



**Governor Coe Crawford introduction to Gen. W. H. H. Beadle**  
Cornerstone Dedication, June 25, 1908

This is indeed an event of unusual interest. It marks the passing of a new commonwealth from the end of its second decade to a higher, wider and more secure place among the vigorous and growing political units of the West. In a large sense the growth of a state is like the growth of an individual. The first straggling and struggling settlements of pioneers upon the virgin prairies of a new territory, and their subsequent expansion into cohesiveness and continuity, the establishment of a territorial form of government as the first step in the building of a State, the organization of the little republics we call townships, and school districts, and counties, the creation of the first courts, the organization of the first legislative bodies, the enactment of the first code of laws, the opening of the first schools, the building of the first churches, and the election of the first officers, may be likened to the beginning and development of life in the individual from birth to young manhood. So our noble young state is approaching its majority. Only a few months more and she will be twenty years old. She is leaving the crude and simple

forms of her first years and entering into a more complex field of larger experience and influence and greater responsibility—the influence and responsibility that comes with maturity and power.

As the period of infancy and childhood passes away, as the dugout and the shanty of the pioneer are torn down and the comfortable farm house takes their place; as the handsome new court house, and school house and church come in these days of prosperity to replace the cruder and cheaper buildings that preceded them, so a new and splendid edifice is to be erected here as the capitol of your state. We are thankful today for the magnificent grant of land which the federal government donated to South Dakota for the purpose of erecting public buildings at the capitol which has made it possible to build a splendid structure here without cost to the taxpayers of the state. I am indeed glad to have this opportunity to congratulate the people of Pierre whose public spirit and sacrifice furnished to the state the building we have been using for a capitol during these twenty years, that they are soon to have their reward. The new capitol will do more than comfortably accommodate the officers who are to labor within its walls for the people whom they will serve. It will stand throughout the coming years as an expression of beauty and art, and as the people come and go and linger within its walls, they will see in it an expression of the soul of the state.

And now, my fellow citizens, I wish to congratulate you further upon the fact that it is our splendid good fortune to have with us here today as the speaker who will deliver the address we are meant to hear, one of the noblest figures in all the history of the Dakotas. A man who has been identified with that history for more than a generation. A man to whose great heart and soul and brain, spent without stint or thought of selfishness for years and years, we are indebted for our magnificent endowment of school lands, and for those far reaching safeguards and constitutional limitations embedded in the constitution of our state, by which it will always and

forever be impossible to lose one dollar of the great and always growing school fund so lavishly dowered upon this state by the federal government. A man universally loved and honored because he has given his life to the very highest form of public service,—the education of youth.

I introduce to you the Grand Old Man of South Dakota, Honorable W. H. H. Beadle.

Ladies and gentleman:—General W. H. H. Beadle of Madison.

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