



Minnesota and Pacific Railroad Company.

On March 3, 1857, the Congress of the United States passed an act to grant land to the Territory of Minnesota to aid in constructing railroads. The legislature of the territory transferred the grant, on May 22, 1857 to four railroads, namely the Minnesota and Pacific R.R.Co., Minnesota & Cedar Valley R.R. Co., Root River and Southern Minnesota R.R. Co., and the Transit Railroad Company.

The route of the Minnesota and Pacific was to be from the St. Croix River through St. Anthony to the western boundary of the state, and from St.  ny north to the

navigable head of the Red River of the North.

After Minnesota became a state in 1858, it sought to encourage railroad building by giving the companies aid in the form of state bonds. The Minnesota and Pacific Railroad Co. received this aid, and it soon had the line from the levee on the Mississippi in St. Paul graded to St. Anthony, a distance of ten miles. But the state aid plan collapsed - the companies could not meet the interest on the bonds.

In 1860 the state of Minnesota forced forfeiture of all its grants to the companies. In 1861 the Minnesota  Pacific R.R. Co. received a re-grant of rights and franchises pertaining to its line. But the conditions

of the re-grant could not be met, and the re-grant was also forfeited.

In 1862 the Minnesota legislature made a second re-grant to substantially the same corporation, but this time the name was changed to "St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company."