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DAKOTA'S CAPITAL.

Brief History of the Removal of the Seat of Government from Yankton.

How and Why Bismarck Was Selected Above All Others as the Capital City.

A Description of the Central Portion of the Capitol Building Now Fully Completed.

With a Perfect Picture of the Entire Structure as It Will Appear When Finished.

The Whole a Magnificent Free Gift to the People of Dakota Territory.

Record of a Year.

Exactly one year ago Gov. Ordway approved the bill passed by the territorial legislature, removing the seat of government from the city of Yankton. For twenty one years the capital had been located in that city, at the extreme southeast part of the great territory of Dakota, and the sessions of the legislature and the territorial offices had to be provided for in rented and inappropriate buildings. Early in the session the legislature resolved to delay no longer in taking some appropriate and judicious action toward carrying out the wishes of the people, and permanently locating the capital at some central and accessible point. As the result of wise counsels and careful consideration of the various plans for the accomplishment of so important a work, the legislature on March 8, 1883, passed the bill known as house file number 217, removing the seat of government from Yankton. The

PROVISIONS OF THE LAW

were plain and unmistakable in their intent, and the bill went no further than to provide for the summary removal of the seat of government and its subsequent re establishment at some point to be selected by the nine members of the capital commission named in the bill, on or before July 1, 1883. During the intervening time the right of the governor to temporarily name the capital was recognized. The act was so drawn and amended that the capital commissioners could not profit by the exercise of the ministerial power granted them, and they were simply commanded on or before July 1, to locate the capital at some point most convenient and centrally located to the people of the entire territory. Both the present boundaries of the territory and the possible future boundaries of the state were to be taken into consideration, and the only restrictions as to location was the provision that the city or county in which the capital should be located must first contribute \$100,000 cash and 160 acres of land, the proceeds from the sale of which should also be devoted toward securing the erection of a permanent capitol building. The commission named in the bill consisted of four members from south, three from north, one from central Dakota, and one from the Black Hills, viz: Alexander Hughes, Alexander McKenzie, B. F. Spalding, Dr. M. W. Scott, Geo. H. Mathews, John P. Belding, D. M. Thompson, O. H. Myers, H. H. De Long. The commission duly organized by the election of officers and at once advertised for bids for the

LOCATION OF THE CAPITAL.

which were duly opened at a public meeting of the commission held at Canton, D. T. Immediately after said the commission visited in a body the dozen or more cities that presented bids, which among which were Bismarck, Haron, Pierre, Mitchell, Ordway, Aberdeen, Steele, Canton and Redfield. The largest bid was \$160,000 cash and 160 acres of land, offered by the city of Mitchell. The commission, however, took chiefly into consideration the desirability of a fine natural site, good surroundings, and a location central, both to population and area. After giving the subject the most careful attention, and examining the cities and their claims in the most thorough and unprejudiced manner possible, the commission, at a meeting held at Fargo on the 3d day of June, 1883, unanimously decided upon Bismarck, and named this city as the capital of Dakota. Immediately thereafter the governor and other territorial officers removed their offices to this city and into a temporary capitol building, which was at once provided. Bismarck citizens without delay placed in the hands of the treasurer of the capital commission the \$100,000 donated toward the erection of the capitol building, which is to be given as a free gift to the people of Dakota. The commission, as provided in the capital removal act, immediately took the necessary steps for securing the erection of the capitol building, and from a number of plans selected that of Architect Buffington, of Minneapolis, Minn. The cut presented on this page is made from the plans and sketch of Architect Buffington, and is an absolutely correct representation of

THE CAPITOL BUILDING.

as it will appear when fully completed. The exterior of the central part of the building, exclusive of that portion of the tower above the roof is already completed. The seat of government was located at Bismarck on the 3rd day of June last. One hundred and sixty acres of the half section donated by the city for a site for the seat of government, was platted and laid out into lots, streets, parks, etc. Eighteen acres in the centre of this tract was reserved for the capitol building and grounds. The contracts for the erection of the main or center building was let August 17, and the excavation for the foundation was commenced on the same day. So rapidly did the work progress that by the 20th of January, 1884, 4,000,000 of brick were laid in the walls, the roof was on, the iron work placed in position, and the building ready for the plasterers. The most skilled workmen were employed and



THE NEW DAKOTA STATE HOUSE AT BISMARCK, NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION TO BE READY FOR OCCUPANCY IN JUNE, 1884.

only the very best material was used in its construction. All the brick were laid in cement. The finish is of Sims pressed brick, which are equal to the best, and are of a light salmon color. The trimmings are of Joliet stone and terra cotta, which contrast finely with the brick. The part now so near completion is 92 feet in width by 158 in length and three stories above the basement. The basement is twelve feet high and lighted and ventilated, and will be used for committee rooms, store rooms, etc.

The first or main floor is eighteen feet to the ceiling; has four halls which center in the rotunda, and will be occupied as follows: Executive offices, offices for attorney general and the treasurer, superintendent of public instruction, railroad and tax commissioners. Each office is provided with a fine fire proof vault.

On the second floor is the hall of the house of representatives, 50x90 feet, with 35 foot ceilings. It occupies all of the west end of the building above the second floor to the roof. When finished this will be one of the finest assembly chambers in the west, and will seat comfortably from 150 to 175 members. It will have a gallery with a large seating capacity. The remaining portion of this floor is for committee rooms and offices for the judges of the supreme court. The third floor will be used for committee rooms.

Steam heating apparatus and gas and electric light fixtures will be placed in the building by the middle of April, and it will be entirely completed and

READY FOR OCCUPANCY

by the 15th of next June. There has been already expended \$120,000, and it will require a further expenditure of \$60,000 to finish and put in the necessary heating apparatus. The south front, to be built this summer, from the proceeds of the sale of the lots deeded to the territory, is 90x100 feet and is to be of the same height and finish as shown above, and will contain the senate chamber with necessary committee room; territorial library, etc.

The completed building has four entrances and four fronts, each having the same finish. The tower is 186 feet in height above the ground level. The building stands upon an elevation about 100 feet above the business portion of the city, and commands a view for twenty miles up and down the river.

Bismarck Brick Blocks.

The pride of the city of Bismarck is her solid and substantial brick buildings, all but one of which were erected during the year 1883, and which will be succeeded by as many more during the present year, the plans for which are already drawn, and in one or two instances work has been commenced. The new brick buildings for 1884 will include two hotels, a livery stable business house for L. N. Griffin, business house of Capt. Baker, bank of Mellon Bros' and several other three-story buildings for store and office purposes. Of course the most prominent brick building in Bismarck is the territorial capitol, which occupies a commanding position, and which is visible for miles. This is fully described elsewhere and further mention is not necessary. Next of importance comes the territorial penitentiary, located a mile east of the city, and erected at a cost of \$50,000. The new high school, just completed at a cost of \$30,000, occupies a commanding position midway between the business center of the city and the capitol. The largest business building is the three story and basement First National bank block, which is now ready for occupancy, and which cost \$65,000. This building is to be occupied by the First National bank, Frank Friaby, druggist, J. W. Clarke, stationer, the United States land office and other tenants. The next building in size and artistic appearance is the Dakota Block,

corner Main and Second streets. This is a three story building erected at a cost of \$34,000, and is occupied on the ground floor by Whitley & Bushman, wholesale grocers, H. R. Mead & Co., dry goods, Peterson & Veeder, druggists, H. H. Day, jeweler, and office tenements on the second and third floors. The Bismarck National bank block, erected in 1882 at a cost of \$35,000, is occupied by the bank, Sig. Hanauer & Co., wholesale clothiers, a public hall and masonic lodge room on the third floor and offices on the second floor. The Central block, three story brick, cost \$35,000, and is occupied by Van Houten Bros. & Little, hardware, M. Eppinger, clothing, and numerous law, real estate and business offices. The Merchants' National bank block, a three story structure, corner of Fourth and Meigs streets, is just completed at a cost of \$35,000, and is one of the most artistic and perfectly built and furnished business buildings in the city. The banking room is furnished with costly fire and burglar proof vaults, and the entire building, like the First National bank and other blocks, is heated by steam. The Corner and Slatery block, corner Third and Meigs streets, is but two stories in height, but is a substantial structure and cost \$16,000. It is occupied by Johnson & Abrams, boots and shoes, C. H. Phelps' New York art store, and business offices.

Bismarck Street Railway.

One of the wealthiest and best known of the self-made men of the great northwest is Thomas Lowry, the Millionaire owner of the Minneapolis and St. Paul street railway systems. Mr. Lowry came to the northwest a dozen years ago, his only capital being a knowledge of law and a faith in the future of Minnesota, Dakota and the great northwest. That he is today one of the wealthiest citizens of Minneapolis and the best known business man of Minnesota, is due largely to his sound business judgment, backed by his faith in the future of the northwest. At an early day Mr. Lowry recognized the fact that Bismarck is to be the Minneapolis of Dakota, and he invested largely in Suttie's and Coffin's additions to this city, and is today largely interested in 1,000 acres of land adjoining the city and capitol grounds on the north, southeast east. Bismarck could receive no higher compliment than to be selected by Mr. Lowry as a good place for investment. He has made a fortune not only for himself, but for many others who have entrusted money with him for investment. He is interested in the proposed system of street railway for Bismarck, and will improve his property by making it easily accessible by lines of street railroad and then selling cash alternate lot. Mr. Lowry makes \$100 a day profit out of his Minneapolis street railways, and will invest a large part of this in improving his Bismarck property. Application has been made for the railway charter and it is proposed to have the street cars running during the present year.

Bismarck Banks.

Bismarck has five banks, viz: The First National, the Bismarck National, the Merchants National, the Capital National and the bank of Mellon Bros. All occupy large banking rooms especially built for the purpose and all but one are located in brick buildings owned by the officers or stockholders of each institution. All are well officered, have new fire and burglar proof vaults and safes, are conservatively conducted and do a large and strictly legitimate banking business. The Merchants National and Capital National are referred to in detail elsewhere in this issue, and anything further regarding them is unnecessary. The First National bank occupies a block of its own erected at a cost of \$65,000 and is one of the most substantial financial institutions

in the territory. The Bismarck National occupies the first floor, corner of the Union brick block, and has as large a line of deposits, and does as large and conservative a business as any like institution in the northwest. Mayor Raymond is president, and the stockholders comprise the leading citizens and business men of Burleigh county. The bank of Mellon Bros. transacts a general banking business, makes collections in all parts of the United States and Canada, and has correspondents in St. Paul, Chicago, New York and Pittsburg. Its mammoth fire and burglar proof vault is conceded to be one of the best in Dakota, and is used by the Bismarck Loan and Trust company, and others having valuable deposits.

Bismarck Water Works.

Hon. Alex. McKenzie and B. B. Mellon of Bismarck are now in the east for the purpose of purchasing a Worthington pump and 800 tons of water mains, and are under contract to furnish Bismarck with a complete system of water works by the first day of July 1884. The ground, eighteen acres, near the bridge, has been secured, the survey for the mains made and active work will begin as soon as the frost is out of the ground. Not only will the terms of the ordinance and franchise be complied with, but larger mains will be put in and the branches extended northward two blocks further than called for. An engine house, will be required 30x100 of brick with iron roof. The water will be pumped from the river into large reservoirs and after it has thoroughly settled will be distributed by mains to all parts of the city. The original intention was to put in mains on Main street as far east as Tenth street and on seven or eight of the cross streets, but in addition to this it has been decided to cross the railroad right of way and put in at least half a mile on the south side of the track. It is also intended to have the mains so arranged that a direct pressure can be had in case of fire, if desired, although the force obtained from the reservoir 150 feet above the city will be sufficient for ordinary purposes. The works will cost \$100,000 when completed July 1st, next.

Bismarck Greenhouses.

In 1881 Major E. M. Fuller established the Bismarck greenhouses and nurseries, which is today one of the noted business enterprises of the territory. The enterprise has paid well from the very first and Major Fuller has today covering his flower beds 10,000 feet of glass, including green houses and hot beds, and supplies the market with hot house and green house plants, vegetable plants, vegetable and flower seeds, forest trees and tree seed for timber culture. He handles no seeds or plants on commission, and his business has grown to such an extent that his illustrated annual catalogue for 1883 comprises 40 closely printed pages. Bismarck cut flowers and floral designs are shipped to all parts of the territory and adjoining states during all seasons of the year.

Coal Mining near Bismarck.

C. W. Thompson, of Bismarck, superintendent of coal development and supply for the Northern Pacific, in an interview with a Minneapolis Journal correspondent gave some interesting information. Mr. Thompson said that his company is taking out 200 tons of fine bituminous coal per day at the Bozeman mines and is giving employment to 200 men. Half of this output is from the Chestnut mine in the Rocky Canyon and the balance from the company's mine on the divide above. A narrow gauge road has been constructed from the west end of the Bozeman tunnel to this mine and is now in active operation, while other mines are on the eve of development. This coal is now shipped to

Butte City and Wickes for use in the ore roasting process and is admirably adapted to that purpose and will be used throughout the mining districts of Montana as rapidly as they can be reached by railroad communication. This coal is also used in locomotives and is shipped as far east as Moorhead and as far west as Butte City. The company has orders for 1,500 tons from one firm in Butte alone. The lignite mines at Sims, Dakota, Little Missouri, and Lignite station, are also producing well. About 100 tons are being taken out daily at Lignite, and from 100 to 200 tons daily at Little Missouri or Medora. This is largely consumed by settlers along the line and is utilized with other coal for generating steam for motive power in the operation of the road. When used with Bozeman bituminous coal the lignite is well adapted to this purpose and is a great saving in expense of operating the great trans-continental line.

The Marquis' Enterprise.

Marquis de More, the millionaire Frenchman, who has been investing so much capital in cattle, slaughtering houses and lands on the line of the Northern Pacific railroad, is making Bismarck a central point for his operations. He has erected a cold storage house and ice house for the accommodation of the large dressed beef, fish and butter trade that he will do here. His ice house contains fifteen hundred tons. The Marquis owns sixteen thousand acres of land northeast of Bismarck that he will put under cultivation as soon as practicable. The present season he will break three thousand acres, and through his local attorneys, Allen and Barnes, will offer inducements to settlers on the adjoining government lands. He will rent the plowed land in tracts of 80 acres and encourage small farmers. He means immediate development. The pushing Frenchman is also a heavy stockholder and officer of the Bismarck loan and trust company and is at this time in New York city, inviting capital on a large scale to come to Bismarck and Dakota and spread itself over our fertile prairies. His operations extend from Portland to St. Paul. His attorneys live here, and the secretary's office of the Refrigerator Car company, his largest interest, is in Bismarck. The capitalization of this company is five million dollars.

Kidder County.

Kidder county, which adjoins Burleigh county on the east, is one of the most fertile and prosperous in North Dakota. To the seekers for new homes Kidder county offers unusual attractions in fine farming lands, good schools, pure water and flourishing towns, of which Steele, the county seat, is the chief. The first attempt at agricultural development in the county was in 1878, when W. F. Steele had 400 acres of breaking done. In 1879 Mr. John Van Deusen broke 1,800 acres on the Troy farm. During the years 1880-1-2 the Steele farm had 700 acres under cultivation, the Troy farm 2,000 acres, and other settlers 2,900 acres, making a total of 5,600 acres. In the year 1883 alone 10,200 acres were broken, or nearly twice as much as during the three previous years, and this amount will probably be doubled next year. Over 200 farm houses were erected in Kidder county in 1883 and the city of Steele and other towns had a most wonderful and rapid growth. The hay product of the county for 1883 was 4,000 tons, of which 1,500 tons were shipped to Fort Keogh, Montana.

Chamber of Commerce.

Bismarck has a chamber of commerce, with over 100 members. Dr. W. A. Bentley is president, and F. J. McKinney, secretary, who will cheerfully give information about the Missouri slope.

IMPERFECT PAGE