

OKLAHOMA WEDS INDIAN TERRITORY NEW STATE MADE

Unique Ceremony at Guthrie
Celebrates Statehood

HASKELL'S SPEECH

Formal Proposal of Marriage
Made by C. G. Jones of
Oklahoma City

BIG BARBECUE

Some Interesting Facts About
New Commonwealth and
Its Constitution

Special to The Telegram.

GUTHRIE, Okla., Nov. 16.—The ceremonies which gave birth to the new state of Oklahoma were consummated here at 1 o'clock today when Governor Charles N. Haskell and twenty other state officials took the oath of office. The inauguration was conducted on a platform built on the steps of the Carnegie library.

A few minutes before 12 o'clock Mr. Haskell was driven in a carriage from the Hotel Royal to the library, three blocks distant. The other officers gathered from their hotels and when the whistles blew for the noon hour all were grouped on the platform.

C. G. Jones, the prominent Oklahoma City republican, walked quickly to the center of the platform and in a voice that could be heard to the edges of the immense crowd, read the proclamation of President Roosevelt, admitting the two territories into the union. When he had finished he turned to the group on the pavilion and in a short address made proposal of marriage on behalf of Oklahoma to Indian Territory.

Proposal Accepted

W. A. Durant, a Choctaw Indian, prominent in democratic circles, stepped from the party of state officers-elect and solemnly "accepted" the abbreviated wooing in behalf of Indian Territory, impersonated by Mrs. Leo Bennett, a charming young Indian matron from Muskogee. The picturesque event was carried out to the ceremony was performed by Rev. William A. Dodson, pastor of the First Baptist church of this city.

Following the consummation of the vows the clergyman raised his hand for silence while he prayed.

Hardly was the unique spectacle concluded when Mr. Haskell stepped quickly to the front of the platform. He was accompanied by Leslie G. Niblick, a Guthrie newspaper man, who was commissioned a notary public at Mr. Haskell's request. Taking the oath was a ceremony quickly performed. With right hand uplifted the man whom the people chose to head their first venture in self-government swore to uphold the rights invested in his office and Oklahoma was born. The oaths of office were administered to the other officials in a body.

Quiet was restored only when Governor Haskell again walked to the front of the stand and raised his hand. Without formality he launched into his address. When he had finished the parade led to Island Park, where the barbecue had been prepared. In the carriage with the governor were members of the executive committee. Fourteen other carriages containing the state officers, five bands, walking civil and fraternal bodies and people on foot, composed the line of march, headed by a platoon of police and flanked by the Oklahoma National Guard and the Indian Territory military bodies.

At the park the barbecue dinner was informally served while the new officers held a reception. The sight was picturesque. The ball tonight in the city hall, where the legislature is to meet, concludes the inaugural ceremonies.

The Constitution

It is estimated that it cost Oklahoma \$19,000 for the constitutional convention to determine whether the Supreme Being should be mentioned in the preamble. The delegates consumed ten days in argument over this question and the expense of the convention was \$1,000 a day.

Several days were consumed in debate on the question whether or not the state convention should recognize the constitution of the United States.

No such recourse to detailed law making in a constitution has ever been attempted in the history of the United States. The constitution provides, for instance, that every railway company shall furnish comfortable and clean depots and depot buildings, and that such buildings shall be kept clean, lighted and warm, for the comfort and accommodation of the public.

Bryan Likes Document

William Jennings Bryan likes the document and is quoted as having pronounced it a better constitution than the federal constitution itself.

Speaker Cannon, writing to a friend in the new state, said it certainly would be no crime to worship the document, as it was entirely unlike anything on the earth, above or below it, and was thus outside the limit of the Biblical injunction as to idolatry.

Senator William Warren of Missouri noted the coming of four carriages while at the White House on the day Governor Frantz placed the bulky document in the hands of the President and remarked as he watched their slow approach, "Ah, there comes Frantz with his constitution."

The enabling act passed by congress under which the constitutional convention of Oklahoma was held was approved on June 16, 1906. In the following November the convention began its labors, which extended over a period of eight months and early exhausted the appropriation of \$100,000 which had been provided for its expenses. The time which had been estimated as necessary for the work of framing the document was sixty days.

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Facts About Oklahoma and Her Constitution

- Oklahoma is larger in area than Indiana and Ohio combined.
- Oklahoma will be the twenty-third state in the Union in point of population.
- Oklahoma has 5,600 miles of railroads, 700 banks and 50 daily newspapers.
- Oklahoma's metropolis, Oklahoma City, has forty miles of asphalt pavements.
- Oklahoma's constitution is the biggest in the Union, being made up of sixty thousand words.
- State wide prohibition is provided in the constitution.
- The "initiative and referendum" are in the state constitution and extend also to municipalities.
- Oklahoma has 24,669 full blooded Indians and 50,670 part Indians.
- Many of them are highly civilized.
- Oklahoma is a "corn state," raising 150,000,000 bushels last year.

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One of the first duties of the new legislature will be to pay the bills of this convention. It was made up of ninety-nine Democrats, twelve Republicans and one independent, and was held at Guthrie in Oklahoma Territory. The constitution received the approval of the citizens of the state last September with a majority of more than 108,000 votes.

Initiative and Referendum
Under the initiative and referendum

clauses, which are those most commented on, eight per cent of the legal voters have the right to propose any legislative measure and fifteen per cent may propose amendments to the constitution by petition. The referendum may be ordered, except as to laws necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety, either by petition signed by five per cent of the legal voters or by the legislature. Referendum petitions must be filed with the secretary of state not more than ninety days after the ad-

jurment of the legislature. A provision of a similar character is incorporated in the constitution of Oregon. In Oklahoma it is extended to cover municipalities as well as the state.

Prohibition Clause

While the enabling act required prohibition in the greater portion of the state for a period of twenty-one years, the constitution has extended this to cover the entire state. The purpose of the clause in the enabling act was to prevent the sale of liquor to Indians.

The constitution contains approximately 60,000 words and holds the record in this regard. It is now in the hands of the department of justice, which will certify to its having conformed with the provisions of the enabling act. The forty-sixth star will not make its appearance in the flag until July 4, 1906, the time for this step having been fixed by law to cover all new states.

Oklahoma will probably be democratic in politics for some time to come. The governor, C. M. Haskell of Muskogee, received a majority of 27,000 votes. The state will cast approximately 250,000 votes, of which number from ten to fifteen thousand are by negro voters. The majority for prohibition was about 20,000. Of the native republicans in the constitutional convention six came from "each side of the new state."

Haskell From Ohio

Governor Haskell is one of the newer residents of the state, having come there from Ohio, where he learned the political game from the late Senator Calvin S. Brice. Other officers are: Lieutenant governor, George Bellamy of El Reno; secretary of state, "Bill" Cross of Oklahoma City, whose friends say he would not be recognized if referred to as "William Cross;" treasurer, J. B. Menefee of Anadarko; attorney general, Charles West of Enid, and chairman of the commissioners of corporations, J. J. McAlister, "Gold Brick" McAlister, as he is known throughout the state. McAlister, who is a banker, was one of the early victims of the gold brick scheme and loaned something like \$10,000 on a piece of metal which never brought him any return.

First Blind Senator

The state in primaries has selected to represent her in the senate the first blind man who has ever sat in that body. He is T. P. Gore, who lost his sight when a boy in Mississippi, where he was born. His wife has eyes for both of them, reading and writing his letters and accompanying him wherever he goes. It is said that Mr. and Mrs. Gore mortgaged their home to get traveling expenses necessary for his campaign. He is a poor man, and appeals to laboring men in speeches of much oratorical power. He has served in the territorial legislature.

Robert Lee Owen, who will be elected as the other senator, is a totally different type. Born in Virginia, he is one-eighth Cherokee Indian, and is looked upon as an extreme conservative. He distinguished himself as a lawyer by earning a fee of \$150,000 in a single case. Both these men have

been chosen by the democratic primaries, which is equivalent to their election by the legislature.

Of the representatives Hild S. McGuire, for some years territorial delegate from Oklahoma in congress, is the only republican of the five elected. Others are E. L. Fulton, a brother of Senator Fulton, of Oregon; Second district; James S. Davenport, Third district; Charles D. Carter, Fourth district, and Scott Fairis, Fifth district.

The state has 1,200 postoffices, but an effort looking toward opening those places up to competition at this time was frowned upon by the administration, and vacancies will be recognized only as they occur in the regular way. Governor Fairis, who was defeated in the last election, was a Rough Rider, and was promoted to captain of a cavalry regiment at San Juan Hill, where he took the place of Captain O'Neill, killed in the charge. He was on a farm in Illinois and was among the first horsemen to cross the Cherokee strip when this ground was opened to settlers. He established with his brothers a hardware store in Enid at Enid, and later became postmaster. President Roosevelt appointed him agent for the Osage Indians and later made him governor of the territory.

Rich of New State

The new state of Oklahoma is made up of the territory of Oklahoma and the Indian Territory. The boundary of the state is irregular and has an area of 76,429 square miles. It is larger than the states of Indiana and Ohio combined, and has a population estimated at 1,500,000, which is greater than that of twenty-three of the states of the union.

Rich in natural resources, Oklahoma has every prospect of becoming one of the most wealthy commonwealths of the middle west. Her farming lands in some portions of the state are now worth \$75 an acre. All products of the temperate zone flourish within her boundaries and cotton is successfully grown in the southern portion of her area. Oil, gas, coal, cement, salt, asphalt, building stone and, in fact, all the minerals except the precious ones await the coming and development of energy and capital.

Briefly, the product of Oklahoma for last year was 150,000,000 bushels of corn, 20,000,000 bushels of oats, 50,000,000 bushels of wheat, 100,000 bales of cotton, valued at \$40,000,000; \$2,000,000 worth of haffir corn and brown rice. The state has 53,259 head of cattle, 642,000 horses, 600,000 hogs, 150,000 mules, 55,000 sheep. The market value of the animals named is estimated at \$31,000,000. She will have 5,500 miles of railroads, taxes at \$25,000,000.

Land of Indian

The acreage which makes up the new state was originally a part of the Louisiana purchase. In 1838, when the Indians had become intractable enough to permit such action, the United States set aside this land and agreed to bear the expense of moving the tribes from the southern states in which they then lived, to land which was granted them in fee simple. This offer was accepted, and the Choctaws, Creek, Chickasaws, Creeks and Seminoles swarmed over this vast area, settling in tribes and Indian villages, taking such land as pleased them and establishing permanent hunting grounds.

These Indians were permitted to maintain their tribal relations and conducted successfully their own government, having a chief or governor, a house of warriors and a house of kings, and even a higher court, to which appeal might be taken. There were, however, no written pleadings. The Indians were permitted to take their slaves with them, and out of this slave holding has grown considerable litigation in the course of the later distribution of the lands. The contention continued until the civil war, after which a new treaty was demanded and negotiated with the tribes, which freed the slaves and granted them equal rights with the Indians.

First Document Filed

By United Press.

CITIZEN, Okla., Nov. 16.—The first document filed in the new state was a complaint against the Missouri Pacific railway tract conditions. J. Shephard, secretary of the National Union of Trackmen, filed the complaint with the corporation commission. The canon brooked the signing of the constitution.

Celebrate at Ardmore

Special to the Times.

Ardmore, Okla., Nov. 16.—The news that the President had signed the statehood proclamation was received here with the blowing of whistles and ringing of bells. Similar demonstrations are reported from the other towns over this section of the new state. At Madill, a torch light parade

was held tonight, followed by public speeches. On account of the fact that many from this section are in general celebration for this county will not be held until next Saturday.