

RESOLUTION

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF KANSAS,

ASKING

That the Government military post at Fort Harker, Kansas, be not abandoned.

FEBRUARY 22, 1871.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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

Your memorialists, the citizens of Western Kansas, would most respectfully represent that whereas it has come to our knowledge that General Pope, in his last report, recommends that the Government reservation and post of Fort Harker, Kansas, be abandoned and sold, and the Government interests changed to Fort Hays; and whereas we deem that the abandonment of Harker and removal to Hays would be impolitic, unwise, unjust to the frontier settlers, and that it would entail an enormous, unnecessary expense to the Government, and be detrimental to the interests of the State, all for the several following reasons:

That Fort Harker is centrally situated to afford protection to a large class of settlers on the rivers and creeks north, west, and south, involving a region of country that has been heretofore the field of operations for bands of murdering Indians; and the abandonment of this post would leave the country open to the ravages of the Indians once more, to rob and murder the settlers, carry into captivity women and children, and devastate the country which they have improved, in the fond hope of enjoying the protection there offered; and, furthermore, the abandonment of this post would stop the immigration which is now rapidly pouring in; that Fort Harker is the base of supplies for Forts Larned, Hays, Dodge, Sill, and the Indian Territory, Cheyenne and Arapahoe agencies, and all freights destined for the Plains can be transported from Harker at less rates than by forwarding goods up the railway for transshipment.

All goods sent to Fort Hays, to be forwarded to Larned and Dodge, is done at an extra cost to the Government. Fort Harker has two warehouses on the track of the Kansas Pacific Railway, built at a cost to the Government of \$160,000, and capable of holding all the freights destined for the different points, whereas Fort Hays has no warehouse whatever. The buildings at Fort Harker cost the Government \$1,000,000, and, if sold under the hammer to-day, would not bring \$25,000.

If held for a number of years until the country is sufficiently settled to afford self-protection, the Government land would sell for several times its present value.

To remove Harker would necessitate the shipment by rail of 4,000,000 pounds of freight seventy-one miles, at a heavy extra cost. Thus, as a matter of economy and retrenchment, it is important that the change be not made.

The pioneer of the West asks protection while he prepares a home for himself and family and opens up the resources of the State, thus increasing its wealth and encouraging immigration. The protection is now enjoyed by many on the frontier, but to abandon Fort Harker would leave them unprotected and destroy the labor of years, besides being disastrous to the cause of immigration, to the frontier settlers, and the interests of the State at large. Therefore, in view of these facts, your memorialists would most respectfully and earnestly request of your honorably body that the recommendation of General Pope be not acted upon, and that the Government post of Fort Harker be not abandoned, but maintained as heretofore. All of which your memorialists would ever pray.

A. W. BAYERS,
*Member Kansas State Legislature, in the interest of
 the people of Western Kansas.*

Be it resolved by the house of representatives, (the senate concurring therein,) That the memorial of the people of Western Kansas, praying that the Government post of Fort Harker be not abandoned and sold, be adopted; and that the chief clerk be directed to forward a certificate copy of the same, together with a copy of this concurrent resolution, to each of our Senators and Representative in Congress.

Adopted by the house of representatives February 15, 1871.

ALEX. R. BANKS,
Chief Clerk House of Representatives.

Concurred in by the senate February 16, 1871.

GEO. C. CROWTHER,
Secretary of the Senate.