Washington July 30, 1861.

My dear Governor:

Your favor of the 22d just at hand, in regard to the clothing of this Regt.

There have been in the Regt many cases of individual hardship, a few amounting to almost nakedness; but I think that of the following fact, there is not a doubt. First. That the best temporary and partial uniform that could be obtained promptly, in our poor and sparsely settled State, was provided for the Regt at the time of its organization.

Second. That about the middle of last May Col. German made the proper requisitions for the full U. S. Uniform for all our men, and he and our Quarter-Master and Messengers to St. Louis and Phila. have been urging and laboring for its delivery ever since.

Third. Notwithstanding these exertions the clothing was only procured last week. It was immediately delivered nearly all and most of our men are now in possession of excellent suit. The few exceptions will be provided for in a few days.

I do not go into this matter more largely because Col. German will write you officially upon this subject very soon. Show this to Dr. Foster.

Very truly,

From your truly,

Hon. Alex. Ramsey

Steve Miller
Camp Minnesota
July 30, 1864
Washington, D.C.

To Alex. Ramsey
Gov. State of Minnesota

Dear Sir:

I have heard many passing talk, read newspaper articles, in relation to the clothing of this Regt. Their comments invariably imply that you had done some wrong in not clothing the Regt. sooner.

This Regt. was as well provided as any Regiment brought into the service of the U.S. from the West. Their clothing delivered at Fort Snelling was, although of an inferior quality, in most parts continued by a board of inspection, yet, necessarily known in law and its receipt because no other could be procured coming to the great distances we were from the manufacturing cities. Companies A, B, C, were nearly fully equipped with regular army clothing at Fort Ridgely, also B, C, & D at Fort Ripley, of the best quality, most of which is still sound & good & all the equipment was before they left the State.
On the 30th May I made the requisition for Clothing, & it was as promptly supplied by the State authority as possible. At an early day thereafter I made a requisition on the Govt. U.S. for Clothing which was furnished with all the energy my Dr. M'Clintock could give, & sent Rev. E. D. Halle to Philadelphia. I may date it New York, from Harrisburg on that express business. On arriving at Washington I knew that he had promised Mr. Ramsey to have the clothing inspected, & forwarded it to us at Harrisburg, where he supposed it had been sent. He telegraphed both to Harrisburg & Phil. (in my presence) to find it out whereabout. The next day or two we were ordered into Virginia. The next time the clothing in large amounts came to Washington I was inserted among the other Regiments. Such was the wonderful pressure on the Government, it was found fault with such a time as to day at the moon, without friendly & without fault to any one of our men before or after they knew, so as to render them unfit for duty. Several of them were excused from duty for a few days owing to their rank of clothing. This has occurred in all Regiments & in all Armies.
A thousand times, if the State had been rich, like N. Y. Penn., or some of the older, largely populated, with any amount of credit, we would have had a great many things more than we did; simply to have been thrown away or lost on some forced march, but unfortunately our State was too young and poor to borrow money, or buy our supplies, or credit. There were a great many fancy Regts., very fancifully dressed, that showed off in the bar rooms and hotels of the city. I made night hideous with their bray, while Minnesota, with their red flannel, made themselves respected on account of their bah.

One man earnestly sought after by Commandant 18 of Brigade, to divisions, who wished them attached to their Commanders. Then we left Alexandria for the battle field. Those Companies, who were provided with fine clothes, had them tore up & stored in Alexandria for safe keeping. And when their old Minnesota Uniform on the battle field came themselves with glory, A Heavy Cloth Uniform (such as the regulation require) in summer, if the men were compelled to wear them on drill, parade would be a most intolerable nuisance to man that suffered for the sake of
clothing. Complaints among my army, which have been made by soldiers who wished to run around the city, of their pride preventing them from doing so, coming to the boots of their clothes. Our army is better fed, better clothed, and better cared for than any other army of any other country in the world; if impatient public opinion had no other object than the food of the soldier, information would be sought in the proper quarter, instead of looking to partisan papers established for the purpose of building up politicians.

It would have been very gratifying to me, if our State resources had been such as to have commanded money or credit to have given my wagons, ambulances, and other Army equipment, but we have procured all this since our arrival here, but still the faithful unswerving of the soldiers will complain of their friends at home listening to the idle tales that are told; insubordination and ultimate disaster must come to us, although a deal of suffering had to be expected, a great deal of toil endured, a great deal of hardship borne; thus far all this has been cheerfully borne by the men of my Regiment, except in a few instances, when they have been stimulated by far less patriotism than the soldier whose whims they stimulate rather
than discouragement. On part of the Soldier has been cared for by in Quarter Master by diligence, & application, which has known no tiring. We have been in the service 3 months & our men have been supplied with 3 shirts, 2 pairs pants, 2 coats (1 over, 1 bluse), 1 cap, 1 hat, 2 pairs stockings, 2 pairs shoes, 2 pairs drawers, 2 lanterns, 2 or 3 haversacks, 1 knapsack, 2 blankets. Each & full Army rating with occasional extras.

To Alex. Ramsey
Governor of the State of Minnesota

Very Respectfully Yours

Phillip A. German
Col.