

1876

A Memorial - To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, praying for the establishment of a Military Post in southwestern Colorado, and for the construction of a Military Wagon Road from some point upon the Rio Grande river, across the main range, to Fort Defiance.

Colorado General Assembly

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citizens of the United States residing in that section of Colorado, whose lives and property are imperilled, and finally in justice to our common country, whose honor should be maintained inviolate even in so small a matter as a treaty with a tribe of savages, we would entreat your honorable body to take this subject under your immediate consideration, and to take care that the contract on the part of the United States is fulfilled to the letter, at as early a day as is possible. And we would finally say that by such action you will avert the impending outbreak, renew the good feeling that has so long existed between the Utes and the whites, and receive the grateful thanks of a numerous population.

Approved January 28, 1876.

A MEMORIAL

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, praying for the establishment of a Military Post in southwestern Colorado, and for the construction of a Military Wagon Road from some point upon the Rio Grande river, across the main range, to Fort Defiance.

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

Your memorialists, the Council and House of Representatives of the Territory of Colorado, would respectfully represent that there is urgent need of a military post in the southwestern portion of this Territory, either upon the Animas, La Plata, or Mancos rivers, near the line of the Indian reservation, for the following reasons:—

There is at present no military post within two hundred miles of this section of Colorado, which is the abode of large numbers of unfriendly Indians of the Ute, Pi-Ute, Apache, and Navajo tribes, many of whom have never acknowledged the authority of the United States, and never reside upon their reservations, and who, feeling themselves secure in the mountain fastnesses and intricate cañons of

this region, on account of their remoteness from any military power, have hitherto committed such depredations as they chose, without fear of punishment. Within the past two years, several persons have been killed, and a large amount of property destroyed. Last summer, the surveying parties of Prof. Hayden were attacked by these Indians, and barely escaped with their lives. And at the present moment, the settlers in the valleys of the Animas, La Plata, and Mancos are living in constant fear of outrages upon their lives and property. Under these circumstances, the development of that section of country must, of necessity, be greatly retarded; and, so long as the constant danger of Indian hostilities exists, its rich mining, pastoral, and agricultural resources must be almost untouched, instead of contributing largely to the material wealth of our country. In view, therefore, of the state of insecurity to life and property existing in that portion of our Territory, and in order to give to the inhabitants thereof that security and protection which they, as good citizens of the United States, have a right to expect and receive, we pray your honorable body to take the necessary steps for the establishment of a military post in this region at as early a day as is possible.

We would further represent to your honorable body that the construction of a military wagon road from the San Luis park up the Rio Grande river, across the main range of the Rocky mountains to Baker's park; thence down the Animas river to the proposed military post; and thence southwestward to Fort Defiance, in Arizona;—would be of incalculable benefit to the regions through which it would pass, by opening up a thoroughfare which is most urgently needed, and would, moreover, prove of great service to the government in facilitating the transportation of military stores and supplies for the Indian agencies. It would bring the posts in western New Mexico and Arizona one hundred miles or more nearer to the railway depots; it would bring under the immediate control of the military power the bands of Indians before-mentioned, who have not, as yet, felt the check of authority upon their actions; and it would

hasten the development of the immense mineral resources of the country by affording better facilities for the transportation of supplies, ores and bullion than are at present enjoyed.

The other Territories of the United States have reaped great benefit from the military roads which the general government has built from time to time within their limits. Colorado, however, the most populous of all the Territories, has as yet been overlooked in the appropriations for this purpose. In justice therefore to our Territory, and in view of the great benefit the general government will derive from the construction of this road in the reduced expense of transporting supplies to the posts and Indian agencies in Western New Mexico and Arizona, and the ease with which the military power may reach and control what is at present one of the most inaccessible and dangerous of Indian countries; and furthermore, in consideration of the great impulse which would be given to the mining development of this district, which we believe to be one of the richest in the United States; we therefore respectfully ask that such an appropriation be made as will be sufficient for the construction of the described wagon road.

Approved January 28, 1876.

A MEMORIAL

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

Your Memorialists, the Council and House of Representatives of the Territory of Colorado, would most respectfully represent:

That it has become a common practice in certain portions of our Territory, for persons to violate the pre-emption laws by entering land under fictitious names, and under fraudulent pretenses, in this manner often depriving the "bona-fide" settlers of their right to the land upon which they have taken up their abode and expended their time and money.

We would further represent, that owing to a variety of causes, it has hitherto proved almost impossible to appre-