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YANKTON, DAKOTA TERRITORY, TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 9, 1877.

No. 217.

## THE DAKOTA LEGISLATURE.

### XIth SESSION.

#### FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The legislature of Dakota territory assembled at their respective rooms in Stone's block at twelve o'clock to-day and proceeded to organize in the manner set forth by the statutes of the territory. In both houses there was a large attendance of spectators. Interest centered about the council, as in that body no choice of officers had been made in caucus and it was still an open question.

#### COUNCIL.

The council was called to order at noon by Arthur Linn, of Canton, clerk of the last council.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Joseph Ward. The clerk called the roll and the following members answered to their names: Back, Bailey, Burleigh, Duncan, Gundersen, La Moure, Miner, Mills, Pettigrew, Potter, Valentine, Wallace, Wilson.

Dr. Burleigh, of Yankton, nominated Capt. Nelson Miner as temporary president of the council and, on motion, Capt. Miner was elected.

The temporary president took his seat thanked the council for the honor given him and announced that the next business in order was the election of a chief clerk of the temporary organization.

Dr. Burleigh, of Yankton, nominated Maj. J. R. Hanson, of Yankton, as chief clerk of the temporary organization, and on motion he was elected.

The chair announced that the next order of business was to proceed to permanent organization of the council.

Dr. Potter, of Yankton, moved that the council proceed to a formal ballot for president and the motion was carried.

M. W. Bailey was appointed teller.

The vote resulted as follows: Dr. W. A. Burleigh, 7; J. A. Wallace, 3; J. A. Mills, 1; C. B. Valentine, 2.

Mr. Bailey and Mr. Gundersen were appointed to escort the president to the chair.

President Burleigh on taking his seat said that in assuming the position, he did so appreciating its labors and responsibilities. He hoped to perform his duties without fear or favor. He certainly would fulfill them to his own satisfaction and he hoped his action would satisfy everybody else.

Chief Justice Shannon then administered the oath of office to President Burleigh and afterwards swore in the council in a body.

The council then proceeded to the election of chief clerk. Major J. R. Hanson, of Yankton county, was nominated and unanimously elected.

Silas W. Kidder, of Clay county, was nominated and unanimously elected as assistant clerk.

Chief Clerk Hanson was sworn in by Chief Justice Shannon.

The election of engrossing clerk was the next business in order and for this position Arthur Linn and W. H. Miller, both of Lincoln county, were nominated. The vote stood: Linn, 9; Miller, 4. Linn was declared elected.

For the office of enrolling clerk Frank J. Washbaugh, of Yankton county, and A. Thorne, of Minnehaha county, were nominated. The vote stood: Washbaugh, 8; Thorne, 5. Washbaugh was declared elected.

For the office of sergeant at arms, P. McMahon, of Burleigh county, John Lawrence, of Yankton county, and Charles Boehring, of Ben Homme county, were nominated. The vote stood: McMahon, 7; Lawrence, 4; Boehring, 2. McMahon was declared elected.

For messenger, Mr. Stack, of Union county, was elected; for watchman, Felix Dilger, of Yankton county, was elected; for doorkeeper, S. Peterson was elected.

The newly elected officers of the council then came forward and were sworn in by Chief Justice Shannon.

A proposition was then made to elect a chaplain, and a sharp debate ensued over the propriety of such a proceeding. It was a question in the minds of several of the members whether the prayers of the righteous would avail in their individual cases; and if they would, whether their constituents could afford to pay for the luxury. Finally, however, the cause of the Lord triumphed, and Rev. James Buchanan, of the Yankton Baptist church, was elected chaplain. Rev. J. A. Potter, of Yankton, receiving four votes, and Rev. D. T. Brown, of Nebraska, receiving two votes.

On motion, the chair appointed Mr. Miner, Mr. Wallace and Mr. Back as a committee to make up a list of standing committees.

The council adjourned until ten o'clock a. m., January 10th.

#### HOUSE.

At 12 o'clock m. the house was called to order by C. F. Mallahan, clerk of the last house; the roll was called, and the following members answered to their names:

Messrs. Adams, Boe, Burke, Beadle, Clark, Coddington, Dunham, Falde, Hagle, Hopkins, Hexom, Hackett, Inman, Iverson, Kelleher, Maywald, Myron, Sellberg, Stewart, Sargent, Tucker, Taylor, Thompson, Van Tassel, Ziebach, Soderstrom.

The house then proceeded to the election of speaker; D. C. Hagle, of Hutchinson county, and D. M. Inman, of Clay county, were placed in nomination, and the roll being called, the vote resulted as follows:

For Hagle—Messrs. Adams, Burke, Beadle, Clarkson, Coddington, Dunham, Falde, Hopkins, Hexom, Inman, Iverson, Maywald, Myron, Sellberg, Soderstrom, Stewart, Tucker, Thompson and Van Tassel.

For Inman—Messrs. Hagle, Hackett, Kelleher, Taylor and Ziebach.

The speaker elect was conducted to the chair and after the oath of office was ad-

ministered to him by Chief Justice Shannon, made the following address:

#### GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:—

You have called upon me to preside over your deliberations during the session of the legislative assembly upon which we are now entering. Accept my heartfelt thanks for this manifestation of your confidence and esteem. I trust that I fully realize the grave responsibilities, and delicate duties of the position. It shall be my constant endeavor so to discharge the duties of the office, that neither you nor your constituents shall have cause to regret your choice. You can greatly aid me, and thereby facilitate business. I hope at all times to be aided by your counsel, advice and assistance. The session upon which we are now entering is one of equal, if not paramount importance to any that has preceded it. Questions of the very first importance to the future well-being of our young Territory will come before us, and I trust will receive that careful attention that their merits will demand.

It is important that we have a proper organization of the several committees, as they are the working engines of a legislative assembly. Most of you gentlemen being comparative strangers to me, it will necessarily require more time in making up the committees; and any assistance that will enable me the more intelligently in the discharge of this important duty will be most thankfully received.

I congratulate you, gentlemen, upon the harmony and unanimity that have so far characterized our proceedings, and may I hope that these indications point to a hard working and harmonious session, and that whatever strife we may encounter, may be "that noble strife of rather emulation of who best can work and best agree." Again I thank you for the distinguished honor you have conferred on me.

The oath was then administered to the members by Chief Justice Shannon.

The following officers had the same vote as that cast for speaker:

Chief clerk—T. A. Kingsbury, Yankton.  
Assistant clerk—M. B. Kent, Union.  
Engrossing clerk—H. R. Blanding, Richard.

Enrolling clerk—H. M. Luse, Lake.  
Doorkeeper—H. P. Nielson, Clay.

Sergeant-at-arms—A. B. Fockler, Lincoln.

On motion of Mr. Beadle, took a recess for two hours.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The house met pursuant to adjournment, and proceeded to the election of the remaining subordinate officers:

For Messenger—Ole Lein, Union county.

For the office of watchman, Messrs. Haldo Satter, of Yankton county; Rasmus Janson, of Clay county; A. J. Hagstadt, J. A. Foswick, Thos. Buchanan, of Turner county, and Albert Larson.

Upon a vote being taken, Haldo Satter received a majority of all the vote cast, and was declared elected watchman.

Rev. Gilbert Higgs was elected chaplain by acclamation.

The officers elect then came forward and were sworn and assumed the duties of their respective positions.

On motion of Mr. Kelleher, the house passed a vote of thanks to C. F. Mallahan, the retiring chief clerk.

On motion a committee of three consisting of Messrs. Beadle, Adams, and Stewart, was appointed to act with a like committee of the council to wait upon the governor and inform him that the two houses are organized and ready to receive any communication he may choose to make.

On motion the chief clerk was instructed to inform the council that the house was organized and ready to proceed to business.

Messrs. Coddington, Beadle, Dunham, Hopkins and Inman were appointed a committee to prepare and present a set of rules for the government of the house.

On motion the Secretary of the Territory was requested to furnish a copy of the laws of the last session to each member of the house.

On motion the house adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow.