

thinned by Mexican weapons and the diseases of a Mexican climate, and yet none ever faltered or flinched to follow where duty led, and that we deeply and cordially sympathise with the friends of those who have thus become martyrs in the cause of their country.

Resolved, That the governor be requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to Captains Roberts and Bowie, and that a copy of the papers containing the same be forwarded for one year to the nearest friends of Major Mills and Captain Guthrie, at the expense of the state.

Approved, January 25, 1848.

[98] RESOLUTION—NO. 25.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

JOINT RESOLUTION for adjournment.

Resolved, (the house concurring therein,) That the general assembly will adjourn, *sine die*, on Tuesday, the 25th inst.

Approved, January 25, 1848.

MEMORIAL—NO. 1.

SCHOOL LANDS.

To the Hon. Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

Your memorialists, the general assembly of the state of Iowa, would respectfully represent that an act was passed by the general assembly of this state at the last session, approved February 24th, 1847, prescribing the mode of selecting the five hundred thousand acres of land accruing to this state on her admission into the union, under the act of congress, of the 4th September, 1841, which provides that the selection shall be made in such manner as the legislature of the state may direct, and located in parcels conformably to sectional divisions and sub-divisions of not less than three hundred and twenty acres in any one location on any public lands, except such as are or may be reserved from sale by any law of congress or proclamation of the president of the United States.

Your memorialists claim the benefit of a fair and legal interpretation of this act of congress, and earnestly protest against the instructions of the general land office at Washington, denying to the state the privilege of selecting lands upon which settlements and improvements have been made, a privilege clearly conferred upon the state by the act of congress of the 4th September, 1841. No such restrictions were contemplated by the general assembly in the passage of the act of the 24th February, 1847.

This act provides for the selections of lands by the actual settlers and those who have made improvements thereon; the large portion of the lands which have been selected, are of this class of selections, and the advance payment of the purchase money made to the proper [99] officers of the state, to reject these selections under the circumstances will inflict a serious injury upon a meritorious class of citizens who prefer making their purchases from the state, on account of the benefit of a privilege of ten years credit on four-fifths of the purchase money.

Under the foregoing restrictions the settlers will be forced to purchase of the general government, so far as they have the means to do so, and those who are poor and unable to pay the whole purchase money to the general government, but who could pay one-fifth to the state, will be deprived of their freehold while the state in the meantime will be retarded in her endeavors to carry out her wise constitutional provisions for a system of common schools. An injury not confined to the state alone, since her children are the children of the nation, in whose welfare the national government cannot but feel a common interest with us.

Your memorialists would therefore most earnestly pray that the proper departments be instructed so to modify the instructions to the land offices in this state, as to give the state of Iowa the benefit of the act of the 4th September, 1841.

Your memorialists would also pray, that the above recited act be so amended as to authorize the state of Iowa to select the residue of the 500,000 acres in legal subdivisions and fractional subdivisions of not less than eighty acres and upwards.

Resolved, That the governor be requested to forward one copy of this memorial to the senate of the United States, and one copy to the speaker of the house of representatives, and one copy to each of our delegation in congress.

Approved, January 25, 1848.

MEMORIAL—NO. 2.

FORT ATKINSON.

MEMORIAL to congress for a donation of the site of Fort Atkinson.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

Your memorialists, the general assembly of the state of Iowa, respectfully request of your honorable bodies the donation of the site and buildings at Fort Atkinson, in this state, together with two sections of land, including the same, for the purpose of establishing at that place an agricultural school, which shall form a branch of our state university. Agriculture being the leading interest in this state, we desire to [100] elevate the condition of those who engage in it, to cause it to be regarded as a progressive science; and for this purpose to furnish our young men with the means of combining sound theory with useful observation and experiment.

To effect this object we contemplate the early establishment of our agricultural school upon the manual labor plan, and learning that the troops now stationed at Fort Atkinson are soon to be removed, we have already passed an act locating the institution at that place, provided the consent of congress can be thereto obtained. The location is one of the finest agricultural portions of the state, and will soon be surrounded by a dense population. The buildings are well adapted to the use for which we desire them, they would well accommodate one or two hundred students, together with the necessary dining and recitation rooms, and would be of comparatively little value for any other purpose. If sold they would bring but a trifle, and if left unoccupied and unprotected after the removal of the troops they will be subject to great depredations and will soon become to a great extent ruined.

Believing, therefore, that a great benefit can be conferred upon our state, at a very slight sacrifice by the general government, we have hopes of obtaining the favor we seek.

Approved, January 24, 1848.