there not being over 100,000 acres left; but the precedent would be a bad one, for our interests in the lands out of the State is vastly greater than in lands in the State. He drew a bill to cede, &c. with proper granting words, and got it through the Senate. In the House it was referred to the Committee on Public Lands, of which Mr. Disney of Cincinnati was the Chairman, and that committee was unwilling to sanction the principle. On the last day but one of the session, Mr. Disney reported the bill of Mr. Chase, with one amendment, and that was to strike out the whole bill and insert about two lines confirming all the selections of canal lands ever made by the State, and it was agreed to in half a minute or less, and the bill went back to the Senate without a word in it or in the title that it originally had, but it was still Mr. Chase’s Senate bill, No. 50. Mr. Chase was somewhat vexed at the change, but finally assented, and had the amendment agreed to.—

Such is one of the curiosities of legislation to the uninitiated. This act gives us all the land we could claim under the most liberal construction of the grants made to Ohio, and 5 to 10,000 acres in addition, and about 130,000 acres more than was ever admitted by the Land Office prior to 1850. To Mr. Disney’s tact, talent, industry and popularity in the House, as well as to similar properties in Hon. A. P. Edgerton of the Defiance District, we are much indebted for the passage of the laws of 1853 and 1855.

XVIII.

SALMON PORTLAND CHASE TO ORAN FOLLETT.

Cincinnati, March 23, 1855.

My dear Sir,

Your article in the Journal, in relation to the subject matter of the letter of “A. W. I.” escaped me, and my recollection is not distinct as [to] the facts connected with the canal selections prior to the act of last session.

It is however perfectly clear as to my own agency in the cession of the Public Lands in Ohio to the State. Early in the session of 1852 I introduced a bill ceding to the State of Ohio all the unsold lands within her limits. The quantity at that
time exclusive of the Virginia Military District lands (not included in the cession) was about 300,000 acres and I suppose was worth from 300 to 500,000 dollars; some very valuable reserved land was embraced in the grant. This bill was unfavorably reported on in the House by Mr. Cobb of Ala. I think and was defeated. I do not know that any of our delegation took interest enough in it to try to save it.

In the course of the same session or the next I moved an amendment to a Virginia Military Scrip bill requiring from Virginia a surrender of her title to the Va. Mil. Dis. lands. The amendment prevailed, the bill passed and Virginia made the surrender.

I said my memory was clear; but I find myself obliged to modify this statement for I cannot be certain whether I introduced a second bill for the cession including the Va. Mil. Dis. lands at the second session of that Congress or not. My impression is I did.

At all events at the first session of the last Congress I did introduce such a bill and it did pass the Senate. Mr. Disney was the Chairman of the Com[mittee] of Public Lands and I urged him to report favorably upon it. He objected alleging that the principle upon which it was based, namely cession of residues to said State when reduced below say 500,000 acres was a bad one. I replied that I thought the principle a good one, and at any rate it was the only way in which Ohio could secure any substantial advantage from the Public lands of the United States, after having paid to the General Gov[ernmen]t and its grantees thirty odd millions of dollars for patents. My request and appeal were ineffectual, nothing was done. At the close of the session Cobb's Eradication bill became a law under which most of the land embraced in my bill was speedily taken up by speculators as I am informed at 12½ cents an acre.

At the recent session and towards its close my cession bill was reported back from the Public Lands Com[mittee] in the House with an amendment striking out the whole bill and providing for the confirmation of the Canal selections. This was at the very close of the session, and as it had become ap-

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37Williamson R. W. Cobb of Ala., M. C. 1847-60; Chairman of Com. on Public Lands.
parent that the greater good I sought to effect for the State could not be accomplished, and those who were better informed than I assured me that this bill would be of substantial advantage to the State and many worthy citizens, I abandoned, not without much regret, my own measure and undertook to carry the canal selection bill through the Senate and did so.

This is the history as far as I understand it, and all the history so far as I am concerned. What there may be behind with others I do not know, nor do I know that there is anything.

Yours truly,
S. P. Chase.

Hon. O. Follett.

XIX.

JOSEPH MEDILL\textsuperscript{38} TO ORAN FOLLETT.

Cleveland, April 18, 1855.

[Office of the Daily Morning Leader]

O. Follet Esqr,
Dr Sir

Yours of the 16th recd. I can assure you that at the meeting of the K[now] N[othering] Executive State Council it was resolved to make State nominations in a manner described in the Leader. My information was from a perfectly reliable source, and further more the first balloting commence on May 5th to close on May 12th. The State Council convenes here June 5th. I do not see how they can now be prevented unless their Executive committee meet and countermand the order. Circulars are being actively circulated among the lodges urging the claims of various candidates. This I know. The intention of the fugle-men to pack the Republican State Convention is a matter of fact—it is a part of the program.

The nomination of a K[now] N[othering] ticket on the present platform of that order will give the State to the locofocos. So long as the K. N’s refuse to admit protestant naturalized in the councils and proscribe them the same as catholics they will be thrown off to the locofocos, and so long as the order ignores the slavery question the anti slavery men will refuse to

\textsuperscript{38}See Note 26.