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Report of the Governor of Dakota, 1884

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REPORT

OF

THE GOVERNOR OF DAKOTA.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, BISMARCK, DAK.,
October 23, 1884.

SIR: In accordance with the invitation of the honorable Secretary of the Interior, I have the honor to submit the following report relative to the growth and development of the Territory of Dakota for the past year. Owing to the fact that I assumed the duties of the executive office but two months since, and after the expiration of the fiscal year which this report is designed to cover, and the further fact that the annual reports, which are required from the various Territorial officers, and which furnish many of the facts and data for official information, which it is most desirable to secure, are made by law a month hence, the report herewith submitted is necessarily incomplete and unsatisfactory. A general idea of the advancement and development of the Territory can be gained, however, from the submission of such figures as have been obtainable, and from evidence quite palpable to any one at all familiar with the history and possibilities of the Territory.

THE CROPS IN 1884.

The yield of wheat, flax, corn, barley, and rye, and all kinds of vegetables has been abundant, and in many instances greater per acre than in former years.

The wheat crop for 1884 is variously estimated at from 20,000,000 to 25,000,000 bushels;* flax, 3,000,000 bushels; corn, 2,500,000 bushels; barley, 2,000,000 bushels; oats, 10,000,000 bushels.

* Since the above was written the following has been received:

NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY,
LAND DEPARTMENT,
Saint Paul, Minn., October 24, 1884.

DEAR SIR: In reply to your inquiries of the 13th instant, I beg to say that I have made a careful inquiry into the records of wheat shipments made by the Northern Pacific and Saint Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railroad companies from Dakota, which will give a tolerably correct basis for an estimate of the crop of wheat raised in Northern Dakota. I have, however, been able to get no accurate data from the railroads running through Southern Dakota.

From the best information I have at hand, I should estimate the total wheat crop for the year 1884, in Dakota, at from 28,000,000 to 30,000,000 bushels.

	Bushels.
Estimate of the crop of 1884 to be moved by the Northern Pacific Railroad Company	8,000,000
Estimate to be moved by the Saint Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railroad Company	9,000,000

But one discouraging fact has faced the farmers of Dakota this year, and that is, the extremely low price which their produce has commanded. The earth has been bountiful, and the granaries overflowing, but the generosity of the soil is neutralized by the almost unprecedented depreciation of values. This discouragement, which has greeted the agricultural population of all parts of the country, is no fault of the soil or the climate. Even at the reigning prices the farmers of this Territory would find their labor well repaid were it not for the high rates for freight which prevail, and which it is hoped and expected will be reduced.

Central and Southern Dakota have been looked upon as the corn region *par excellence*, while Northern Dakota has been regarded as the paradise of the wheat-growers. Experience demonstrates the fact that while the yield of corn is more abundant in the south, and the wheat crop peculiarly adapted to the north, a fair yield of corn can be obtained in the latter section, and that in parts of Central and Southern Dakota the wheat crop is reasonably sure and the yield very liberal.

	Bushels.
Estimate to be retained for seed and local consumption	3,000,000
Estimate of wheat raised in Southern Dakota, 1884	10,000,000
Total	30,000,000

The Northern Pacific Railroad Company has, since September 1 of the present year to October 2, shipped the following cars:

	Cars.
To Duluth	5,337
To Minneapolis	475
To Saint Paul	6
Total	5,818

Which, at an average of 500 bushels to the car, equals 2,909,000 bushels.

The shipments of the present season made so far are about 20 per cent. increase over the same period of last year, and there is a larger proportion of the wheat stacked and held for winter shipment the present year than was held back last year.

The total shipment made by the Northern Pacific Railroad Company of wheat last year was 10,855 cars, amounting to (at 500 bushels to the car) 5,324,500 bushels; so that it is probable that the estimate of 8,000,000 bushels to be shipped from Dakota by the Northern Pacific Railroad for the crop of 1884 is a low estimate. Mr. Mauvel, general manager of the Saint Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railroad Company, also considers the estimate of 9,000,000 bushels to be moved by the Manitoba road as a very conservative estimate—probably 1,000,000 short of the actual amount.

It is probable that the estimate of 10,000,000 bushels for the wheat production of Southern Dakota is also too low, and you will, therefore, see that the estimate of 30,000,000 bushels of wheat for Dakota for 1884 would be a safe and conservative estimate.

From January 1, 1884, to date, the Northern Pacific Railroad Company has sold 140,000 acres of land in Dakota. It is fair to estimate that the total sales of land in Dakota to be made by the Northern Pacific Railroad Company for the year 1884 will aggregate 180,000 acres.

It may interest you to know that the shipment of cattle from Western Dakota has already begun to assume large proportions. The records of the transportation department show that during the present season up to date 1,046 car-loads of stock have been shipped eastward from Dickinson, Dak., equivalent to about 20,000 head of cattle. Some of the stock shipped from Dickinson has been driven from Northern Wyoming; but a large proportion of it comes from Western Dakota and the Black Hills.

The stock interests in the Bad Lands are developing rapidly, and there are probably 150,000 head of cattle now ranging on the grazing lands of Western and Southwestern Dakota.

Any further information I can furnish you with will be given with pleasure.

I am, very respectfully, yours,

CHAS. B. LAMBORN.

Hon. GILBERT A. PIERCE,

Governor of the Territory of Dakota, Bismarck, Dak.

The cultivation of flax is receiving much attention, especially in the southern and central parts of the Territory, and will probably become a favorite crop in the north as well. The yield is very large, the crop comparatively sure, and the price much higher than that paid for wheat. If the time comes when the fiber can be utilized the crop at the present prices will be the most valuable that can be cultivated.

FRUITS.

Some very interesting experiments have been made in fruit-raising, and with most encouraging results. Apple, pear, and other varieties of fruit-trees seem to thrive in all parts of the Territory, while small fruits return an almost fabulous yield.

LAND ENTRIES DURING THE YEAR.

From statements kindly furnished me by gentlemen in charge of the land offices of the Territory, I find that the tide of immigration which set in four years ago still continues. The returns show that nearly 12,000,000 acres of land in Dakota were disposed of by the Government during the fiscal year. Of this about 6,000,000 were to settlers and private parties, and 5,000,000 on claims to the railroads, hereafter to be adjudicated. Some conception of the quantity of land which has thus passed out of the hands of the Government may be gained by remarking that the acreage so disposed of is twice as large as the whole State of New Jersey and more than three times the size of Massachusetts.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

The Territory is well supplied with institutions of a penal and benevolent character. Since the last report of the governor an additional wing to the hospital at Yankton, for which \$77,000 was appropriated by the legislature of 1882, has been completed and occupied. This hospital has at present 150 patients, is well constructed, and compares favorably in its general management with many of the older institutions of the country. A new though smaller asylum has just been completed at Jamestown, on the Northern Pacific Railroad, 100 miles east of Bismarck. This is built of brick and stone, on the modern cottage plan, is plain, but neat and substantial, and will have accommodations for 50 patients.

A satisfactory arrangement having been made with the Department of Justice at Washington, a new wing to the penitentiary at Sioux Falls has been erected during the past year of the same material (Sioux Falls granite) of which the main prison was constructed, and is now ready for occupancy. This wing has been largely built by the work of convicts, and has consequently been of small cost to either the Territory or General Government. Upwards of 100 convicts are now confined at Sioux Falls, and the prison seems to be managed carefully and according to humane principles, and with the idea of making the discipline reformatory as well as corrective.

The new prison at Bismarck, authorized by the legislature of 1882, and for which \$50,000 was appropriated, the money to be raised by the sale of bonds, was completed on the 29th of September, and accepted by the architect and directors. Owing to the fact that there is no appropriation for heating or furnishing as yet, the building will not be ready for occupancy until some time during the approaching year. The

board are very sanguine that the structure will "challenge comparison as to thoroughness of construction, frugality of expenditures, and modern convenience" with any building of the same character that has been erected.

The site is a commanding one, about a mile and a half east of the business portion of the city, on the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad, and has a side-track running to the main line, where cars can be loaded and unloaded with ease and facility. There is an abundance of water, supplied by a well and force-pump, which reaches every portion of the building. Stand pipes have been erected in all sections, and hose, ready for use, is on hand. A thorough system of drainage underlies the building, and outlets for slops and refuse matter provided within its walls, with proper catch basins.

The last legislature appropriated \$12,000 for the erection of a new school building for the deaf and dumb at Sioux Falls. The building has been completed, and is of Sioux Falls granite, and has an attendance at present of about 40 scholars.

RAILROADS.

The mileage of railroads entering the Territory has been considerably increased during the year, and a number of the largest roads are contemplating much more extensive additions to their trunk lines next year. One road, the Fargo and Southern, organized and built by Dakota citizens, has been completed during the year, and extends from Fargo south to Ortonville, a distance of 122 miles. The road was opened in August, and immediately attracted a large business, both in freight and passengers. It is proposed to extend the line next year from Ortonville south to Flandreau, in Moody County, thus connecting the northern and southern portions of the Territory by a north and south route. A number of other lines are projected, running from points in Southern and Central Dakota north to the line of the Northern Pacific, some of which will doubtless be constructed during the ensuing year. Altogether there are now built and in operation about 3,000 miles of railway in the Territory.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

The educational facilities of the Territory are rather remarkable, considering the brief period of settlement, and the development in this respect is so rapid as almost to defy calculation. The whole number of school houses in 1883 was 1,136; whole number of schools, 1,500. The number of school-houses now reported is 2,000; number of schools, 2,250. The number of children of school age, seven to twenty years, reported this year (a few of the counties are estimated, as the returns have not yet been received by the superintendent of education from the entire Territory) is 80,000, an increase of 60 per cent. over last year. This does not include a number of city schools and independent districts which are not required to report to the Territorial superintendent. The amount expended for schools during the year will exceed \$1,500,000.

The growth of the Territory in the four years past can be realized when the fact is stated that in 1880, with a population of 135,000 the number of children attending school was but 13,728, and the entire number of children between five and seventeen years was but 16,964.

Institutions designed to furnish facilities for a superior education have been founded and fostered by the Territory, and have been opened with bright prospects. Among them are the Agricultural College of Brookings, the University of Dakota at Vermillion, and the University of North Dakota, at Grand Forks. A number of private and denomi-

national schools and colleges have also been started, all of which are in a flourishing condition.

The Agricultural College at Brookings is designed to accommodate, when completed, 300 students. The building, which has been erected as a part of the main structure, is 60 by 80 feet, three stories and basement, and has been built thus far at a cost of \$22,000. Tuition is free to all Dakota students.

The university building of North Dakota, at Grand Forks, is 51 by 150 feet, and, including the basement, is four stories in height. The building is of brick, with stone trimmings, and is of modern and substantial architecture. The board of regents have secured to the Territory title to 20 acres of well-drained land within one mile of the city limits in Grand Forks, and are now utilizing the appropriation made for the purpose to improve the grounds. The building is provided with water and waste pipes and ventilated sewerage. The observatory is a one-story building, 22 by 28, with two wings 20 by 16 and 20 by 15, now being constructed in fulfillment of the bond given to the Territory to construct and occupy an observatory costing not less than \$10,000, as a consideration for locating the university at Grand Forks. An excellent corps of teachers has been engaged, and the prospects for the university are very bright.

The Normal School building, authorized by the legislature of 1882 to be erected at Spearfish, has been completed as far as the appropriation will permit, and promises to furnish excellent facilities for those who desire to prepare themselves for teaching.

The university at Vermillion has been completed, and has a capacity for 150 students. It is built of Sioux Falls stone, 60 feet front by 130 feet deep, and was opened for students in September. It is designed to supply the wants of Southern Dakota, and from the interest manifested it is evident that it will be largely patronized from the start.

The main building of the capitol at Bismarck is practically completed, and will furnish excellent accommodations for Territorial purposes. The building has been well constructed, and the fund appropriated by the citizens of Bismarck has, I believe, been judiciously and honestly expended. When the building is entirely finished, it will be similar in size and design to the Minnesota State capitol, and will make a very imposing appearance.

THE BLACK HILLS.

The region known as the Black Hills, lying in the southwestern part of Dakota, and remote from the other settled portions of the Territory, exhibits a growth during the past year not at all inferior to that which has characterized it in the past. This region is largely devoted to mining, being very rich in gold, silver, mica, lead, copper, iron, &c. The gold shipments for the year ending June 30 amounted to \$1,500,000, a slight increase over the year previous. The silver shipments, extending from July to December inclusive, amounted to \$2,000,000. Litigation closed the principal silver mine on January 1, so only the shipments for the half year can be given. One very large mill of 120 stamps is about completed at the new camp called "Greenwood," and large additions to the mill facilities on what is known as the "Homestake Belt" are projected for next year. Recent developments have disclosed the existence of large bodies of a very high grade of silver ore in what is known as the "Carbonate Camp." A smelter has just been completed there, and the production of silver from that camp will be very large during the ensuing year. The ores assay in some instances as high as

2,100 ounces to the ton, and a great deal of the ore is very rich. The former silver-producing camp at Galena, which, as I have said, is closed by litigation, will be worked as soon as the legal complications are settled.

The agricultural developments of the Hills' region during the past year has been very rapid. The neighborhood of the Hills is settled by thriving farmers, with farms in good condition, and in many instances very fine improvements. Lumber and building material are cheap, and the prices of products comparatively high. About one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty thousand head of cattle have been driven into this region during the year, and beef shipments are now being made in large quantities.

The schools are progressing satisfactorily. Deadwood has replaced its high-school building, lost in the flood of 1883, with a very creditable structure. Rapid City has completed a high-school building, a very fine one, and Custer has one now under construction. Substantial school-buildings are being erected in nearly every settlement, and schools are maintained with great liberality. I am told that the revenue at present is in excess of what can be reasonably expended.

Very little has been done in the way of developing minerals, with the exception of the gold and silver ores, although the variety is very large, as has been already enumerated. Something has been done, however, in the way of producing mica, the shipments of this mineral for part of the last year averaging \$3,000 per week.

MILITIA.

Considerable interest has been manifested in the organization of military companies in the Territory. There are at present four uniformed companies, well armed and equipped, not inferior in discipline and drill to the militia found in the East. Five other companies have been organized, and only await the issue of arms and accouterments to be mustered into the militia of the Territory. Nearly all these companies have attached to them musical organizations of fair and in some instances superior talent. A pleasant rivalry exists among the companies, which promises to develop and improve them in discipline and efficiency.

THE GROWTH OF DAKOTA.

That the growth of Dakota has been phenomenal everybody knows. So rapidly has the Territory filled up and developed that the census of 1880 gives no adequate idea of its present magnitude in population, wealth, and varied industries. The census returns may serve as a basis of comparison, however, for computing the present population.

The vote of Dakota in 1880 was 28,474; in 1882, 47,185. With 28,474 voters in 1880 the census showed a population of 135,180. This gives a ratio of one voter to 4.82 inhabitants. As communities grow older this ratio increases. Vermont shows six persons to each voter exercising the right of suffrage. Five is no doubt a fair estimate for this Territory. The vote of the Territory increased at the rate of 66 per cent. between 1880 and 1882. A like increase for the two years since elapsed would give us at the election in November 83,500 votes. This number, on the ratio of five to one, gives a population of 417,500, which is no doubt a very moderate estimate.

A confirmation of these figures is found in the report of the Territorial superintendent of public instruction. The returns in his office

show 80,000 children in the Territory of school age (seven to twenty years). Estimating five to one (the census of 1880 gave eight to one between the ages of five and seventeen), and we have 400,000, or nearly the number of inhabitants gained from a computation based on the number of voters. It should be remembered, however, that there are a number of unorganized counties in the Territory, where the census of school children is not taken, and where no votes are cast, but which contain all the way from 100 to 1,000 population. No account is taken either of non-voters, though the percentage is probably quite as large here as in the older States. When these facts are taken into consideration, it is quite evident that 417,000 is much below the actual number. I have very little doubt that a complete census of the Territory would show a population of 450,000; but estimating it at only 400,000, and then Dakota has a greater number of inhabitants than was shown by the last census in either Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oregon, Rhode Island, or Vermont, while it about equals Connecticut, Maine, Nebraska, and West Virginia. A comparison of the vote of some of the older States of the Union with that of Dakota, still a Territory, is striking.

The following table shows the vote of 1882 in the States named :

California	164, 679
Connecticut	115, 638
Delaware.....	31, 203
Florida.....	57, 618
Louisiana.....	97, 201
Minnesota.....	101, 140
Nebraska.....	87, 345
Nevada.....	14, 305
New Hampshire.....	76, 218
Rhode Island.....	16, 201
South Carolina.....	84, 777
Vermont.....	51, 868
West Virginia.....	90, 091

The vote of the Territory in 1882 was divided as follows between North and South Dakota, taking the forty-sixth parallel as the line of division :

North Dakota.....	15, 428
South Dakota.....	31, 757

Without stopping to consider which section has attracted the largest percentage of immigration since that time, but retaining for convenience the same proportion of increase as that shown between 1880 and 1882, we find that the Territory south of the line has a present population of 270,000, and that north of the line a population of 130,000.

Viewing the matter in the light of Congressional precedent, this population ought to entitle both sections to admission into the Union as separate States.

Iowa was admitted with 100,000 votes, Indiana with 50,000 votes, Illinois with 50,000, California with 92,000, Kansas with 120,000, Minnesota with 150,000, Oregon with 52,000, Colorado with 125,000, Nevada with 35,000, and Nebraska with 75,000 votes.

If the population be sufficient to constitute two States of the Union, surely the geographical area is abundant. Each State, if the Territory were divided on the forty-sixth parallel, would then contain about 75,000 square miles, and each one would be nearly as large as Nebraska, a third larger than Iowa, Illinois, or Wisconsin, about twice as large as New York, Pennsylvania, or Ohio, more than twice the size of Indiana,

more than eight times the size of Maryland, and nine times the size of Massachusetts.

It will thus be seen that both as to population and area North and South Dakota more than fill the measure hitherto required as a condition for the admission of a new State into the Union.

But if the Territory presents qualifications as regards population and geographical area, it is no less fortunate in the character of its inhabitants and the nature of its soil. Dakota is the great granary of the continent. Her product, not alone of wheat, but of all the important cereals, is enormous. Her people are not raw and unused to self-government, but citizens who have served an apprenticeship in the older States, and are not only fitted by character and experience for the duties of citizenship, but fairly entitled to its privileges by all the principles and traditions of the Government. There is something incongruous in keeping half a million of people, comprising the most independent if not the richest agricultural class in the world, and who, with all the disadvantages of a Territorial condition, have reared schools and colleges, churches, and other public institutions, which compare in design, finish, and general conduct and discipline with States half a century old, in a condition of practical vassalage.

DIVISION OF THE TERRITORY.

The sentiment in favor of division is practically unanimous; but very few in either section of the Territory oppose it. Whether this desire is wise or unwise is not a question it seems necessary to discuss; whether it will disappear under the effect of a closer acquaintance and relationship, engendered and promoted by the various lines of railway north and south, and now being built or surveyed, is a probability or contingency that can be estimated by others as well as myself; but it seems to be a rule that latitudinal, and not longitudinal, lines are the cementing and binding ones; that communities lying east and west of each other become by the laws of trade and commerce more closely allied and more readily assimilated than those lying north and south. In any event, there scarcely seems an existing necessity for holding together in Territorial or Statehood two widely separated regions, both largely populated, both immense in area, and both sincerely desirous of division. I do not regard the diversity of soil or climate or productions substantial reasons for separation. This would be an element of strength indeed, were a given Territory otherwise closely allied; but a country 400 miles in length from north to south is too large for the convenience of the people, and has difficulty in attaining to that harmony and co operation so important, if not so vitally necessary, to the upbuilding of a peaceful, united, and prosperous State.

THE CAPITAL REMOVAL.

The act of the legislature removing the capital from Yankton to Bismarck occasioned some feeling, owing to the fact that the law created a commission to select a site instead of naming the locality by legislative enactment, and aroused legal controversy. The district court, before which the case was first brought, decided against the validity of the law. The question subsequently came before the supreme court of the Territory, and the decision of the court below was reversed and the act of the legislature held to be valid. Steps had been taken to bring the case before the Supreme Court of the United States when I assumed

the duties of the governor's office. Recognizing the binding force of the decision of the Territorial supreme court until such decision was modified or reversed, I established my office at Bismarck, where it now remains. I was sincerely gratified at finding my action cheerfully accepted, and to see a disposition manifested in all parts of the Territory to abide by the law, and to leave the settlement of the question to the courts or to the future action of the legislature. The history of capital removals is a history of contests, more or less bitter, and Dakota is not an exception; but fortunately this contest is a legal and not a personal one, and has been carried on without interrupting the social relations of the two sections of the Territory. Division is not sought, therefore, because of any temporary estrangement over the transfer of the seat of government, but is desired as a matter of political and commercial convenience.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TERRITORY.

The total bonded indebtedness of the Territory is \$394,500, bearing interest at 5 and 6 per cent.

The current demands upon the Territory have been paid on presentation since March 25, 1882.

The assessed valuation of property in 1883 was.....	\$69,154,909 82
The total receipts were.....	195,100 68
Disbursements.....	128,413 96
Assessed valuation for 1884.....	84,597,498 63
Total receipts for 1884.....	260,000 00
Disbursements (estimated).....	205,000 00

CONCLUSION.

The low price of wheat this year has caused farmers to prepare for the cultivation of other crops on a larger scale than heretofore, and a diversified production will be the result. Flax, barley, and rye will be raised in large quantities next year, and it is believed that farming will prove much more remunerative than where so much attention is given to one or two kinds of grain.

Attention has been directed also to stock-raising. Western and Southwestern Dakota afford excellent grazing facilities, and the shipments of cattle from these regions have already assumed large proportions.

The healthfulness of the climate of the Territory continues to attract many people from the Eastern States, and the effect of the invigorating atmosphere on impaired constitutions is excellent as a rule. No epidemic of any kind has visited the Territory during the year, and upon the whole the health, prosperity, and happiness of the people have been remarkable and uninterrupted.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GILBERT A. PIERCE,
Governor Dakota Territory.

Hon. H. M. TELLER,

Secretary of the Interior. Washington, D. C.