

KANSAS QUARTER-CENTENNIAL.

1861-1886.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE ADMISSION OF KANSAS INTO THE UNION, HELD AT
TOPEKA, JANUARY 29, 1886.

At a meeting of the survivors of the Wyandotte Constitutional Convention, held at Wyandotte, on the 29th of July, 1884, initiatory action was taken in reference to a celebration by the people of Kansas, at Topeka, of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the admission of Kansas into the Union. In pursuance of that action, a meeting was held on the 24th of November, 1885, in the rooms of the State Historical Society at the State Capitol, to make preparations for such celebration. At that meeting a program of proceedings was in part made up; and a committee to make further arrangements was appointed, composed as follows: Col. D. R. Anthony, Col. S. N. Wood, Hon. John Martin, Chief Justice Albert H. Horton, Col. Cyrus K. Holliday, Hon. Albert Griffin, Maj. J. K. Hudson, Gov. John A. Martin, Hon. Benj. F. Simpson, Hon. J. C. Burnett, and F. G. Adams.

Col. D. R. Anthony, President of the State Historical Society, was made chairman of the committee, and F. G. Adams, Secretary of the State Historical Society, was made secretary of the committee. Col. C. K. Holliday, Hon. John Martin, and Maj. J. K. Hudson, were appointed a sub-committee.

The program of exercises as completed was as follows:

AFTERNOON.

Exercises commencing at 2 P. M. Music by Marshall's Military Band. Address by ex-Governor Charles Robinson. Music by the band. Address by Governor John A. Martin. Music by the band.

Addresses as follows: The Wyandotte Constitution, Hon. B. F. Simpson; The State Governments, ex-Governor Thomas A. Osborn;* The Judiciary of Kansas, Chief Justice Albert H. Horton; The Cities of Kansas, Col. Cyrus K. Holliday; The Railroads of Kansas, Judge James Humphrey; The Schools of Kansas, Rev. Dr. Richard Cordley.

Music by the band.

EVENING.

Exercises commencing at 7 P. M. Music by Marshall's Military Band. Opening address by Colonel D. R. Anthony, President of the State Historical Society.

*Governor Osborn was unable to prepare an address, owing to sickness in his family. Other reasons prevented General Blair from preparing the address on the subject assigned to him.

Address by President of the State Senate, Hon. A. P. Riddle.

Address by Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. J. B. Johnson.

The following addresses: The Pioneers of Kansas, Hon. S. N. Wood; The Territorial Governments, Hon. John Speer; The Rejected Constitutions, Hon. T. D. Thacher; Kansas during the War, Gen. C. W. Blair; Poem, by Hon. Eugene F. Ware; The Press of Kansas, Hon. D. W. Wilder; The Agriculture of Kansas, Hon. William Sims; The Churches of Kansas, Rev. Dr. F. S. McCabe; Kansas Manufactures and Mines, Hon. Alexander Caldwell; The Women of Kansas, Noble L. Prentis.

Music by the band.

In order to accommodate the large audience coming from all parts of the State, the meeting was held at the Grand Opera House. The State officers, State judiciary, the speakers, committee of arrangements, and many others, occupied the stage. Seats were assigned in front of the stage for the members of the Senate and House of Representatives. The exercises occupied the afternoon and evening, and extended through more than seven hours, engaging the eager attention of the multitude in attendance, to the closing hour, at 11 P. M.

The exercises were conducted in the order following:

Governor John A. Martin presided during the afternoon exercises, which opened with music by Marshall's Military Band.

ADDRESS OF EX-GOVERNOR CHARLES ROBINSON.

Governor Martin introduced ex-Governor Charles Robinson, as the distinguished citizen whom the people first called to preside over the destinies of the State, and who ably and faithfully discharged the high and important trusts so assigned him. He gave an appropriate tribute to the character of the first Chief Magistrate, as one who had performed so prominent a part in the pioneer struggles and conflicts of the people, that at the beginning of the State they bestowed upon him the highest office of honor and trust in their gift:

THE GOVERNMENT OF KANSAS.

Mr. President, and Fellow-Citizens: We have assembled to celebrate the twenty-fifth birthday of the State of Kansas. On such an occasion, a review of her wonderful growth and achievements is eminently proper, and in these no State can excel our own; but I have been notified that I am expected to speak of Kansas in her ante-natal days, and relate something of her struggles in embryo. While the Territorial period was full of incident and worthy achievement, the field has been so often plowed and cross-plowed, harrowed and raked, as with a fine-tooth comb, for items to add to the fame or infamy of the contestants, that nothing fresh or interesting remains to be said appropriate to the occasion. Some of the results, however, of the Territorial struggle have been inherited by the State, and constitute its chief glory. Of these, I will briefly speak. To begin at the beginning, I will say that the difficulty which culminated in Kansas had its origin in the Garden of Eden. According to report, the first law ever given to the race was a prohibitory law, with death as the penalty for disobedience. This law, of course, was violated by the occupants of the Garden, and should the threatened penalty be inflicted, the Law-Giver would have no subjects, as the violators included the whole human family. Accordingly, the penalty was modified to suit the emergency—a precedent still followed by politi-