



## Collection Information:

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Percie

War Department  
Washington May 31. 1856.

Sir,

Your note of the 27<sup>th</sup> instant, requests me to furnish an estimate of the cost of a Military Road designated in the section intended to be added to a Military road bill to the Pacific. This section proposes to appropriate the sum of One hundred thousand dollars for the survey and construction of a Military Road from the Falls of Saint Louis River Minnesota, by way of Fort Ridgely to some point on the Missouri river, and from thence by the most practicable Route to intersect the Military road (to the Pacific) herein before named, at some point on the Platte river, or its tributaries in the Territory of Nebraska.

Military roads have been already constructed or are under construction on the general line here indicated and for the greater part of its length, viz: From the mouth of Saint Louis river (a few—



miles from the falls) to Point Douglass on the  
Missouri at the mouth of the St Croix thence  
to opposite Mendota at the mouth of the  
Minnesota or St Peter River, thence to the Mis-  
souri River at the mouth of the Big Sioux,  
and from opposite Council Bluffs City to New  
Fort Kearny on the Platte. To connect Fort  
Ridgely by a branch road with that from  
Mendota to the mouth of the Big Sioux.  
To complete this latter road in a thorough  
and permanent manner, to connect its ter-  
mination at the mouth of the Big Sioux  
with the road from opposite Council Bluffs  
City to New Fort Kearny and finally to  
make the connexion with the Military road  
to the Pacific, and thus complete the line  
of road intended in the proposed section,  
would cost one hundred thousand dollars,  
as near as can be estimated with the informa-  
tion in the possession of the Department.

To open an entirely new road  
from the Falls of Saint Louis River by way of  
Fort Ridgely to some point on the Missouri  
River, and from thence by the most



practicable route (using in part the road  
from opposite Council Bluffs City to New Fort  
Hearney) to the intersect the Military road to  
the Pacific at some point on the Platte river  
or its tributaries, would cost not less than  
Two hundred and twenty five thousand  
dollars, without any corresponding Military  
advantage.

Very Respectfully,

Yrs. Ob. St.

Jefferson Davis  
Secretary of War.

Hon. S. A. Douglass.  
Ch. Com on Territories.  
U.S. Senate.