

MEMORIAL NO. 4.

DONATION OF LANDS FOR RAILROADS.

MEMORIAL to congress for a donation of land to aid in the construction of a rail road from Dubuque, by the way of the great bend in the St. Peters river to Red river, and an additional donation of land or money sufficient to build a bridge across the Mississippi river at Dubuque.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States,

Your memorialists the general assembly of the state of Iowa, desirous of encouraging agriculture and facilitating commerce with our sister states and territories and with foreign countries, and more especially to afford a market for northern Iowa and Minnesota territory,

[263] Respectfully represent to your honorable body that in order to continue and complete the plan of the central rail road from south to north, so energetically commenced by the late congress by the passage of the Mobile and Dubuque rail road bill, and the passage through the senate a bill to continue the same to Red river by the great bend in the St. Peters river,

Would respectfully urge the importance of this great undertaking and that there should be connected by a bridge across the Mississippi river at Dubuque. Your memorialists are not unmindful of the great magnitude of the work, they have given the subject due consideration and are prepared to say that the river at Dubuque has been carefully examined by competent men, and a thorough examination demonstrates the practicability of the enterprise. Your memorialists cannot remain indifferent to this proposed highway, while we are deeply interested in the many improvements of our country, we cannot disguise the fact that a central thoroughfare connecting the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean on the south by the way of Red river, Lake Winnipeg and Hudson Bay on the north is the concentration of an enterprise worthy of the highest consideration of the national government. We need not remind you that a great portion of the country from Dubuque to Red river is healthy, well timbered and susceptible of cultivation, and that improvement would add greatly to the settlement and sale of the public domain, this wise and liberal policy of the general government in heretofore granting a share of her domain for the improvement of the balance and the benefit of settlers, has induced many of our eastern and southern friends to expect a like patronage and many of them are preparing to emigrate to our country with that expectation. It is not the west alone that is interested in this improvement but all are looking to the general government for liberal donations of lands for the purpose of carrying out these great national objects in which the north, the south, the east and west are equally interested.

Your memorialists therefore respectfully ask an appropriation of land for the construction of said railroad from Dubuque to Red river by way of the great bend equal to five sec- [264] tions for each mile of said road to be located in alternate sections five miles on each side of said road on lands adjacent thereto, and an additional appropriation of land or money sufficient to build a bridge across the Mississippi river at Dubuque, with such restrictions and conditions in regard to the transportation of mails, troops and munitions of war as your honorable body may deem fit, they are looking to the great valley of Cedar with her vast bodies of timber, rich soil and water power, the valleys of St. Peters and Red river as their future homes.

Resolved, that the secretary of state be requested to forward one copy of this memorial to each of our senators and representatives and one copy to the Hon. S. A. Douglass.

Approved, January 28th, 1851.

MEMORIAL NO. 5.

MEMORIAL to congress for a grant of land in aid of the construction of the Burlington and Fort Desmoines rail road.

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

Your memorialists, the general assembly of the state of Iowa, respectfully represent to your honorable body that an energetic effort is now being made to secure the construction of a rail road from Burlington to Fort Des Moines in this state, with a branch to Keosauqua in Van Buren county. That the proposed road will pass through the most wealthy and populous portions of the state, and over a route eminently adapted to the advantageous construction of a work of this character. That Burlington is unsurpassed in population, wealth and enterprise by any town in the state, and is moreover on one of the great natural lines of projected rail road communication between the east and the west, and which there are many reasons to suppose will be found on examination to be the most feasible and advantageous route of all, as it passes through a more wealthy and populous country than any other of the contemplated routes through [265] this state, with fewer streams to be crossed and without encountering any of those difficulties which would tend to increase the length of the road.

Your memorialists therefore ask such a donation of land lying within the state as may be deemed right and proper to aid in the construction of this work so important to the interests of the country, which will be so convenient and useful to the general government, but which the unaided resources of our people are at this time unable to accomplish.

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa.

That a copy of the foregoing memorial be forwarded to our senators and representatives in Congress with the usual instructions and requests to use their influence and most earnest exertions to secure the object therein contemplated.

Approved, February 4th, 1851.

MEMORIAL NO. 6.

MILITARY ROAD.

MEMORIAL to congress for the location and construction of military road from the Mississippi river to Fort Clark on the Desmoines river.

Your memorialist, the general assembly of the state of Iowa, would respectfully represent and request your honorable body to locate and construct a military road from Muscatine on the Mississippi river by way of Iowa City and Marengo, on the Iowa river, to Fort Clark on the Desmoines river.