

Joint Resolutions.

No. 1.

JOINT RESOLUTION for printing the report of the Fish Commissioner.

Resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring, That there be printed for the use of the Legislature, the same number as in case of other reports, of the report of the Fish Commissioner, which has been transmitted to the Legislature by the Governor.

Approved January 30, 1875.

No. 2.

JOINT RESOLUTION asking Congress to straighten line of land grant road between Portage City and Stevens Point.

WHEREAS, The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, have passed an act to change the line of the land grant road between Portage City and Lake Superior, provided for by the act of Congress, approved June 3, 1865, and the laws of the state of Wisconsin, accepting the grant, and agreeing to execute the trust, so as to allow the said road to be built between the city of Portage and Stevens Point on the most direct feasible route; therefore,

Resolved by the Senate, the Assembly concurring, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress are hereby requested to secure the passage by Congress, at the earliest practicable moment, of a joint resolution or law giving its assent to said change of route.

Approved February 12, 1875.

No. 3.

JOINT RESOLUTION requesting an extension of time for the construction of the railroad from Lake St. Croix to Superior and Bayfield.

WHEREAS, Congress, by an act approved June 3, 1856, made to the

state of Wisconsin a grant of lands to aid in the construction of a railroad from Madison or Columbus by way of Portage City, to the Lake or River St. Croix, and from thence to the west end of Lake Superior and Bayfield, which grant was accepted by said state; and

WHEREAS, The said state, prior to 1864, secured the construction of a portion of said road and made provisions for the construction of the remainder; and

WHEREAS, Congress, by act approved May 5, 1864, made to said state an additional grant of four sections of land per mile, to aid in the construction of the portion of said road from Tomah to Lake Superior, which additional grant was also duly accepted; and

WHEREAS, The time for the construction of the portion of the road between Tomah and Lake St. Croix, was in 1868 extended by resolution of Congress to May 5, 1872, which portion of said road was completed within said extended time, making at least two-thirds of the entire road in aid of which said grant was made; and

WHEREAS, The state made strenuous efforts to secure the completion of the portion of said road between Lake St. Croix and Lake Superior before the expiration of the time limited by Congress, to-wit: May 5, 1869, but without success; and

WHEREAS, After the decision of Associate Justice Miller, and Circuit Judge Dillon, that notwithstanding the failure to complete said road within the time limited, the legal title to said lands remained in the state of Wisconsin, and could not be divested save by act of Congress, or judicial proceedings in behalf of the United States, the state of Wisconsin, in the full faith that the Federal Government would not seek the divesture of the title to the remaining portion of the grant after the state had so far in good faith executed the trust, conferred the grant upon railway companies under heavy bonds to complete the road if the time was extended by Congress, under which legislation of the state over forty miles of said road have been constructed; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States has recently affirmed the decision of Judges Miller and Dillon, holding the legal title to said lands to be in the state of Wisconsin, subject to divesture only by legislative action or judicial proceedings; and

WHEREAS, It would be repugnant to every principle of justice for the Federal Government to take away either by act of Congress or otherwise, the legal title to these lands, thereby denying to the state the opportunity to complete the execution of her trust, and to secure the construction of the remainder of this road, needed for manifold reasons; and

WHEREAS, Justice to the thousands of settlers who have paid the United States double the minimum price for the even numbered sections within said grant, because of the anticipated construction of said railroad, imperatively demands the completion thereof; and

WHEREAS, It is deemed by the Legislature of Wisconsin absolutely essential to the commercial interests of this and several other

states, that this road should be speedily completed, affording thereby a great through competing line to the lake, promoting the cause of cheap transportation; and

WHEREAS, It is obviously impossible for the railway companies selected by the state to complete this road, to negotiate their securities based upon a land grant which might be revoked by legislative action or perfected by judicial proceedings in behalf of the United States; and

WHEREAS, If a reasonable extension is granted, the State of Wisconsin pledges her faith to secure the completion of said road, which, when completed, is a post-road of the United States for the transportation of troops and property free of charge; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring, That the House of Representatives is most earnestly requested to pass, at the present session, the Senate bill now pending in said House, extending the time for the completion of said road from Lake St. Croix to Superior and Bayfield.

Resolved, That the Senators and Representatives of this state be, and they are hereby requested to urge, and secure, if possible, the passage of said bill before the end of the present session.

Resolved, That the Governor is hereby requested to transmit immediately a copy hereof to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, with the request that it be laid before said House. Also, a copy to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Approved February 19, 1875.

No. 4.

JOINT RESOLUTION authorizing the trustees of the Wisconsin State Hospital for the Insane to convey depot-grounds to the Chicago and Northwestern Railway company.

Resolved by the Senate, the Assembly concurring, That in conveying to the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company the right of way through the lands belonging to the Wisconsin State Hospital for the Insane as authorized by act of the Legislature, approved March 10, 1871, the trustees of said hospital be and they are hereby authorized to include in such conveyance all necessary and proper depot-grounds for the use of said company.

Approved March 4, 1875.