

MILITARY POST NEAR PEMBINA RIVER, MINNESOTA
TERRITORY.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 477.]

JULY 14, 1854.

Mr. FAULKNER, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of the legislature of the Territory of Minnesota, praying Congress to establish a military post on the line of 49 degrees north latitude, on or near Pembina river, have, according to order, had the same under consideration, and submit the following report:

The committee discover, from the letter of the Secretary of War accompanying this report, that it is both proper and necessary that a military post should be established at the point indicated in the prayer of the memorialists. They therefore report the accompanying bill.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, June 30, 1854.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, enclosing a memorial from the legislature of Minnesota for the establishment of a military post on or near Pembina river, in latitude 49 degrees north, for the protection of citizens of the United States and Indians resident within our borders from the attacks of the British settlers at Selkirk.

In reply to your request for the views of this department on the application, I can say that there is very little doubt of either the propriety or necessity for a fort at the point indicated; but, at the present time, there is neither money to construct nor men to garrison one at the disposal of the department, and it was mainly to give security to such exposed sections of country that the increase of the army was asked for in my late annual report.

With our present limited force, many assailable points necessarily remain unguarded, and all that can be done is to occupy the more important positions.

Should the required increase of the army be authorized by Congress,

It is within the views, as it will then be within the means, of the department to station a company near Pembina, for the protection of the people in that section of the country.

The memorial of the legislature is herewith returned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JEFF'N DAVIS,
Secretary of War.

Hon. C. J. FAULKNER,
Chairman Com. Military Affairs, House of Reps.