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4-4-1870

Military post near Pembina. Memorial of the Legislature of Minnesota relative to an appropriation for the establishment of a military post upon the northern boundary, at or near Pembina.

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Misc. Doc. No. 116, 41st Cong., 2nd Sess. (1870)

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MILITARY POST NEAR PEMBINA.

MEMORIAL

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF MINNESOTA

RELATIVE TO

An appropriation for the establishment of a military post upon the northern boundary, at or near Pembina.

APRIL 4, 1870.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

A MEMORIAL to the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

The memorial of the legislature of Minnesota respectfully represents—

First. That there now exists a state of revolution or rebellion in the British possessions, coterminous with the northern line of this State and of Dakota Territory, against the authorities of the Dominion of Canada, which is likely to culminate during the approaching spring or summer in a resort to military force, and thus involve our own citizens living near the boundary line in serious dangers and complications, from which they can only be guaranteed by a display of the power of the United States government.

Second. In case of active hostilities in that region, the Sioux bands concerned in the massacre of our people in 1862, who found refuge on British soil, with other powerful tribes of savages, would be emboldened to renew their raids upon the frontiers of this State and of Dakota Territory, from which so much desolation and suffering have been experienced by our citizens in years that are past. The bare possibility of a recurrence of events so fraught with terror to our frontier population should be guarded against at any cost, and your memorialists respectfully invoke the action of your honorable body for their protection as hereinafter suggested.

Third. There is not now a single military post on or near the long boundary line of 49°, between Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains, notwithstanding the fact that thousands of warlike Indians roam through the territory in which it extends, prompt and ready at all times to commit depredations or violence upon the property and persons of Amer-

ican citizens. The settlements in this State and Dakota Territory are rapidly spreading in the direction of the British line along the valley of the Red River of the North, and not one United States soldier has yet interposed for their defense in any such contingency as has been mentioned.

In view of the foregoing facts, your memorialists respectfully and earnestly request that an appropriation of \$50,000 be placed at the disposal of the Secretary of War, to be applied, or so much of it as may be necessary, to the construction of a military post at Pembina, or such other point in the vicinity of the boundary line as may be determined upon by the proper authorities as most eligible, to secure protection to our citizens in that region, and to enforce the neutrality of our people in case of collision between the Canadian government and the residents of the Red River colony.

JOHN L. MERRIAM,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
WILLIAM H. YALE,
President of the Senate.

Approved March 5, 1870.

HORACE AUSTIN,
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, 26th day of March, 1870.

[SEAL.]

H. MATTSON,
Secretary of State.