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Report of a Majority.

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REPORT OF A MAJORITY

OF

BORDER COUNTY DELEGATIONS, ON JOINT RESOLUTION
OF LEGISLATURE OF NEVADA, ASKING THE CESSION
OF TERRITORY EAST OF THE SUMMIT OF
THE SIERRA NEVADAS.

1119 1200

G. H. SPRINGER.....STATE PRINTER.

REPORT.

MR. SPEAKER: The delegations to whom was referred Joint Resolution of the Senate and Assembly of the State of Nevada, respectfully urging the Legislature of the State of California to cede to the State of Nevada all the territory of this State lying east of the summit of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, would most respectfully report: That they have carefully considered the subject matter set forth in the preamble to said resolution, and fully concur with the same, so far as relates to the preference of natural boundaries over artificial lines, in the separation of communities into independent governments; and that great injustice is often done by the adoption of artificial instead of natural division lines between States. But your committee cannot, so fully, concur with the views of the Legislature of the State of Nevada, to the effect that it will inure to the great benefit and accommodation of any considerable number of the citizens of the State of California to change the fixed boundary line between us and our sister State, to the uncertain meanderings of the summit of the Sierra Nevadas. And when we take into consideration that the present boundary line has become well understood, a change, in the opinion of your committee, would only tend to confusion and prove detrimental to the public good.

We therefore recommend that no further action be taken in the premises.

G. W. GIFFEN,
For Majority of Delegations.

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Supplemental Report of Border Delegations.

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REPORT.

MR. SPEAKER: As the memorial under consideration was submitted to the present Legislature mainly at my suggestion, it having received no due attention at the hands of the previous one, I deem it not improper for me to supplement the report of the delegations to whom the matter was referred, by one relating more particularly to the counties which lie entirely within the territory in question, and which I have the honor to partly represent—Inyo and Mono.

In the Constitutional Convention of this State, the boundary question was the most hotly contested one of the entire session, the debates thereon occupying more than a week's time. It was repeatedly declared that the summit of the snow-line of the Sierra was the undoubted natural western boundary of the proposed State. But the ascendant political issues of that day somehow seemed to dictate the formation of a State line much farther west than that finally adopted, which was agreed to as a compromise.

Upon the admission of the State, Congress left the matter open to the further consideration of the Legislature. Since, however, by the formation of Nevada, the National Congress has, by authorized surveys, twice fixed the boundaries as it now stands.

In the opinion of the undersigned, a fair majority of the people of the two counties desire the change, but the question has never been agitated sufficiently to excite a well defined expression. A tenable reason for a change has been that hitherto the people have been practically unrepresented in this Legislature, but such will be no longer the case under the operation of the new apportionment.

The chief and only exports of the counties are the mineral products, and bullion is heavily taxed by Nevada.

Considering that no such tax is imposed by California, in a business point of view there can be but one conclusion, *i. e.*, the inconvenience of isolation and other disadvantages not necessary to recapitulate at length, can be better borne by said counties than they can assume political and geographical place within the Silver State.

Our State government of the future can but rely upon the immense natural wealth of the counties in question for a considerable proportion of her revenues, and from this standpoint the proposed cession would be too ill advised to be seriously contemplated.

PARKER,
Of Inyo and Mono.





