

IMMIGRANT WAGON ROADS.

MEMORIAL

OF

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF DAKOTA,

ASKING FOR

*The construction of immigrant wagon roads through the public domain of
Dakota Territory.*

APRIL 10, 1871.— Referred to the Committee on the Public Lands and ordered to be
printed.

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota, in ninth session convened, respectfully represent to the Congress of the United States as follows :

That part of our Territory north of the Missouri River, embraced in the northern tier of counties known as Minnehaha, Jayne, Hutchinson, and Charles Mix, is now well peopled by an industrious and hard-working class who have very recently made their homes on these lands. These settlers, like nearly all who seek homesteads in the West, are poor, having brought with them barely sufficient to make the necessary improvement on their farms and support their families for the first one or two years.

These counties being almost wholly destitute of timber, settlers are compelled to haul fuel, fencing, and building material, as well as family supplies, from the Missouri River, a distance of forty to seventy miles ; therefore, to aid in the construction of a wagon road and for bridging the intermediate streams from Yankton, the capital of the Territory, to a point on the Dakota River, at or near the mouth of Fire Steel Creek, your memorialists respectfully ask an appropriation of five thousand dollars, (\$5,000.)

Your memorialists would further represent that a large portion of the immigration into the interior of Dakota will hereafter strike our eastern boundary near Sioux Falls City, on the Big Sioux River. Between this point and mouth of White River on the Missouri, a distance of about one hundred and forty miles, in about a due westerly course, there are the important rivers of Big Sioux, Vermillion, and Dakota, and several smaller streams, that must be bridged before that section of our Territory can be traversed. Therefore your memorialists respectfully ask an appropriation of ten thousand dollars, (\$10,000,) to aid in the construction of a wagon road from Sioux Falls City, on the Big Sioux River, to a point on the Missouri opposite the mouth of White River, and for bridging the Big

Sioux River at or near Sioux Falls City, and the Vermillion River at a point about due west from Sioux Falls City, and the Dakota River at or near old Fort James, and the smaller intermediate streams between the Big Sioux and Missouri Rivers.

And your memorialists further represent that there is great need of an appropriation of \$10,000, to build bridges and grade the road leading up the Missouri River through the counties of Yankton, Bon Homme, Charles Mix, and Buffalo, inasmuch as a vast amount of supplies for the Indians, military, and growing settlements are being constantly freighted over said road, and towns and colonies are already being established near the western terminus of this thoroughfare, demanding that the route be made more passable for the tide of immigration; and your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

GEO. H. HAND,

Speaker House of Representatives:

Attest: GEO. I. FOSTER, *Chief Clerk.*

EMORY MORRIS,

President of the Council.

Attest: GEO. T. REA, *Secretary.*

Approved January 12, 1871.

JOHN A. BURBANK, *Governor.*

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the memorial now on file in my office.

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