

FORT ATKINSON.

MEMORIAL

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF NEW MEXICO,

ASKING

The re-establishment of Fort Atkinson.

APRIL 4, 1854 — Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

To the honorable Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled

The memorial of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of New Mexico respectfully represents :

That during the past year the honorable Secretary of War, for some cause unknown to your memorialists, has removed the military post on the Arkansas river known as Fort Atkinson, upon the mail route between Independence, Missouri, and Santa Fe. This post, while it was kept up with a small force, was of important service in the transportation of the mail across the great prairies that lie between the United States and New Mexico. It was the half-way home on the road ; and by the establishment of a post at that point, the expenses were reduced, and, at the same time, the passage made more secure. Your memorialists consider that the re-establishment of said post is absolutely necessary, in order to facilitate the transportation of the mail, as well as security for the same, and for the numerous trains that annually pass these plains. From Council Grove, Territory of Nebraska, to Fort Union, in New Mexico, a distance of six hundred miles, the country is entirely unsettled, and swarming with hostile Indians, and there is not a single rallying point for security, in case of an attack. The presence of an armed force at this point, being nearly midway between the two points above mentioned, will contribute much in keeping the Indians in subjection, who make frequent attacks upon those that pass these great plains. The mail wagons are frequently rendered unserviceable in this region ; and for the want of a post of this nature, where they can be repaired, they are obliged to abandon them upon the prairie, as it happened in the month of January of the present year, when also some of the mules were frozen to death, which circumstances retarded the arrival of the mail at the point of its destination.

Your memorialists, therefore, desire your honorable bodies to take such measures as may be necessary for the re-establishment of this route. And they will ever pray.

Approved February 4, 1854.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE OF THE TERRITORY OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fe, February 25, 1854.

I hereby certify that the foregoing memorial is a true copy of the original now on file in this office.

WM. S. MESSERVY,
Secretary Territory of New Mexico.