

laws printed. On December 6, a resolution was approved, appointing William B. Long "special messenger to proceed forthwith to the town of Burlington, in the Territory of Iowa, and procure for the use of this territory, such numbers of copies of the laws of the last session as may be the due proportion belonging to the Territory of Wisconsin."¹ This step Governor Dodge had recommended in his message. On December 10, however, Secretary Slaughter transmits a letter from the agent, Judge Mason, who writes from Burlington, November 21, 1838: "I am sorry that I am compelled to inform you that the laws * * * are not even yet entirely printed. * * * It would not probably be practicable to send them to your territory until the opening of navigation in the Spring. * * * The causes of this delay, as given by Mr. Edwards, are first the general sickness that pervaded the country, * * * and secondly, that it has not been practicable for him to obtain a copy of the printed laws, which were ordered to be republished. He has not been delayed a moment for want of copies of the laws of the last general [1837-38] and special [1838] sessions. These are all that Mr. Edwards himself is intending to print." And then Judge Mason gives the information—important, so far as our inquiry is concerned,—that "The laws of 1836 and those selected from the Michigan statutes which were ordered to be republished, *were printed in Pennsylvania*, under the direction of Mr. Clarke, of whom Mr. Edwards contracted to take them. Owing to the low stage of water in the Ohio, they have not been received, and will not probably arrive before spring. Owing to this fact Mr. Edwards has, I believe, concluded to have the laws he himself has printed, done up by themselves, so that they may be ready for distribution immediately as opportunity presents itself."² All this sounds strangely to our ears, but it gives a striking picture of conditions then existing in the Northwest.

Here then, at last, we have the official information that

¹ *Acts, 1838-39, Appendix*, p. 4.

² *Council Jour.*, 1838-39, p. 138.