

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Democrat.

S. W. DELOOGE, Editor and Publisher.

LECOMPTON, K. T.

TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 15, 1858.

The Conservative Element of Kansas.

The conservative element of Congress will cause the conservative men of Kansas to unite in opposition to the slaves. The Dismantlers, whether Pro-Slavery or Anti-Slavery, will combine, and all unite to oppose who will be able to carry the Territory. The ultra Pro-Slavery men will vote against the acceptance of the proposition of Congress, because its acceptance would be the means of making Kansas a Free-State within three months, and the ultra Anti-Slavery men will do the same, because it will deprive them of an opportunity to agitate the slavery question, and thereby defeat their hopes of electing an Abolitionist President in 1860.

To vote for the acceptance of the proposition of Congress does not require of any surrender of our rights, nor does it involve any more appeal to the so called "Locomotion Constitution" in any inconsistency, but will it prevent the people from running and ratifying a constitution that may be in accordance with their wishes?

If it is found, that in case a majority of voters are in favor of acceptance, we will declare a State, and will be bound by the legislation of the Locomotion Convention, and it is reported, "We are now living under the miserable legislation of the Pro-Slavery legislature of 1855, 1856 and 1857, which the Free-State legislature found us living under in January 7th, 1858, and after spending forty days in session they adjourned, leaving us to live under, and suffer from the same legislation, so long denominated by them as "good." Now if the Representatives of the Free-State party did not do in it necessary to secure that they were incorporated to the Union, had ample time to do so, we have no reason why we cannot do under the legislation of the Locomotion Convention for a few weeks, when the reward for our efforts will be the speedy formation of a government in accordance with the wishes of the people, which will enslave our mothers, wives, and to Kansas certain property."

We admit that the acceptance of the proposition of Congress will be an indirect acceptance of the so called Locomotion Constitution—that is, it will be a admission on the part of the people, that they are willing to submit to it; and they can repeat it or substantiate it in a few words, that it will be a "founding" of a popular vote. This was given on the 4th of January last, was an affirmation of the right of the people to rectify the legislation of their representatives, before it can be referred as "founding" or "constitutional law." Should we decide to become a State on the terms proposed, by Congress, it will be the known duty of the Free-State legislature to call a convention to frame a Constitution, to be submitted to the people for ratification or rejection. Should that Constitution be ratified, it would also be a rejection of the Locomotion Constitution. Should the people refuse to adopt any other Constitution, such action could only be regarded as an enforcement of the legislation of the Locomotion Convention, unless the representatives or Delegates should decide the Locomotion legislature repealed, with or without the ratification of any Constitution by the people.

We have much to gain by becoming a State, and everything to lose by refusing to do so. We are confident that a majority of our settlers are conservative in their sentiments, and will be able to see the important question in its true light before the day of trial. Certain victory awaits them.

The Topeka and Lawrence Constitution.

The Topeka Constitution was framed mainly at the instance, and through the management of a few Abolition leaders, but the sentiment of the settlers was strong in favor of prohibiting free negroes from coming into the Territory; that they were compelled to forgo that, that their initial idea of negro equality and suffrage, and incorporation in their Constitution, the so-called "black law," or law prohibiting negroes from coming into the Territory.

As they have several elements and encouragement from the pro-slavery party, in their efforts to destroy the Democracy and institute Slavery in Kansas, they have become so much engrossed from the cause, that even some body in their legal proceedings at Leavenworth has a provision for negro suffrage and equality.

The Lawrence Constitution, having been framed by the authority of law, and being a good one, and ought upon the highest line of merit, who lie in a government, assumed by white men, for themselves, and their property, should, with respect to the hands of our settlers, the assumption that as inferior persons merit.

Movement of the Troops.—Four companies of the 4th U. S. Infantry (one of the Engineers and Miners) started for Utah, from Fort Leavenworth, on the 10th instant. One company of Infantry from Fort Riley, will join them in Fort Kearney.

Secretary of Kansas Territory.

Secretary DIXON having received the appointment of Governor of this Territory, and having accepted that important position, HENRY S. WALD, Esq., has been appointed Secretary.

He has been connected with the duties of Senator for nearly a year past, and we have no hesitation in saying that he will attest to the abilities of the office in such a manner as to give satisfaction to the government, and do credit to himself.

To the Lawmen.—We have been propitious to give notice that there will be a meeting on Friday evening of the next week, of the Ladies of Leavenworth, for the purpose of organizing a society, the object of which will be to assist a similar society in the State to raise money for the purchase of Mr. Vermon. We shall, in our next number, give a synopsis of the purchase, and the ultra Anti-Slavery men will do the same, because it will deprive them of an opportunity to agitate the slavery question, and thereby defeat, their hopes of electing an Abolitionist President in 1860.

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