroad, in Dakota Territory.

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

For an appropriation to construct a wagon road from Rockport to Jamestown.

Your memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Dakota, would respectfully represent, that the valley of the Dakota river is fast becoming settled by industrious and energetic farmers who have occupied the public lands along said river for a distance of nearly one hundred miles from its mouth, and have also settled in considerable numbers in the valley of said river in the vicinity of Jamestown, the point where the Northern Pacific Railroad crosses the said Dakota river; that the distance between the settlements at Jamestown and those along the said Dakota river first above named is about two hundred miles, and that communication between the settlements and the occupants of the public lands lying between, is greatly hindered and retarded for the want of a suitable thoroughfare along the valley of the Dakota river connecting the settlements aforesaid. The main expense in constructing a suitable thoroughfare would be in the construction of bridges across the tributaries of the Dakota river, an expense which the Territory of Dakota can illy

afford to stand during the next few years, and one which the settlers of the country connected by the proposed road are in no condition to submit too. The construction of the road in question would hasten the settlement and occupation of tens of thousands of acres of public lands that otherwise must remain vacant for years, and by this means the government would receive an hundred fold greater sum through the sale of its lands to settlers than the improvements would cost; the road would also prove of inestimable benefit to settlers in procuring fuel and other supplies necessary for their comfort and subsistence. The character of the country being largely prairie land, settlers are compelled to haul material for constructing their cabins, and their fuel in frequent instances from long distances, to accomplish which good thoroughfares must be provided. The pioneer settler on the public lands remote from timber and market, as is the case in the locality referred to in this memorial, has many difficulties to encounter and obstacles to overcome in providing a comfortable dwelling place for his family and in opening up his claim sufficiently to make it available for his support, and it is but justice to him that his burden be made as light as possible and that the government extend to him all the assistance it can consistently render, and there will be no doubt in the minds of your honorable body that the construction of a thoroughfare along this valley leading from the settled portions of Southern Dakota to Fort James, in Northern Dakota, appropriately belongs to the parent government, it being through public lands, and furnishing accommodation to the trains transporting government supplies as well as affording a benefit to the settler.

For an appropriation to construct a wagon road from Rockport to Jamestown.

Your memorialists would therefore ask that an appropriation of twenty-five thousand dollars, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, be made for the purpose of carrying out the object of this petition.

Resolved, That copies of this memorial duly signed and attested be forwarded, to-wit: One to our Delegate in Congress, Hon. M. K. Armstrong; one to Hon. Columbus Delano, Secretary of the Interior; one to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. James G. Blaine; and that the chief clerk of the House be instructed to forward said copies.

NUMBER 24.

A MEMORIAL to Congress for an additional appropriation on the military wagon road from the Big Sioux river to Fort Randall.

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

For an additional appropriation on the military wagon road from the Big Sioux river to Ft. Randall.

WHEREAS, Your honorable body has heretofore, to-wit, in 1863-4, established a military wagon road in Dakota Territory, from the Big Sioux river to White Swan, opposite Fort Randall, upon which road several important bridges have been constructed and other improvements made along the said line of road in the way of grading and other work; and

WHEREAS, The appropriation made by your honorable body became exhausted before the said wagon road was completed and made safe for the passage of teams at a point about two miles east of Fort Randall, where the said line of road passes across the face of several high and very precipitous chalk bluffs, at which point, after completing the bridges along the line of road, there was left, of such appropriation, a sum barely sufficient to excavate one track for wagons, which single track was left in an unfinished state, by reason of the exhaustion of said appropriation; and

WHEREAS, The incomplete, unsafe and dangerous point in said military road is situated on the Yankton Indian reservation, where there is no resident population except Indians; and

WHEREAS, It is believed from careful estimates made by competent military and civil engineers, that the said road can be made safe, for the passage of heavily loaded teams, by a judicious expenditure of five thousand dollars.

Now, therefore, your memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of Dakota Territory, most respectfully pray your honorable body to cause such improvements to be made in said military wagon road, at the point indicated, as will render the passage of teams safe to the public, such improvements to be under the direction of such officers of the government as your honorable body shall be pleased to designate.

And your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

I approve the object of this memorial,

JOHN L. PENNINGTON,

December 19, 1874.

Governor.