

A. D. LaDue, of Davison county, was elected by the people of the fourteenth legislative district to attend to their interests in the upper house of the legislature. This district is not entitled to a member of the council, but very properly feels that it should have some one on the floor that body to watch the corners and stand up for the rights of that locality. Hence Mr. LaDue has been chosen as delegate to the council from the Jim river country.

There was an election in Hughes county last week and Colonel George Ordway was almost unanimously chosen to represent the interests of that county in the legislature this winter. The county is unorganized and belongs to no legislative district, but its importance entitles it to a hearing and Col. Ordway is the kind of a man who will look out for the rights of his constituents. The election was unsought by him and coming in this shape it is a compliment to be proud of.

Election figures from the territory of Dakota so far as received are given in our tabulated statement. Full returns from all but eleven counties give a total vote of 15,546 for Pettigrew and 8,068 for McCormack—a majority for the former of 7,478. Majorities received from all but nine counties give Pettigrew 7,942 majority. The counties to hear from will increase the majority to 9,000. Had Grand Forks, Traill and Pembina counties given their legitimate republican majorities our estimate of 10,000 majority for Pettigrew would have been reached.

It requires something even more impregnable than cast iron cheek upon the part of the Barnum faction of the democratic leaders to still make a show of adherence to their fraud claim, in the face of the exposure of their shameless dishonesty in connection with the alleged Garfield-Morey letter. Two of the leading witnesses have made oath that they were hired with democratic money to perjure themselves in the interest of the democratic party, that the document to which the name of the next president was fraudulently attached might have its effect upon the prejudices of a class of voters who could be won over to the cause of Hancock by no other means. Even the bloody record of democratic successes in the south becomes whiter in the face of this last act of criminality. The shot gun, the rope and the revolver can only become available in the hands of men who possess courage, wrongfully applied though it may be, and even this species of personal bravery inspires a certain degree of respect. But any sneaking coward can hide himself between the four walls of an obscure den and sign the name of another man to a document containing fictitious contents and put it forth, to the injury of that individual. This later crime lacks even the element of chivalry, popular with some classes, and is weighted down with all the odium which arrant cowardice can inspire. The last chapter of the Hancock campaign adds ineffaceable disgrace to a defeat richly deserved. Villainy so complete cannot smother its exposure in a counter cry of fraud. Gen. Hancock and the better element of his party, to their credit let it be said, repudiate the work of Mr. Barnum, and if he continues to make himself odious, he and his associates in iniquity will be held responsible by the party they have compromised.

Upon the subject of capital removal the Moody county Enterprise offers the following suggestions: There are many indications that a vigorous effort will be made at the next session of the legislature to secure the removal of the capital to Fort Pierre. There is no question but that the capital will be removed from Yankton soon or later, but it strikes us that moving it to Fort Pierre would be a most pernicious move, certainly at present. It is yet uncertain whether the territory will be divided or come into the union as a whole. If the latter, then Fort Pierre is too far south, and in either event it is too far west. The one hundred miles of Dakota will for many years at least contain the great bulk of the population, and this fact is perhaps more signally the case in the southern Dakota than northern Dakota. So far as convenience of access is concerned, Yankton has, and for some time will have the advantage so far as a large majority of the people of Dakota are concerned. It is also extremely probable that a considerable tract of land will be granted to Dakota, when she is admitted, for the erection of public buildings. By locating the capital upon these lands the state will be able in a short time to realize a large sum from the sale of these lands and the people will get the benefit thereof, whilst if removed and located at Fort Pierre the Chicago & Northwestern railroad company will pocket a small fortune, as that company not only owns the townsite at Pierre but also all the lands adjoining. The people will doubtless be aghast at this matter, and every member of the legislature from southeastern Dakota who votes in favor of the removal to Pierre will, to say the least, be subject to very strong and unpleasant suspicion.

The Enterprise strikes the key note of capital agitation in its reference to the interest manifested in the subject by railroad corporations. Both of the trunk lines running through our territory have located towns for the purpose of receiving for one of them the seat of Dakota government. Individuals within the two corporations own these town sites and their design is—not the convenience of the people, but private speculation. There is a prospective danger in according to the demands of either one of these railroad corporations which should be kept in mind. By manipulations well known to shrewd financial and political managers the successful corporation would, through its ownership of the capital of Dakota, control and direct the destinies of the state that is to be. This the people cannot afford to permit. In a short time they would be utterly at the mercy of a soulless combination of outside capitalists, and as the years went on the burden would increase. Dakota is now in a position to start right and if it fails to avail itself of the opportunity it will repent when the season for repentance has passed. Without any local prejudice in the matter, we believe that all this capital removal talk is premature. It is the creation of railroads, and this of itself should place the people upon their guard. In a short time Dakota will become a state and with its admission the permanent capital should be decided upon. During the brief remaining period of territorial organization it is hardly worth while to disturb existing conditions. Our beginning as a portion of the republic dates from admission to the union and with that beginning all governmental arrangements should date. As the Enterprise suggests, the general government will donate lands to the state for public purposes and from these lands could be selected a capital site which would fill all the requirements of the case. In it no corporation would have a vested right and from it no organization of foreign speculators could reap a benefit. This state treasury would receive the money arising from the sale of property made valuable by a state enactment and the tax payer would be relieved of much of the burden of public improvements. This course followed would bring benefits to the people. The other course would enrich a railroad company at the expense of the people. It is the duty of all interested parties to take the sensible view of this important subject and act with wisdom and good judgment. Dakota has something beyond present needs to provide for.

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