

ADMISSION OF NEW MEXICO AS A STATE.

MAY 5, 1874.—Recommitted to the Committee on the Territories and ordered to be printed.

MAY 18, 1874.—Ordered to be reprinted.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 2418.]

*The Committee on the Territories, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2418) to enable the people of New Mexico to form a constitution and State government, and for admission of the said State into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, report the same to the House, with amendment, and recommend that it pass :*

The committee find that New Mexico has an area of one hundred and twenty-one thousand two hundred and one square miles, or seventy-seven million acres. One-half of this area lies on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains.

New Mexico is three times as large as Ohio, larger than all New England and New York, and one hundred and sixteen times larger than Rhode Island.

Timber is abundant; minerals of all kinds exist in inexhaustible quantities, especially coal. The only anthracite coal found in the West is in New Mexico, and it is equal in quality to the Pennsylvania anthracite. Raymond, in his Mining Statistics of 1870, says that, "as far as its application for all practical purposes is concerned, it is undoubtedly fully equal to Pennsylvania anthracite, and really the best fuel discovered so far in the West."

This Territory is unsurpassed as a grazing and stock country. It has now three million sheep, and exports about \$2,000,000 worth of sheep and wool annually. The grasses being very nutritious and the climate mild, the stock are never fed or housed, and vast herds of sheep and cattle are reared at very little expense. These grazing-lands are estimated at about forty million acres. The river-valleys are very rich. Grapes, producing the finest wine, grow in the greatest profusion. The estimated grape-land of the Rio Grande is six hundred and forty thousand acres, and, of the Pecos Valley, two hundred and fifty thousand acres.

Large crops of wheat are produced; and one fact marks a favorable distinction for New Mexico over other Territories, and that is, that meat and flour are cheaper than in any other part of the Union.

Five lines of railway are now progressing toward New Mexico. Two are transcontinental, and three will terminate within the Territory.

Three lines are now within ninety miles of its borders. Its long period of isolation is almost over.

In 1850 the population of New Mexico was 61,547; in 1860 it was 93,516; an increase of 32,000, or more than 50 per cent. In 1870 the imperfect census shows a population of 91,874, an apparent decrease of 1,600; but this loss is caused by the organization of Arizona, which took off some 9,000 population, and the annexing to Colorado of the northern tier of counties, with about 15,000 people; thus making 23,000 population taken from New Mexico in the last decade. It must also be borne in mind that during the ten years from 1860 to 1870 the most troublesome Indian wars occurred, and also that during a portion of the time New Mexico was overrun by the confederate troops. Yet notwithstanding Indian wars and the rebellion, it will be seen that New Mexico increased its population about 30 per cent. This shows solid, substantial prosperity. But the census of 1870, as in all Territories, was very imperfect. The memorial of the legislative assembly of New Mexico, asking for admission as a State, passed January 12, 1874, sets forth, we think correctly, the following as the facts:

Your memorialists, the council and house of representatives of the legislative assembly of the Territory of New Mexico, would most respectfully represent that the Territory of New Mexico at this time, we believe, has a population of 135,000, aside from the Pueblos or Village Indians, who, from time immemorial, have been agriculturists, and among the best citizens of our Territory, and who now number little short of 10,000, making a total population of over 140,000 people, mostly a quiet, pastoral people, and as truly loyal to the Government under which they live as any people under the sun; that at the time of taking the last census there were in this Territory at least 10,000 people living in the many various mining-districts, remote from the mass of the settlements, and residing on the extreme borders of this Territory, who could not be reached by the census-officers without great danger and risk, and were for that reason not included in the census; and that since said census was taken a very large immigration has come into this Territory from the States and European countries, amounting to at least 20,000, who have settled permanently in our Territory, bringing with them capital and means; that this new population is dispersed very generally throughout the Territory, but will be found mostly in the mining-regions, which are fast becoming developed. We believe that, outside of the native Mexican population of this Territory, there are at least 40,000 people of American and European descent among us who are permanent residents.

These 10,000 Pueblos are a quiet, exclusively agricultural people. They are as law-abiding a people as any community anywhere. They were citizens under the Mexican law and under the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo they became citizens of the United States, and the courts have so held. Since 1870 Indian hostilities have been suppressed, and therefore the Territory has gained by unexampled immigration and prosperity. The last vote for Delegate was about 17,000, and probably nearly 3,000 votes were not cast, because many precincts were not organized or were too remote for the voter to attend. The vote of these sparsely-settled Territories cannot be brought out in its full strength as is done in the thickly-settled older States.

The election also occurred in the midst of harvest; yet this vote is as large as was cast in many congressional districts of the States for Representatives to the Forty-second Congress, where the polls were very convenient.

In the three congressional districts of Vermont, the average vote was 13,333; in the two congressional districts of Rhode Island, the average vote was 6,165; in seven congressional districts in Tennessee, the average vote was 13,795; in the ten congressional districts of Massachusetts, the average vote was 14,583; in the first, second, third, and ninth districts of Missouri, the average vote was 13,675; in Nevada, 13,312; in the first six districts of Kentucky, the average vote was

13,658; and in many of the other States, the vote of congressional districts is less than the vote of New Mexico.

There are four States that have not, according to the last census, a sufficient population for one Representative; and Congress has allowed nine States one additional member each upon a less number than fixed by the general apportionment; and in four of these States there is a Representative for less than a moiety, with a probability of a regular decrease during the decade—Vermont, with a population of 330,551, having three members—one member representing less than 60,000 people. The committee are of opinion that if the older States, requiring less local or special legislation, are allowed members upon a less even than one-half the present ratio, the rapidly-growing and prosperous Territories should not be denied the same rights, supported by stronger reasons, all being claimed under the Constitution.

The following statement shows the date of admission of the several States named, and the population of each according to census reports made before and after admission :

Tennessee, admitted in 1796; population in 1790, 35,791; in 1800, 105,602.  
 Ohio, admitted in 1802; population in 1800, 45,365; in 1810, 230,760.  
 Louisiana, admitted in 1812; population in 1810, 76,566; in 1820, 153,407.  
 Indiana, admitted in 1816; population in 1810, 24,520; in 1820, 147,178.  
 Mississippi, admitted in 1817; population in 1810, 40,352; in 1820, 75,448.  
 Illinois, admitted in 1818; population in 1810, 12,232; in 1820, 55,200.  
 Missouri, admitted in 1821; population in 1820, 66,586; in 1830, 140,455.  
 Arkansas, admitted in 1836; population in 1830, 43,388; in 1840, 97,574.  
 Michigan, admitted in 1837; population in 1830, 31,639; in 1840, 212,267.  
 Florida, admitted in 1845; population in 1840, 54,477; in 1850, 87,445.  
 Wisconsin, admitted in 1848; population in 1840, 30,945; in 1850, 305,391.  
 Iowa, admitted in 1848; population in 1840, 43,112; in 1850, 192,214.  
 California, admitted in 1750; population in 1850, 92,597.  
 Minnesota, admitted in 1858; population in 1850, 6,077; in 1860, 173,855.  
 Oregon, admitted in 1859; population in 1850, 13,294; in 1860, 52,465.  
 Nevada, admitted in 1864; population in 1860, 6,857; in 1870, 42,491.  
 Nebraska, admitted in 1867; population in 1860, 28,841; in 1870, 122,993.

It will be seen that the States heretofore admitted, or many of them, did not have the requisite population for a Representative; and but a small number of them possessed either the wealth or population that New Mexico now has. It will also be seen that the increase in population has been much more rapid under a State than a territorial form of Government.

This Territory had more population even in 1870 than had fifteen of the States when admitted.

New Mexico has been a Territory for more than a quarter of a century. Situated in the heart of the continent, it boasts a genial climate and a healthful atmosphere. It has no territorial debt. Its counties and towns have light taxation and no indebtedness. The staunch loyalty of its people was proved during the rebellion. They are competent to assume all the responsibilities, perform all the duties, and conform to all the rules of a State government. To prove that they are desirous of so doing, we submit the following extract from the New Mexican memorial, above referred to :

Believing that they are fully equal to the requirements of such an organization, and finding also that more than one-half of all the States which have been admitted into the Union since the Government was organized have been so admitted upon a basis of population each of less than one-half of the population of New Mexico at the present time; that our increase in population in this Territory has been greater than in many of the old States, where circumstances have been favorable to increase; and our legislature of two years ago, with a proper appreciation of all these facts, having adopted a constitution with a view to a State organization, now, this legislature, being

able to know and understand the wishes and views of the people on this subject, which has been so long and so fully discussed among them, speak for and in their behalf, and most respectfully urge that Congress make provision by law for the immediate admission of this Territory as a State into the United States, in such manner as shall secure the result desired, at as early a day as may be practicable. And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

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