Samuel Thomas Hauser: Territorial Governor of Montana

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SAMUEL THOMAS HAUSER
TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR OF MONTANA

by

Carol A. Albright

A Thesis submitted to the Faculty of
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has been approved for the

Department of

History

by

Thomas A. Clinch

Date: April 21, 1964
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C.A.A.
Unity is the key word of today's society. A prime function of the various governments of the world is to bring about a unity between people, races, and nations. Montana in the 1880's also felt the need of unity. For Montana this desire for unity was primarily of a political nature, men of the several parties banning together for a common purpose. Their desire was for a government for the people and by the people. Samuel T. Hauser became one of the standard bearers for the desired unity of Montana.
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CHAPTER I

PUBLIC SPIRIT IN A MAN

Samuel Thomas Hauser was perhaps one the most representative territorial governors Montana ever had, despite the fact that the duties of office distracted him from his own affairs. He was not a man to yield up a public trust in which the people of Montana almost unanimously desired he should maintain. "No man in the territory has at heart more directly the interest of his people than Governor Hauser. He will even go to the point of antagonizing his own party for the benefit of the people. No man in the territory can not respect him for his independence."¹ Other Montanans had amassed more wealth; still others had been given more lasting recognition by the people of Montana. "But it is reasonable to claim that the acts of none did more to help Montana get on her feet, when it was a young and unstable territory, as did the activities of Samuel T. Hauser."²

Samuel T. Hauser was one of the best known and loved citizens of Montana. This popularity extended back to 1862 when he arrived at Gold Creek. Hauser saw the early potentialities of Montana and capitalized on them. He brought money into the territory, helping the region to become a more self-sufficient area.

Hauser did not personally engage in mining activities, but he

1. The Helena Daily Independent, October 24, 1886.
was one of the men who explored for new lodes. He was primarily a
business man interested in the new territory of Montana. In 1865 he
and Nathaniel P. Langford started the first bank in Virginia City,
the S.T. Hauser Company. Hauser continued in banking, moving to
Helena in 1866, where he founded the First National Bank in Helena
as well as its branches in Butte, Fort Benton, and Missoula.

Samuel Hauser was a citizen of Montana. His business activities
not only filled his own purse, but they also aided the financial
condition of the territory. Hauser took the lead in backing railroad
construction and urging railroads to enter into the territory. He
managed to persuade John W. Young to run the Utah and Northern Railroad
line into Montana. By 1881 this line was running to Butte. Hauser
did not center his interest on only this one railroad. He wanted rail
service for the entire territory. Hauser was the president and/or
on the board of directors for seven short-line Montana railroads:
the Montana branch of the Utah and Northern, the Helena and Jefferson
County, the Helena and Boundary Valley, the Helena and Mountain, the
Helena Northern, the Drummond and Phillipsburg, and the Missoula and
Bitter Root Valley.

These business activities aided the growth and development of
Montana as well as aiding in the growing popularity of Hauser. Hauser
saw to it that Montana ore was milled and smelted in Montana. He
organized the first mill in 1886 at Phillipsburg and later the first
smelter at Argenta. When this smelter closed, Hauser organized the

Helena and Livingston Smelting and Reduction Company. This smelter is still in operation at East Helena under the name of the American Smelting and Refining Company.\(^5\)

Hauser was interested in the new inventions and discoveries of science and he aided in the proving of one such theory, that electrical power could be transmitted long distances over high tension lines. He financially backed the proposition that electrical power could be so transmitted. Hauser was one of the first men to see the possibilities that water power had in the northwest, he gave his name to the first dam built to generate electrical power over a long distance. From Hauser dam, near Helena, a power line was erected to Butte, giving that city electrical power. The use and transmission of electrical power became a reality in part due to the backing of Hauser.\(^6\) These activities encouraged an increase of population while engraining Hauser in the minds of many.

Samuel Hauser was also well known outside of the Montana circles. He was a member of the Washburn Langford party which in 1870 explored the region which today is known as Yellowstone National Park. This party was made up of Helena business men. They verified the existence of the wonderland of geyser activity and scenic beauty. This group initiated the national park system, they put the pleasure of the people before their own personal gains. This small area could have

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6. Ibid., 402-403.
been a gold mine for private enterprise, but rather than taking this region for themselves they decided to give it to the people as a perpetual national recreational area. In 1881 a bill was presented to the Senate creating Yellowstone National Park. Hauser and the rest of this group put the interest of the people ahead of their own desires and financial gain.

Hauser was one of the economic giants of Montana, but he left his money in the territory. He was held in high esteem by most of the people of the territory and was considered to be a gentleman of influence by men outside of the territory.

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CHAPTER II

POLITICS AND POLICIES

Montana was a territory and as such had no voice in her government, all of her territorial officials were appointed by the central government in Washington. The people of Montana were fed up with "carpetbagger" governors. If they could not elect their own governor and other territorial officials, at least Montana men should be appointed.

Montana was largely settled by ex-confederates, this can be seen on the early day grave markers. Party due to this Montana always voted democratic from 1864 to 1883, while the nation went republican. In 1882 the people of Montana celebrated the election of democrat Grover Cleveland as President of the United States. Cleveland's platform was one of civil reform with the idea that local men should fill positions in their own territorial government.

Montana men as early as 1884 submitted the following petition to Cleveland asking that Hauser be considered for the position of Montana Territorial Governor as an excellent replacement for E. Platt.

Carpenter:

To His Excellency
Grover Cleveland
President of the United States.

Your subscribers, citizens of Montana, beg to represent that they are well acquainted with the wishes and sentiments of the People of Montana, and will say, that if you will consult the interest and desires of the citizens in the appointment of Governor for the Territory we would especially recommend to your consideration the
names of Samuel T. Hauser and Edward W. Knight, both of whom we most cordially commend as eminently qualified for the position, and will discharge the duties of the Office in a most satisfactory manner to all parties, and the citizens of Montana will be well pleased with the appointment of either one to the Office of Governor of Montana and your Petitioners will ever pray:

Wm. Davenport
E. D. Edgerton, President Second National Bank
Wm. Hudnall
F.K. Armstrong, President of the Council
Granville Stuart, Ex-President of the Council
Alex. F. Burns
M.L. Stute, M.D.
W.B. Raleigh
George M. Hatch, Representative Meagher County
D.H. Cuthbert, Post Master Helena
Alec C. Bodhin, Rep. Candidate Delegate, 1882
B.F. Potts, Ex-Governor of Montana
E.W. Toole
W.J. McCormick, Member National Committee from Montana

The People of Montana learned that President Cleveland would appoint territorial men to territorial offices. The President would for once listen to the recommendations of the democrates in the territory and would not be decided in his choice by outside pressure.9

Montana wanted to rid of B. Platt Carpenter, their "carpet-bagging" governor. They called him an outrage to the territory. Montana wanted home rule, "any yellow dog from Montana would be better than an outsider."10 Hauser like the majority of Montanans wanted home rule, but in March, 1885 he replied to the question of his seeking the appointment as Governor. "As to that question..I am not a candidate and under no circumstances would I be."11 Hauser was satisfied with his life as it was and at that time had no political

10. Ibid., March 27, 1885.
11. Ibid., March 29, 1885.
ambitions.

Shortly after this it was learned that Hauser was a prime candidate for the office of Territorial Governor. Two members of the Montana Territorial Central Committee of the Democratic party wrote to Joseph K. Toole: (Delegate for Montana) asking that their names be taken off a petition, asking for the appointment of Major Martin Maginnis to the position of Governor. These men, Robert S. Kelley of Deer Lodge and Joseph Marion of Frenchtown stated that Hauser would be more highly acceptable to the people of Montana. Hauser knew the resources and conditions of Montana better than did Maginnis. Mr. Kelley said, "While his (Hauser's) appointment would harmonize the party that of Maginnis would divide and destroy it."13

A state of excitement over ran the territory on July 3rd, 1885. President Grover Cleveland appointed Samuel T. Hauser Territorial Governor of Montana. The central government at last had seen into the needs of the territory, they appointed a local citizen to a high office. Governor Hauser was a man of honor, a man of no bitterness, or heated words even in the heat of a political debate. No other man in Montana, no matter his politics, could have been appointed Governor with assurances of more general satisfaction.14

"We have no citizen in either party who has done more for the material welfare of Montana."15 Hauser never sought an office, but when

12. Joseph E. Marion to Joseph K. Toole, April 15, 1885, Hauser, msc. MSHS.
13. Robert S. Kelley to Joseph K. Toole, April 11, 1885, Hauser, msc. MSHS
15. The Helena Daily Independent, July 4, 1885.
one was threat on him by the unanimous enthusiasm of the democratic leader he accepted contrary to his own premises. His character was mold in the rugged life of the territory, it was one of a far reaching view, reckless courage, but also calm and calculating.16

Prominent republicans, T.C. Power, wrote their congratulations to Hauser stating their encouragement of home rule. Charles Warren of Butte wrote, "Accept the congratulations of an anti-carpetbag republican upon your deserved appointment as Governor of Montana. It will give us pleasure to aid a home rule administration."17 Hauser was appointed to the position over Major Martin Maginnis due to the fact that while Maginnis had the support of the congressmen, Hauser had the support of the people. Cleveland in disposing of the case said that by his act the people are greater and are entitled to more respect than their servents.18

On July 14, 1885 Judge John W. Eddy administered the oath of office to Samuel T. Hauser in Hauser's private office in the First National Bank of Helena.19

The people of Montana thought that Hauser's appointment was in every way a fit one. Hauser was a business man and banker in Helena and was held in the highest esteem. Cleveland in appointing a local man showed that he would follow the steps and ideas outlined in his

17. Ibid., July 7, 1885.
18. The Helena Daily Herald, July 13, 1885.
campaign platform. The Helena Independent felt that President Cleveland's act of removing the "carpetbagger" Governor B. Platt Carpenter took the rank of one of the best acts of his administration. Hauser's appointment was of general satisfaction to both the democratic and republican parties. Montana wanted home rule, the problem of party politics did not enter into the matter, democratic and republican officers banned together in their desire for statehood.

One newspaper in the territory, The Glendive Times, criticised Hauser by saying that he was governor in name only and that he would merely sit in his bank office doing nothing for the territory. This comment probably brought smiles on the faces of the people who knew the Governor and his dynamic ability. Hauser had the habit of being what ever he undertook to be. When he accepted the appointment as governor, Hauser became governor and would do all that the office allowed. Hauser had an insight into his own character, he knew his abilities and his limitations, which he would not exceed. Hauser became governor and would remain so until his term ended, he would do all he could for the territory. He was a man who dared to do what was right.

Hauser's appointment did result in the circulation of the idea that it had split the Montana Democratic party. The St. Paul Pioneer Press said that certain Montana politicians made derogatory statements about Hauser, calling him selfish and sordid. Some people attributed

21. Ibid., August 16, 1885.
these statements to Maginnis. Hauser was defended not by the democratic paper, The Independent, but rather by the Herald, a republican paper. Hauser was a big hearted open minded man, he was not selfish or sordid but rather was the exact opposite. Hauser never limited himself to the wealthy but rather was a beneficial aid to all. He was hospitable, charitable and noble. He was known as a generous man who did much for Helena and Montana. "As a friend of the people and of this territory, he is our friend, and we will stand by him and the proposition is that form to the end." 

One of Governor Hauser's first duties as governor was to submit a report to L.Q. Lamar, the Secretary of the Interior, explaining the state of the territory. This report clearly showed Hauser's knowledge of the territory, her resources, development, industrial interests, and material needs. Montana had the necessary natural resources, mining and agricultural to make her a great and wealthy land. In this report Hauser made known his wishes and aims for the territory.

It was Hauser's aim to limit the size of the many Montana Indian Reservations, thinking that the land could be put to better use by others. It was his idea that the Indians should be taught to be more self-sufficient, that they should be able to support themselves on their own land, without outside assistance. If this could not be accomplished then those lands should be taken over by others for the public welfare.

22. The Helena Daily Herald, August 20, 1885.

Delegate Joseph K. Toole, later Governor of the State of Montana, tried to bring about Congressional legislation to cut down the size of the various Indian Reservations. In a letter to Hauser he stated that it was impossible to receive any direct information from the Indian Commission about lessening the size of the Blackfoot Reservation. However, Toole did secure an amendment to the Indian appropriation bill which allowed for the Secretary of the Interior to negotiate with the Indians about reduction of the reservations.24

In his own way Hauser was a conservationalist, he wanted a preservation of forest lands. He felt that the then present legislative laws only brought about obstructive and destructive measures, that they were devoid of wisdom, thereby millions were lost because of them.

Samuel Hauser was concerned about the railroad transportation facilities in the territory. He desired additional rail lines to operate in Montana, due to this desire he supported a resolution asking for a complete survey of Montana not just a survey of the Northern Pacific right of way. Hauser supported those railroads which would be in competition with his own interests in other lines. He came out in strong support for Jim Hill's non land grant, Great Northern line through northern Montana. His aim was for more rail traffic at a lower freight rate. The reduction of freight rates could be accomplished only through competition which meant additional rail road lines would be built, bringing about better service.25

24. Joseph K. Toole to Samuel T. Hauser, April 24, 1886, Hauser mscl. MSHS
25. The Helena Daily Herald, April 13, 1886.
Hauser extended his interests into the field of federal judicial law. He wanted smaller and more federal districts for Montana. Montana needed Congressional consent to reorganize the judicial system with an experienced bench. This did come about with a reapportionment of the judicial districts requiring the addition of one judge, bringing about a fairer and faster means of settling disputes.\textsuperscript{26} Hauser continued his interest in the judicial system even after he resigned from the governorship. He worked for the appointment of Associate Judge McCleary to the position of Chief Justice, President Concurred with the choice.\textsuperscript{27}

Hauser was also concerned with the issues of the day that dealt with the nation as a whole. He was one of the foremost advocates of free silver. He said that the loss of the silver standard would not only result in a financial decline for Montana, but that it would also break the eastern businesses who financed western mining operations. Anything that would tend to depreciate the value of silver would be suicide for the nation as a whole. He thought that if the producers and users of silver would stand together they could defeat any measure that would tend to lessen the value of silver. If the nation abandoned the silver standard Montana should be given back to the Indians, as it would have no valid reason for its existence especially as a state. Montana's economy was solely based on mining, if silver was lost so was Montan's economy.\textsuperscript{28}

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{26} The Helena Daily Herald, August 6, 1886.
\item \textsuperscript{27} G.G. Vest to Samuel T. Hauser, March 26, 1887, Hauser mss. MSHS.
\item \textsuperscript{28} Samuel T. Hauser, "The Governor's Message to the Secretary of the Interior," The Helena Daily Herald, October 19, 1886.
\end{itemize}
Hauser was not a man who feared to tread on rocky paths. He was critical of the democratic administration of the nation which appointed him to his office. He opposed the appointments of "carpet-baggers" to fill territorial offices. In his opinion the President was bound by his platform to appoint Montana men to Montana offices. The territory was already over burdened with old republicans that were left in office without adding new out of state democrates. The territory could not select her own men, it could not vote, but Hauser felt that this condition would soon be remedied. Montana would soon become a full fledged state.29

Montana grew rapidly during Hauser's administration. Her population rose to well over 160,000 people and her wealth was estimated at well over 200 million dollars. Montana became a debt free area able to boast of her assets. Montana felt that she was ready to assume the burdens of state government. Statehood become the cry of her people.30 Hauser in his message to Lamar said that Montana was growing to the proportions of statehood, and in the near future she would be knocking on the doors of Congress.31 "Under the excellent administration which Governor Hauser is sure to give the territory, Montana will make rapid strides in the next few years."32

29. The Helena Daily Independent, November 1, 1885.

30. The Helena Daily Herald, January 13, 1887.


32. The Helena Daily Independent, October 28, 1885.
This desire for statehood crossed party lines, with the democrates and the republicans willing to unite in order to gain self government. The feelings of the people was expressed by The St. Paul Pioneer Press: "The one thing that now attracts the most interest in Montana is the prospect for admission as a state."33 No formal application had been as of then but the question would soon come before Congress.

The Herald in its New Year's issue of 1886 pointed out the accomplishments that had been gained in Montana. The territory was growing in rapid bounds, not only in population but also in an increasing of wealth and in a developing of new fields. Men came into the territory over the new railroads to work in the mines and in the growing agricultural areas of Montana. cattle and sheep raising was on the increase. Republicans of the area expressed the hope that Montana would be admitted to the union in the near future.34

The desire for statehood gained momentum when the people saw the efforts of Dakota. Dakota was republican in her politics, therefore, the democrates in Washington D.C. thwarted her attempt to gain admission. Montana on the other hand was democratic, so her admission would be halted by the republican controlled Senate. A compromise was in order, the admission of both Dakota and Montana would not change the party makeup of Congress.35

Joseph K. Toole, Montana's Delegate, was busy in Washington D.C.

33. The Helena Daily Independent, January 8, 1886.
34. The Helena Daily Herald, January 1, 1886.
35. The Helena Daily Independent, January 8, 1886.
pushing for the admission of both territories. On January 18, 1886
Senator Voochees of Indiana petitioned the Senate to admit the territory
of Montana to the ranks of statehood. Montana submitted a constitution
which had been drawn up and ratified in 1884. Voochees stated that
Montana met all the necessary requirements for admission. The memorium
which accompanied the petition was signed by: Joseph K. Toole, William A.
Clark, Samuel T. Hauser, Wm. H. Hunt, E.W. Toole, James H. Mills,
Richard O. Hichman, Joseph A. Browne, W.J. McCormick, Walter Copper,
the members of the Committee of Convention. Hauser was one of the
main backers of this petition, at the time of its presentation he
was in the east working for its ratification. Toole felt that Hauser's
presence would greatly aid the cause of Montana. "If you have suc-
ceeded as fully as you expected when I was over, we will probably
never have a better time to push the question of statehood."37

Montana was not asking for admission because she was democratic
or republican in her politics, but because she felt that she was ready
to support a state government and was prepared to discharge all the
duties that were delegated to the states by the federal constitution.
The people of Montana felt that they were ready for state government
and they wanted it regardless of which party would benefit. The
appointment of Hauser to the position of territorial governor gave
them their first taste of home rule, this nibbling only increased
their desire for total home rule. They had a Montana man governing
Montana, but this was not enough. they wanted to elect their own

37. Joseph K. Toole to Samuel T. Hauser, February 5, 1886, Hauser ms., MSHS.
governmental officials. The desire to have a say and a vote in their own and in national affairs became a dominant issue among the people. However, by April 1886 all hope for Montana's admittance with Dakota was abandoned. Dakota was caught between two opposing forces, one which wanted to split the region into two parts, North and South Dakota, while the other fraction wanted it to remain one area. 38

Senator Voochees of Indiana brought Montana's hopes for admission alive again with his proposal that Montana and Washington territory should join forces. Washington was essentially republican though due to railroad domination she had elected a democratic delegate, the election of one delegate does not necessarily show the true political affiliations. By admitting both territories the political balance would be maintained. The republican Senate defeated Montana's admission, while the democratic House was more consistent in defeating both proposals. 39

It was an unfair practice to admit states on a political basis. A territory should become a state when it was able to fulfill the duties that went with statehood. But politics did enter into the matter, the south did not want a northern state, Dakota or Washington, the north did not want a state inhabited by ex-confederates, Montana. The east was jealous of the new wealth found in the west and therefore did not want to grant statehood to any western region. 40

38. The Helena Daily Herald, April 4, 1886.
40. The Helena Daily Herald, May 18, 1886.
The one issue which was common to both the democratic and republican parties was statehood. Both political parties thought that Montana was prepared for statehood. As a state, Montana could better accomplish things for the general interest with dignity and influence that came with statehood. They hoped for little else but suffrage and dictatorship from a government that humiliated them.41 "The fullness of the times seems to have come that the aspirations of our people for their own framing, and rulers of their own choice should be gratified."42 Hauser aptly phrased his own opinion regarding statehood in the above statement.

An increasing republican party was evident in Hauser's administration. Montana in her first twenty years as a territory was a stanch democratic region. Montana was first settled by ex-confederates, who were both anti-north and anti-republican. However, this situation gradually changed with the advent of railroads into the territory, bringing men from the north and east to settle the county. These recent arrivals were usually republican in their politics. "Political parties are no nearly balanced in this territory that the emigration, the choice of the railroad or other causes might secure a majority on either side in a general election."43 A general election was to be held in November of 1886. The highest office at stake was that of territorial delegate to Washington D.C.

Democrats felt that their candidate Joseph K. Toole could

41. The Helena Daily Independent, October 16, 1886.
42. Ibid., October 2, 1886.
43. Ibid., March 3, 1886.
easily outdistance any opponent, due to his record as delegate and his stand on the issue of statehood. They had the backing of railroad men in combination with their platform of statehood and free silver. However, the democrates did realize that the strengths of both parties were fairly balanced. "We feel that a suitable democrat can be elected with full looking of party men."

Toole was their prime candidate and was sure to be elected due to the vigor and adroitness that he had exhibited as delegate. A study was made into political leanings of three counties, the results were: Lewis and Clark, democratic majority; Deer Lodge, a republican majority in Phillipsburg with the rest of the county ballanced; and Silver Bow, erratic.

For the first time in Montana politics the republicans thought that they had a chance to win in many areas. They refuted the statement that Montana was solid democratic. Their goal was also statehood, however, they thought that Montana would have as good a chance or better if the territory went republican. As early as 1885 a Butte democrat wrote Joseph K. Toole stating his fears of the growing republican party. The democratic party was coming apart at the seams in Butte. The situation had to be remedied by Toole and other prominent democrates. Certain democrates were beginning to fear that the rising republican party would be able to overthrow them in a few years.

44. The Helena Daily Independent, May 18, 1886.
45. Ibid., May 18, 1886.
46. The Helena Daily Herald, May 17, 1886.
47. "A Democrat" to Joseph K. Toole, September 11, 1885, Hauser ms. MSHS.
The republicans in their long and drawn out convention finally settled on nominating Wilber Fisk Sanders to oppose Toole. The Herald predicted the victory of Toole, due in part to his popularity and the fact that republicans were not united in the support of Sanders. This prediction came true, Toole won with a 4,000 vote margin over Sanders. Montana remained a democratic region in the eyes of the nation. Montana until she became a state was ably represented by Joseph K. Toole.

On December 16, 1886 the people of Montana learned of the sudden resignation of Governor Samuel T. Hauser, they were sad to lose the man who had been their best liked territorial governor. Hauser resigned due to his business obligations, he felt that he could not do a fair job to both at the same time. Montana would have been much better served if Hauser had been allowed to fill the office until the adjournment of the Fifteenth Legislative Assembly. President Cleveland contrary to the benefit of the territory appointed ex-governor Leslie of Kentucky to succeed Hauser on February 10, 1887. The appointment of Leslie came as a shock to both Hauser and Toole, it was their understanding that Major Martin Maginnis would succeed to the office. The President did not abide by his platform of appointing local men to territorial positions, this bridge of posicy served to strengthen and increase Montana’s drive toward statehood.

48. The Helena Daily Herald, November 2, 1886.
49. The Helena Daily Independent, November 7, 1886.
50. The Helena Daily Herald, December 16, 1886.
Hauser remained governor long enough to open the Fifteenth session of Legislature. For the first time in her history Montana had a divided legislature. The upper house, the Council, had a republican majority of seven to five, while the lower house, the House, had a democratic majority of fourteen to ten. The republicans had made inroads into the predominately democratic territory. Montana also for the first time in her history had a governor to assist and advise her, a man whose thorough knowledge of the people and their wants and needs was acquired before he became governor. This resulted in a more hearty and intimate relationship and cooperation in all departments of government. The legislature had no secret suspicion that their governor represented the view of Congress and the national administration rather than the interest of the people of Montana.

"In all likelihood the present legislature will give the last finishing touches to our laws, and as they leave them so they will probably stand till we legislate under a constitution of our own making, and free from the restrictions of congressional interference."52

Governor Hauser delivered his message to a combined session of both houses on January 12, 1887. The message contained the fruits of a man of long experience and intimate knowledge of the history and of the needs of Montana. "It will make the people realize more than ever what they have lost by Governor Hauser's resignation."53

52. The Helena Daily Herald, January 10, 1887.

53. Ibid., January 12, 1887.
CHAPTER III

CONCLUSION

Samuel T. Hauser was concerned about the government of the territory. It was his duty to tell the legislature what problems might arise and what their roughest quarrels would be, this he did. Hauser in a memorial to Congress put forth his desire for a complete survey of Montana. This was the only way to end the monopoly held by the Northern Pacific Railroad. In this desire Hauser went against the aims and ideas of Lamar, the Secretary of the Interior, and General Sparks, the Land Commissioner. Hauser throughout his term fought for this survey, he was not afraid to go against the national policy when he thought that such action would benefit the territory.

Hauser in his report to the legislature made the following statement: "If you can do anything by way of memorial to enlighten Congress as to the ability of the people of Montana to assume the burdens of state government and their entire willingness to relieve the general government of any special expense or legislative care on our account, it is worth the effort." His memorial for statehood was based on the progress of the territory. Her population was over 160,000 people and her wealth was estimated at over 200 million dollars. There were 1,070 miles of rail track with an additional 1,000 miles being constructed. These were weighty arguments presented to men who


55. Ibid.
were supposedly competent to weigh arguments.

There were several states in the union that did not have the wealth of Montana though they did have more time to build up that wealth. The people of Montana could show good evidence of being able to produce from their own midst as good a man for governor as any that could be sent to them from elsewhere. "This message will compare favorably with the best presented to any state legislature this year."\(^{56}\)

Hauser spoke as one whose sympathies and interests were with the people of Montana. He worked as if he were really the governor and not handicapped with the overshadowing responsibility of the national government. Hauser had a courteous independence of Congress and the Department of Interior, he should have had their respect though he freely disagreed with them.\(^{57}\) Governor Hauser for the time he served Montana was abreast of the best thought and expression of the territory. "The first citizen Governor of Montana has had, he has more than met the highest expectation of the people in all matters affecting the public weal, and irrespective of party everybody has been prompt and generous in their commendation and support."\(^{58}\)

Samuel Thomas Hauser spent his life in serving Montana. Dr. Sloan expressed this best in his eulogy for the Governor. "He was the foremost among truly great men who, together with him

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57. Ibid., January 13, 1887.
58. Ibid., February, 7, 1887.
as a leader in the glorious pursuit of peace laid the foundation without the cement of blood, and built a great state fresh from the hands of the creator."59
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