

neighborhood a distance of ten miles, and back into the interior from three to four miles, which, if not supplied at this office, must travel from five to fifteen miles to Davenport, being the most accessible office to this neighborhood. The distance on the river route from Muscatine to Davenport, is shorter (being only twenty-eight miles) than the prairie route, the latter being over thirty miles. The road upon the river route is better at all seasons of the year (save in excessive high water in the spring) the prairie route, and upon the river route there is a manifest disposition upon the part of the inhabitants to keep the roads in good repair.

The two routes are from four to eight miles distant from each other; upon the prairie route there have been established a post office at Melpine, in Muscatine county; one at Blue Grass, in Scott county, and perhaps one other, which offices, from the peculiar position of the country, never can accommodate that portion of the country lying upon the river, Muscatine and Davenport being far more accessible than any of the offices established upon the prairie route.

Change proposed. Your memorialists, the general assembly, would therefore pray your honor, the postmaster general of the United States, to so change the service upon the aforementioned mail route as to compel the mail stage to run alternate trips on the river route, which would supply amply both routes, and work no injury to either, giving both routes three mails per week each way.

Resolved,

Request. That our senators and representatives in congress, be requested to present a copy of this memorial to the postmaster general of the United States, and urge upon his consideration the justice and propriety of granting the prayer of your memorialists.

Resolved,

Secretary to forward. That the secretary of state be instructed to forward a copy of the foregoing memorial and resolution to [218] each of our senators and representatives in congress, at as early a day as practicable.

Approved, January 5, 1853.

MEMORIAL NO. 3.

RAILROAD.

MEMORIAL AND JOINT RESOLUTION for a grant of land to aid in constructing a railroad from Dubuque to the Missouri river.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

Memorial. Your memorialists, the general assembly of the state of Iowa, would respectfully represent, that justice to the interest and enterprise of the increasing population of this state, demands a liberal and fostering policy in the exercise of the proprietary rights of the general government within its borders; that the same reasons which have induced such policy within the adjoining states of Illinois and Missouri, and which is there producing the happiest results, apply with equal force to the state of Iowa; that the Illinois

Central Railroad, now rapidly completing to its terminus, on the Mississippi opposite the city of Dubuque, and other projected railroads from the great chain of lakes on the north to the same terminus, will establish at this point a direct and constant connection with the markets of the east and south; that Dubuque is situated in the centre of the rich mineral region of this state, in a position most favorable to command the commerce and trade of the upper Mississippi, and is already a large and flourishing city in its commerce, population and wealth; that a direct communication between this point and the valley of the Missouri, through the coal fields on the Desmoines, is most important for mutual exchange, and the development and permanent establishment of the resources and commercial interests of the state, and which connection, from its termini and position, appears favorable to form a link in the great chain of railroads, des- [219] tined sooner or later to connect the Atlantic seaboard with the pacific coast.

Grant asked—railroad, Dubuque to Council Bluffs. Your memorialists would, therefore, respectfully ask of your honorable body an appropriation of land in alternate sections, equal to six sections per mile, to aid in the construction of a railroad from Dubuque, on the Mississippi river, to a point on the Missouri river, at or near Kaneshville, in the county of Pottawattamie, by the way of Fort Desmoines.

Resolved,

Instructions—transmit. That the senators from this state be instructed, and the representatives be requested, to use their best exertions to procure a grant of land as asked for in the foregoing memorial: and that the secretary of state forward a copy thereof to each.

Approved, January 5, 1853.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, IOWA, }
Iowa City, April 1, 1853. }

I certify that the acts, resolutions, and memorials, contained in this volume, are truly copied from the original rolls on file in my office.

GEO. W. McCLEARY,
Secretary of State.