

[201] which is to connect the Lakes with the Mississippi, and the point from which the great western road will probably be continued, these causes will render it in future more than it is at present the focus and radiating point of the commerce of the north-west.

Your memorialists further represents that the Island which now belongs to the United States contains several hundred acres of exceedingly valuable land, from the sale of which it is confidently believed a sufficient sum can be realized to erect the necessary buildings, and put the institution in complete readiness for the reception of patients without any appropriation of money from the Treasury.

Your memorialists, therefore, pray the passage of an act directing the Secretary of War to select a suitable tract of land upon the Island for the site of the necessary buildings and for appurtenant ground, and appropriating the proceeds of the remaining lands to the establishment and support of such hospital.

Resolved by the General Assembly of Iowa:

That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives be requested to use their influence in obtaining the grant contemplated in the above Memorial for the purpose therein set forth.

Resolved,

That the Secretary of State be requested to forward forthwith to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, and to the Governor of the State of Illinois a copy of this Memorial and these Resolutions.

Approved, Dec. 27, 1848.

MEMORIAL NO. 5.

INCREASE OF MAIL SERVICE.

MEMORIAL for an increase of mail facilities.

Whereas, the citizens of the southern and western portion of this state have long suffered great inconvenience for want of direct mail from the seat of government, which could be very materially alleviated by a slight alteration and addition in the mail service over the distance of but seventy miles, to wit: from Iowa City to Keosauqua, which would connect tri-weekly lines of mail coaches running north, south, east and west. Therefore,

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

That our senators and representatives in the congress of the United States be re- [202] quested to use their best exertions to procure the establishment of a direct tri-weekly mail route from Iowa City, via Washington, Brighton, and Fairfield, to Keosauqua, the mail to be carried in two horse coaches.

Resolved, that the secretary of state be instructed to forward one copy of this memorial and resolution to the Hon. the postmaster general and to each of our senators and representatives in congress.

Approved December 29, 1848.

MEMORIAL NO. 6.

SKUNK RIVER.

MEMORIAL to congress for an appropriation of land to improve Skunk river.

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

Your memorialists, the general assembly of the state of Iowa, respectfully ask leave to draw the attention of congress to the importance of an early improvement of the navigation of the Skunk river; and to represent that, in their opinion, an appropriation of the vacant public lands in the valley of, and contiguous to, said river, to the construction of a slackwater navigation, with canal at such portions of said river, if any shall be deemed necessary or expedient, upon a proper examination or survey of said river to be made. The improvement of this river, in the mode suggested, your memorialists cannot hesitate to represent as of incalculable benefit to a large portion of the state. A speedy sale of the government domain in the interior western and northern portions of the state would necessarily result from the consummation of such improvement. The exigencies and interests of the agricultural population of a large portion of the state, traversed by said river, imperiously demand such improvement.

Your memorialists would therefore urge upon the congress of the United States the passage of a law granting to the state of Iowa, for the purpose of constructing the improvement of said Skunk river, each alternate section of the unappropriated lands belonging to the general government, for the distance of five miles on each side of said river, from the mouth of the same to its source, or to the boundary of the state where said river crosses the same.

Resolved, that our senators be instructed, and our representatives in congress be requested, to exert their influence, by their action and [203] votes, to secure the appropriation or grant of lands asked for from the general government.

Resolved, that the secretary of state be directed to forward a copy of the foregoing memorial and these resolutions to each one of our senators and representatives in congress, and one copy to the president of the senate, and one copy to the speaker of the house of representatives.

Approved December 29, 1848.

MEMORIAL NO. 7.

MILITARY POSTS.

To the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:

Your memorialists the general assembly of the state of Iowa, being desirous that the contemplated line of military posts between the Missouri river and Oregon should be commenced at some point on said Missouri river, north of the mouth of the Great Platte river, would respectfully represent that the western frontier of this state is at the present time utterly unprotected by any fort or military post whatever; that said frontier is thus left exposed to the depredations of several tribes of Indians, consisting of the Omahas,