

17. INFINITIVE REPORT

North Dakota
39th State 1889
Capital: Bismarck

South Dakota
40th State 1889
Capital: Pierre

All I wanted was . . .

To see settlers arrive with the coming
of the railroads in 1870;

To raise cattle on land smoothed by
glaciers;

To travel down the Missouri and Red
Rivers in a canoe;

To find enough oil to keep a thousand
wells working;

To grow sunflowers 13 feet tall; and

To become the 39th state.

But I didn't want . . .

To face summers so short that some
crops won't grow;

To have drought and dust storms;

To find crops ruined by swarms of
grasshoppers;

To be caught in blizzards common to
this area;

To lose large land areas to strip
mining; or

To give part of my state the name "The
Badlands."

All I wanted was . . .

To see Deadwood, the rough town
where Wild Bill Hickok lived
and died;

To raise my eyes to the
magnificent presidential
carvings at Mount Rushmore;

To travel to the Black Hills where
gold was discovered in 1874;

To find the largest gold mine in
America;

To grow corn to feed cattle and
hogs; and

To become the 40th state in 1889.

But I didn't want . . .

To see millions of buffalo
disappear from my plains;

To endure below zero winters;

To find one million acres of land
where nothing will grow;

To be caught in a "black blizzards;"

To lose cattle in a heavy snow; or

To give hunters permission to
shoot more than one million
pheasants each year.