

"Mississippi and Missouri Railroad" Newspaper Article, June 20, 1857

Mississippi & Missouri Railroad.

It will be seen by the following letter, which we copy from the Davenport Gazette, that all the energies of the M. & M. R. R. Company are to be directed to the early completion of the Road from Iowa City to this point. They decline, attempting at present, prosecuting a branch road to Cedar County. The President says that the Directors have come to this determination, "as a matter of good faith to Congress and the State."--Read the letter carefully, and you will perceive that the Company are determined to prosecute the work to completion "at the earliest possible day!"

OFFICE OF M. & M. RAILROAD CO.

Davenport, June 3, 1857.

His Honor, GEORGE B. SARGENT, Mayor of the city of Davenport:

DEAR SIR:--I have communicated to the Directors of the Mississippi and Missouri Railroad Company the offer made by you verbally, in behalf of the Common Council of the City of Davenport, of a subscription of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars to the stock of the company, with a view to construct a railroad from Cedar Rapids, to a point on the company's road not West of the town of Durant; and I have also stated to the Directors, as you requested, that a private subscription had been obtained, for the same purpose, to the amount of sixty thousand dollars, with a probability of its increase, if desired, to one hundred thousand.

In reply, I am instructed by the Directors to say that they have been engaged for sometime in negotiations for funds to complete, at the earliest possible day, the line of their road from Iowa City to Council Bluffs, and that they have reason to believe, should nothing unfavorable occur in the money market, that these negotiations will be successful. The directors are exceedingly anxious to commence work on this part of their road immediately, and to hasten it to completion. They believe that the interests of the company, of the State of Iowa, and of the city of Davenport especially, are deeply involved in the prompt execution of the work. They are already engaged in extensive operations, having put the whole line from the city of Muscatine to Oskaloosa under contract. It is also a matter of good faith to Congress and the State to complete the line from Iowa City to Council Bluffs as speedily as possible, as the company has received a grant of land for the specific purpose. Under these circumstances, they consider themselves bound to devote all their means and their efforts to the completion of these two lines; and they

feel that any diversion of their resources to other objects, would not only be injurious to the company by impairing its utility to go on with the work referred to, but would, at the present moment, greatly embarrass the negotiations in progress for procuring the necessary funds.

They beg you to make this communication to the Common Council of the city, and to suggest, that if the amount proposed to be devoted to the Cedar Rapids road could be applied to the Road West of Iowa City, it would enable the Company to comply with their obligations to the contractors, so that the work may be sublet and commenced immediately, and they do not doubt that it would essentially aid them in the pending negotiations.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

John A. Dix,
President M. & M. Railroad Co.