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Geological survey in Dakota. Memorial from the Legislature of Dakota relative to a geological survey of the territory.

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GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN DAKOTA.

MEMORIAL

FROM

THE LEGISLATURE OF DAKOTA

RELATIVE TO

A geological survey of the Territory.

JANUARY 19, 1867.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and ordered to be printed.

MEMORIAL to Congress relative to a Geological Survey of the Black Hills country.

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

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota, most respectfully beg leave to again petition your honorable bodies to grant a sufficient appropriation of money to institute and carry out a complete and thorough geological survey of the Black Hills country, in Dakota Territory; and your memorialists are led to thus again call your attention to this matter for the following reasons:

By an Act of Congress, approved March 3, 1865, the sum of \$20,000 was appropriated for the purpose of opening and establishing a government wagon road up the Great Cheyenne Valley, and through the Black Hills, to connect with the Virginia City road near Powder river; and whereas the commissioner appointed to open said road was unable to prosecute his labors in the field beyond the forks of the Cheyenne river, on account of the hostile attitude of the Indians in the Black Hills, in the summer of 1865; and whereas, by request of the northwestern Indian commissioners in 1866, the further work on said road was suspended until treaties could be consummated with the Indian tribes along said line; and whereas the proposed treaties have now been made by which the said tribes cede the right of way through their country to the mountains, but still dispute with the United States the right of possession to the Black Hills; which are known to be rich in gold, silver, iron, coal and pine forests, thereby shutting out to immigration and settlement one of the finest agricultural and mineral regions of our Territory; and whereas the preliminary explorations of Lieutenant Warren and Dr. Hayden in that region furnish conclusive evidence of the existence of gold and the precious metals in the Black Hills, within one hundred and thirty miles of the steamboat navigation of the Missouri river; and whereas it is believed that coal and iron will be found in vast quantities at the eastern base of said Hills, on the head-waters of the Cheyenne river, whenever a thorough exploration shall be permitted by the Indians or enforced by the

government; and whereas it is the opinion of your memorialists that the government would reap a fourfold reward in return for an appropriation to complete an early and thorough exploration of said Hills, under protection of an ample military escort; and whereas there yet remains of the \$20,000 appropriated for the opening of the Cheyenne road the sum of \$14,000, unexpended balance yet to be applied to the opening of said road through the disputed mineral fields of the Black Hills; and whereas Dr. J. V. Hayden, of the Smithsonian Institute, has devoted several years to scientific research in that region, and is a hearty co-operator and zealous advocate of the material interests and natural resources of the northwest; therefore, your memorialists would most respectfully pray that a sufficient appropriation be made by your honorable body in addition to the unexpended balance of the Cheyenne wagon road appropriation, to enable a thorough scientific exploration to be made by Dr. Hayden, during the present season, in connection with the opening of said road, under sufficient military force, to take undisputed possession of the Black Hills, and establish a permanent military post therein.

And your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

J. B. S. TODD, *Speaker.*

T. WIXSON, *Chief Clerk.*

M. K. ARMSTRONG,
President of Council.

B. M. SMITH, *Secretary of Council.*

Approved, Yankton, Dakota Territory, January 9, 1867.

A. J. TAURK, *Governor.*