

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 15, 1888.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PLATT, from the Committee on Territories, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 1196.]

*The Committee on Territories, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1196) "to provide for the formation and admission into the Union of the State of North Dakota, and for other purposes," having considered the same, respectfully report as follows:*

The action of this committee in reporting a bill for the admission of the State of South Dakota into the Union was based largely upon the conclusion that two States should be formed from the present Territory of Dakota, and involves the consideration of the question whether the people residing in the Territory of Dakota north of the northern line of the proposed State of South Dakota are entitled to statehood. In the opinion of your committee they certainly are.

The area of North Dakota embraced within the boundaries of the State described in the bill referred to the committee is 74,000 square miles, being 214 miles wide from north to south, and 400 miles long from east to west. Only eight States, not including South Dakota, would exceed it in size, viz:

	Sq. miles.		Sq. miles.
Nebraska.....	76,000	Colorado.....	104,000
Kansas.....	81,000	Nevada.....	110,000
Minnesota.....	83,000	California.....	158,000
Oregon.....	95,000	Texas.....	265,000

Its area is substantially the same as that of Nebraska. Its surface is a rolling prairie of very fertile soil, as capable of supporting a dense population as the States of Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa. A large portion of its area is underlaid with coal.

The present population of the proposed State exceeds 200,000, and is to-day more numerous than that of any State ever organized from the public domain at the time of its admission into the Union. By the census of 1885, taken under authority of an act of the Territorial legislature, as provided for by act of Congress, the counties of North Dakota had a population in that year of 152,000. The statistics of emigration, the public land entries, the vote, and the other data furnished by the report of the governor of the Territory indicate a population at the beginning of the present year of 225,000.

The following table shows the ratio of representation and the population at date of admission of all the States :

State.	Date of admission.	Representative ratio on previous census.	Population when admitted.	State.	Date of admission.	Representative ratio on previous census.	Population when admitted.
Vermont.....	1791	33, 000	85, 425	Florida.....	1845	70, 680	*64, 000
Kentucky.....	1792	33, 000	73, 677	Texas.....	1845	70, 680	*143, 000
Tennessee.....	1796	33, 000	*67, 000	Iowa.....	1846	70, 680	78, 819
Ohio.....	1802	33, 000	45, 365	Wisconsin.....	1848	70, 680	*180, 000
Louisiana.....	1812	35, 000	70, 556	California.....	1850	93, 423	92, 597
Indiana.....	1816	35, 000	63, 897	Minnesota.....	1858	93, 423	*120, 000
Mississippi.....	1817	35, 000	} 75, 512	Oregon.....	1859	93, 423	*50, 000
Alabama.....	1819	35, 000		Kansas.....	1861	127, 381	107, 206
Illinois.....	1818	35, 000	34, 620	West Virginia.....	1863	127, 381	*350, 000
Maine.....	1820	35, 000	298, 269	Nevada.....	1864	127, 381	*40, 000
Missouri.....	1821	40, 000	60, 557	Nebraska.....	1867	127, 381	*100, 000
Arkansas.....	1836	47, 700	52, 240	Colorado.....	1876	131, 425	*100, 000
Michigan.....	1837	47, 700	*65, 000				

\* Estimated.

The present basis of representation in the House of Representatives is 151,911.

The crops for 1887 within the area of the proposed State are as follows:

Bushels of wheat.....	35, 931, 000
Bushels of oats.....	18, 339, 000
Bushels of barley.....	2, 410, 000
Bushels of corn.....	1, 000, 000

Only Minnesota, Ohio, and California raised a greater crop of wheat.

The total assessed value of property, excluding the railroads, which were taxed upon their gross earnings, was in 1887 \$71,582,000.

North Dakota has 1,966 miles of railroad, which paid in 1887 a tax of over \$100,000. It has 1,230 school-houses, 99 newspapers, 100 banks. The value of its school property was, in 1887, \$1,219,000, and the expenditure for the support of public schools in that year was \$904,000; in addition to which it supports a university and several colleges and schools of learning.

The increase of its population has been by emigration from the States of the Union. It is believed that every State is represented among her people. They carried with them to the new home of their selection the experience, responsibilities, and aspirations of citizens accustomed to take part in the government of States. They are as capable of the wise and prudent conduct of the affairs of a State as the citizens of any State in the Union, and, in the opinion of your committee, are unquestionably entitled to exercise at once the privileges and rights which statehood confers.

The present Territory of Dakota, in the judgment of your committee, is too large for a single State, and the time has fully come when both North and South Dakota should be admitted as States upon an equal footing with the other States of the Union.

The bill referred to the committee empowers the people of North Dakota to hold a convention and frame a constitution, to submit the same to a vote of the people, and to elect State and other officers, and, upon their compliance with the act and conditions imposed thereby, provides for their admission as a State by proclamation of the President.

Certain amendments are proposed, which are indicated in the text of the bill, and as thus amended the committee recommends its passage.