

Sioux, Ottoes, Pawnees and others; that the interest of the western population, and emigrants to Oregon and California, would be much benefited by the establishment of said line of forts on the route north of the Great Platte river, as by this route the distance is shortened some three hundred miles, and emigrants are saved the trouble and danger of crossing the two forks of the Kansas, and the Platte river, and have better timber, water, etc., for their accommodation on the route.

An enterprise of this kind, ought not to be governed or influenced by any sectional motives. Your memorialists avail themselves of the present time to urge upon congress the consideration of a subject of such vast interest, not only to the state of Iowa, but the Union at large. It is the opinion of your memorialists that the travel to Oregon and California is destined to be on the north side of the Platte river, although the contemplated military protection should take the southern route. The consequence would be the expenditure of a vast amount of money, and the object intended to be accomplished an entire failure. Your memorialists respectfully ask only an impartial investigation of the advantages, herein briefly set forth.

[204] *Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

That our senators in congress be instructed, and our representatives requested to exert their influence to carry out the object of the foregoing memorial.

Resolved, that the secretary of state be requested to forward a copy of these resolutions, together with the foregoing memorial to each of our senators and representatives in congress.

Approved Jan. 13, 1849.

MEMORIAL NO. 8.

RAIL ROAD.

MEMORIAL to the legislature of the state of Wisconsin.

Your memorialists, the senate and house of representatives of the state of Iowa, being desirous of having a direct and speedy and safe route, at all seasons of the year, by land, between Dubuque and Milwaukie, a continuation to lake Michigan of the proposed rail road from Keokuk to Dubuque, for which road we have asked of congress a donation of land to aid in its construction, would respectfully represent that the construction of a rail road from a point opposite the city of Dubuque to Milwaukie will be a link in the chain of rail road, from not only Keokuk, but Fort Des Moines, Council Bluffs, and the intermediate points.

It is unnecessary for us to state the vast importance of such a road in a commercial point of view. The lead trade alone, it is believed, would be sufficient to justify the undertaking, without taking into consideration the fact, that this road would open to the lake trade the best portion of this state, and a direct communication with the upper Missouri. We therefore hope that your honorable body will, at your earliest convenience, take this subject under consideration, and adopt such measures as in your wisdom you

may deem most conducive to the object desired, viz. to secure the speedy construction of the proposed road.

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa,

That the secretary of state be requested to forward a copy of the foregoing memorial to the president of the senate, and one copy to the speaker of the house of representatives of the legislature of Wisconsin.

Approved January 15, 1849.