

[21st CONGRESS.]

No. 78.

[1st SESSION.]

## APPLICATION OF ILLINOIS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF A POST ROAD.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SENATE, DECEMBER 22, 1829.

*To the Congress of the United States: The memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois respectfully sheweth:*

That the post road from the town of America, in Alexander county, up the Mississippi river, by Jonesborough, Brownsville, Kaskaskia, and to the seat of justice of Monroe county, is highly important to the United States and this State, and which will be fully shown by the following statement of facts: The town of America is at the head of steamboat navigation on the Ohio river during the dry season, and steamboats are obliged to lie by at or below that place for several months in each year, and discharge their passengers; persons from the western States, who trade to New Orleans and other southern markets, on their return to their homes, and others, are greatly delayed from low water at that place, as above stated, and from the want of a line of stages from the town of America to the upper country; diseases incident to the lower country are often aggravated by the delay of passengers, the subjects of them; and it may be safely said that this delay in the warmer season is every year more or less destructive to human life. In the winter season, steamboats are also often detained by ice at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, but below which there is very seldom, or perhaps never, any material obstruction to navigation from that cause. From these facts it will be seen how desirable a line of stages would be to the point above-mentioned. The mail is now conveyed in stages from Kaskaskia, by the seat of justice of Monroe county, to St. Louis, at which place it intersects the line of mail stages to Galena, by way of Springfield, in Sangamon county, and also the great mail routes into Missouri, Kentucky, and Ohio. From Kaskaskia the mail is also conveyed in stages to Carlyle, on the stage route from Louisville to St. Louis, and to the seat of Government of this State. The road above referred to, from America, by Jonesborough, Brownsville, and Kaskaskia, to the seat of justice of Monroe county, to make it suitable at all seasons of the year for a line of stages, requires the expenditure of more labor and money than the counties through which the same passes can furnish; nor is there any other road leading up the Mississippi river so well calculated for the contemplated mail route as the one here described.

These considerations induce your memorialists to hope that an application for money to improve said road will meet with the favorable disposition of Congress, and the more so as it is understood that the gentleman now at the head of the Post Office Department is desirous to have the mail carried in stages upon the above route. Your memorialists, therefore, hope that your honorable body will pass an act making an appropriation of \$2,000, to be expended under the direction of the Postmaster General, for the purpose of improving the post road from the town of America, on the Ohio river, by Jonesborough, Brownsville, and Kaskaskia, to the seat of justice of Monroe county.

J. McLEAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*  
WILLIAM KENNEY,  
*Speaker of the Senate.*

Attest:

WM. LEE D. EWING, *Clerk of the House of Representatives.*

*Resolved*, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to use their best exertions to procure an appropriation for the purposes, and to be applied in the manner as above stated.

J. McLEAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*  
WILLIAM KENNEY,  
*Speaker of the Senate.*

Attest:

WM. LEE D. EWING, *Clerk of the House of Representatives.*

[21st CONGRESS.]

No. 79.

[1st SESSION.]

## APPLICATION OF INDIANA AND ILLINOIS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF A POST ROAD FROM LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, TO ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SENATE, JANUARY 20, 1830.

*Resolutions of Indiana and Illinois relative to the repair of the mail road leading to St. Louis, &c.*

## RESOLUTIONS OF INDIANA.

Whereas the great western mail route from Louisville, in Kentucky, via New Albany, Greenville, Paoli, Hindostan, Washington, and Vincennes, through the State of Illinois, to St. Louis, in Missouri, is of great and increasing importance to the citizens of this State and the Union, and merits the attention of the General Government: and whereas a good road has never been constructed on the aforesaid route, and the present one is not unfrequently impassable during a considerable portion of the winter months: and whereas a thoroughfare, so important to the commercial intercourse of our sister States, ought not to depend on the unassisted efforts of a new State, which are clearly inadequate, without the imposition of unjust burdens, to answer the demands of the nation: therefore,

*Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana*, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to exert themselves to procure the passage of a law appropriating a sufficient quantity of the public lands to enable the State of Indiana to raise funds adequate to the construction of a good, substantial, permanent road, with suitable bridges and causeways, on all that part of the aforesaid route which passes through

his State; which road, when made, shall be kept in repair by the authority of this State; and, also, to invite the co-operation of the Senators and Representatives of the States of Kentucky, Illinois, and Missouri in procuring the aforesaid appropriation, together with a similar grant for the residue of the route.

*Resolved*, That his excellency the Governor be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolution to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

H. H. MOORE,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*  
JOHN H. THOMPSON,  
*President of the Senate.*

Approved, January 12, A. D. 1828:

J. BROWN RAY.

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RESOLUTIONS OF ILLINOIS.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representative requested, to use their best exertions to procure the passage of a law by Congress granting to this State seventy-five thousand dollars of scrip, receivable in any of the land offices in this State in payment for public lands; said scrip to be appropriated exclusively to the repairing the State road from Vincennes to St. Louis, and such other roads as have been, or may be, declared by the Legislature State roads, and upon which the United States mail now is or may be carried in stages.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the foregoing resolution, signed by the Speakers of the Senate and House of Representatives, be certified by the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House of Representatives, and forwarded to each of our members in Congress.

WILLIAM KENNEY,  
*Speaker of the Senate.*  
J. McLEAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

Attest:

EMANUEL J. WEST, *Secretary of the Senate.*  
WM. LEE D. EWING, *Clerk of the House of Representatives.*

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GENERAL POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

OFFICE OF MAIL CONTRACTS, *January 18, 1830.*

SIR:

In answer to your inquiries relative to the mail road between Louisville, in Kentucky, and St. Louis, in Missouri, referred to me by the Postmaster General, I have the honor to state:

It is one of the most important mail roads in all the western States, being the principal line of connexion between the fertile and flourishing States of Missouri and Illinois, and all the other northwestern States, and, indeed, all the old Atlantic States. It must, for many years, be the channel of communication through which the Government shall transmit and receive all its intelligence relative to the mines in the region of Galena and Prairie du Chien, the military posts of the Upper Mississippi, Missouri, and their tributary streams, and the whole northwestern Indian frontier.

The mail is now transported on this route, from Louisville to Vincennes, in Indiana, 124 miles in 34 hours. It is detained two hours at Vincennes for distribution, whence it is transported to St. Louis, an estimated distance of 170 miles, in 46 hours; making the whole period, from the time of its departure from Louisville, to the time of its arrival at St. Louis, three days and ten hours. This increased celerity, which commenced on the 1st of the present month, is given to that mail in consideration of its great importance.

In relation to the quality of the road, no special report has been made to the Department of a late date. The general reports represent it as a road greatly inferior to what most of the roads on our leading stage routes are. The complaints during the present season have been almost constant of the very bad state of the roads generally, but especially between Louisville and Vincennes. It may be expected that the complaints will be still louder now that the time for performing the whole trip is thirty-six hours less each way than was allowed prior to the first of the present month.

The repair of the roads would, unquestionably, be highly beneficial to the public interest, and very gratifying to this Department; but in what way it should be done, whether by the authorities of the States, or of the General Government, is a question which the Postmaster General does not consider himself competent to decide; nor would he feel himself justifiable in giving an official opinion.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. B. BROWN.

Hon. WM. HENDRICKS,  
*United States Senate.*

SIR:

WASHINGTON, *January 20, 1830.*

The distance from Vincennes to St. Louis, upon the present mail route, is estimated at one hundred and sixty miles. A recent survey of a more direct route between these places, made under the authority of the Legislature of Illinois, has reduced the actual distance to one hundred and forty-five miles; which will, in all probability, become the mail route so soon as it becomes fit for carriages and stages to pass over. The State, and the counties through which it passes, and the people who reside thereon, have expended much money and labor in opening and repairing this road.

The distance between these great points, Vincennes and St. Louis, is made up of about one-fourth of timber land, and three-fourths of prairies, from five to twenty miles across. The settlements are therefore scattered, and far between, and confined to the vicinity of the timbered land. More than nineteen-twentieths of the land over which the road passes is the property of the Federal Government. To make the necessary causeways and bridges, and to keep the road in a proper state of repair, is beyond the capacity of the people who reside upon it.

With great respect, your obedient servants,

E. K. KANE,  
J. McLEAN.

Hon. WILLIAM HENDRICKS,  
*Chairman of Committee of Roads and Canals, Washington.*