DAKOTA LEGISLATURE.

YANKTON, Jan. 20.—The legislature is making a very good beginning in avoiding special legislation, which is forbidden by the organic act, but which the legislators heretofore have not always fully regarded. Mr. Nickens has introduced a bill extending the time when taxes shall become delinquent from the fourth Monday in February to the fourth Monday in May. This was done in order to accommodate farmers of North Dakota. When the bill was objected to its sponsor became nettled. Finally it was amended so as to include only Stutsman county, and there it died the death. The legislature has passed one or two other bills changing individual names, which should be done by the courts; but these measures, while special, are harmless, and will go through without the governor's signature. Mr. Burdick introduced a bill which will be of general interest. It defines the fees of clerks of district courts. The code says the fees shall be the same as in the United States district court, and refers to the United States revised statutes. As these statutes are not generally accessible, the public do not know whether the clerks charge proper fees or not. Burdick's bill makes no decided change, but makes the knowledge definite. In the house Mr. Wagner, from the committee on Territorial affairs, reported favorably the bill to organize and maintain the University of Dakota, located at Vermillion, with amendments and favorable recommendation. The bill passed. Bills to incorporate the village of Buffalo and to amend the acts incorporating Mandan and Grand Forks, have been introduced. Mr. Wagner introduced a bill which in effect provides that the town of Springfield be required to donate twenty instead of eighty acres of land in order to secure a normal school under the act passed two years ago. The bill authorizing the town of Huron to issue $18,000 in 8 per cent bonds, in order to fund outstanding warrants and build a school house, was favorably reported, with an amendment providing that the measure must first receive the assent of a majority of voters in the said school district. A bill will be introduced Monday to erect the county of Hale out of the eastern portion of Lawrence county. Deadwood is the county seat of Lawrence, and is in the western part of the county, which is nearly ninety miles from east to west. The mines are in the western portion, while the eastern foothills are populated by farmers who are anxious to be severed from the mining region with attending high taxes. The country is large enough for two and the bill is likely to pass. The bills creating Raymond and Becker counties are exciting some interest, as there are men here who hope to profit from the ensuing county seat business. The Devil's Lake new county scheme is quiet. Little opposition will develop against these counties, as the new ones created are large enough, and the division merely a question of time. It is asserted, however, that some difficulty has been found in defining what will probably be the principal county of that section, on account of the location of the county seat at a central point where the railroad people will be sure to go. The scheme to divide Bonhomme and Hutchinson into four counties, an account of which was given yesterday, is quiet. Its supporters have been working hard for several days, and it is said they are not elated over the prospect for success. The lobbyists have gone home for the present without having fixed things as they desired. It is said that Zichach, councilman, and Robinson, representative, both of Scotland, favor the scheme, while Capt. Wagner, Robinson's colleague, is strongly opposing the measure. The latter thinks the plan has no prospect for success, and his words are doubtless true; for a body of men who would vote for these bills would pass almost anything in the line of legislation.

YANKTON, Jan. 22.—Both branches of the legislature to-day accepted the invitation of the Phil Kearney Grand Army post to attend the lecture of Judge Edgerton Wednesday evening. Mr. Walsh introduced a memorial, asking that congress make no change in the present homestead and pre-emption laws, which passed its third reading under a suspension of the rules. Mr. Burdick's memorial for increased membership in the council to twenty-five and the house to seventy-five, was read a second time and referred to the committee on printing. It has been suggested to amend the memorial by providing that the Territory bear the increased expense. Walsh's motion for the appointment of an apportionment committee of five prevailed. Mr. Nickens introduced a bill authorizing the county commissioners of any county having jurisdiction over unorganized territory to grant licenses to sell liquor in such unorganized territory. Mr. Burdick's bill, providing for fire escapes in hotels, passed. In the house the bill granting relief to sufferers from hail storms in Lawrence county passed, also the bill authorizing Huron to issue bonds to take up warrants, and erect a school building. Mr. Rice's bill, punishing rape upon children under ten years with death was unfavorably reported, and lost. Mr. Benson introduced a bill to incorporate the village of Ellendale, Dickey county; also to authorize that school district to issue bonds; by Allred, to incorporate the village of Buffalo, Cass county.

THE DEVIL'S LAKE COUNTRY.

Mr. Wilson will introduce a bill erecting Benson county, taking two tiers of the townships from Ramsey and three from De Smet. A glance at the map will show that a town near the extreme Northwest and of Devil's lake will be near the central portion of this new county. This is the third new county thus far heard from in the Devil's lake country and still there is more to follow. While there may not be much that is objectionable in the bills creating these new counties, it will be generally noticed that a townsite has been picked and the counties defined so as to fit the townsite. It is rumored to-night that some interesting proceedings will shortly develop in relation to the Devil's Lake country, involving the organization of Ramsey county, as it now stands, and the erection of these new counties. The matter is quiet as yet, but a member who knows something about it says: "Look out for breakers. I have no fear of this legislature doing anything that will not bear the light of day, though of course combinations for local interests may boom." Several members of the house said to-day in regard to the proposed county of Becker, to be formed from the southern portion of Ransom, that while no objection existed to forming a new county they have decided objections to the name. Mr. Becker is a young man—a fresh young man, they say—and they can see no reason for honoring him in this way. The bill will pass, I think, but the name will be changed. Matters at Washington are watched with much interest by members of the legislature and the evening daily to-night reflects a tolerably general sentiment when it says that there is a strong disposition in legislative circles to

TAKE HOLD OF THE STATEHOOD QUESTION

independent of congress. If that body fails to act favorably upon the matter, the popular plan is to arrange for a constitutional convention and to make provision for the selection of two United Senators and one representative, the counties south of the forty-sixth parallel to participate in convention proceedings and elections. This can be done without overstepping constitutional bounds. A Territory has a right to adopt a State constitution and demand of congress a recognition of its right, also to choose congressional representatives and ask that they be accorded seats and votes. The feeling is that all work in the direction of admission should not be left in the hands of disinterested parties at Washington, but that people of Dakota should themselves crowd matters upon the attention of the general government. In connection with these proceedings a provision should be made for securing an accurate census of North and south Dakota, together with statistics of growth, productions and financial standing. Armed with convincing facts and figures of this nature, even a Democratic congress cannot, without committing an outrage, deny us Statehoid. The proposed action is not without precedent, many of the States having performed the preliminary work before their cases went to congress.

YANKTON, Dak., Jan. 23.—In the council the bill making the grand jury to consist of not more than twenty-three nor less than sixteen passed, also the memorial to congress asking for increased representation. The memorial provided that the additional expense be borne by the Territory. Also, the bill providing for the destruction of horses afflicted with glanders, after trial by jury. Walsh gave notice of a bill to remove the capital from Yankton. The fortunate place was not mentioned, but the announcement made quite a stir. In the house the following bills were introduced:

By Mr. Benson: Reducing length of residence necessary for notaries public from nine months to ninety days; by Mr. Van Wert, exempting from taxation for ten years forty acres which contain five acres of growing timber.

Quite a lively skirmish took place in the house to-day on an amendment of the bill defining the boundaries of Mandan county. The amendment provided that the people living in that portion of Lawrence county to be placed in Mandan county should not be released by the act from paying their share of the bonded indebtedness of Lawrence county. Mr. Rice opposed this and strongly denounced all the parties who had a hand in creating the immense indebtedness of Lawrence county, mentioning Judge Moody as especially responsible. Mr. Rice gave notice of a bill which is bound to create much interest in railroad circles. The bill will amend Chap. 46 of laws of the session of 1876. This is the chapter upon railroads, and any approach towards that subject always arouses interest. Mr. Rice was interviewed regarding his intentions, and said the bill when introduced would provide for the local taxation of railroad property, in place of the present system of taxation upon the gross receipts of railroad companies. His measure will be similar to those so hotly contested and defeated at the last session of the legislature. The various railroad corporations which have done much to develop Dakota are opposed to the change in the system of taxation proposed. Mr. Towner gave notice in the house of the introduction of a bill which will cause some stir, as it is in effect a sort of declaration of war against the governor on the part of certain northern members. The title of the proposed bill announced is:

An act to amend Secs. 1 and 2, Chap. 21 of the political code, Secs. 1 and 2, of Chap. — of the code, which provides that whenever fifty or more voters of an unorganized county petition the governor of the Territory for organization, and he shall become satisfied that the county has a requisite number of legal voters to entitle it to organization, he shall appoint three residents of such county as county commissioners and they shall proceed to organize the county.

The intent of the proposed bill is to take from the governor authority to organize counties and place it in the hands of some other party or parties. Mr. Towner is not certain about the course to be pursued, but favors giving to district judges in the districts where the reorganized counties lie the authority to act in such cases by calling a special election in the county which applies for organization. Mr. Jeraud introduced a bill to prevent the importation of Texas and Cherokee cattle. It is claimed that these cattle bring disease with them and that native stock passing over ground on which they have been herded will become infected. The health of her native stock is a source of pride to Dakota, and it would seem proper that due care be taken to preserve it from the inroads of diseases entirely foreign to it.

The council committee on elections had a hearing to-day in the contested case of McCanly against Donaldson, with the best legal talent in Yankton employed. Hughes and Gamble appeared for the contestant and Tripp and West for the sitting member. The contestant was heard in full, but the defense asked for time, as the poll books and other important evidence were delayed by the snow blockade. The contestant asserted that this demand for time was merely to delay the case and hold the seat through the session. The committee adjourned for two days.

YANKTON, Jan. 24.—The legislative session today was quiet. The house judiciary committee reported adversely the bill making $500 the minimum license fee and $1,000 the maximum. The bill was then referred to a special committee. Many members hope it will fare better here, as they regard a high license as the proper solution of the temperance issue. Mr. Thompson introduced a bill increasing the personal property exemption from $1,500 to $2,000. The clause which exempts homesteads and different articles of house furniture are repealed by this bill. House bills passed: Fixing compensation of assessors of Pennington and Custer county at $5 per diem; providing for payment of attorney's fees in cases of forcible entry and detainer; providing clerks for judiciary committee; incorporating the village of Mandan. Notice of house bills: By Mr. Harvey, to provide for the building of a court house and jail in Walsh county; by Mr. Nowlin, incorporating Rapid City; by Mr. Sterling, to erect a court house and jail in Beadle county; by Mr. Inman, to provide for cheap and uniform text books in the public schools—a much needed measure; by Mr. Pyatt, to attach to Richland county portions of eight townships between that county and the Sisseton reservation, which by an error do not now come within the limits of any county. The owners of the land—about 75,000 acres—are identified with Richland county. There are, in different sections of the Territory, many townships which have been overlooked. A bill is now pending to attach twelve such townships to Hyde county. Mr. Inman introduced a joint resolution providing for adjournment Feb. 17, although the legislature has authority to sit until March 10. Mr. Towner, who yesterday announced that he would introduce a bill to take the

POWER OF ORGANIZING COUNTIES

out of the governor's hands has not yet done so for the reason, as several members have said, that he has not met with sufficient encouragement in this declaration of war against the governor. The true inwardness of the situation, as near as can be ascertained, is that the governor is said to have forwarded commissions organizing Ramsey county, while Towner, Lamoure and Walsh, real estate boomers, had another set of commissioners picked out, though it is said they did not suggest their names to the governor or ask the appointment of any one until some time after. The matter will quiet down, especially as the majority of the members seem to have no desire for any unpleasantness growing out of the success or appointment of town site speculators. In the matter of dividing Bon Homme and Hutchinson counties so as to form a new county, of which Scotland shall be the county seat, and Springfield the county seat of the remnant of Bon Homme county, the McCoy-Day-Brinkerhoff lobby are at work. They have rooms at the Jencks, where wines and cigars are free for all. McCoy and Day have heretofore held full sway in Bon Homme county, and accumulated a large indebtedness. They are fought hard to regain their power, but without success. The meaning of this slicing-up movement is purely for making county seats and regaining lost power. Ziebach of the council and Robinson of the house, both residents of Scotland, favor the division scheme, while Capt. Wagner, the Bon Homme member of the house, strongly opposes the measure. The people in both counties are thoroughly aroused and are sending Capt. Wagner a decided remonstrance. It contains seventy-five signatures from Springfield, while the other side cannot muster over fifty. Eight hundred names are expected from Bon Homme, and over 1,000 from Hutchinson against the scheme.

YANKTON, Dak., Jan. 25.—Mr. Washabaugh introduced a resolution in the council for appointing a joint committee of three councilmen and five representatives to draft a bill for a constitutional convention for South Dakota. Under a suspension of the rules the resolution was immediately put upon its third reading and passage without dissent. This would seem to indicate that there was a unanimity of sentiment in regard to beginning the erection of a State. It is claimed that history affords precedents for this programme, but a member said to-day that he failed to see the benefit arising from the action. Congress already knows that South Dakota has ample population for Statehood, and if they will not admit her now, they will not after such preliminary action. There is, however, no doubt of the resolution passing the house. Mr Scobey introduced a bill providing that in case a husband or wife shall be guilty of desertion or sentenced to one year's imprisonment, the other party shall have the right to control the real estate belonging to him or her. Mr. Scobey also introduced a bill which provides that in case a debtor shall attempt to conceal his property, remove the same from the Territory, or attempt to assign it to any person, or in case credit is obtained by false representations, then the debtor shall be entitled to no exemptions except such as are defined as absolute.

A LIVELY DISCUSSION

took place in the council over a bill providing that in case of a petition of seven residents of a county, the district attorney shall take an appeal to the district court from any decision of county commissioners, provided that in the opinion of the district attorney there is sufficient ground for the appeal. The bill was recommitted. House bills introduced:

By Mr. Pyatt, to attach certain unorganized territory to Richland county; by Mr. Tychen, requiring ministers to file their credentials with registers of deeds before they can perform the marriage ceremony, and to examine at least one of the candidates under oath as to the legal qualifications of both candidates; by Mr. Harvey, for building a court house and jail in Walsh county; by Mr. Rinehart, for the protection of sheep, horses, cattle and other animals against vicious dogs.

House bills passed:

To amend the law establishing a normal school at Springfield, by decreasing the donation of land required from eighty to twenty acres; exempting from taxation for ten years forty acres of land which contains five acres of growing timber; reducing the time of residence required for qualifications as notary from nine to three months; legalizing the acts of Edwin T. White as notary public, who had inadvertently used his seal after the expiration of his commission; making it unlawful to kill quail in Dakota for five years, amended so as to exclude Yankton, Clay and Bon Homme counties.

JUDGE MOODY'S COMPENSATION.

The legislative assembly two years ago passed a bill over the governor's veto, giving Judge Moody $2,400 extra salary. His salary from the United States government is $3,000, which was payable out of the funds in the treasuries of the counties of the Black Hills. This extra salary was made a preferred claim against the Hills county and was to be granted only so long as Judge Moody was the judicial incumbent. This unfortunate measure has caused much adverse criticism against the judge. It is asserted that the taxpayers in the Hills are almost unanimous in their opposition to the law. Mr. Rinhart has given notice that he will introduce a bill repealing the law. Nothing new has developed in the line of excitement caused by Mr. Powers' announcement of his intention to introduce a bill to change the method of organizing counties. It is said the bill has been drawn, and that it will provide that on the application of an unorganized county the judge of the district court of the district in which the applying county is located shall call an election, at which a full set of county officers will be elected, and the county seat will be temporarily located at the same election. The officers of the county in which the court is held for the subdivision will canvass the vote, and the clerk of the court will issue the certificates of election.

AT PRESENT

the governor appoints three commissioners, who in turn appoint the other officers and temporarily locate the county seat. The change might not be an unwise one as an abstract principle. Debate will be made in the interest of parties who are managing county seats. Gov. Ordway has always been eminently fair in making these appointments. He has devoted much time to hearing parties and examining papers and in many cases has visited the counties in person. While, in view of the contests for county seats, there are always disappointed parties, there is no need for making the change, which is, of course, under the circumstances, a reflection upon the governor's actions in this respect. It is doubtful whether the bill can pass, and if will undoubtedly fail should the governor veto it.

YANKTON, Dak., Jan. 26.—Mr. Jackson introduced in the council a bill to amend the divorce law, making actual separation for three years sufficient grounds for divorce; also, when it shall appear impossible for parties to live peaceably together, and when separation shall be for the best interests of both. Mr. McIntosh introduced a bill to relieve the taxpayers of Davison county. It appears that there is a dispute over the treasurership of Davison county, and the object of the bill is to delay the payment of taxes, without penalty, until the matter is settled. Mr. Walsh introduced a bill to establish the office of county attorney, an office which is greatly needed, as boards of commissioners have no regular legal advisor. Mr. Jackson's bill for the protection of sheriffs and deputies by providing that neither fees nor mileage shall be paid to any person who may serve a summons in a justice's court unless the same be an officer, was lost in council. Mr Walsh's bill providing for the repeal of Secs. 597 to 615, inclusive, of Chap. 28 of civil procedure in relation to foreclosing mortgages by advertisement, was lost in the council. The house bill vacating a part of Phillips avenue, in Sioux Falls, passed the council. In the house the incident of the day was the

RESIGNATION OF JUDSON LAMOURE

of Pembina as sergeant-at-arms. Lamoure has served two terms as member of the house, but last fall failed to catch on to the nomination. Nevertheless, he came to the capital and made a successful canvass for the position named. The reason given for throwing aside the honors thus thrust upon him is ill health, on account of the confinement. Some, however, have put it that Lamoure has found that he cannot wield the influence here that he intended, and that he can employ himself to better advantage elsewhere. Nevertheless, Lamoure is not well. He is now carrying his arm in a sling in consequence of a playful tap from one of Yankton's most prominent business men. On motion of Mr. Pyatt of Wahpeton, Theodore Reiter of Richland county was elected to fill the vacancy. House bills introduced:

By Mr. Sterling—For erecting a court house and jail in Beadle county; by Mr. Rice, to legalize the record of conveyances of land where the record shows no seal to the certificate of the officer; also, a bill defining the force and effect of instruments heretofore recorded in the office of the register of deeds, when they were not entitled to record; by Mr. Nowlin, to regulate application for pardons; by Mr. Tychsen, to require the reading of the Bible in public schools.

There was a good deal of hide and seek playing to-day over Mr. Thompson's bill amending the license laws. This bill provides that the minimum fee to sell liquor shall be $200, reduced by amendment from $500, and the maximum $1,000; that the applicant shall give a $1,000 bond, with two sureties, that the applicant shall keep an orderly house; that he will permit no gambling upon the premises where the liquor is to be sold or in any adjoining room or building, and to close at 11 o'clock at night. The bill

PASSED BY TWO MAJORITY.

Nowlin moved a reconsideration, as several members had not fully realized for what they were voting. The reconsideration prevailed. Mr. Thompson himself voting for it when he saw it would succeed. Thereupon he gave notice of a motion to reconsider, and Nowlin then moved that the vote by which the bill was defeated be reconsidered and that the motion to reconsider lie on the table. Mr. Rice's railroad tax bill has not yet been introduced, but several railroad men are in town to look after their interests. The governor's message recommended that no change be made at present in the method of taxing railroads. The law now in force levies a tax of 2 per cent on gross earnings, which for 1881 amounted to nearly $36,000, and will be greatly increased for last year when the reports are in. As the 3 per cent rate will go into effect next year the governor thought the tax income would soon reach $100,000, and that in view of the fact that the railroads were extending their lines into an unsettled county where the business would at first be light, it would be fairer to tax the gross receipts than according to the value of property. It is not probable that Mr. Rice's bill can pass, and the railroad people therefore need not be over solicitious. Mr. Rice will also introduce a bill providing for a board of railroad commissioners, to which there will probably be no opposition.

THE OVERGROWN TERRITORY.

PETTIGREW RAKES IN SOME STATISTICS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—Delegate Pettigrew has obtained from the general land office some interesting statistics, showing the wonderful growth of Dakota, which he intends to make use of when the bill for the division of that Territory is taken up. It appears from this statement that the whole number of original homesteads taken in Dakota from January, 1863, the time of the organization of the Territory, to June 30, 1880, inclusive, was 29,812. The population at the date last mentioned was 135,000, indicating a proportion of 4½ persons to each homestead entry. From July 1, 1880, to Dec. 31, 1882, the whole number of original homestead entries in Dakota was 35,355, indicating, at the rate of one homestead to 4½ persons, an increase of population to 161,048, of whom 104,000 are in Southern Dakota; and 57,048 in Northern Dakota. At the time of the census there were 100,000 in Southern Dakota and 35,000 in Northern Dakota, so on Jan 1, 1883, there were 205,000 people in the proposed State of Dakota and 90,048 in the proposed Territory of North Dakota. The population of the whole Territory was therefore 294,048. As a further evidence of the immense growth of the Territory it is shown that the receipts of the postoffice department from Dakota alone for the quarter ending Sept. 30, 1880, were $32,321, and for quarter ending Sept. 30, 1882, they were $66,356, over twice as large as they were for the June quarter of 1880. There are now at least five States in the Union which yield a smaller revenue so far as postoffice receipts are concerned than Dakota. These are Delaware, Florida, Nevada, Oregon and West Virginia.

THE DAKOTA FORESTRY BILL.

On the first call of States and Territories for the introduction of bills Mr. Pettigrew will introduce a bill to be known as the Dakota forestry bill. It will provide for—

The granting of 100 sections of unappropriated land in Dakota to the coming State, to be immediately selected by the secretary of the interior, appraised and sold at their appraised value on ten years' annual payments, no deeds on patents to be given to the purchasers until after they have planted at least twelve acres of forest trees on each quarter section and kept them in good growing condition for at least eight years, the trees to be planted at such place or places on the quarter section as shall be designated at the time of the purchase, by a forestry commission, for which the bill provides. The money derived from the sale of the lands is to form a fund to be invested in government bonds, or other good securities, the interest of which is to be used for the establishment and maintenance of a school of forestry and experimental stations. This institution is to be under the supervision of a board of three commissioners, two of whom are to be practical foresters appointed by the president and confirmed by the senate, and one appointed by the governor of the State of Dakota and confirmed by the highest branch of the State legislature, the commissioners to hold their offices for ten years or during good behavior. If the proceeds of the land sold for this purpose exceed $200,000, the excess is to be used in constructing buildings and experimental forestry stations, if it is found necessary to do so.

It is hardly expected that the bill can become a law this congress, but its introduction will attract attention to the subject, and it is understood that it will be reintroduced by Delegate Raymond and pressed for final passage. Mr. Pettigrew says that the present timber act is wholly ineffectual, and the only way that anything can be accomplished in the direction of tree culture in Dakota is by some such law as he proposes.

Prevention of Land Frauds.

Commissioner McFarland has issued a circular to receivers and registers of land offices, instructing them that whenever relinquishments of pre-emption, homestead or timber culture, filings or entries are presented in such time or manner as to afford reasonable ground for belief that the entry was made fraudulently for speculation, and not in good faith, acceptance of relinquishments must be withheld and the facts reported. The commissioner says:

Obviously a timber culture entry cannot have been made in good faith when the relinquishment thereof is executed at the time of entry or is immediately thereafter offered for sale, or offered for sale at any time as a matter of speculation. The fact that a relinquishment of any filing or entry is executed at the date of filing or entry or immediately thereafter is of itself sufficient evidence that the filing or entry was fraudulently made. Relinquishments in such cases will be promptly rejected and the facts reported to this office. When the evidence of relinquishment at date of entry is conclusive or ascertainable you will also report the facts to the United States district attorney or enter complaint before the nearest United States commissioner, in order that parties guilty of taking false oaths or fraudulently attempting to enter public lands may be criminally prosecuted.

Where relinquishments are executed in blank and the dates subsequently filled in, the relinquishment will be deemed, for the purpose of adjudication by this office, to have been executed at date of entry.

The fact that a relinquishment of an entry or filing is at any time put in the market as a matter of common sale and speculation, or that such relinquishment is in any manner made the subject of speculative negotiation, is presumptive evidence that the claim was fraudulent in its inception. This presumption may be overcome by proof, showing the circumstances under which the entry is proposed to be relinquished, where such circumstances afford sufficient grounds for the relinquishment without impeaching the good faith of the entry. But the burden of proof in such cases will be upon the entry man to show his good faith, and the evidence must be clear and convincing.

Purchasers of relinquishments of fraudulent filings or entries should understand that they purchase at their own risk so far as the United States is concerned, and must seek their own remedies under local laws against those who, by imposing such relinquishments upon them, have obtained their money without valuable consideration.

DAKOTA AND TEXAS.

MAXEY AGAINST SPLITTING THE LATTER.

Washington Special to Chicago Times: There has been a good deal of talk among the Democrats during the last few days to the effect that they would not object to the admission of the southern portion of Dakota as a State, provided Texas were divided into three States. They argued that Texas was large enough to make three States as large as the largest of the States, and that she had population enough to furnish three States with necessary inhabitants to secure admission to the Union. But there isn't much in this talk. In speaking of the matter to-day, Senator Maxey said:

I have heard lately a great deal of talk from Democrats of making three States out of Texas. Members of congress have talked to me about it. As everybody knows, the division of Texas into three or more States is not a matter for the consideration of congress, but for the people of Texas, and when men outside of Texas advise making three States out of it their advice is, to say the least of it, a little impertinent. There is not one man in a hundred that wants the grand old State divided. There are a few narrow-gauge men here who would like to see something of the kind done, not because they want to increase the strength of the Democratic party, but because they think their chances of getting an office would be multiplied. These men can never get an office in Texas, and they know it. Some outside Democrats think that by dividing up the State the influence of the Democratic party would be increased, particularly in the United States senate. I am a Democrat, but I love Texas better than the Democratic party, and I believe that any true Texan harbors the same feeling. You may rest assured that Texas will remain as she is during another generation at least.

A BALTIMORE ROMANCE.

Ernault Williams Trying to Recover His Fortune After Marrying to Suit Himself.

A special dispatch to the Philadelphia Times from Baltimore, says: A sensation has been created in society circles here by Ernault Williams, the son of George Hawkins Williams, president of the Maryland state senate, marrying against his father's wishes; and then today filling a motion in the circuit court to set aside a deed of trust by which he had conveyed to his father all of his property in consideration of an annuity of $2,000. In the motion filed recently the young man simply states that the reasons for the transfer which existed at the time of signing the deed of trust do not now exist and asks to be given control of his own property.

Early last spring it became known in high society here that Ernault Williams was engaged to be married to Miss Lizzie Hazelitt, of this city. Young Williams is one of the best known society men in Baltimore, and the announcement attracted considerable attention, which did not wane when the elder Williams it was rumored, was bitterly opposed to the match. The wedding day was fixed for June 14th last. Cards were issued, the bride's trosseau was prepared, when a few days before the marriage the groom set sail for Europe, and society was lost in wonder. Later it transpired that previous to the groom's departure he had been compelled to make a deed of trust to his father of his entire fortune, amounting to $250,000, indirect from his grandfather, the late John S. Gittings. It is said that at the time there was a stormy scene between father and son, and that the latter was persuaded into signing the deed by Senator Williams, who had always exercised a strong control over the young. When the groom-elect, apparently much against his will, went to New York before sailing for Liverpool, he wrote a long letter to his finance, assuring her of his continued love and desire to marry her and promising to speedily return. During his absence abroad he corresponded with her regularly, though his father, it is said, knew nothing of the love letters that were passing between them.

About a month ago Ernault returned home, and twenty-four hours after his arrival the cards were again issued for the wedding, and the happy couple were married about three weeks ago in the presence of a fashionable assemblage at the residence of the bride's parents on St. Paul street. The senator was not at the wedding, and from what can be learned he is unrelenting and refuses to recognize his son or transfer back to him his property. The trial of the case will be very interesting and is eagerly looked forward to by the legal profession and society folks.

Aaron Burr as a Cross-Examiner.

A writer thus describes the conclusion of a case in which Burr was one of the lawyers: The evening session opened and Burr resumed his cross-examination of the witness. It was a test of the profound skill and sobriety of the lawyer, the self-possession, courage and tact of the witness standing on the very brink of a horrible gulf firmly and intrepidly resisting the efforts of the terrible man to topple him over. At last, after dexterously leading the witness to an appropriate point, Burr suddenly seized a lamp in each hand, and holding them in such a manner that their light fell instantaneously upon the face of the witness, he exclaimed in a startling voice, like the voice of the avenger of blood: "Gentlemen of the jury behold the murderer!"

With a wild, convulsive start, face of ashy palor, eyes starting from their sockets, lips apart, his whole attitude evincing terror, the man sprang from his chair. For a moment he stood motionless struggling to recover his self-possession. But it was only a momentary struggle, shaking every nerve with paralyzing fear. Conscious that the eyes of all in the court-room were fixed upon him, reading the hidden deeds of his life, he left the witness stand and walked shrinkingly to the door of the court-room, but he was prevented from making his escape by the sheriff. The effect can be better imagined than described. It struck the spectators with silent awe, changing the whole aspect of the trial in an instant, overthrowing the hypothesis of the attorney general, which he was convinced would send the prisoner to the gallows, saving an innocent man from the dreadful hands of a bold and skillful perjurer. The false witness was arrested, two indictments were found against him, one for murder another for perjury. He was acquitted for murder, but subsequently convicted for perjury, and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment.

Fresh Meat in Camp.

The story of the coward who "captured" two of the enemy by running away when they gave chase, and reaching camp just in time to get them caught, instead of getting himself caught, is repeated below in the experience of a lazy man. The incident was given in the Toronto (Canada) Globe:

A Toronto lawyer recently made one of a party who were hunting in the Muskoka district. The members of the party had arranged that they should each take turns at the cooking. The gentleman in question did not take kindly to this work, and when the remainder of the party returned from the chase he was invariably asleep, not having prepared a meal.

His companions became somewhat disturbed at his laziness, and declared that he should go out and bring in some game. This he proceeded very gladly to do.

In a few minutes, however, he was seen at the top of his speed rushing frantically towards the camp with an immense bear in hot pursuit. He dashed into the shanty, the heavy doors of which were at once barred against the would-be intruder, the frightened hunter exclaiming, between gasps in trying to catch his breath,—

"Boys—here's your—fresh meat—all alive!"

After some dozen shots had been fired from the roof of the shanty, where the gallant hunters had managed to crawl through one of the numerous smoke-holes, the bear was killed and the men descended and soon were enjoying a hearty dinner of bear-steaks.