

JOINT RESOLUTIONS.

NUMBER 1.

A Memorial to the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:

Your Memorialists, the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, would respectfully represent, that in view of the present condition of the Mississippi River and the urgent necessity for immediate improvement of the same, we do respectfully petition your honorable body to appropriate from the treasury of the United States, the sum of one million of dollars to be expended during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1882—for the improvement of the Mississippi River, one half of said amount to be used from St. Paul to the Des Moines Rapids, and the remaining half from the Des Moines Rapids to the mouth of the Illinois River, all to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War. The sum petitioned for is as small as can be used economically and to advantage, it being an amount necessary to enable the Government to put into the field sufficient plant in the way of steamboats, barges, dredges, &c., to carry out a defined system of improvement for that portion of the river designated herein. The Government engineers estimate that with five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) work can be done in a single year, which will render the river as good from St. Paul to La Crosse as it is now from La Crosse to the Des Moines Rapids, and also greatly improve the stream from La Crosse down, and thus save the expensive transfer of freight and passengers now made, at low water periods at La Crosse and Winona. The river between Des Moines Rapids and the mouth of the Illinois, with the appropriation petitioned for, could in the opinion of the said engineers, be so much improved as to make a material reduction in the cost of river transportation. The appropriation herein asked for is essential at this time so that the work already commenced may be carried on speedily and the benefits to be derived from the improvements secured at once.

The evidence that the work already done under the supervision of the Government Engineers, has benefitted very materially the commerce of

the river, is abundant and complete and conclusive—letters to that effect from every interest benefitted by such improvements being on file in the Engineers department. One branch of the system of improvements adopted is the construction of sheer-booms at the several bridges which span the river. The steamboat and raft interest unite in recommending the construction of such booms, believing with the Engineers that such works would render the passage of boats through the draws safe at all times, night and day, and in stormy weather, a condition absolutely essential to the safe and speedy navigation of the river. This subject received the attention of Congress as expressed in an act passed March 3, 1875, entitled "An act for the further security of navigation on the Mississippi river," which act directed the Secretary of War to enquire into the expediency of causing sheer-booms to be placed on the upper end of all or any bridge-piers on the Mississippi river, for the better security and convenience of the navigation of said river. The Board of Engineers reported favoring the construction of such booms, and recommended in a specific manner the conditions they should fulfill. Your memorialists petition your honorable body to appropriate from the treasury of the United States the further sum of \$100,000 to construct said sheer-booms, that sum, in the opinion of the Government Engineers, being requisite and sufficient to make the improvement suggested by them.

The great and rapidly growing interests involved in the improvement of the Mississippi river are so manifest that statistics showing the probable amount of business that would be done on the river when the improvements now set on foot shall be completed, are no longer necessary to convince the Government that the work undertaken should be carried forward with the utmost speed, in order that the benefits to be derived therefrom should be obtainable at the earliest moment.

And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

Approved February 5th, 1881.

NUMBER 2.

A MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS FOR THE PAYMENT OF BOUNTY TO MEMBERS OF THE FIRST (1st) MINNESOTA CAVALRY COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE FIRST (1st) MINNESOTA MOUNTED RANGERS.

WHEREAS, The First (1st) Minnesota Cavalry, commonly called the First (1st) Minnesota Mounted Rangers, rendered important and valuable services to the country for a period of one year, extending from November, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two (1862), to November, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three (1863), in a severe and arduous Indian war; and