

DAKOTA IN THE SENATE.

Senator Harrison Makes a Strong Speech in Support of the Admission Bill.

Washington Special 9th.—Dakota is once more a theme of debate. The senate, on John Sherman's motion, took up the bill for the division of Dakota on the forty-sixth parallel, and admission of the southern half, a measure prepared by Senator Harrison, chairman of the committee. Senator Sherman's motion was carried by a party vote—34 yeas to 25 nays. Senator Harrison, as the father of the bill, opened the debate. The bill appears to have even chances of passing in the senate, but could death await it in the house.

Mr. Harrison said the movement for the admission of a new state had originated where such movements ought to originate—with the people of the territory. A discussion of its admission to the Union could, of course, assume the shape of party discussion, but that was a shape unworthy of so important a question. To consider the application of people for admission to the Union from the point of view of its relation to the fortunes of a political party was to consider it from a level far below that of statesmanship. He believed the feeling in the territory was almost unanimously in favor of the division of the northern and southern portions, and equally unanimous that the admission of the whole territory as a single state would not be acceptable. Judged by population and producing capacity, Dakota was entitled to admission. In 1870 the improved lands and farms in the territory comprised 42,645 acres; in 1880, 1,150,413 acres. The number of farms in the territory in 1870 was 1,270; in 1880, 17,439. The value of those of 1880 was \$22,400,000, and the total value of the agricultural products of that year \$15,524,000. This was a greater valuation than could be stated of several states. As to capacity to bear the expenses of state government, the territory was already defraying nearly all those expenses in the territorial form of government. With regard to the question

should entitle a territory to admission as a state, there had been no rule established by congress. It had been suggested that population should be required at least equal to the unit of representation in the lower house of congress, which at this time would be a little over 150,000 persons. Few of the states, however, had had population enough at the time of their admission to bring them within that rule. No state, since the admission of Missouri in 1821, had population sufficient to entitle it to one representative in congress. It was therefore a matter for the discretion of congress; but even on the basis requiring such population, he believed that with the naturally rapid increase of population of the territory, the portion proposed to be admitted would, in a census taken at this time, show enough population to entitle it to two representatives. Taking up the question of ratio of voters to population and the bearing of that question upon the admission of Dakota, Harrison stated the vote of Dakota in 1880 at 28,426, while in 1884 it was 86,000; increase, 57,574 voters in four years. Of the 86,000 votes nearly two-thirds had been cast in Southern Dakota, the portion seeking admission to the Union. Estimating only four inhabitants to a voter, Southern Dakota would now have a population of 230,000. In 1880 it had a population of 135,177, or a proportion of 4.82 inhabitants to a voter. If it were objected that the proportion allowed was too large, he would look at

some other states. The proportion of voters to inhabitants in Florida in 1880 was one voter for every 5.22 inhabitants, Georgia one in 9.27, Mississippi one in nearly 10, Louisiana one in 9.07, Alabama one in 8.46, Missouri one in 5.45. The average of those six states gave one in a little more than eight inhabitants to each voter. Mr. Harrison criticised the report of the minority of the committee on territories represented by Vest, which strongly opposes the admission of the territory, and which declares, if the statements of the advocates of admission are true, the proposed state is already an Elysium, and its people enjoying every blessing of religion, education and prosperity. Harrison thought this no answer to the demand of the vigorous and progressive population which they claimed the right to elect their own governor, and take part in making laws by which congress provides for their government.

The Dakota Legislature.

The following is a complete list of the members-elect of the Dakota legislature, with their postoffice addresses. All of them are Republicans, except Mr. Roach of Larimore:

Table with columns: Dist., Member, County, Postoffice. Lists names and addresses for various districts across Dakota.

A Judge's Plain Talk at Millbank.

MILBANK, Dak., Special, Dec. 9.—In the Fifth district court, now in session here Claus M. Stegemann, twenty-four years old,

pleaded guilty to the charge of stealing \$110 from the agent of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway at Andover on the 4th inst., claiming in extenuation that for a long time past he had been receiving letters from Germany beseeching him to turn home and visit his aged parents before they died, and that, not being able to collect funds due him, he was led to take the money. Judge Seward Smith, in passing sentence, (which was that the prisoner be confined at hard labor for two years in the penitentiary at Sioux Falls), said in substance that, though he did not believe in visiting the sins of the whole community upon the prisoner, it was time something were done to check the epidemic of crime raging in this vicinity; that gambling house keepers could not be brought to justice; religious camp-meetings were broken up by rowdies seeking to rob an inoffensive drunken man whom the people present at the camp-meeting were endeavoring to protect, and the perpetrators of these outrages upon the law could act with impunity, with no fear that they would be held to account for their unlawful and wicked conduct; half the city of Millbank burned by incendiaries, and crime in general running riot; that an example must be made, and the people given to understand that the courts will not permit this wholesale lawlessness to go untried. Frank Hughes, formerly a saloon-keeper of this place, was tried on the charge of selling intoxicating liquors without a license, and found guilty.

Natural Gas in Dakota.

MITCHELL, Dak., Special Telegram, Dec. 9.—On Saturday as workmen were drilling a well on the farm of G. H. Summers, twelve miles northwest of town, at a depth of sixty-five feet, they discovered a peculiar rumbling noise at the bottom of the well; a gas of sickening odor escaping with a hissing noise at the opening of the pipe. One of the workmen touched a match to the opening, and a bright flame started up, and continued to burn with a steady, brilliant glare till it was extinguished four hours afterward. The workmen say the light was equivalent to that furnished by twenty ordinary gas jets, and was utilized by them in boiling water and cooking victuals. Sunday morning the opening was again fired, and continued to burn with a steady flame all day. The same noise and odor has been detected in many other wells in this vicinity, but this is the only instance where the fire test has been applied. This incident greatly strengthens the belief that this whole section is underlaid with coal or gas, and we may soon expect to hear of mining companies being organized to test the resources of this Jim river country.

Pride and Justice.

A Spaniard is as obstinate as one of his mules. When he is angry he is an inflexible tyrant, and he becomes very angry when he is thwarted.

An anecdote illustrates what a tyrant, a spanish father may be, while at the same time exhibiting the magnanimity of a fair-minded soldier.

Gen. X—, an old officer of Spain, had a daughter who fell in love with her father's adjutant. There was no good reason against the match, but the general chose to refuse his consent, and the pair married without it.

From the hour of their marriage he would not recognize their existence. The son-in-law and the father fought side by side in several battles. But neither recognized the other. At last the adjutant so distinguished himself that mutual friends pressed the General to apply for his son-in-law's promotion.

"Son-in-law! I have none!" he replied. "Your daughter's husband."

"I have no daughter."

"We mean Lieut.—, your late adjutant."

"Ah, that is a different thing! Lieut.— is a good officer. I will willingly assist his advancement."—Youth's Companion.

The business men and property holders of Millbank met and organized a Citizens Protective association for the purpose of guarding against further incendiary attempts. It was resolved that a volunteer patrol of business men should go on duty each night and that all suspicious characters should be promptly arrested. The city council was requested to offer a reward for the arrest and conviction of incendiaries. This evening the council met and offered a reward of \$500 for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who fired the town on Nov. 17, and a further reward of \$250 for the arrest and conviction of any person detected at incendiaryism.

On the 9th, 10th and 11th of this month there will be held in Fargo a conference of the retail lumber dealers of North Dakota. One hundred and twenty-five invitations have been sent out, and at this time about forty firms have expressed their intention of being present. The matters to be considered will be of great importance to the trade—especially that looking toward legislation. The dealers in Fargo will give a banquet to the visiting members.

In the preliminary legal skirmish between Traverse and Wilmot on the county-seat fight in Roberts county, in the district court at Millbank, the former came out victorious. The indications are that there will be a long and bitter fight.

Z. M. Holt of East Grand Forks went rabbit hunting, and while standing on a log with his gun beside him, the gun slipped and discharged the charge of duck shot entering his thigh. It may be necessary to amputate the leg to save his life.

Ed Henderson, chief clerk of the last Dakota house, is a candidate for reelection.

Diphtheria prevails among children at Yankton.

DAKOTA TERRITORIAL NEWS.

Dakota Schools.

Gentlemen connected with the press of Dakota have requested the school statistics prepared for the forthcoming report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the following summary is furnished simultaneously to as many as can be reached at the same time. It is followed by brief abstracts upon a few points that the report will discuss.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Value. Lists statistics for counties reporting, school organizations, number of schools, teachers, and expenses.

There are 81 organized counties at the present time, but the reports for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1884, include only the 45 counties which had schools and school accounts in that year: Number of counties reporting... 65; Number of counties organized but not reporting... 16; Number of school townships organized, in 50 counties... 507; Number of school districts organized in 50 counties... 1,043; Number of persons June 1, 1884, between ages of 7 and 20 years... 77,490; Number of pupils enrolled in public schools... 50,031; Number of school houses, graded... 72; Number of school houses, ungraded... 1,849; Value of permanent school property... \$1,089,658; Number of sittings in school houses... 69,560; Number of graded schools... 1,930; Number of ungraded schools... 1,000; Number of teachers employed, males... 863; Number of teachers employed, females... 2,048; Average pay of teachers per month—20 days, males... \$38 43; Average pay of teachers per month—20 days, females... \$31 73; Average number of days schools were taught... 101; Number of county Teacher's Institutes held... 89; Meetings of Territorial Associations and Institute... 8.

EXPENDITURES. For school houses, sites and appendages... \$639,962.83; For teachers wages... 394,785.47; For incidental expenses... 135,406.70; For interest on bonds... 73,770.22; For other debts and liabilities... 70,944.50; Total common school expenditures during year... 1,309,878.72; Balance on hand June 30th, 1884... 295,684.27; Total to balance total common school receipts... 1,605,562.99; For university buildings, Vermillion... 30,000.00; For university buildings, Grand Forks... 30,000.00; For building Agricultural College, Brookings... 20,000.00; For Normal school building, Madison... 7,000.00; For Normal school building, Spearfish... 5,000.00; Donated in money and lands by localities to all these... 30,000.00; For salaries and other expenses of all these... 23,000.00; Aggregate for public education during year... \$1,748,562.99.

The report will decidedly favor and defend the township system as opposed to the district plan. The experience of twenty months justifies this. The practice under no law is perfect but the condition is far better in counties where this system has been in operation than it was in the same under the district plan. It has handled public money and made report of it responsibly, a point never before reached in Dakota school affairs. It has improved the character of the schools; promoted economy; given longer terms and better schools without increased taxation; has greatly increased the credit of school corporations; put the management of schools into more capable hands; relieved the counties of local quarrels over district boundaries; given to all the people more equal and uniform school advantages, the great object of any law, and enabled the people to plan permanently and co-operate in one community without need of future divisions; distributed school houses more equitably having never too many, and generally applied the public money and directed the public enterprise in educational matters in a more fair, equal and satisfactory manner for the whole people. The exceptions to this in a few localities rest on neglect and violation of the law. A few inconspicuous amendments will meet.

The law which places money received from saloon licenses as funds in the county school fund met opposition in Cass, Grand Forks, Lawrence, Pennington and a few other counties, while a great majority of the counties seem to favor it. The inconvenience to some suggests the necessity of adding a proviso to that section that will turn all such moneys in those counties into the county general fund, as the best source of the question.

The law will have a most careful revision. Indeed, extraordinary care will be taken. Last spring a committee of the ablest county superintendents was appointed to co-operate in this work. Several meetings and much correspondence have been devoted to the subject. The labor is not completed. The main feature of the system, the undivided township school corporations and their lands, will remain, but various details will be better adjusted to practical needs and experience. Great effort will be made to give all the subjects of the law the most easy and systematic order and arrangement, while the whole will be made more brief. Some provision will be made for pay of school township officers. The law is recognized to apply to all the counties, and to this end it is suggested that the provision permit, in some old counties, different boundaries for school townships and civil townships. This will enable the accommodation of school township boundaries more easily to existing boundaries and school houses. The report urges that in the old counties all present districts must be modified and divided in a few years, especially with the growth following statehood, and that no law and no officers can do this with equal justice to all. In counties the size of Cass or Brown and Spink we would need in a few years about 30 school districts each, with 900 officers, rendering it necessary to keep account with and receive reports from 60 of them. This is much worse than useless, and it will require 600 different changes of boundaries to reach this result, in each county, and in nearly every change would be a wrong to a considerable part.

If the legislature decide to preserve district organizations where they now are it is recommended that the complete law governing them be separately printed for their use. Many have recommended that county superintendents be elected at the June elections, and that all school elections for boards of education as well as in townships and districts occur on the same day.

The territory is so large that one man cannot look after it. Several suggestions are made to meet this. One is that the Assistant Superintendent have exclusive jurisdiction over north Dakota, with separate appropriations for institutes and other purposes. This would be better for both. The pressure of duty has prevented a visit to the Black Hills. This requires a month which could not be given to it. The subject of the school lands is discussed fully, and the ground taken that the lands should not be sold for less than from \$30 to \$50 an acre, but meanwhile leased and the rents used to support schools; or that the lands be sold only for a period of thirty years at the end of which time the title should revert to the state for school purposes. The point is made that no reliable and permanent policy can be adopted except in the constitution. States that

have trusted all to statutes and executive officers have lost the large part of the fund. Each Dakota should have fifty million dollars per annum school fund.

A recommendation is made that a general and uniform law be passed for all boards of education and that all such corporations report as a class separately. These are some of the leading features of the report.

Pierre has purchased ten acres of land for a cemetery.

Land hunters are now making a raid on Douglass county.

Wheat sold at Huron for 29 cents a bushel, one cent lower than oats and the lowest ever known by any Huronite.

The trustees of La Moure have voted \$2,000 bonus for the erection of a flouring mill at that point.

W. C. Waters, who keeps a general store at Sioux Falls, has been closed under foreclosure of mortgage. Assets and liabilities comparatively small.

The jury of the United States circuit court at Yankton has brought in a verdict of not guilty in the case of J. C. Fairchild, who was charged with frauds on the land office at Mitchell.

The farmers at Dakota are earnestly discussing the question of wheat grades and intend to secure action by the legislature.

The Huron National bank has opened for business with a capital of \$50,000. Lewis W. Hazen is president; John A. Fowler, cashier; and John A. Shaw assistant.

A. J. Gibbs, on trial at Yankton for dealing in bogus declaratory statements was acquitted.

A turnip weighing sixteen pounds and seven ounces were raised on sod near Ipswich.

The corn crop was a profitable one in North Dakota this season.

The capitol of Steele county has been removed to Sherbrooke.

Rev. H. Swift, of St. Stephens mission, is erecting a new mission church just north of Moreau.

The Continental hotel, Fargo, is to be rebuilt, brick, four stories, 100x140.

Austin, tried at Columbia, for shooting Mr. Ball, was acquitted.

A large herd of buffaloes is grazing near Fairbank.

The barn and \$5,000 worth of grain belonging to W. P. Smith of Wheatland was totally destroyed by fire. Partially insured.

A new fire company has been organized at Sioux Falls and named the Drake company, in honor of J. H. Drake of St. Paul.

The barn of W. P. Smith, six miles north of Wheatland, Cass county, containing 6,000 bushels of grain, was destroyed by fire. There was an insurance of about \$800 on the barn and grain.

J. M. Paulson, running a saloon in Fargo, was arrested, it being alleged that he set fire to his place of business having first secured the cash and other valuables. He was seen to run out of the saloon, and shortly after the place was found to be on fire.

M. O. Hexom, a farmer living near Hickson, Cass county, was killed by train running away with him. He leaves a wife and family. He was formerly a member of the Minnesota legislature, and was once a commissioner of Cass county.

Advices from Clark county report a hog epidemic that is destroying the animals by the hundreds. The disease is not a hog cholera, but a malady much more offensive and just as fatal; it seems to be a disease that effects the blood of the animals and poisons the entire system, literally decaying them to death.

The business men of Valley City, had a mass meeting to consider the question of legislation of freight rates on wheat, and alleged discrimination in favor of elevators. A committee was appointed to investigate the subject.

An old lady of seventy years left town to go to her home, four miles southwest from Winthrop, since which time nothing has been seen nor heard of her, though diligent search has been made. It is surmised that she became lost, and wandered about on the prairie until exhausted, when she sank down and perished.

James A. King, a farmer living six miles west of Minto, swore out a warrant for the arrest of S. H. Mott, wheat inspector of the G. M. Brush elevator at Minto, on the charge of using false weights and balances in weighing wheat. Mott was convicted and fined \$25 and costs, amounting to \$100.

The residence of J. S. Morrison, Pleasant Valley, Black Hills, was burned. Loss, \$1,500.

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Griggs County, Dak.

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