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Report of the Governor of the Territory of Utah, 1896.

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REPORT
OF THE
GOVERNOR OF THE TERRITORY OF UTAH.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, *October 15, 1896.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit to you a final report of the Governor of the Territory of Utah, covering the fractional part of the year 1895, from the date of my last report (September 24) up to the admission of the Territory into the Union of States (January 4, 1896), and the inauguration and installation of the governor and other State officers, two days later.

The season of 1895 brought good crops to our farmers, an ordinary volume of business to the merchants, and, considering the continued financial depression all over the Union, a fairly good output from the mines. Our population steadily increases, our educational facilities improve, and statehood has brought the different sects and creeds into a much closer relation toward each other and toward the State than they ever have been before.

The all-absorbing topic among the people was, Which of the two great political parties should be intrusted with the administration of the government of the new State? The campaign not only involved the adoption of the State constitution, but the election of a full complement of State officers, a Congressman, and a legislature charged with the duty and responsibility of electing two United States Senators. The contest was vigorously fought and became intensely exciting before its close, a thorough canvass being made of the entire State and a heavy vote polled.

The result showed the adoption of the State constitution by a vote of 31,305, while but 7,687 votes were cast against it, and the election of the entire Republican ticket, including a majority of the legislature.

Upon the canvass of the returns showing the adoption of the constitution, the certification of the facts to the President of the United States, and his intimation that if the constitution complied with the requirements of the enabling act he would issue the proclamation of admission on January 4, the whole people, irrespective of party or creed, began to make extensive preparations for the inaugural ceremonies. As the constitution provided that the State officers should enter upon their offices on the Monday following the date of admission,

it became necessary for the Territorial officials to continue in office, as provided in the enabling act, until that day.

At the request of the committees having charge of the inaugural ceremonies, and responsive to the public sentiment, Acting Governor Richards, by proclamation, named inauguration day as a public holiday, ordered the National Guard to participate in the parade, and called upon the people generally throughout the State to suspend the transaction of business, to lay aside their daily cares, and join in making the day one of praise and rejoicing.

On Saturday, January 4, 1896, at about 11 o'clock in the morning, the telegraph brought the word that at 10.03 a. m., Washington time (8.03 a. m., Salt Lake City time), the President had signed the proclamation admitting Utah into the Union of States. The national salute was fired, stean whistles were blown, public bells were rung, flags were hoisted, public and private buildings were appropriately decorated, business was generally suspended, and the people contented themselves with general and heartfelt rejoicing.

Monday, January 6, dawned bright and crisp. It was a beautiful day God had provided for the imposing ceremonies the people of Utah had waited and prayed so long to witness. At an early hour the Sixteenth United States Regiment of Infantry and band, from Fort Douglas, under the command of Gen. W. H. Penrose, marched to the city to participate with the National Guard in the parade. At 11 o'clock a. m. the procession began to move, headed by a platoon of police, the Sixteenth Regiment of Infantry, and the National Guard; then came the Acting Governor and other retiring Territorial officers, accompanied by the governor and other officers-elect of the State; following these were scores of carriages containing ex-officials, prominent churchmen, civic organizations, societies, and private citizens. The parade was gigantic in its proportions, and attracted many thousands to witness it. Great credit is due to the several committees who arranged and saw to the perfect execution of the minutest details of the parade and ceremonies, as well as to General Penrose, the Sixteenth Regiment of Infantry, the officers and members of the National Guard, and the marshals and aids in charge of the affair.

Upon the arrival of the procession at the great Mormon Tabernacle the ceremonies began. By invitation of the committee of arrangements the Acting Governor of the Territory was selected to act as master of ceremonies. There must have been at least 30,000 people in attendance, one-half of them within the Tabernacle and the other half endeavoring to gain admission. The ceremonies consisted of an invocation by President Wilford Woodruff (read by President George Q. Cannon), of the Mormon Church; the reading of the President's proclamation admitting the State into the Union, by Hon. Joseph L. Rawlins; taking of the oath of office by the Governor, Heber M. Wells, and the other State officials, administered by Chief Justice Charles S. Zane; the surrender to Governor Wells of the executive office, by the Acting Governor of the Territory; the Governor's inaugural address; an executive proclamation convening the first State legislature; and the benediction, pronounced by Rev. T. C. Hiff, of the Methodist Church. The exercises were not only interesting, but were profoundly impressive, and were interspersed with music from the best bands of the State and the Sixteenth Infantry band.

Immediately after the conclusion of the ceremonies at the Tabernacle the State legislature met and organized, the Supreme and District Courts

began to transact business, and the new State government was in perfect operation in all of its departments.

Thus the political problem that had vexed the nation for years has been solved by a wise, firm, and beneficent policy inaugurated by President Cleveland's first Administration, adhered to by his successor, and brought to a successful conclusion by Utah's admission into the Union during the second term of President Cleveland.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CALEB W. WEST,

Late Governor of Utah Territory.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

Washington, D. C.