Mar 6 1863

TO HIS EXCELLENCY ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

President of the United States.

JOINT MEMORIAL.

YOUR MEMORIALISTS, THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOVEREIGN STATE OF MINNESOTA, representing the loyal and good citizens thereof, beg leave respectfully to represent, that the State of Minnesota has a *frontier* line of over seven hundred miles, bordering upon a savage Territory; that the Indian title to a portion of the territory comprising the State has never been extinguished; that there are numerous "reservations," nominally occupied by different bands of Indians, who roam at pleasure throughout the State, and whose hostility to the white citizens is manifested with every opportunity; that the only security the citizen has, for life or property, is in the presence of an armed force; that north and west of Saint Anthony Falls there is but one Military Post, (Fort Ripley,) in an area of over seventy thousand (70,000) square miles; that the northern portion of this State is excelled by none in the superiority of its soil, salubrity of climate, and availability for settlement; that the great commercial avenue connecting the United States with Her Majesty's Province of British Columbia, as well as the Northwestern Mail Route, traverses a distance of three hundred (300) miles, through a wild and sparsely settled country, and that the frequent depredations of marauding bands, upon both public and private property, demonstrate the necessity of the continual presence of an armed force upon the route so traversed, and in a portion of the State so much exposed.

And we would further represent, that the most eligible site, in our opinion, for such Military Post, and the point where public necessities require, and public safety demands, is at or near Sauk Centre, Stearns County.

This point is one hundred and forty miles from Fort Snelling, one hundred and thirty miles from Fort Ripley (via St. Cloud), one hundred and twenty miles from Fort Abercrombie, D. T., and one hundred and ten miles from Fort Ridgely; it is in the midst of an extensive and superior agricultural district, and upon the Sauk River; is on the great mail route between the Provinces and States; it is the most exposed part of the tract, for the possession of which the hostile Indians are now contending; and is upon the old war trails, which the topography of the State compels "war parties" to frequent, who visit that portion of the State.

And further, that should a Post be there established, thousands of our citizens, who were driven from their homes of plenty by a fiendish foe, and are now fugitive beggars among strangers, subsisting upon charity's pittance, would return, and by their energy and industry rebuild their homes in conscious security, giving ample remuneration by the added wealth from the products of their own labors, and inviting others to share their prosperity.

We therefore pray you, that, if consistent with the public good, you will, at the earliest possible time, direct the establishment of a Military Post, as hereinbefore set forth; and, as in duty bound, your Memorialists will ever pray.

CHARLES D. SHERWOOD,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

IGNATIUS DONNELLY,
President of the Senate.

Approved, February twenty-eighth, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three.

ALEX. RAMSEY.

State of Minnesota
Office of the Secretary of State
St. Paul Mar. 6 - 1863.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original on file in this office. -

D. Blakely,
Sec. of State

Gift
Robt. Todd Lincoln Papers
1923

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