

[214] MEMORIAL NO. 1.

RAIL ROAD.

MEMORIAL AND JOINT RESOLUTION to congress, for a grant of land for a railroad from Davenport, via Muscatine, to Council Bluffs.

Memorial. The memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Iowa respectfully shows to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, that for several years the people of this state have petitioned your honorable body for a grant of land, to aid in the construction of a railroad from Davenport, in Scott county, by way of Muscatine, in Muscatine county, to some point at or near Council Bluffs on the Missouri river.

Reasons—connection—Davenport via Muscatine to Council Bluffs. Your memorialists beg leave now to renew their petition, and to point out some of the reasons which induce them to believe that this project may be deemed worthy of the consideration of Congress. There is now in progress, and nearly completed, a continuous line of railway from Boston by Albany and Buffalo, from Philadelphia and Baltimore, by Pittsburg and Cleveland, and from New York, by way of Dunkirk, to the southern bend of Lake Erie; these lines are continued from Cleveland to Toledo; from Toledo to the southern bend of Lake Michigan, at Chicago; and from thence by the Chicago and Rock Island railroad, to the city of Rock Island; opposite to Davenport, in this state.—These lines of railroad are all continuous, connected, and completed, except about eighty miles of the Rock Island and Chicago railroad, which has progressed with a rapidity unknown in railroad construction on this continent, and will be completed in about twelve months; thus making one continuous line of railway from all the great eastern cities to Lake Erie, Lake Michigan, the head of navigation on the Illinois, and the foot of the upper rapids, on the Mississippi. A line of railway from Philadelphia and New York, by way of Pittsburg and Christline to Fort Wayne, in Indiana, is nearly completed to the latter place, and is about to be extended [215] to Chicago, on Lake Michigan, where it will intersect the Chicago and Rock Island railroad. Your memorialists believe that the extension of these great lines, all uniting at Rock Island from Davenport, by way of Muscatine, to Council Bluffs, is a national work; that it is the most direct line, on the best ground, and the shortest distance from the great cities and lakes of this continent, through the heart of Iowa, to the great crossing places of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, and thence to Oregon and California.

Advantages. Your memorialists believe, that in addition to this line of railway being the most direct from the commercial centre of the Union, westward, the advantages of crossing the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, where they can be cheaply and safely bridged, without offering any material obstruction to the navigation, gives it advantages over any other known, or projected on this continent.

Accomplish. Your memorialists have every reason to believe, that with the aid of a grant of land similiar to what has been given to their neighbors in Illinois and Missouri, they could build a continuous railroad through the centre of the state, from the Mississippi to the Missouri river, in a very short period of time.

Increase the value—Expedite the sale of public lands. Your memorialists beg leave to inform your honorable body, that the grant of land proposed would materially advance the value, and expedite the sale of the balance of the public lands in this state; and they respectfully declare that they have

not been less patriotic than their neighbors, nor less deserving of that consideration which the Government, as a great land-holder in the west, ought to extend to all states where the public lands lie.

Lands exempt from tax. Your memorialists further represent, that when the state of Iowa was admitted into the federal Union, a contract was entered into between the state and general government, whereby all the public lands in this state remain free from taxation until they are sold to individuals, and this exemption from taxation is a greater consideration to the federal government than the value of all the lands which are included in this memorial; and your memorialists believe that liberal grants of lands are not only due to the land states, but greatly beneficial, directly and indirectly, to the federal government as a large landed proprietor in these states.

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Instruction. That our senators in congress be instructed, and our representatives requested to use their best exertions to procure a grant of land from the General Government to aid in the construction of a railroad from the city of Davenport, in Scott county, by way of the city of Muscatine, in Muscatine county, to Council Bluffs, on the Missouri, in this state; provided, that said road go by the way of Kaneshville.

Resolved, further,

Secretary to forward. That the secretary of state of this state be, and he is hereby directed, to forward a copy of this resolution to each of our senators and representatives in the Congress of the United States.

Approved, December 30th, 1852.

MEMORIAL NO. 2.

CHANGE OF SERVICE.

MEMORIAL AND JOINT RESOLUTION for a change of service on post route No. —, from Davenport to Muscatine.

Change of service. Your memorialists, the general assembly of the state of Iowa, would represent to the Honorable the Postmaster General of the United States, that, in the change of the mail route No. —, running from Muscatine, in Muscatine county, to Davenport, in Scott county, Iowa, from what is commonly known as the river route, to a route north, known as the prairie route, great injustice has been done to the inhabitants living upon the river route, leaving them without a through mail, either eastern or western.

Reasons. On this route two important offices are situated, one at Fairport, eight miles east of Muscatine, which is temporarily supplied with a mail from Muscatine once a week, by special arrangement of your department; one at Buffalo, in Scott county, midway between Davenport and Fairfield, [Fairport] being ten miles from either place. Buffalo is situated at a point on the Mississippi river of commanding importance, and is backed by, and in the vicinity of, as fertile and productive portion of country as may be found in the west; the extent of country which would be supplied with the mail matter at this office, extends up and down the river in a densely settled