

Foster County Independent Newspaper

MAY 25, 1910

CORNER STONE LAYING

Proud, Good-Natured Crowd From All Sections
Hears Governor Yesterday

PERFECT WEATHER PREVAILED

Good Program Arranged- Bradley Comes In From
Wet and Is Glad He Was Beat

Favored with perfect North Dakota warmth and sunshine, the corner stone of the new Foster county courthouse was laid with impressive and auspicious ceremonies. A crowd estimated to have been in excess of 2,500 attended the open air exercises. People from all parts of the county and many from out of town were present.

The building had been decorated with the national colors and presented a beautiful appearance. The speakers' stand was on the corner of the building nearest the corner stone. Seats had been provided for hundreds but these were taxed beyond their capacity and hundreds stood up during the exercises.

E.P. Kelly acted as chairman and gave a hearty and sincere welcome to the visitors. The event the people had congregated to celebrate at that time, he said, marked an important epoch in the history of the county. It marked the passing of the community into age and solidity; it marked the passing of cheap land and the ushering in of the day when every acre was of great value and contained vast potential possibilities. Rev. Paton read the carefully prepared history of the county as written by H.A. Soliday, and which is published entire in this issue.

E.R. Bradley, representing the citizens who had opposed the bond issue for the new courthouse, spoke for several minutes, stating that while many thought the cost more than it should have been, there was no argument but that Foster county deserved the best, and that the former opponents would gracefully take their defeat and remain boosters for the county. Grace City, said Mr. Bradley, now engaged in laying out blocks and one has been reserved for courthouse purposes. To Mr. Bradley's way of thinking is only a matter of a few years when the taxpayers will be called upon to stand the expense of moving the new temple of justice to Grace City.

The principal speaker at the laying of the corner stone of the new courthouse was Governor John Burke. In his introduction he took occasion to congratulate the people of Foster county on their good sense in building such a magnificent building. He said that it was not only an honor to the people of this thriving and prosperous county but to the state of North Dakota. The tone of the governor's address was particularly directed toward the greatness of this state, and in his usual clear headed manner spoke of its great productiveness and with facts and figures showed the magnitude of our opportunities.

The governor, in the course of his introduction, paid a well deserved tribute to the first settlers of the state and pictured in simple but eloquent language the energy, perseverance and industry of the hardy and noble pioneers of the northwest, and said that the younger generations owe much to those energetic men and women, the practical builders of this great state.

The resources of the state of North Dakota were brought to the knowledge of the large audience in attendance. That there is thirty-two thousand square miles in area of lignite coal in this state was a revelation to the listeners, with an output of six hundred billion tons of coal as an in-exhaustive supply of fuel to support the generations yet to be. At present the experimental station at Hebron west of Missouri, have effected a complete demonstration that the manufacture of briquettes from lignite coal is a complete success. The brick is manufactured at Hebron of which the greater part of our courthouse is built. The Pembina Mountains supply an unlimited amount of clay material for pottery.

The principal subject which the governor drew attention to was the natural resources of North Dakota, and showed very clearly, that after all, the production of the land was the backbone of our greatness as a state. Rotation of crops, he said, was an absolute necessity to conserve the soil of the state. In the early days frosts and hot winds did much damage to the work of the early pioneers. The one great remedy the governor insisted on was the necessity of planting trees and having groves planted to counteract the effects of the hot winds.

The bureau of soil at Washington, DC. have discovered that toxin goes into the soil when the same crop is grown year after year, and that the rotation of crops has a most beneficial effect.

In conclusion the governor insisted strongly on the conservation and preservation of the soil as the bureaus of the different states design. In closing Governor Burke laid strong emphasis on the necessity of obedience to the law and order and showed that obedient children make obedient and law abiding citizens. The trend of the governor's address was excellent and worthy of consideration.

Homer s. Ballard, chairman of the board of county commissioners, placed the corner stone in position. The stone is located in the southeast corner of the courthouse. Inside the stone was deposited a copy of each of the five Foster county newspapers, coins of all denominations, a program of the day, and a list of the state and county officials. Engraved on the stone are the names of the board of county commissioners, the auditor, architects and contractor.

Music for the occasion was furnished by the New Rockford band and a girls' chorus from the high school. Father McDonald offered a prayer at the commencement of the program and Rev. Stambaugh pronounced the benediction.

Nearly all the speakers spoke in most flattering terms of the board of county commissioners --- H.S. Ballard, Kenneth Ferguson and John Norden. The public will probably never realize the amount of extra work these gentlemen will be put to on account of the new building and the responsibility involved in handling \$75,000. But we happen to know that to date; the board has been able to get more value for every dollar they have contracted to spend than has been true of any other public building of which we have knowledge.