

HOSTILE INDIANS IN DAKOTA.

MEMORIAL
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF DAKOTA
TERRITORY.

IN REFERENCE TO

The Black Hills country serving as a retreat for hostile Indians.

JANUARY 27, 1873.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota, respectfully represent that all that portion of the Territory lying west by the various bands of Sioux Indians, and is wholly inaccessible to of the Missouri River, comprising many thousand square miles, is claimed white settlers; that upon the various tributary streams which flow into the Missouri from the west large bodies of pine and other valuable timber exist, which would be of great worth to settlers in other portions of the Territory; that this is especially true of that section lying about the head-waters of the Cheyenne River known as the Black Hills region, while it is believed by geologists and others who have been there that coal and other minerals of value exist there in large quantities.

Your memorialists further represent that the section about the Black Hills is now used by the more hostile bands of Indians as a refuge and hiding-place to which they can flee after committing depredations upon the whites and the friendly Indians, and that so long as they are permitted to occupy this section as a place of refuge it will be found difficult, if not impossible, to carry on the work of civilizing the Indians with any success; while at the same time this vast region of inaccessible country imposes a barrier to the extension of railroad lines or other means of communication between sections which have already been settled lying around it.

For these causes your memorialists would earnestly pray your honorable body to take some action which will lead to the assignment of such portions of these unoccupied lands as may be deemed proper and necessary as reservations for the tribes of Indians who now lawlessly roam over them, and that white settlers be allowed to explore and occupy such other lands as may not thus be set apart; believing, as your memorialists do, that such a course will be of great benefit not only to white settlers but to the Indians, who are now allowed and encouraged to remain hostile and commit outrages upon peaceable citizens with the knowledge that they may here find a refuge and escape punishment for their crimes.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Attest:

C. F. MALLAHAN, *Chief Clerk.*