

51
20

MEMORIAL

FROM THE

LEGISLATURE OF ARIZONA

IN THE MATTER OF THE

Boundary between Arizona and California.

O. M. CLAYES.....STATE PRINTER.

MEMORIAL.

*To the Honorable House of Representatives and Senate of the United States,
in Congress assembled :*

Your memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Arizona, respectfully represent that by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, between the United States and the Republic of Mexico, ratified in eighteen hundred and forty-eight, the boundary line between the two Republics should consist of a straight line drawn from the middle of the Gila River, where it unites with the Colorado, to a point on the coast of the Pacific Ocean distant one marine league south of the southernmost point of the port of San Diego. That in pursuance of said treaty the boundary line was run by the Commissioners appointed by the two Republics for that purpose; that in running the line according to the said treaty the said boundary line crossed the Rio Colorado twice through a northern bend of that tortuous river—by which means a tract of land consisting of about one hundred and fifty acres, south of said bend, was thrown into the limits of the United States—thus leaving a small portion of the United States Territory beyond the Colorado River, which separated it from every other portion of their territory. That when California was admitted into the Union as a State in eighteen hundred and fifty, it was admitted with the same boundary on the south as declared in her Constitution that was specified in the said treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and run by the Commissioners aforesaid, the river Colorado separating the small tract of land before specified from the remainder of the State.

Your memorialists further represent that the organic Act of the Territory of Arizona, approved the twenty-fourth of February, A. D. eighteen hundred and sixty-three, declared all that part of the Territory of New Mexico situated west of a line running due south from the point where the southwest corner of the Territory of Colorado joins the northern boundary of the Territory of New Mexico, to the southern boundary line of the Territory of New Mexico, should be and was erected into a Territorial Government to be called Arizona; that the boundary of New Mexico on the west, by the organic Act creating that Territory, approved September ninth, eighteen hundred and fifty, was the boundary line of the State of California, from the thirty-seventh parallel of north latitude south to the point of the Colorado River where said boundary begins—which was the line run by the Commissioners between the two Republics as aforesaid; that afterwards, by the Gads-



den treaty of eighteen hundred and fifty-four, the southern portion of the Territory of Arizona was acquired from the Republic of Mexico, attached to New Mexico by an Act of Congress of the United States, and the boundary run and fixed by a joint commission of the two Republics at an initial point on the Colorado, twenty miles below the junction of the River Gila with the Colorado. By this means the western boundary of Arizona runs from the thirty-seventh degree of latitude the whole length of the California boundary on the south, and beyond the line of that State on the Colorado River; that said small tract of land lies just below the junction of the River Gila with the Colorado; that it is in an important commercial point, and is the commercial landing place and business point for the Territory of Arizona on the lower Colorado; that it is opposite Fort Yuma, and remote from any civil government organized in California; that there are no police and civil regulations there; that it is essential and important to Arizona to have said tract of land annexed to its Territory for the purpose of forming a landing place and a commercial town; that it is of little importance to the State of California, and of vast consequence to Arizona to possess it; that if annexed to Arizona the benefit of civil government would be immediately extended over it from Arizona City, which lies adjoining it on contiguous territory, separated from it by an imaginary line—while the Colorado flows between the said tract of land and the other portions of the territory of the State of California.

Wherefore, your memorialists pray your honorable body to pass an Act by which the said tract of territory of the State of California lying south of Fort Yuma and the Colorado River, and between the Colorado River and the line of Arizona, be annexed to said Territory of Arizona; providing that the State of California, by an Act of her State Legislature, will relinquish all her right over said tract of land to the said Territory of Arizona.

That our delegate in Congress is hereby requested to use all honorable means in his power to secure the passage of said Act.

That his excellency, the Governor of the Territory of Arizona, is hereby requested to transmit a copy of this memorial to our delegate in Congress, also, a copy to the Governor of the State of California, with the request to forward such other information in his possession, in order that it may be laid before the Legislature of the State of California.

Approved November 3d, 1864.

W. CLAUDE JONES,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

COLES BASHFORD,
President of the Council.

JOHN N. GOODWIN.

SEAL.

A true copy of the original, as on file in my office. Witness my hand and the seal of my office, given at Prescott, this sixteenth day of November, A. D. eighteen hundred and sixty-four.

RICHARD C. McCORMICK,
Secretary of the Territory.