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Western and northern boundary of Iowa. (To accompany bill H.R. no. 572.).

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WESTERN AND NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF IOWA.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 572.]

AUGUST 14, 1856.

Mr. THORINGTON, from the Committee on Public Lands, made the following

REPORT.

The memorial and joint resolutions of Iowa, in reference to the western boundary of said State, to wit:

Memorial and joint resolution for the extension of the western boundary line of the State of Iowa to the Missouri river.

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

Your memorialists, the general assembly of the State of Iowa, would respectfully represent, that the Missouri river is the most natural and appropriate western boundary for the State of Iowa; and that it is highly important to the best interest of said State, as it will be to the people who may hereafter settle and occupy the delta of land located between the present western boundary of said State and said river, that the same should be attached to and made a part of the State of Iowa, so that the Missouri river may constitute the entire western boundary line of said State; and, as a parallel of latitude, (forty-three degrees and thirty minutes,) extending from the Mississippi river to the Missouri river, may constitute the northern boundary line of said State.

Your memorialists would therefore respectfully ask of your honorable bodies that a law may be passed providing for the immediate extinguishment of the Indian titles to said land, and for its annexation to the State of Iowa.

Resolved, That the senators from this State be instructed, and the representatives be requested, to use their best exertions to procure the passage of a law as asked for in the foregoing memorial, and that the secretary of state forward a copy thereof to each.

REUBEN NOBLE,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MATURIN L. FISHER,

President of the Senate.

Approved July 15, 1856.

JAMES W. GRIMES.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, IOWA,
Iowa City, July 15, 1856.

I certify the foregoing to be a true copy from the original rolls on file in my office.

GEO. W. McCLEARY,
Secretary of State.

Though not calculated to attract attention at this distance from the region of country concerned, the people interested, and the future necessities of the inhabitants now and hereafter of Iowa and Minnesota, is of more importance than we may at first imagine. Neither the Sioux river, nor the one west, called Jaques, is a navigable stream, as contemplated by law; yet they are of such a character that they will at no distant day occupy much attention in legislation, and a drawback to intercommunication in that region of country. It will be found that these rivers, the Sioux river in particular, having beds consisting of moving soil, light and loamy, of such a character that bridging will be difficult unless by one span, this in many cases will be found exceedingly difficult, unless it is far up toward their sources, on account of these streams spreading out in great bottoms, dangerous in crossing to the traveller as well as to the buffalo. Under these circumstances, then, how necessary that these streams, as far as practicable, should be under one State sovereignty, where legislation in reference to bridging, ferries, and privileges can be secured before one State legislature, without resorting to two. We deem it an advantage to all parties, and the demand some day will be clamorous on the part of the settlers in that region of the country for annexation, while the speculator, who has an exclusive franchise on one side, will resist the act with a money power that in new countries, as well as old, too often overpowers right. Your committee, therefore, recommend the passage of the accompanying bill.