

The Voice

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people."

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EDITORIALS

The views expressed in these columns are those of the writer and not necessarily a reflection of the policy of The Voice.—Pub.

BRASS FACTS

By M. L. SHAKESPEARE

A recent bill of legislation passed in the state of Alabama, which was bent on the disfranchisement of the Negro, is further evidence that the South

does not intend to righten their evil of race hatred, so again I say that the state rights law is not a good law when it would allow a state to commit such wrong. This law is that every citizen must be able to read and understand a portion of the Constitution to the satisfaction of a special committee. This I am afraid that no Negro would ever be able to do, they would see to that. Since the law is aimed directly at the Negro. So the supreme court stepped in and saved both the Negro and the lawmakers of the state, because it is evident that the lawmakers of Alabama, did not know the constitution, for their law was ruled unconstitutional. I'll bet their faces are quite scarlet.

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by JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A highly controversial figure in Nebraska territorial politics was Mark W. Izard, governor of the territory during the years 1855-57.

Governor Izard was born in Kentucky and reared in Alabama. At the age of 23 he married the daughter of George Shackelford, a prominent resident of Charleston, South Carolina, and moved to Mount Vernon, Arkansas, then on the edge of the wilderness. He acquired considerable property, including a rather large number of slaves, and rose to prominence in Arkansas politics, serving both as speaker of the house and president of the Senate in the Arkansas legislature.

He was appointed United States marshal for Nebraska territory in October, 1854, and about two months later won appointment as the second governor of Nebraska from a long list of applicants. The new governor's oath was administered in Washington, and after a long and arduous trip he arrived in Nebraska, February 20, 1855, to take over the reins of territorial government from Secretary Thomas B. Cuming, who had served as acting governor since the death of Governor Burt.

Governor Izard encountered serious opposition from the very beginning. In the first place, he was looked upon as a "carpet-bagger" by many disappointed applicants for his job—including Cuming—who had lived in the second place, he was accused of forming an alliance with Omaha interests to the detriment of the rest of the territory.

This charge was levied against virtually every territorial executive (Acting Governor Cuming, you will recall, had been bitterly

Captain Hurd Instructs Cyclists

On Wednesday evening at the Urban League, Captain Hurd responded to a call to give instruction to boys and girls who would soon be out of school and were not fully aware of all rules and regulations regarding bicycle riding. Pictures were shown and rules explained.

assailed on the same grounds) but Governor Izard gave substance to the charge by his failure to travel about the territory as much as his constituents thought he should and by his veto of a bill removing the capital from Omaha.

Governor Izard's capacity for the job of chief executive frequently was called into question by his contemporaries, and the territorial press often referred to him contemptuously as "Governor Lizard." Weary of this sort of criticism, he resigned in 1857 and returned to Arkansas, where he died in August, 1866.

Although never achieving the brilliance exhibited by men like Cuming, Richardson and Morton, it is evident from the record that Governor Izard made a conscientious effort to effect an efficient administration of the territory's affairs.

His chance for a permanent place of the map of Nebraska was removed when the county originally named after him was named Stanton in honor of Lincoln's Secretary of War.

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