

NUMBER XXV.

LAND GRANTS.

JOINT RESOLUTION to Congress, praying for a Grant of Land to aid in the Construction of a Railroad therein named.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled: The General Assembly of the State of Iowa would state that, WHEREAS, There is a belt of beautiful and fertile country more than one hundred miles in width, extending from the western boundary of Iowa and Minnesota, by the way of the Big Horn, Yellow Stone, and upper Missouri valleys, through the southern portion of Dakota, Montana, Idaho, and Oregon to the Pacific ocean. This region nowhere has a deviation, much, if any, exceeding four thousand feet—is extremely rich in agricultural, mineral, and other resources—best forests of pine and other timber abound. On the eastern slopes and spurs of the Big Horn mountains, it is reported by eminent geologists, and others, that vast quantities of anthracite coal exist, which cannot be reached or made available to the timberless but fertile plains east of them, except by a railroad in the direction herein contemplated. This region possesses a genial and salubrious climate, great richness and fertility of soil, and pure water throughout. But with all these natural advantages, it can never be settled and occupied by permanent and extensive settlements, because of the impossibility of reaching it by any cheap, possible, or even practicable means of transportation, now existing or in contemplation. Neither the Central or Northern Pacific railroads can afford such means of transportation; the one being too far south, the other too far north, with impassable mountains intervening; the two roads never approaching nearer than about five hundred miles of each other. The only means by which this vast and fertile region can be reached and its resources developed, is by means of a trunk road, starting from some point on the Missouri river, between the parallel of forty-two and one-half degrees of north latitude and the mouth of the Niobrara river, running thence by the nearest and best route westwardly, to or near the city of Helena, Montana, thence passing down towards the Pacific ocean through the pass formed by the Salmon Fork of the Columbia river, or other more feasible and direct route. This route will be about intermediate between the two others; and,

WHEREAS, The advantages and imperative necessity of this route have been long known and appreciated by the people of the West, and the attention of Congress and the country called thereto by the legislatures of nearly all the Northwestern States and Territories; and,

WHEREAS, In the opinion of this General Assembly, were a grant of public lands made to this route, equal in extent and upon the terms and conditions extended to the Northern Pacific railroad, such are the resources of that whole region of country, and more especially its great agricultural capacity and resources, that a sufficient amount of capital could be secured to build the whole road in a very brief period of time ; therefore,

Resolved, That Congress be requested to make a grant of the public lands, in alternate sections, equal in quantity per mile, as heretofore has been granted to the Northern Pacific railroad, to aid in the construction of this road, the same to run about along the route above indicated.

Resolved, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to use their best efforts to secure such grant of public lands, for the purposes above set forth.

Resolved, That a copy of this preamble and resolutions, duly authenticated, be sent to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, with the request that they be laid before their respective houses ; and also to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Approved, April 13, 1870.

NUMBER XXVI.

INCREASED MAIL FACILITIES.

JOINT RESOLUTION Asking Increased Mail Facilities.

Be it resolved, by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to procure, if possible, the establishment of a mail route, with tri-weekly service, from Anita, in Cass county, via Hamlin's Grove, Oakfield, Exira, Leacock's Grove, Macks, and Carrollton, to Carroll Center.

Approved, April 13, 1870.