



DAKOTA LEGISLATURE.

Our Special Report of the Proceedings of the Council and House of Representatives.

Fourteenth Session—First Day.

The Caucuses.

COUNCIL.

A caucus of the republican members of the council met last night at the Merchants hotel, but without arriving at any conclusion adjourned to meet at nine o'clock this morning in the council chamber in the court house. The caucus met pursuant to adjournment and made the following nominations:

President—Geo. H. Walsh, of Grand Forks county.

Chief clerk—Eli B. Dawson, of Clay county.

Assistant clerk—Moses Liverman, of Lawrence county.

Enrolling and engrossing clerk—James D. Hall, of Brookings county.

Sergeant-at-arms—Jacob Brauch, of Yankton county.

Messenger—W. H. Pelton, of Union county.

Watchman—A. S. Fuller, of Minnehaha county.

Chaplain—Rev. Wm. McCreedy, of Yankton county.

HOUSE.

The caucus of the republican members of the house met last night at the Jencks hotel, and agreed upon the following officers for that body:

Speaker—Dr. J. A. Harding, of Lawrence county.

Chief clerk—Frank J. Mead, of Burleigh county.

Assistant clerk John C. Pyatt, of Richland county.

Engrossing and enrolling clerk—Dr. E. N. Falk, of Trail county.

Sergeant at arms—Knuud Paulson, of Union county.

Watchman—Francis K. Berry, of Turner county.

Chaplain—Rev. E. J. Brownson, of Yankton.

THE ORGANIZATION.

The fourteenth session of the Dakota legislature convened in this city to-day and occupied the former legislative quarters in the court house, the council on the first floor and the house on the second floor. The secretary had provided new and handsome desks for the use of the members, which are a decided improvement upon those which have so long done service.

The organization of both houses was effected promptly at noon and the members were sworn in by Chief Justice Shannon. As the preliminaries of the organization had been arranged the night previous, there was little else than routine work to go through with. By one o'clock each body was in working shape.

George H. Walsh, of Grand Forks, elected president of the council, occupied the same position at the last session and as he then performed his duties to the entire satisfaction of those over whom he presided, it is safe to say that he will not be found lacking in this instance.

Dr. J. A. Harding, of Lawrence, was chosen speaker of the house and he gives evidence of being an individual who will fill the position admirably. He starts off in a business like manner and is credited with possessing good staying qualities.

The legislature is composed of a class of men who will make for themselves good records. They are the best, as a body, ever elected to make laws for Dakota.

COUNCIL.

Tuesday, Jan. 11.—The members of the council assembled at their chamber in the court house at 12 m., and were called to order by Dr. J. A. Martin, member from the Black Hills district.

On motion of Mr. Gamble, John L. Jolley, of Clay county, was requested to call the roll of members and perform the duties of chief clerk until that office should be filled by election.

The roll being called all the members answered to their names as follows:

M. H. Day, Bon Homme.

Ira W. Fisher, Cass.

John R. Gamble, Yankton.

John L. Jolley, Clay.

J. A. J. Martin, Pennington.

J. O. B. Scoby, Brookings.

Amos F. Shaw, Minnehaha.

P. R. Smith, Burleigh.

John Walsh, Union.

Geo. H. Walsh, Grand Forks.

Geo. H. Wiggan, Lincoln.

John R. Wilson, Lawrence.

The oath of office was then administered to the members by the Hon. P. C. Shannon, chief justice of the supreme court.

After the administration of the oath and the signing of the same by the members, prayer was offered by Rev. J. W. Trimble, rector of Christ's Episcopal church.

The president pro tem. then announced that nominations for the position of president of the council were in order.

Mr. Fisher, of Cass county, nominated Geo. H. Walsh, of Grand Forks county.

Mr. Wilson, of Lawrence county, nominated M. H. Day, of Bon Homme county.

The roll being called those who voted for Mr. Walsh were,

Messrs. Fisher, Gamble, Jolley, Martin, Scoby, Shaw and Wiggan—7.

Those voting for Mr. Day were,

Messrs. Smith, Walsh, of Union, and Wilson—3.

Mr. Walsh voted for J. R. Gamble.

Mr. Day voted for John R. Wilson.

Mr. Walsh was declared duly elected president of the council, and upon being conducted to the chair the oath of office was administered to him by Chief Justice Shannon.

The remaining officers of the council were then chosen by the votes of the

republican members (eight), the four democratic members being excused from voting, as follows:

Chief clerk—E. B. Dawson, of Clay.

Assistant clerk—Moses Liverman, of Lawrence.

Enrolling and engrossing clerk—James D. Hall, of Brookings.

Sergeant-at-arms—Jacob Brauch, of Yankton.

Messenger—W. H. Pelton, of Lincoln.

Chaplain—Rev. William McCreedy, pastor of the Methodist church, Yankton.

At the conclusion of the election the officers elect came forward and were sworn in by President Walsh.

On motion of Mr. Jolley the president appointed Messrs. Jolley, Day and Martin a committee to prepare rules for the government of the council.

On motion of Mr. Shaw a committee of three members was appointed to act with a like committee on the part of the house to prepare joint rules for the government of the two houses when in joint session.

Messrs. Shaw, Smith and Scoby were appointed as such committee on the part of the council.

On motion of Mr. Day the rules of the last council were declared in force until new rules are adopted.

On motion of Mr. Gamble the chief clerk was directed to inform the house of the organization of the council.

On motion of Mr. Day the council adjourned until to-morrow at 10 o'clock.

HOUSE.

The house was called to order at noon by E. P. Wells, of Stutsman county, in the absence of the chief clerk of the last house.

Upon motion of Mr. McBratney, of Lawrence county, S. A. Boyles, of Yankton county was made temporary chairman and G. H. Dickey, of Barnes county, temporary clerk.

Prayer was offered by Rev. E. J. Brownson, of Yankton.

On motion of Mr. Wells, the roll furnished by the secretary of the territory was adopted and read as the roll of the house.

The roll call was responded to by the following gentlemen:

James Baynes, of Hanson county.

S. A. Boyles, of Yankton county.

F. J. Cross, of Pennington county.

G. H. Dickey, of Barnes county.

Erick Ellefson, of Minnehaha county.

L. B. French, of Yankton county.

J. D. Hale, of Lawrence county.

J. A. Harding, of Lawrence county.

D. M. Inman, of Clay county.

C. B. Kennedy, of Lake county.

Judson La Moure, of Pembina county.

Paul Landmann, of Bon Homme county.

S. McBratney, of Lawrence county.

J. L. Miller, of Richland county.

Knuud Nomland, of Grand Forks county.

Silas Rohr, of Union county.

Vale P. Thielman, of Turner county.

David Thompson, of Lincoln county.

Albion Thorne, of Minnehaha county.

A. L. VanOsdel, of Yankton county.

Porter Warner, of Lawrence county.

E. P. Wells, of Stutsman county.

Messrs Donaldson and Moore were absent.

Chief Justice Shannon, having been duly notified that the house was organized, administered the oath to the members thereof and after the oath had been signed, business was proceeded with.

The temporary chairman announced that the house was now ready for the election of a speaker and Dr. J. A. Harding, of Lawrence county, was put in nomination by L. B. French, of Yankton county, Dr. Harding was elected by a unanimous vote, the democrats having no candidate in the field.

The newly elected speaker was conducted to the chair by Mr. French and Mr. Warner, and the oath of office was administered by Chief Justice Shannon.

At this juncture the missing members, Isaac Moore, of Union county, and W. H. Donaldson, of Deuel county, announced their presence upon the floor of the house, having just arrived upon the one o'clock train. They were sworn in by the chief justice.

Speaker Harding took occasion to thank the house for conferring upon him the distinguished honor of its choice for a presiding officer. He promised to be perfectly fair in all his committee appointments and to be perfectly impartial so far as his judgment permitted him to be. He then announced that the house was ready for business.

The election of a chief clerk was next in order. Frank J. Mead, of Burleigh county, was the nominee of the republican caucus and his election was a foregone conclusion. Mr. Donaldson, of the eighth district, having just arrived on the train, and there being no opportunity to inform him regarding the action of the caucus, presented the name of T. A. Kingsbury, of Codington county, as a candidate for the chief clerkship.

The vote stood: Meade, 18; Kingsbury, 5. Mr. Mead was declared elected and was sworn in in due form.

The other caucus nominees were elected and sworn in as follows:

Assistant clerk—John C. Pdatt, of Richland county.

Engrossing clerk—E. N. Falk, of Trail county.

Sergeant-at-arms—Knuud Paulson, of Union county.

Watchman—F. K. Berry, of Turner county.

Chaplain—Rev. E. J. Brownson, of Yankton county.

On motion the chair appointed the following committee to draft rules for the government of the house: Van Osdel, Wells, French, McBratney and Thorne.

On motion of Mr. La Moure it was ordered that the rules of the last session be considered in force until new rules were adopted.

On motion, the house adjourned until ten o'clock a. m., Wednesday, January 12th.