

ESTABLISHMENT OF A MILITARY POST AND MILITARY
WAGON-ROAD IN COLORADO.

MEMORIAL

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF COLORADO,

PRAYING

For the establishment of a military post in Southwestern Colorado, and for the construction of a military wagon-road from some point upon the Rio Grande River across the main range of the Rocky Mountains to Fort Defiance.

FEBRUARY 14, 1876.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

Your memorialists, the council and house of representatives of the Territory of Colorado, would respectfully represent that there is urgent need of a military post in southwestern portion of this Territory, either upon the Animas, La Plata, or Mancos Rivers, near the line of the Indian reservation, for the following reasons:

There is at present no military post within 200 miles of this section of Colorado, which is the abode of large numbers of unfriendly Indians of the Ute, Pi-Ute, Apache, and Navajo tribes, many of whom have never acknowledged the authority of the United States, and never reside upon their reservations, and who, feeling themselves secure in the mountain-fastnesses and intricate cañons of this region, on account of their remoteness from any military power, have hitherto committed such depredations as they chose, without fear of punishment. Within the past two years several persons have been killed and a large amount of property destroyed. Last summer the surveying-parties of Professor Hayden were attacked by these Indians, and barely escaped with their lives; and at the present moment the settlers in the valleys of the Animas, La Plata, and Mancos are living in constant fear of outrages upon their lives and property. Under these circumstances the development of that section of country must of necessity be greatly retarded, and so long as the constant danger of Indian hostilities exists, its rich mining,

pastoral, and agricultural resources must be almost untouched, instead of contributing largely to the material wealth of our country.

In view, therefore, of the state of insecurity to life and property existing in this portion of our Territory, and in order to give to the inhabitants thereof that security and protection which they, as good citizens of the United States, have a right to expect and receive, we pray your honorable body to take the necessary steps for the establishment of a military post in this region at as early a day as is possible.

We would further represent to your honorable body, that the construction of a military wagon-road from the San Luis Park, up the Rio Grande River, across the main range of the Rocky Mountains to Baker's Park, thence down the Animas River to the proposed military post, and thence southwestward to Fort Defiance, in Arizona, would be of incalculable benefit to the regions through which it would pass, by opening up a thoroughfare which is most urgently needed, and would, moreover, prove of great service to the Government in facilitating the transportation of military stores and supplies for the Indian agencies.

It would bring the posts in Western New Mexico and Arizona one hundred miles or more nearer to the railway depots; it would bring under the immediate control of the military power the bands of Indians before mentioned, who have not as yet felt the check of authority upon their actions, and it would hasten the development of the immense mineral resources of the country by affording better facilities for the transportation of supplies, ores, and bullion than are at present enjoyed. The other Territories of the United States have reaped great benefit from the military roads which the General Government has built from time to time within their limits.

Colorado, however, the most populous of all the Territories, has as yet been overlooked in the appropriations for this purpose. In justice, therefore, to our Territory, and in view of the great benefit the General Government will derive from the construction of this road, in the reduced expense of transporting supplies to the posts and Indian agencies in Western New Mexico and Arizona, and the ease with which the military power may reach and control what is at present one of the most inaccessible and dangerous of Indian countries; and, furthermore, in consideration of the great impulse which would be given to the mining district which we believe to be one of the richest in the United States, we, therefore, respectfully ask that such appropriation be made as will be sufficient for the construction of the described wagon-road.

ALFRED BUTTERS,

Speaker of the House of Representatives of Colorado Territory.

ADAIR WILSON,

President of the Council, Legislature of Colorado Territory.

Approved January 28, 1876.

JOHN L. ROUTT,

Governor of Colorado Territory.

I hereby certify that the within memorial No. 2, entitled "A memorial to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled, praying for the establishment of a military post in Southwestern Colorado, and for the construction of a military wagon-road from some point upon the Rio Grande River across the main range to Fort Defiance," originated in the house of representatives.

JOSEPH T. BOYD,

Chief Clerk.

I hereby certify that we, the house committee on enrollment, have examined the within house memorial No. 2, and find the same to be correct.

I. N. PEYTON,

Chairman of House Committee on Enrollment.

We hereby certify that we have examined the within house memorial No. 2, and find the same to be correct.

FRANK BINGHAM,

Chairman of House Joint Committee.

A. D. WILSON,

Chairman of Council Joint Committee.

Certificate.

TERRITORY OF COLORADO,

Secretary's Office, ss :

I, John Taffe, secretary of the Territory of Colorado, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of house joint memorial No. 2, now on file in this office.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the Territory to be affixed at the city of Denver, this fourth day of February, A. D. 1876.

[SEAL.]

JOHN TAFFE,

Secretary of Territory.