

### GRAIN AND RAILWAY COMMISSION AND AGRICULTURAL AND IMMIGRATION AGENTS.

The territory needs an effective grain and railway commission; and it needs an agent of immigration, and it needs an agricultural bureau. The grain commission provided for by the last legislature amounts to but very little practically, not because the agents appointed to that board have been unwilling, or incompetent, but because they are provided with no adequate means for carrying out the necessary improvements. The question of securing a fair grading of grain and reasonable facilities for transporting it to market is one of much moment and one beset with many difficulties. The matter has been widely discussed, and has no doubt secured the careful consideration of many members of the legislature who will have measures of relief to propose. I ought to learn that the legislature of Minnesota is disposed to co-operate with the legislative department of this territory in an effort to devise means for the relief of the people of both sections, and I hope committees of conference may be appointed by the two bodies, and that their deliberations will bear satisfactory results. Our present grain commission, reorganized and clothed with larger powers, can be of service in this connection you will doubtless see fit to continue it. As constituted under the present law, however, it might as well be abolished. The advantage of having an agricultural agent for the territory is apparent. Dakota is pre-eminently an agricultural region. No body of men is more fairly entitled to a fair representation in the territorial government than the farmer. Information regarding the condition of the crops, the acreage, aggregate and average yield, experiments with various seeds, success with divers crops, and manner of cultivation, and many other matters upon which it is desirable to have full information is now obtainable in anything like a satisfactory manner. Experience with such crops in other states, even those immediately adjoining us, is in many instances partially or wholly inapplicable here. The country and the conditions are new. Success with any given crop in the territory, cultivated in a different way or with some new variety of grain, is a matter of great importance to the farming of the territory, and all information on the subject ought to be speedily gathered and widely disseminated. I earnestly hope that provision will be made for the appointment of such an agent, and that whatever appropriation is needed to make a bureau of the character effective and of signal service to the farming interests will be promptly furnished.

The states about us have commissioners of immigration, and find them profitable adjuncts to the state government. There is certainly as much, and it seems to me more room and more reason for the employment of such an agent in Dakota than in any of the neighboring states. The creation of three boards to look after the three interests named seems hardly justifiable and scarcely necessary. But it has occurred to me that the three departments so closely allied might be united in one effective board through which the entire business could be transacted. If these three interests mentioned can be grouped together, each with a member specially adapted to one of the departments named, acting separately in their collection of data, etc., but together in their final action on questions of moment, it might prove to be economical as well as beneficial. I believe that the experience that one board properly constituted, with business enough before it to keep its members and fairly pay for its services, will accomplish more than half a dozen assembled at long intervals, possessing little authority and handicapped by the fact that their own private business must suffer while they give their time to the public, practically without compensation. Identical suggestions in the way of the practical application of this suggestion, and I shall only be too glad to have a better way pointed out to gain the end in view.

### ORGANIZING COUNTIES.

The organization of new counties is beset with many difficulties. I believe that many of them can be avoided by an intelligent amendment of the law. When fifty voters petition for the organization of a new county the governor is required to appoint commissioners. The number is too small. At least one hundred ought to be required. Again, if there is any real reason why voters in a new county should choose their own commissioners, decide upon their own county seat and generally enjoy the privileges and responsibilities of their fellow citizens in other counties, I do not know what that reason is. Surely there is nothing in the organic law to prevent. If provision were made authorizing a special election to be called on the petition of one hundred persons possessing the qualifications of voters, and around such special election with safeguards to insure a fair vote and an honest count, I believe the interests of all parties would be served. At any rate the present law demands some rational amendment. It is simply impossible for the executive to avoid committing frequent mistakes, and he is liable to commit grave errors under the statute as it now stands. I have appointed commissioners for but two counties since my term of office began. These are McIntosh and Buffalo, the latter with much doubt as to the wisdom of organization. The statute leaves the governor no discretion, however, when satisfied that fifty of those petitioning are voters. I have required sworn evidence that they are voters, and organization possessed the qualification of electors, but it still follows that fifty persons may secure the organization of a county if the law is obeyed, though one hundred and fifty protest against it. It is desirable that new counties be organized as fast as they possess the necessary population, but the minimum number should be doubled at least. Various difficulties and complications exist in some counties organized in the past year or two. In certain cases the people complain that the commissioners have not done their duty, and these cases demand attention and such remedy at your hands as can be applied and which seems advisable. In some of these cases I presume justice would be advanced by undoing the work of organization if possible and taking the task of reorganization into your hands. A number of local quarrels growing out of the permanent location of county seats have arisen, and in two instances I have been called upon for assistance to protect the officers of the law in the discharge of their duty.

### THE TROUBLE IN SPINK COUNTY.

On the 10th of December I received a dispatch from the mayor of Redfield, Dak., announcing that the county records of Spink county were in the hands of the sheriff, and all persons had been enjoined by the judge of the district court from removing the same; that Redfield had been besieged by an armed mob of five hundred men and was in great danger of being burned and all the public records destroyed, and he asked that assistance might be given. The statutes of the territory require the governor to furnish aid when required to suppress riots or disorders. Section 4 of the militia law authorizes him to order out such forces as may be necessary, while section 46 of the act relating to riots declares as follows:

If it appears to the governor that the power of the county is not sufficient to enable the sheriff to execute process delivered to him, to suppress riots or preserve the peace, he must, on application of the sheriff or judge, order such a force from other county or counties as is necessary.

Section 47 declares that under the facts and circumstances mentioned in the last section, and when the civil power of the county is not deemed sufficient, it shall be the duty of the governor to apply to the military authorities of the United States for a force sufficient to execute the laws and prevent resistance thereto, to sup-

press riots, execute process and to preserve the peace.

These sections seem to be slightly inconsistent, but taken together they appear to require the governor to call upon the United States authorities only after exhausting the power of the county or counties. Inasmuch, however, as the militia of the territory were newly organized and the law was not furnished with ammunition and supplies, and there was some doubt as to their ability to move promptly, I took the precaution to ask the general commanding the department of Dakota if he could send a company of regulars to Redfield. At the same time I directed Col. H. N. Tyler, of the governor's staff, to notify the militia at Fargo to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to the scene of disturbance, and send a like order to the Governor's Guard, of Bismarck, and the Edgerston Guards, of Yankton. In answer to my call upon Gen. Terry, I received a reply saying that my inquiry had been telegraphed to the headquarters division of the Missouri for instruction, and that the answer would be sent as soon as received. On the 11th, the mayor of Ashton, Spink county, whose citizens were reported to be much excited, the following dispatch:

Will not the citizens of Ashton retire to their homes and permit the law to take its course? It is much better so. Please give me this assurance.

I also asked the mayor of Redfield to telegraph the exact situation. After waiting six hours and receiving no reply to these telegrams and no further answer to my call upon Gen. Terry, I directed the Fargo companies to take a train for Redfield. The next day, the 11th, I received a telegram from the mayor of Ashton declaring the people of that city were not armed, and had not been, and though indignant over the removal of the records, contemplated no hostile movement. I also received word from Redfield that all was quiet, though an attack was momentarily expected. In view of all the facts I ordered Col. Tyler and his command to halt at Ortonville, and sent the following to the mayor of Redfield:

I am assured by the mayor of Ashton that the people of that place are not armed, and have not been, and that they contemplate no hostilities. Unless I receive further demands from yourself and the sheriff, I shall stop the troops now on route, and direct them to return home in the morning.

In answer to this I received the following: We believe that the only sure way to prevent loss of life is to send troops at once. We are receiving reports from reliable sources that the excitement is increasing hourly. The troops will harm no one and will prevent bloodshed.

(Signed) ARTHUR LAWRENCE, Sheriff.

In view of this renewed appeal I directed Col. Tyler to proceed to Redfield and report to the sheriff. Believing that the militia thus sent would prove sufficient, and ascertaining that I could promptly reinforce them, I also telegraphed Gen. Terry that no regulars would be required. Later in the day I received a telegram from Adj. Gen. Brock, saying that Gen. Terry, temporarily absent from department headquarters, instructed him to say that he could not furnish troops. Inasmuch as the prompt movement of the militia seemed to obviate all necessity for calling further upon the federal authorities, and as I had already recalled my first, and second, and third, and fourth, and fifth, and sixth, and seventh, and eighth, and ninth, and tenth, and eleventh, and twelfth, and thirteenth, and fourteenth, and fifteenth, and sixteenth, and seventeenth, and eighteenth, and nineteenth, and twentieth, and twenty-first, and twenty-second, and twenty-third, and twenty-fourth, and twenty-fifth, and twenty-sixth, and twenty-seventh, and twenty-eighth, and twenty-ninth, and thirtieth, and thirty-first, and thirty-second, and thirty-third, and thirty-fourth, and thirty-fifth, and thirty-sixth, and thirty-seventh, and thirty-eighth, and thirty-ninth, and fortieth, and forty-first, and forty-second, and forty-third, and forty-fourth, and forty-fifth, and forty-sixth, and forty-seventh, and forty-eighth, and forty-ninth, and fiftieth, and fifty-first, and fifty-second, and fifty-third, and fifty-fourth, and fifty-fifth, and fifty-sixth, and fifty-seventh, and fifty-eighth, and fifty-ninth, and sixtieth, and sixty-first, and sixty-second, and sixty-third, and sixty-fourth, and sixty-fifth, and sixty-sixth, and sixty-seventh, and sixty-eighth, and sixty-ninth, and seventieth, and seventy-first, and seventy-second, and seventy-third, and seventy-fourth, and seventy-fifth, and seventy-sixth, and seventy-seventh, and seventy-eighth, and seventy-ninth, and eightieth, and eighty-first, and eighty-second, and eighty-third, and eighty-fourth, and eighty-fifth, and eighty-sixth, and eighty-seventh, and eighty-eighth, and eighty-ninth, and ninetieth, and one hundred, and one hundred and one, and one hundred and two, and one hundred and three, and one hundred and four, and one hundred and five, and one hundred and six, and one hundred and seven, and one hundred and eight, and one hundred and nine, and one hundred and ten, and one hundred and eleven, and one hundred and twelve, and one hundred and thirteen, and one hundred and fourteen, and one hundred and fifteen, and one hundred and sixteen, and one hundred and seventeen, and one hundred and eighteen, and one hundred and nineteen, and one hundred and twenty, and one hundred and twenty-one, and one hundred and twenty-two, and one hundred and twenty-three, and one hundred and twenty-four, and one hundred and twenty-five, and one hundred and twenty-six, and one hundred and twenty-seven, and one hundred and twenty-eight, and one hundred and twenty-nine, and one hundred and thirty, and one hundred and thirty-one, and one hundred and thirty-two, and one hundred and thirty-three, and one hundred and thirty-four, and one hundred and thirty-five, and one hundred and thirty-six, and one hundred and thirty-seven, and one hundred and thirty-eight, and one hundred and thirty-nine, and one hundred and forty, and one hundred and forty-one, and one hundred and forty-two, and one hundred and forty-three, and one hundred and forty-four, and one hundred and forty-five, and one hundred and forty-six, and one hundred and forty-seven, and one hundred and forty-eight, and one hundred and forty-nine, and one hundred and fifty, and one hundred and fifty-one, and one hundred and fifty-two, and one hundred and fifty-three, and one hundred and fifty-four, and one hundred and fifty-five, and one hundred and fifty-six, and one hundred and fifty-seven, and one hundred and fifty-eight, and one hundred and fifty-nine, and one hundred and sixty, and one hundred and sixty-one, and one hundred and sixty-two, and one hundred and sixty-three, and one hundred and sixty-four, and one hundred and sixty-five, and one hundred and sixty-six, and one hundred and sixty-seven, and one hundred and sixty-eight, and one hundred and sixty-nine, and one hundred and seventy, and one hundred and seventy-one, and one hundred and seventy-two, and one hundred and seventy-three, and one hundred and seventy-four, and one hundred and seventy-five, and one hundred and seventy-six, and one hundred and seventy-seven, and one hundred and seventy-eight, and one hundred and seventy-nine, and one hundred and eighty, and one hundred and eighty-one, and one hundred and eighty-two, and one hundred and eighty-three, and one hundred and eighty-four, and one hundred and eighty-five, and one hundred and eighty-six, and one hundred and eighty-seven, and one hundred and eighty-eight, and one hundred and eighty-nine, and one hundred and ninety, and one hundred and ninety-one, and one hundred and ninety-two, and one hundred and ninety-three, and one hundred and ninety-four, and one hundred and ninety-five, and one hundred and ninety-six, and one hundred and ninety-seven, and one hundred and ninety-eight, and one hundred and ninety-nine, and two hundred.

### THE ROBERTS COUNTY DISTURBANCE.

Hardly had the militia returned home from a difficulty of the same general character arose in Roberts county. I received aid for assistance, but believing the danger magnified, I declined to incur the expense involved in the sending of troops until first satisfied that the "power of the county" was insufficient to maintain order. I requested Adj. Gen. Free, however, to proceed to Travere and Wilnot, the rival towns, and while ascertaining the necessity, if any, for assistance, to use his good offices to preserve the peace and secure a quiet settlement of the question in dispute. As a result of the sheriff's posse and those confronting or defying it were disbanded, and quiet has since been maintained. The origin of these quarrels, or the manner in which they shall be determined, are questions which do not come before me for judgment; but it may not be uninteresting, in case the legislature desires to investigate the matter, to read the report of the adjutant general, which is herewith transmitted. The correspondence in the case will also be found with Gen. Free's report. It is unnecessary for me to say to the legislature that in the organization of so many new counties such outbreaks are not infrequently unless decided measures are taken to put a stop to them. The trouble in almost every instance grows out of the rivalry of two or more towns, each of which is determined to become the county seat. The passions of men are aroused, they involve a county in debt, excite animosities that will long outlive the trouble which inspired them, and finally lead to acts of lawlessness which disgrace the territory and lay the promoters and participants liable to indictment for felony. The law is stringent enough. Its energetic and even merciless enforcement in one or two cases, as an example, is what seems to be required. Men must be taught to endure a wrong. There were 86,708 votes cast in the territory in the recent election. There are 130 counties, but only seventy-eight were organized in time to hold an election in November. That the number of persons possessing the qualification of voters aggregate 100,000 in the whole territory, will be disputed by no one, I think, familiar with the facts. That those voters are not transient persons is evidenced

dimensions difficult to curb or manage. It is better that a majority of voters in a county should wait even the slowest action of the courts than that the laws should be defied and the official records endangered. Not alone the county engaging in these senseless quarrels, but the whole people of the territory suffer because of the lawlessness of the few. The community must look to the courts for protection, of course, but I wish to declare emphatically that whatever manner of duty falls to my lot in the suppression of these scandalous outbreaks will be performed as promptly and decisively as is consistent with that care and circumspection required of the executive. In the report of Col. Tyler the propriety and justice of assessing the cost of suppressing these riotous demonstrations against the counties permitting them is discussed. After careful reflection I am disposed to submit this question to the legislature without recommendation. It is certainly unjust to ask the law-abiding people of the territory to pay for the wrongdoings of less peaceable citizens, and it is quite likely that the law, given by the imposition of such a tax would prove satisfactory and act in some degree as a prevention of future outbreaks. The levying of such a tax, however, will form an important precedent. It is one that must be followed in subsequent cases of disturbance, no matter what the facts of inciting causes, or other charges of partiality will follow. I am not entirely clear that it is wise to levy such a tax, and have not had opportunity to make sufficient inquiry on this point. For these reasons I prefer to leave the question to such careful consideration as the legislature may give it, satisfied that the conclusions arrived at will be wise and prudent.

### THE MILITIA.

In this connection I wish to call the attention of the legislature to the militia laws of the territory, which require amendment to make them effective and thoroughly practical for military operations, and to give general to perform various duties to be performed in various parts of the territory, and to forward certain returns to Washington. He is the only person in any way authorized to act as the custodian of arms and accoutrements, and this authority is limited, and it is to be gained by inference rather than by direct grant. It is not necessary, in my judgment, to devise any elaborate system for military operations, to incur any considerable expense in maintenance of military companies, but we cannot ask the adjutant general to contribute of his private means, as well as of his time, to carry out the requirements of the law. I therefore recommend that there be appropriated for the expense of his office \$1,000 annually. This sum to cover the necessary expense for storing and forwarding and accounting records, procuring and keeping the necessary records and blanks, paying freight on arms and accoutrements, and for such other expense as properly and legitimately belong to his office. There are several boxes of arms at Sioux Falls, sent to the adjutant general by my predecessor, and for which the former had to secure storage. He finally succeeded in securing a room in the penitentiary which was not immediately required for prison purposes, where they remained for the time being. For several reasons it is not a proper place to keep them, even if the room were not needed for prison purposes, which it soon will be. I also recommend that a small sum be appropriated for the rental of a room in which to store the arms and accoutrements regularly mustered into the territorial militia. Even if this appropriation be but a fraction of the expense incurred by such companies, it will be a recognition, and will relieve them in some degree from what is now a considerable burden. It should be remembered that under the law every able-bodied citizen of the territory between the ages of eighteen and forty-five is required to be enrolled in the militia and that all such persons are subject to call in case of an emergency. Organized and active militia, therefore, are not only convenient in case of trouble, but they save other citizens from the annoyance of the demand upon their time and services, and are a protection to those subjects as well as to those threatened with disturbances.

The law also provides for an annual brigade muster and encampment of all the volunteer militia of the territory, continuing not less than two nor more than four days. Unless some provision be made for the transportation and subsistence of such companies it is obvious that the law must remain unexecuted, or leave the question of their enforcement to the discretion of the legislature. There are six companies in the territory that have been mustered into the service for two years. There are several more organized, one or two of which are uniformed and equipped. The others are awaiting arms and muster. The arms at present in use by our militia were secured by my predecessor for the higher and smaller population. To understand his personal bond for their safe keeping and return when demanded, I ask the legislature to authorize the governor, in the name of the territory, to apply for such arms and any others which it may be necessary to secure, requiring him in turn to take a good and sufficient bond from each company to whom such arms may be issued.

### QUESTION OF ADMISSION AND DIVISION.

I suggest that steps should be taken by the present legislature to acquaint congress, through a memorial or otherwise, with the true sentiment of the territory regarding admission and division. The members of this general assembly are fresh from the people. Nothing except the individual expression of the people themselves at the polls could be so reliably indicative of their sentiments and desires as the public expression of their chosen representatives. The very wide attention which the subject of admission and division is attracting, and the fact that it has been deemed of sufficient importance for comment in the message of the governor of Minnesota to the legislature, who alludes with great kindness to the merits and desires of the people of Dakota, induces me to refer to some length to the question in this communication. The territory, either as a whole or divided, is populous enough, even if the maximum of population hitherto required is demanded, for the formation of a state government, or government of any course, if precedents are to be ignored and new conditions applied to Dakota, we may not only be unable to get into the Union now, but may remain out indefinitely. But I believe that, with a full knowledge of our population, resources and development, congress will at least afford the territory the opportunity of joining the sisterhood of states. Whether in form of this character, which contemplated admission without division, would be accepted by the people, is not for me to declare. I do declare this, however, that it is more important that territories should be divided as their people desire, than that their boundaries should be fixed by strangers, who are liable to misunderstand their necessities. But nothing could be more entirely conclusive as to their desires than an opportunity to vote upon the question of admission in any form that congress may submit it. Whether they accept or reject the proposition, the opportunity to do the one or the other should be afforded them. It is easier to decline an opportunity to endure a wrong. There were 86,708 votes cast in the territory in the recent election. There are 130 counties, but only seventy-eight were organized in time to hold an election in November. That the number of persons possessing the qualification of voters aggregate 100,000 in the whole territory, will be disputed by no one, I think, familiar with the facts. That those voters are not transient persons is evidenced

first by the fact that nine months' residence is required under our laws as a qualification of suffrage, and by the further fact that the returns made under the law by school officers to the superintendent of public instruction show that in the sixty-five counties out of the eighty-five organized (all that have furnished census returns) there were on the 1st day of June, 1884, 77,499 children of school age (seven to twenty years). The presence of the family proclaims the absence of the adventurers. The assessed value of property for the year 1884 is over \$84,000,000, and the receipts of the treasurers of school corporations alone amounts to over \$1,800,000. The total expenditure of the whole territory for educational purposes, beginning April, 1883, and ending June 30, 1884, were nearly \$2,000,000. I might make comparisons which would exhibit the territory in a most favorable light beside many old and well settled states, but this need not be done. The one fact that so large a sum was expended for common schools dispels the notion that the population of this territory is in any manner fictitious, or that the country is not peopled by honest voters who abide in honest homes.

That there were illegal votes cast here and there in the territory is very likely, but though party lines were not drawn to any extent in choosing local officers, nearly every county and district passed through an exciting contest where the qualifications of voters were as closely scrutinized as in the older states East. It is a well known fact, also, that there is no such opportunity for fraudulent voting in sparsely settled country places, where every man is known to his neighbors, as in the large cities, where strangers come and go unnoticed. Any surmise therefore that the vote cast was to any extended degree fictitious is entirely erroneous. The citizens of Dakota have as deep an interest in the government of the country as the citizens of the states. The same laws govern them and the same taxes are imposed upon them. They would be voters if they resided there—were voters before they emigrated to the West. It is difficult to see why they were qualified to take part in the affairs of the nation while living in New Hampshire, Delaware or Vermont, but became unqualified to be trusted with this responsibility the moment they crossed the line which marked the boundary between the state of Delaware, the 316,000 of New Hampshire, the 332,000 of Vermont, or the 650,000 of West Virginia were to remove in a body to Dakota, would it seem fair to deprive them of all lot or part in the management of public affairs?

But what is the difference between this and the disfranchisement of men from all these states and many others who go to make up the population of the territory? The number of voters does not come from lack of numbers, but from the fact that the population is numerically greater than that of the states named. It does not come from lack of property qualifications, for that test of citizenship is not required, and if it were would be fulfilled. It does not come from the existence in our statutes of any enactments at war with enlightened Christian sentiment for our code is free from such blemishes, and exists and is in force by the approval of congress. It does not come from lack of educational privileges; for the territory stands in advance of twenty-five of the states in the amount it has contributed in the last year for public schools. What, then, is our disqualification? It cannot be that we are not to be considered a privilege of longitude, and yet wherein do we show any lack except a geographical shortcoming?

The ordinance of 1787 provided that territories should be admitted as states when the population reached sixty thousand, and might be admitted with less; and although Dakota is not a part of the Northwest Territory, as described by the congress, has applied its wise and patriotic provisions to the region afterward acquired, and has recognized the vast region which is now the West as coming under that salutary and beneficent enactment. We have six times the population therein named as a maximum number necessary to admission. We have two thousand schools, and a half dozen higher institutions of learning. We have permanent and costly structures erected for benevolent and penal purposes, and all built by the territory without the aid of the general government. It is the policy of the government to encourage the settlement and development of the national domain. Generous laws have been enacted and many inducements given to open this wide region to civilization. I submit that this liberality of the general government in granting free homes ought not to be defeated by an illiberal exclusion of those privileged of self-government, which, like many others, grow dearer when they are denied. It is not wise to look upon admission as the ultima ratio—the open gateway to everything desirable. We are liable to magnify the advantages of admission as well as the disadvantages of exclusion. The machinery of a state government is expensive, and for this reason the sentiment that a territory should be fully prepared for statehood before admission, is one to be commended. The territorial tax of Dakota is light, and its general expenses do not approach those of neighboring states, of which we are a part of the population of but 62,000. New Hampshire spent \$1,018,217.44, with no expense for public improvements. The states of Minnesota, Nebraska and Kansas far exceed these amounts, showing that the inevitable result of statehood is largely increased taxation. There are benefits to be derived from admission, however, which should be also considered in making a judgment as to whether we are secured in our courts, the present number of our judges being insufficient for the business before them. With votes in congress, some attention would be paid to improving our water ways, so necessary to the development of the country. If precedent is followed, Dakota would be entitled, on admission, to a percentage on the sale of public lands within her borders which would greatly increase her revenue. I am informed, also, that the credit of the territory suffers because of her exclusion from the Union. Those who have negotiated our bonds announce that such as have sold at par would have readily commanded a premium had Dakota been a state. But aside from the financial advantages to accrue, there are the accompanying rights of self-government, dear to every community of American citizens. Among these, the power to choose their own rulers and to determine who shall administer the affairs of the people. Such a sentiment does not grow out of any narrow-minded exclusiveness. It does not mean that all are not welcome to Dakota, where all are so new and the field is so large; but it is a part of that natural and independent spirit which the fathers have transmitted to us, and which can be easily understood and appreciated by the country. There are plenty of people all over the land who have witnessed the marvelous development of this territory with pride and admiration, and whose hearts beat quicker at this grand illustration of the possibilities of a new state growing up under the fostering care of the great republic. They are not residents, but neither are they strangers to you. They have appreciated your trials and rejoiced in your successes. I came to you in the name of another state, yet did I not feel alien to this people, and where disappointment might have been natural, they

accepted cheerfully the action of the constituted authorities and exhibited a laudable desire to co-operate in whatever seemed necessary to the furtherance of the public interests. But the day of twilight is past. I realize fully that the time has come when the people of Dakota should speak and act, and decide for themselves; and I cannot but believe that when the congress of the United States fairly understand, as one who resides here must understand, the justice of heeding the appeals of this great territory, a prompt, cordial and general recognition will be extended to her. Till then it is our part as good citizens to abide in peace and patiently await the action of the government. I am sure, however, that the congress will listen with that respectful consideration which each member of the national body expects to receive for his own people, to the candid representations of this legislative assembly, speaking by the authority of the people of the territory and asking justice at the hands of the Union they honor and obey.

NECESSITY FOR ECONOMY. Communities, like individuals, should retrench their expenditures when their income decreases. The times are hard, and it is feared that the revenue for the present year will be seriously reduced. Our public institutions must be fairly supported, of course, and if additions are found necessary provision must be made for them; but a consideration of the universal financial distress and the unprofitable returns which have greeted the toil of all classes for the past twelve months will show the necessity of cutting down expenses to the lowest practicable point, and should make us hesitate about undertaking expensive measures which it will be difficult to meet.

CONCLUSION. I need scarcely remind the legislature that we are at a critical period when harmonious, dignified and well considered legislation will do much to advance the interests of the territory. You are, in the main, of one political faith. It is most that you should be one in the important work before you, also. The unfortunate disagreements of the past have injured the territory seriously. No member of the legislature can fail to realize this. Our quarrels, whether of the town, the county or the territory, seem to be taken up and magnified a hundred fold all over the land. I ask the members to use all possible forbearance in the proceedings of the session now begun to the end that the whole people may be benefited and the whole territory exalted. You compose, probably, the last territorial legislature which will assemble in Dakota as at present comprised. I hope and believe you will adjourn, conscious of work well done, and with the thanks and plaudits of your constituents. GILBERT A. PIERCE.

### Wood Instead of Water.

Cleveland Herald. Various attempts have been made from time to time to obtain supplies of pure water by means of artesian wells on the arid plains of the west. In some cases success has followed experiments, while in others no water fit for use has been found. Such a well is now under the drill at White Plains, Nevada, on what is called the forty-mile desert, in the neighborhood of the sink of the Humboldt. The only supply of water obtainable is from the Truckee River, thirty-five miles distant whence it is hauled in tank-cars for engine and household purposes. The well now drilling has reached a depth of 2,100 feet, and no water has been found other than a stream of salt water at the depth of 38 feet and hot water at the depth of 685 feet. A strange find was that of a stratum of wood at the depth of 1,615 feet, which was nine feet in thickness. It is doubtful if such a quantity of wood has ever before been found at such a depth. How it came there under great masses of various kinds of stone, and gravel, may be explained by geologists. As some parts of the superincumbent mass showed indisputable evidences of volcanic action, the presence of the wood may be accounted for as the result of some great convulsion of nature.

### One More Henry Clay Yarn.

Washington Special. Hon. Erastus Brooks, of New York, has been in the city all the week in attendance on the Conference of the representatives of the various State Boards of Health. He acted as Chairman of the Conference throughout the proceedings. He is in vigorous health, though now advanced in years. Turning toward the old Senate chamber, now the Supreme Court-room, his eye brightening with the pleasure of reminiscence, Mr. Brooks said: "I was here when Henry Clay made his famous speech, in which he declared: 'I would rather be right than be President.' Clay is the only man I ever idolized. He was a grand man. I do not know but what I was instrumental in having Clay declare: 'I would rather be right than be president.' It was in this way: I was president of a young men's Club, and of the morning of the day on which Clay was to make the speech, I went to him in behalf of this club and expressed the hope that he would not say anything that would injure him as a candidate for the presidential nomination. He looked at me somewhat severely and said: 'Young man, do you not think you should attend to your own affairs?' That day Clay made his great speech, and after he had concluded it he came over to me, and leaning over the desk in the chamber where I was writing, he said: 'Young man, I may have spoken too harshly this morning, and I hope I said nothing to-day that will injure our friends in the east, but when I said I would rather be right than president, I mean it, and he did mean it.'

Since the building of the crematory at Gotha in 1878, 200 bodies have been cremated in it, the last one being that of a Dr. Dulk, who died at Stuttgart. Of these 200 bodies 62 were those of natives of the duchy and 138 were foreigners. The number of males was 128, and of females 72. Since last January the number of cremations has been 54. In the previous year the number was 47, and in the two years 1881-2 it was 33.