

Press and Dakotian

DAILY

YANKTON, DAKOTA

Monday Evening, Nov. 22, 1875

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DEATH OF VICE-PRESIDENT WILSON.

Our dispatches to-day convey the sad intelligence of the death of Hon. Henry Wilson, Vice-President of the United States. Our readers are familiar with his recent severe attack at the national capitol, immediately after a morning bath, but the favorable reports of his condition which have been given to the public by his physician, Dr. Baxter, had removed all apprehension of a fatal termination to this illness. In his death the country loses, in many respects, one of its best public men, one whose well-earned fame has never been tarnished by the breath of suspicion. He was foremost in all movements looking to the amelioration of the poor and oppressed, and it is especially among the ranks of industrious working men that his loss will be keenly felt.

Mr. Wilson was born at Farmingham, New Hampshire, in 1812, and commenced life as a working shoemaker. In 1840 he became a member of the legislature of that state. He was a decided opponent of slavery, so much so that at the national whig convention in 1848, to which he was a delegate, the anti-slavery resolutions being rejected he withdrew from the convention and assisted in organizing the Free Soil party. In 1851-2 he was president of the State Senate of Massachusetts; in 1852, President of the National Free Soil Convention that assembled at Pittsburg; in 1853, the Free Soil candidate for governor of Massachusetts. He was elected to the U. S. Senate in 1855, and has remained a member of that body ever since. He was elected Vice-President of the United States in 1872. He has published a number of valuable works, mainly devoted to the slavery crusade and military measures of the government during the war. His death will be as generally and sincerely mourned as that of any statesman since the days of Lincoln.

According to the statutes of the United States the office of vice-president devolves upon the president, pro tempore of the senate in cases like this. Senator Ferry of Michigan now occupies that position, and he may be considered Vice-President by the death of Mr. Wilson.

The telegraphic report of Gen. Butler's death grew out of the fact that he was suddenly taken sick while on his way to St. Louis to defend ex-Chief Clerk Avery. Butler was compelled to return home and will probably not be able to attend the trial.

In reference to Judge Jerome, of Detroit, who has been named as Indian commissioner, Secretary Chandler informs an Inter-Ocean correspondent that he was never thought of in connection with the office. It will not be offered him, nor would he, in the secretary's opinion, accept it if offered.

By the Springfield Times we are informed that the Ogle county colony has located northwest from Springfield instead of northwest from Yankton, as we stated in a previous issue. The correction from us asked for by the Times is most willingly made. We hadn't a correct understanding of the whereabouts of that colony.

The first draft of the president's message is finished, and was to have been read at the cabinet meeting Saturday. The president is determined not to have the publication of his message anticipated by the press before its presentation to congress, and has expressly requested members of the cabinet and others acquainted with its contents to refrain from conversing about matters to which it refers. The government printing office, where copies of messages and reports have been obtained heretofore, has been put under the strictest surveillance.

Prosperity of Dakota.

Fairly and unquestionably beyond the period of doubt and primitive trial, Dakota has entered the long era of strong growth and substantial manhood in which a great state is to be formed and all the elements of a free and vigorous civil society are to be fashioned and built up. We have, indeed, now all these elements in an intelligent, moral and enterprising people, good laws generally, and excellent school system well established and steadily improving, and the many churches, Sabbath schools and other institutions which honor the right growth of any new American community. Indeed the transfer to a state organization now would not much affect the interests of most of the peo-

ple. When the territory was first organized the various officers appointed and their duties, relations to the people and the patronage they afforded were nearly all to most that were here. Now they are in many respects least, and the many branches of industry by which the increased population thrives are of far greater importance. To one who has seen seven or eight years here this change is vast and it is going forward with increased rapidity. While we have a better territorial government generally, our local governments have wonderfully advanced in importance. Excluding government patronage there is a greater volume of business transacted in Clay county this year, than in all Dakota then. The population of Clay county nearly equals that of Dakota in 1868 and the capital invested in all forms of industry is probably many fold to what it was then. There are a half dozen or more counties to day, the business and institutions in each of which are worth more to a larger number of people than those of the territory then.

The people have become self-reliant and self-supporting, and have made homes for themselves and together are going forward in all good things. They were a brave people, who, confident in their intelligence and hardihood and moved by strong enterprise went out singly upon these wide prairies to prove them rich and conquer them to civilization. They have splendidly accomplished, despite poverty and adverse clamor.

There are many things of which we may justly be proud where all things are worthy. Our people are moral, intelligent, progressive and law abiding. Our laws are enlightened, protective and just, and are faithfully and mercifully enforced. Our taxes are not heavy and our country and public affairs are well administered. Our people are steadily advancing, our schools and other public advantages and leaving behind the things which are useless and evil. Our lands are rich, very rich, and widely and almost uniformly so. They are highly productive of a great variety of profitable crops and the natural grazing is unsurpassed. Very many of our farms are highly cultivated and the communities well advanced.

Here among such a people and upon such lands, are homes for thousands more, and we doubt not but the steady coming will continue and the stream will increase, as it flows on, until all shall be happily realized that the past so bravely struggled for.

The Spanish Situation.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—In answer to a question what the activity of the United States navy and the talk about foreign troubles meant, a cabinet officer to-day gave your correspondent permission to state that it was true that the navy was being put in serviceable condition as rapidly as possible, but that no immediate necessity for its use was apprehended. The relations of the government to foreign powers had suffered no change, and there was no greater prospect to-day of a war with Spain or with any other nation than there had been for two years. The movements of last week simply meant that the president considers it best to keep the naval arm of the government ready for use at any time. If the independence of Cuba was recognized it might become necessary to give increased protection to our merchant marine from the aggressions of Spanish vessels, but there was scarcely a possibility that even this service would be required. In answer to a question regarding the exact relation of this government with Spain, it was stated positively that there had been no important changes. It was not denied that very grave questions had been under consideration, but the attitude of the governments had not been altered toward each other.

In speaking of the reports of the possible recognition of Cuban independence, reference was made to the known sympathy of the President with Cuba, which he has expressed in his message to Congress, and it was stated that he would not allow his private feelings to influence his official action in a matter of such grave importance and questionable policy. A strong pressure was unquestionably being brought to bear upon the President to secure a decided expression on this topic in his message. This statement harmonizes with what is learned from other sources, that while there is no prospect of an open rupture with Spain, still, diplomatic differences exist which are the subject of correspondence at present, and which are not settled by the concession of Spain. These will materially alter the relations of the two governments. It is not known outside the cabinet what these differences are, and all statements made concerning their character are mere speculation. Although movements at the navy yard are made with great secrecy, it is stated that a copper rolling mill which has been idle for several years was put in operation with a full force of workmen to-day. It is also stated that fourteen iron-clads have been detailed for immediate service. Officers who have just returned from a three years Asiatic cruise have been ordered to sea again, which is a significant fact, from the custom that exists of allowing officers three years' shore duty after every cruise of that length of time.

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION.

In accordance with a practice at once wise and beautiful, we have been accustomed, as the year is drawing to a close, to devote an occasion to an humble expression of thanks to Almighty God for His mercies and His bounty bestowed upon us as a nation, and for His mercies and protection during the coming year. Amid the rich and free enjoyment of all our advantages, we should not forget the source from which they are derived, and extend our obligations to the Father of All Mercies. We have full reason to renew our thanks to Almighty God for His mercies upon us during the past year. By His continuing mercy, civil and religious liberty have been maintained; peace has reigned within our borders; labor and enterprise have produced their wonted rewards, and to His watchful providence we are indebted for security from pestilence and other national calamities. Aware from the other national blessings, each individual among us has occasion to thoughtfully recall and devoutly recognize the favors and protection which he has enjoyed.

Now, therefore, I, Ulysses S. Grant, president of the United States, do recommend that on Thursday, the 25th day of November, the people of the United States, from their accustomed vocations, do assemble in their respective places of worship, and in such forms as may seem most appropriate to them, offer to Almighty God their acknowledgments and thanks for all His mercies, and their humble prayers for the continuance of His favor to us in the year whereof, I have herewith set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this 25th day of October, in the year of our Lord 1875, and of the independence of the United States the one hundredth.

U. S. GRANT, President.

HAMILTON FISH, Secretary of State.

A PROCLAMATION.

In recognition of our constant need of Divine favor in all the temporal affairs of life, the custom has become fixed in our free Republic of setting apart one day, after seed time and harvest, for a special occasion of thanksgiving and prayer to Almighty God for His constant protection and countless blessings. And never had the people of our extended country, and especially of our own Territory, more cause for gratitude and praise to the giver of all good than now; for we have been free from plague and pestilence; we have been spared the scourge of the locusts; our God of the harvest has sent the early and the late rains; our harvests have been abundant; order and peace prevail throughout all our borders; and the land is filled with festivity as it was never filled before.

Let us all therefore, as it is our most bounden duty, devote one entire day to prayer and thanksgiving to Almighty God for the manifold blessings He has vouchsafed us during the present year.

Now, therefore, I, John L. Pennington, governor of Dakota, do recommend that on Thursday, the twenty-fifth (25th) day of November, instant, the people of the territory abstain from all secular pursuits and from their accustomed vocations; that they assemble in their respective places of worship, and in such form as may seem most appropriate to them, offer to Almighty God their acknowledgments and thanks for all His mercies, and their devout prayers for a continuance of His favor.

In witness whereof, I have herewith set my hand and caused the seal of the Territory of Dakota to be affixed.

Done at the city of Yankton, this 23rd day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, and of the year of independence of the United States the one hundredth.

By the governor: JOHN L. PENNINGTON.

Geo. H. HANCOCK, Secretary of the Territory.

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