

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,

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.