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Memorial of the Legislature of Minnesota, in favor of removing the Indian tribes now occupying the country lying between the forks of the Cheyenne River, Dakota Territory, to some other locality, and that that region may be made available to the needs of the white man.

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MEMORIAL

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF MINNESOTA,

IN FAVOR OF

Removing the Indian tribes now occupying the country lying between the forks of the Cheyenne river, Dakota Territory, to some other locality, and that that region may be made available to the needs of the white man.

FEBRUARY 7, 1868.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

A MEMORIAL to the Congress of the United States, in reference to the "Black Hills" of Dakota Territory.

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

Your memorialists, the legislature of the State of Minnesota, believing that a thorough exploration of that tract of country known as the "Black Hills" of Dakota Territory, if had with the consent and encouraged by the protecting arm of the general government, would prove of incalculable benefit immediately to the citizens of that Territory, and mediately and indirectly to the people of the whole country, most earnestly protest against the adoption by Congress of a policy which must result in barring the doors of that rich yet undeveloped region to the aggressive spirit of American civilization, and consigning its control for years to an ignorant and barbarous race.

Your memorialists further represent that the "Black Hills" stand directly across the nearest and most direct route from Minnesota and the eastern States to the gold-producing Territories of Montana and Idaho, and the government owes it to the starving thousands who are pressing westward from the older States to the untried fields of enterprise and wealth that stretch their inviting arms to them in the northwest, to encourage, by the removal of every obstacle and by guarantees of personal safety, all their legitimate efforts to develop the resources of that vast mineral region which is yet to contribute, in an abundant measure, to the discharge of those liabilities that are now pressing so heavily upon all our people.

Your memorialists further state, that with the exception of the tract of country lying between the forks of the Cheyenne river, the Territory of Dakota is almost entirely destitute of timber; that that region is amply endowed with forests of pine which can be easily floated to the Missouri river, and from thence be made to supply the needs of that young Territory, which otherwise must languish and struggle with tardy growth.

From the report of Professor Hayden, based upon partial explorations made by him in 1857, your memorialists are compelled to believe that the "Black Hills" will be found prolific of coal and the various metals, and that if unmolested by

the Indian tribes, exploring parties will not be wanting, who, during the ensuing year, will astonish and gratify the country by discoveries of mineral wealth, in the region referred to, unsurpassed by any of the rich deposits of California, Idaho, and Montana.

Your memorialists therefore respectfully ask that the Indian tribes now occupying the country lying between the forks of the Cheyenne river may be removed to some other locality, and especially that this region, which is in no respect adapted to the wants of the red man, may not be reserved for this especial and exclusive use, but may be made available to the imperative needs of the white man.

And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

THOMAS H. ARMSTRONG,
President of the Senate.

JOHN Q. FARMER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Approved January twenty-first, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight.

WILLIAM R. MARSHALL,
Governor.

STATE OF MINNESOTA, *Office of the Secretary of State :*

I certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Witness my hand and the great seal of the State this thirtieth day of January, A. D. 1868.

H. C. ROGERS,
Secretary of State.

[SEAL.]