

MAY 25, 1910

DEDICATORY SERVICES
OF THE
NEW COURTHOUSE

**Weather Was Ideal and Big Crowd Present and
Participated in Exercises.**

The corner stone of Foster County's new Courthouse was set in place Wednesday afternoon with a proper and fitting ceremony, in the presence of the assemblage of fully 2,000 strong. The day was an ideal one for opera air exercises, and the usual North Dakota breeze, was on its good behavior. E.P. Kelly of this city acted as president of the day, and did the honors of the occasion in his usual happy way. The invocation was pronounced by Rev. Father McDonald.

A paper written by H.A. Soliday but in his absence read by Rev. Paton, was a splendid production. It was a picture of the trials and hardships of the pioneers, by one who had passed through the scenes he described. Mr. Soliday told of the days when it took courage to brave the rigors of winter and come into the country, with so little to do with, but the sterling worth and sturdy character of the men and women of those early days was more than a match for the elements, and those who stayed and fought the battle through triumphed over all obstacles and built for themselves and their children homes that were and are homes to be proud of. He told of the development of the towns and the country, and in this development while the hardships were many, those early days contained much of pleasure and happiness. His story of the building of Carrington was especially fine, and his statements of facts were accurate and reliable, it was just such a paper as should have been read, on this, the occasion of the making of a new epoch in the history of the country.

E.R. Bradley was next introduced and he gave a talk from the standpoint of the man defeated. Mr. Bradley was one of the most active opponents of the new courthouse, and the giving him a place on the program was fitting and proper. Mr. Bradley was witty and sarcastic and kept the crowd in a roar of laughter. His talk was good natured and showed that he harbored no ranchor in his heart and that he is a true booster for Foster County and North Dakota, and the coming metropolis of the county – Grace City.

The principal speaker of the day was Governor John Burk. The subject that he had been asked to speak on was a big one – North Dakota. It was a big subject, handled by a big man, and when he had finished every son of this great new empire was just a little prouder than ever that he lived in a state of such great possibilities, for while it has already accomplished much, its real history of progress and achievement is still to be written. To talk of North Dakota, would be to talk of its fertile fields, and the governor showed that he had been a deep student of the soil and the country, its advantage, and its disadvantages, and his advice along the latter lines could be summed up on practically two things—rotation of crops, and the planting of trees. Where the trees had been planted years ago in the older sections of the state and nice groves are now abundant, the hot winds of the summer did not blight the grain, nor did the cold blasts of the winter months beat with unrestricted vigor. And in the rotation of the crops, the life and fertility of the soil could be preserved for all time. And he spoke of our great deposits of lignite that were developed and which in time would make it possible for North Dakota to become one of the greatest manufacturing states in the union. The governor made a great speech and had the close attention of all.

Homer S. Ballard, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, placed the stone in position. Into the stone are cut the names of the Commissioners, the auditor and the architect and contractor. Within the stone were deposited a copy of each of the Foster County papers, a list of the county and state officers, a coin of each denomination, and a program of the day. The New Rockford band was present, and their music was greatly appreciated. It is a splendid organization, and they were not stingy in the number of their selections. Another pleasant feature of the program was the music furnished by the High School Chorus, under the direction of Miss Bird.

The County Commissioners, Messrs Homer Ballard, Chairman, Kenneth Ferguson and John Norden have performed well their duties in connection with the work of the building and the arduous duties incident to the preliminary work, and the tax payers of the county were fortunate in having their money expended by a board unimpeachable, honest and capable. The benediction was pronounced by Rev. Stambaugh, and one of the greatest days in the history of Foster County was brought to a most auspicious close.