



GEN. W. H. H. BEADLE

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STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMORIAL HALL
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA

SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE HOUSE

Laying of the Corner Stone by Grand Master Joseph J.
Davenport, and the Masonic Grand
Lodge of the State

ORATION
BY HON. W. H. H. BEADLE,
MADISON, SOUTH DAKOTA

Under the Direction of the
State Capitol Commission

PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA, JUNE 25, 1908

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ORATION

By Hon. W. H. H. Beadle

The corner stone of the Capitol building of South Dakota was laid at Pierre, on Thursday, June 25th, 1908, at 3:30, p. m., at the time appointed by and under the auspices of the State Capitol Commission, Governor Coe I. Crawford, chairman.

The Corner Stone is a four feet cube of Ortonville granite, beautifully polished, moulded and engraved with the Coat of Arms of the State. It is placed at the Southwest corner of the structure.

It was laid with elaborate and impressive ceremonial by the Grand Lodge of Masons of the State under Grand Master Joseph J. Davenport.

The Chairman of the Commission then introduced Hon. W. H. H. Beadle, of Madison, S. D., as one honorably connected with the early history of the Territory and State, whose work is written in the institutions and Constitution of the State, who then delivered the following oration.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Citizens:

The impressive services and the solemn ceremonial that attend the laying of this corner stone of the beautiful Capitol building that rises here, the presence of the distinguished officers and representatives of the state of South Dakota and its people, mark an occasion of singular dignity and importance in the history of our commonwealth. It is the first event of its kind in the annals of our state, and this gives it a significance that no repetition can well approach, however great the consequence the state may attain. It is a landmark of most honorable progress, a celebration of success splendidly won, and a high pledge for the responsible future that awaits us.

After an eventful period of territorial dependence and training, after nineteen years of full membership, in the federal union, the beautiful ensign of which floats over us today, we have now reached the maturity of manhood in development, and here erect the beautiful edifice that shall stand as the representative of the majesty of our commonwealth in liberty, in law, in justice, in equal rights and popular government and all the institutions that adorn the American state, founded in the intelligent will of a free people. The

people of the whole state, without exception of race, party or creed, turn with interest and delight to the event of this hour. They look back with pride upon the worthy past, they feel the joy of civil advancement and material prosperity in the present, and catch a still higher inspiration for the full promise of the future. It is well that we today render thanks to the Great Architect of the Universe who has shown us this delightful land and gives us such hope for the achievement of the future while "Under God the People rule."

The general scene about us is filled with reminiscence and suggestion. It is the central point, the earliest occupied by white man for trade and conference with the native races that held all the region northwest, from the Mississippi. All present who are of full middle age remember when, after years of territorial life, the region about us was all Indian land. At this point on the river, Lewis and Clark, the Astor expedition, Manuel Lisa, the Chouteaus, General Clark, Fremont and Nicollet and many others met and traded or made terms with the Indians. Your speaker was upon the site of Pierre thirty-one years ago when it was Napoleon's ranch, the home of the French half blood. Early in the spring of 1862 the first hostile act of the Sioux in the war of the outbreak was committed at this point against a steamboat that brought goods and federal agents for their welfare.

From the first settlement in America until this year there had been a constant borderland of danger

and daring for the whites, and they have steadily pushed it westward till it is now disappearing in Western South Dakota. This frontier continually removed, reappearing and again overcome is one of the remarkable features of our history and its trials have developed our character and broadened our sympathy and our democracy. The gleam of gold drew the hardy adventurers to the enchanted hills on our western limits and stimulated the conquest by the industry of our race of every part beyond the great river that flows by. Where all this wilderness was, we now see the highway of commerce spanning the Missouri with its great steel bridge, and its trains carrying the increasing numbers and trade of our people.

But scenic change, reminiscence and sentiment, however strongly they press upon our attention, can not adequately reflect the importance of this occasion, which is but one point in the progress of the world that has made possible the founding of this great free state in the middle of the Missouri valley. The onward sweep of the ages, like the strides of Homer's gods through space, moved from point to point, and Providence, working in history, left a great freedom loving race of Teutonic people occupying Northwestern Europe.

To branches of this people was left the happy fortune of developing and bringing to our shores nearly every element that makes admirable our civilization and our government. Later the most numerous rep-

representatives of the Celtic family followed in great numbers and brightened our mental and social life by wit and eloquence, and led the way along our earlier border. Without them we would not have had Daniel Webster, Sergeant S. Prentiss and many others of our brilliant orators. Later still another branch of the Teutonic race, the Scandinavians, largely helped to people the Northwest and give character and sturdy enterprise to our state.

The Teutons inherited from the past the art, the learning, and the philosophy and culture of Greece; the great gift of Rome in law and central government, the religion of Palestine. Adding all these, they developed undiminished their own personal liberty, their sense of individual independence, their local self government, the high honor in which they held woman and the purity and sacredness of their domestic relations.

In England all these elements best united and in time built up and limited the powers of the central government, established more fully local government, and, to a higher degree than elsewhere in the world, personal rights and political liberty with religious freedom. Under their protection as an island she was saved from the evils of the continental states. When the revolution was completed in 1689 her dominant passion became that of liberty, and a writer says, "England was free; indeed she was the only free nation in the world." At the beginning of this final advance by England, America had been discovered and

lay untaken until this most propitious moment when every great issue was raised. Then in several Chartered Colonies the whole body of her people's high desires, of her Magna Charta, and, later of revolution, was transplanted to America; from an island to a great continent, where all that was best was emphasized and strengthened. The ideas rapidly advanced and outran their development at home. Finally the United States became the leader for all the world in free representative government and the highest aspirations of the race.

The states of the American union began in these colonies. In Virginia the first free legislative assembly of the world was chosen. For Massachusetts the first formal constitution was made in the cabin of the Mayflower, a social compact. All New England developed local self government. The legislatures of the colonies secured their reforms by including them in the acts granting the salaries of the governors, and in petition, remonstrance and law. A wonderful training was thus given to the men who later signed the Declaration of Independence and framed the federal constitution.

Fortunate it was for us and all the west and northwest that a body of Massachusetts veterans of the revolution organized to settle in the region northwest of the Ohio river, and planned to purchase from the Congress of the Confederation more than a million acres of land, if the laws and institutions of the new

country were made satisfactory. After preliminary resolutions by Thomas Jefferson setting forth the wise principles by which the territory should be treated and made permanent members of the federal union, the congress of the Confederation, under the leadership of Manasseh Cutler, passed, by the unanimous vote of all the states represented, the immortal Ordinance of 1787, alike famous for the wisdom, forethought and statesmanship of its provisions and the great results that flowed from its adoption.

Its purpose was not temporary; its principles were for all time and all circumstances. It was the greatest charter of free government ever granted to any people. This has been substantially the model for all subsequent territorial government except in the matter of slavery, and its provisions have been specifically applied to subsequent territories, including Dakota.

Six of its great provisions were made "Articles of compact between the original states and the people and the states" and some of them are now compacts between South Dakota and the Nation. After the lapse of nearly a century and a quarter every feature seems wise and we could desire none omitted or changed. The first provided for the freedom of worship; the second was a comprehensive bill of rights; the third should ever be given in its own words: "Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall be ever en-

couraged"; the fourth declared that the states to be formed from the territory should remain permanently in the nation and share its obligations. The fifth fixed the number of states to be formed from it. The sixth also should be given in its own language: "There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted." Fellow citizens! it is history that this ordinance thereby in effect provided for the extinction of slavery in the United States and the free men trained under it bore the most honorable part in saving the Nation.

Thomas Jefferson is given the chief credit for this famous document, and a great writer has declared that "For him it constitutes a claim to immortality superior to the presidency itself."

The first congress under the constitution rescinded the ordinance and fixed the details and officers of the government. The constitutional convention was in session when the ordinance was adopted, and this enactment stands as the greatest legislative act in our history and is second only to the constitution in importance. Thus, by this Magna Charta of the northwest, were freedom, education, religious and civic liberty planted and protected in these and other territories of the northwest and many of the elements of their greatness are due to these principles that are destined to live forever. While these compacts are

kept the wheels of time will never be turned back. They have given the entire west the most invaluable blessings of individual and general liberty and prosperity.

To say new and valuable things upon an occasion like this is impossible, such has been the general uniformity of territorial forms of government and of state making. The same system has been followed in all. The United States controlled more decidedly at first and less so in later territories, as in each one the federal government gave more aid and less restriction as the territory advanced.

This was according to the democratic growth of the nation. When our long border line of occupation passed over the Alleghanies and extended into the Mississippi valley the new states became more democratic in policy and government than the old, and the nation changed in this respect. This affected favorably the territories farther on. Western presidents better understood the new western communities. It was the question of slavery that varied the issues arising in territorial administration. The greatest change otherwise felt in territories was from new administrations at Washington, whether in the same party or to another. "To the victors belong the spoils" was a rule applied for half a century only a little less fully in the former than in the latter case. Whether there were capable and worthy men in the territory, as no doubt there were, in most cases from the first,

the territories chose no members of the electoral college. It therefore happened that strangers, wholly ignorant of the territories, their people and their needs were appointed to the highest positions. Executives and judges familiar with the people and the laws were removed to make room for new political favorites. Take such distinguished men as William Henry Harrison, of Indiana Territory, and General Lewis Cass, of Michigan Territory; men who had fought together to win the Northwest from British and Indians, and compare them with some predecessors and successors. John H. Mason, of Virginia, wholly without knowledge of the country and people, was made Secretary of Michigan. Leaving the territory upon private business, he secured, upon his own request as a political favor, the naming as his successor, his son who had not reached his majority.

When the successor to General Cass as governor was not for some time appointed, this boy secretary also played as boy governor. In the case of Utah, Brigham Young was territorial governor. President Buchanan in 1857 appointed a successor and Young refused to give up the office and called out the militia to support him. A strong force of federal troops was sent and compelled obedience. They were forbidden to enter the territory and their supply trains were burned. California became a state without territorial life. Such are but a few of the striking events in territorial government, not mentioning those in Kansas and elsewhere due to the slavery issue.

Compared with many, Dakota Territory was fortunate in the main, and, with rare exceptions, the executive and judicial officers appointed to it by the presidents were men of character and ability. Such an experienced executive as William A. Howard would have been a credit to any state in the union. Our second governor, the late Newton Edmunds, was appointed by President Lincoln, from among our citizens, in a most trying time and his services form an honored chapter in our early history, and he lived long a revered and respected citizen. Hon. J. P. Kidder was an early settler, later a judge and delegate. Hon. George H. Hand, a soldier of the union, was an early settler and was appointed to several positions of trust and served eight years as Secretary and was for some time acting governor. In all his life and duties he is held in high honor by our people. Later the choice fell upon our citizens more frequently and the late Hon. G. C. Moody, and after him our distinguished citizen, Hon. Bartlett Tripp, reflected great credit upon our territorial judiciary. Several of those appointed from the outside were promoted by our suffrage to high position; such as Hon. S. L. Spink, and Hon. Granville G. Bennett. Hon. A. C. Mellette, an appointee to a less important office, was made territorial governor and immediately chosen by the new state as its first governor.

So it may be repeated that not only did all territorial government improve as the nation grew older,

but our own advanced generally in honor and efficiency toward statehood, as our people increased greatly in numbers and admirably in talent, high aim, and devoted purpose toward the same end.

It happened that I was there when Deadwood was destroyed by fire September 27th, 1879, and saw all that fearful night and the sweeping ruin. Just after that and while embers were still glowing in the basements and the whole site was piled with ashes, I saw the people of Deadwood assemble in a great town meeting. The titles to real estate were imperfect. The fire had destroyed all public records. The town had been built upon placer land. Some mining right might assert its priority. But the assembled manhood of the city there unanimously resolved and pledged their honor that every possessory privilege and right of occupancy existing when the fire began should be made good and held and defended inviolate as before. The most honored citizen and the most abandoned man or woman should have their rights. That was made good. Then I looked up the valley and there, where the two gulches joined, stood two prominent land marks, a Church and the Schoolhouse of the town, untouched by fire. I cannot express the joy I felt and the enthusiasm it kindled as I witnessed this great act of self government and law making and these symbols of the future. Such was the Territory of Dakota in its remote mining camps. Not one soldier was sent there or required, and I am happy to

recite this story in the presence of so many representatives of "the Hills" present and participating in this act here today.

Railroads increased rapidly, prosperity prevailed. The Black Hills, upon our western border filled with enterprise and many men of brilliant ability went along with the daring miner. The time had come for statehood. The full measure of success under territorial limitations had been reached. There has not been in any territory a more splendid record of an intelligent and free people working out the basis for an honorable future than ours from 1879 to statehood in 1889. The best elements in the territory led. It was a struggle upon the highest line of political and moral purpose. The convention at Canton, June 21, 1882, was the worthy beginning and was followed by a great delegate convention at Huron, June 19, 1883, which comprised the character and leadership of all the proposed state. By an ordinance of this convention a constitutional convention was elected and met at Sioux Falls, September 4, 1883. An excellent constitution was framed but the congress denied the claims for statehood. The legislature of the whole territory authorized a constitutional convention for South Dakota, which met at Sioux Falls on Sept. 8, 1885, and framed the constitution substantially as it now stands. Still statehood was delayed four years more. But the whole southern half was now aroused and without respect to party or creed struggled for the desired goal. North Dakota soon fully consented and desired statehood for itself. It enjoyed the benefits of our work and

adopted or advanced the best elements of our constitution. Finally by the enabling act of Feb. 22, 1889, statehood was authorized for both. Our convention began its session July 4th, 1889. The constitution of 1885 had been again adopted at the May election and the convention had little to do except to name the state South Dakota, arrange for the division of the property and accept certain requirements made by congress.

Accordingly on the second day of Nov. 1889, President Benjamin Harrison announced the admission of South Dakota to the federal union upon an equal footing with the other states.

The same day all of its civil machinery was set in motion. The people had become attached to the constitution. It provided a just, economical and good government. So loyally did the people adhere to it that it was difficult to persuade them to make needed amendments. It was simple, free and a protection to all rights. The article upon education and school lands became and has continued to be one of the most popular provisions of the instrument. So strongly did we urge that upon congress that it required like provisions as a compact in the constitutions of other states, and North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Wyoming, and Oklahoma, enjoy this protection because South Dakota voters stood loyally and with persistent selfdenial for this measure, the most extraordinary change from previous practices by new states in the history of our country.

The statehood was attained through merit. Our people by their enterprise, industry, high character, good laws and government, under territorial limitations had convinced the nation that they deserved well at its hands. From the early days they had met splendidly every trial. They had formed provisional government till appointed officers came to their duties, and most gallantly defended their homes and settlements from hostile Indians. For some time most of the men were under arms, and for periods nearly all.

From the first good laws had been enacted. The legislation was creditable as were the men who did it, and after 1877 we had a body of laws, the codes for that year, better than any territory ever had. The laws were enforced, peace and good order prevailed, and all the institutions of a free American people were planted and developed. Churches rose in town and country; school houses were the most common landmarks in the settlements, and education was the highest pride of the population. It was such a people that made the state. All the conventions were composed of able and most worthy and capable representatives of such free, intelligent and enterprising inhabitants.

This audience coming upon railroads connecting every part of the state, with cities, villages and towns on every hand, and wealth and abundance throughout, with all the advance in science, inventions, the arts, education, commerce, travel, social development and comfort and the rightful pleasures that all now enjoy,

can hardly place itself in the position of the men and women of the territorial days. We cannot think or experience as the people then did, or appreciate their struggles, their trials, their hardships. Yet those faithful people made all this possible, tested soil and climate and developed the resources; founded all the institutions and made the organized state. In their poverty they unselfishly saved the school lands to you and the future.

As the boy looks toward manhood, as he tests his increasing powers and feels increasing responsibility, so the territory always looked toward statehood. The people were steadily feeling their way toward a more definite future. They were forming ideals of the state that was to be. The people of those days were self-respecting citizens, intelligent, accustomed to governing themselves, accustomed to organizing movements, and to direct events. Two-thirds of the work that is now the honor and pride of the state was done by them. They laid the foundations of civil institutions; of religious, educational and social life. A common high purpose arose out of earlier divisions and error.

The women of those days were most worthy. They helped to build the sod house and worked through summer and winter to make and keep the home. Their houses were often lonely and far from neighbors and they were without one of the dearest privileges of woman, the society and helpful relations of woman.

It is not singular that in some of the mountain states where women share even more trials and dangers with the men, they were given the suffrage as a deserved franchise. The survivors of those pioneers are worthy of more honor and praise than they have received.

To them and their associates, now passed over the great divide, it was given to develop the sturdy qualities of American manhood and womanhood and upon this new soil to create institutions, laws and material development, that are enduring evidences of their worth. With the many thousands that continually joined them; by patriotic sentiment and faithful toil, they left a record to be emulated, and made the state of South Dakota that will preserve perpetually the principles upon which our government is founded. Their effort and devotion has continued to hold the state to a course of high integrity and moral duty. I pity those who were capable who did not participate in that great work. Only the short sighted politician will forget that old and strenuous sentiment or go contrary to its principles.

From this view many events in our history might be explained. People that participate in a great political movement, or act of high merit, become more attached to its principles as it endures, and it influences all their course.

The state which they made politically, morally and materially stands today a glorious credit to their worth and labor. In all its history there is nothing

seriously to regret. Its future is filled with high promise. From the first it received a population of high merit. Side by side came the native American, the Scandinavian, the Irishman, the German, the Dutchman, and other elements, each the best of its kind.

All have become American in spirit, in loyalty, and in honorable usefulness. United they go forward in developing our wealth and supporting our free institutions. This gratifying progress and harmonious development will continue more and more to invite the most desirable additions to our state. Wealth will be produced and attracted as it has been, and the marvelous productions of our fields, our mines, and our shops will more rapidly increase.

In the early days the federal government was very important to us. Now the state is our absorbing interest. We are still a loyal and a glad part of the sovereign nation, but constantly the state becomes more and more to us and its importance cannot be overestimated. It has all those vast powers not delegated to the nation or forbidden to the state by the constitution or reserved to the people. How vital are these interests and issues. President Garfield said: "The state government touches the citizen and his interests twenty times where the national government touches him once. For the peace of our streets and health of our cities; for the administration of justice in nearly all that relates to the security of persons and property, and the punishment of crime; for the

education of our children and the care of the unfortunate and dependent citizen; for the assessment and collection of much the larger portion of our direct taxes, and for the proper expenditure of the same; for all this, and much more, we depend upon the honesty and wisdom of our state legislature and not upon the congress at Washington." Nearly all the great reforms that we praise in England have been, or are, the proper objects of our state. There is no service in the world more honorable than that for our state. Vast beyond reckoning are the human interest that center here, social, political, economic, educational, industrial, moral. So rapidly do they develop and increase that account cannot be made of them.

The stream of human life flows on, varies and broadens and the state, by its policy and laws is the great common exchange and agency that influences all, protects all. There is no room for cheap politics in such a field. There is need for highest intelligence in the people and their chosen leaders, if freedom is to be preserved, if religious liberty is to remain secure, if the right education of all is to be promoted, if general prosperity is to be continued and fairly shared by all, if the bane of reckless socialism is to be kept out, and civil liberty and political rights forever guaranteed.

The state in its present form was a growth originating in the principles of English institutions planted in the several colonies and in the race instinct for

local self government. The nation and state have had continuous development and advancement ever since and must forever have. The famous ordinance of 1787 and our principles of liberty and free government cannot otherwise have their full fruition. General Cass in a message to the legislature of Michigan Territory reiterated and amplified the doctrine that political institutions whose foundations rest upon public opinion can never be secure unless all the people are educated. Public opinion to be safe must be enlightened.

The advance of every free state depends upon the broad intelligence of its citizens. Because we are a state, republican in form, education of all the people becomes the highest duty of the state. Nothing can be so important except the struggle for the very existence of the republic. The genius of the poorest must have equal chance with the opportunity of the rich. The true state will not disregard the welfare of the humblest orphan. Our resources of farm, orchard, and mine, our soils and our water supply, our rocks, our clays, must be scientifically studied and mastered; our livestock, our entire productive possibilities require a scientifically trained and educated people. As our population doubles and crowds our area, this need increases. This training should be masterly and broad and prepare as fully also for all civic and social duties. Not for wage earning alone, nor for money making alone, must we educate. All skill, all technical training, all science, all the industries, can not to-

gether, but unaided, save and develop all that human society and government have in charge for our permanent welfare. Technology is required for the world's progress, but it is not all the story of man's advancement.

There is another outlook on the knowledge of the world's history. Immeasurable has been the cost of the social and political institutions that make this nation and this state possible.

The Institutions are the organization in which the industries live, the home protection that makes them all possible. Welfare lies not in gain alone. Giant industries have become the master trusts, and skill and technology are made their hired servants. These are so bound by their wages that they do not understand, often, the nature of the great social problems that the armies of labor and human society present today. The mastery of history, government, literature, philosophy; the knowledge of all the world and its mutual and conflicting interests, of the origin and nature of human society and "the grand results of time" must be the possession of those who are to lead us in the profound questions bound up in the state and national and international interests.

Constitutions, wise laws, and comprehensive policies do not come from civic and social ignorance. When our great barns have been builded and are full we cannot therefore take our ease and be secure.

The unexpected news from the remotest part of

the world or the labor strikes of our own country may make us poor in an hour. We live in a world, in a nation, as well as in a state. We are neighbors of Russia, of China, of England, of South America. There are world problems that we cannot escape. Our factories, our farms, our shops are but a part of the whole. The very prosperity that we boast, while a blessing, is a danger. Beecher said: "We must educate, we must educate or perish by our prosperity."

The corruption of concentrated wealth supplies the political issues of the day. Therefore there is the highest need of that thorough education that shall develop the character and fit our people for the most faithful service in the common interest of all. I rejoice, but tremble when I see what is called predatory wealth endow great institutions that shall train our young people, perhaps to applaud and to serve it. The great, final, single, comprehensive aim of education and of the highest education is the equipment of men for moral leadership. I believe that all this should be done inside the state, that all scholars, all teachers and all trained citizens should be made by institutions within our state. Within our borders, under our laws and institutions, under the discipline of our own conditions and inspired by our state pride, all this can best be done. All the elements of, and inspiration for it, should be thoroughly given in our common schools, from our libraries and at our fire-sides. Though I know few of them well, I would burn

half the books in several public libraries that I do know to the end that the better ones might be read.

The state needs men and women of trained minds for all the problems of life; not for one narrow phase alone; men and women whose judgment has been so developed that they can be free, can form opinions and act with prudence, serve their fellows as well as themselves. Out of this will come sound altruism, not selfishness alone. We need a broader outlook that can see the elements of social and political problems, draw just conclusions and act wisely. We want scholars as well as scientists, need that our scientists may also be scholars and our scholars scientists, that we may know the political, social and moral state as well as the economic and industrial state. We need all the truth, not a part only.

If the common and high school pupils shall elect for special gainful employment, so should everyone elect for worthy and intelligent citizenship, be open-minded, capable to understand, to labor and to serve the common welfare, to promote the highest good, make our religion practical and hold higher ideals for state, nation and all society.

We are a democracy. Democracy increases in the whole world. It is a constant advance. If it be not intelligent it makes grave mistakes. It is insistent, clamorous, but victorious in the right if intelligent. When ignorant and under absolutism it rushes blindly into bloody revolution. In the more enlightened

nations, as in England and America, it moves steadily forward in splendid, conservative advancement and blesses the state and the world.

We have no present great race question in the state, but we shall have many Indian citizens. There is now no dangerous percentage of illiterates, but if neglect brings that deficiency we shall have another issue. Already in the south and in a few northern states there is disfranchisement of many.

These are the privileges and perils of the democracy. Public opinion is the keynote, the inspiration of public life. Intelligence is the one great dominating ideal of free government. The schools of all grades, a free press, free public discussion, free and capable organization, will give the universal and broad enlightenment, the righteous judgment that shall save and perpetuate all that make our state and nation dear to us, that will protect free labor, overcome class danger, and open larger opportunity for all. May our splendid and loved state strive more perfectly and always to have every citizen fitted for the best service of our common welfare and great destiny.

If in our haste, our fury to be rich and mighty, we outrun the moral and educational institutions, they will never overtake us. They must be kept faithfully and kept all the time. The future of South Dakota is in its own hands. Never again shall we cover all these plains with a fit people from a new immigration. The material for the future shall come from the homes

already here. The older generation passes. With the laying of this corner stone we introduce a new age. The test is upon us. We must make good. We must make the new race better than the good one that other lands and older commonwealths gave us. It must be prepared for enlarged duties and responsibilities. The narrow range of human life is passed. The vision of the future is big with problems and all that concerns the development of a greater civilization.

Not in great cities and wealth is true safety. They are the sources of graft and corruption that afflict us. Here and in all this broad west must the capable race of womanly women and manly men be maintained; the citizenship of ability, integrity, virtue. We stand ahead of every other state in the Union in the vast endowment made for education of all kinds. Shall we sacredly preserve and wisely use this? The unquestionable duty of this hour is this sublime resolution.

Finally: We stand in the pride of a sovereign state in a supreme union. The destiny of that union is our destiny. It is the strong arm that gives protection to every state that it may care for its vast domestic concerns. How the patriotic imagination was kindled as at San Francisco passed in review that great fleet, the symbol of sovereignty, the pledge of safety. How we then rejoiced in that union stretching between the two oceans, that union created by the wisdom of Washington, the genius of Hamilton.

the democracy of Jefferson, the matchless eloquence of Webster, the profound decisions of Chief Justice Marshall, and the whole priceless legacy saved to us and the world by that incomparable patriot from the common people, Abraham Lincoln.

That federal government is controlled by the elected representatives of the people and the states, and uses its granted powers for their welfare, to guard and advance the prosperity of all. In the rush, almost the fury of the issues, there is in some minds a fear, for the moment, but finally the federal and the state powers harmoniously cooperate for the common good. That growing fear was quickly followed by an historic conference of the states and nation at Washington to plan how best to conserve the resources of all. The student will in such a time remember that the cause of interstate commerce more than any other promoted the change from Articles of Confederation to the Constitution, and made that the supreme law of the land.

The Nation, grown now to eighty-six millions, of almost continental area, has helped the people to reclaim a vast wilderness, develop a great commerce, and spread personal liberty throughout the land. In the daily enjoyment of such blessings we hardly realize what it has given us in intellectual freedom, in religious toleration and in political liberty.

It has made labor free and protects it. The Emancipation Proclamation of Abraham Lincoln freed the

white laborer no less than the black. It is from that time that the independence of the organized labor practically begins. The more we progress the more we need the nation and its powers. There can be nothing oppressive in such a government. Under the common sense of all justice comes to all.

The state will be greater in its proper sphere as the nation develops. Through universal free education the state assures the intelligence of all, secures the best results of these privileges to every person, and administers the affairs of the people for the equal blessings of all. So are we secure in all the intellectual and the material resources for the state. Under Providence these shall bless our children's children to the last generation.

The great river flows by us, across our state from north to south. As its swift current moves on from narrower to wider longitudes the more rapid motion of the surface throws the western shore against its flowing waters. As one passes down the channel one sees the higher and more abrupt bluffs on the western side and the broad valleys on the eastern. The rotation of the earth, the movement of the whole solar system, and distant Arcturus in his unknown path, cooperate in that physical Phenomenon.

So does the providence of God, moving in its mysterious ways through all the history of mankind, provide for the being, the present welfare and the future happiness of our state. The issues of all time

are ours. All the glory, the opportunity and the praise that is American is ours to keep and to enlarge.

The stone which we lay today is a four feet cube; the length and the breadth and the height thereof are equal and this symbolizes the objects for which our state is created: Intelligence, Liberty and Righteousness.

So in the light of all the splendid achievements of the people of the United States and the blessings of their civilization, intelligence, liberty and law; with profound thanks to God for our great inheritance; in the name of the good people of the commonwealth, of their enterprise, freedom and moral virtue; in the name of their high manhood and womanhood, and as a great civic pledge for the future, we lay this cornerstone to the Capitol building for South Dakota. Over that dome the ensign of the Union will always fly. The state and the nation shall be like Roderick Dhu's banner, the evergreen pine,

“Moored in the rifted rock,
Proof 'gainst the tempest's shock,
Firmer he roots him the ruder it blow.”