

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

Mississippi & Missouri Railroad.

On Saturday last, 13th inst., the citizens of Pottawattamie County decided in favor of subscribing \$300,000 to the Capital Stock of the Mississippi and Missouri Railroad. There was a large vote polled, and the question met with but little opposition. The vote would have been almost unanimous had the County been properly canvassed, and the subject carefully and fully elucidated. As it was, many voted against the proposition, because they did not see the matter in its proper light--yet, the proposition carried by 636 majority.

In this connection, the citizens of Council Bluffs acted nobly, understandingly, and from a consciousness of the vital importance attending the casting of their votes. Council Bluffs precinct polled 847 votes--833 for the Railroad loan, and 14 against the loan--a unanimity almost unparalleled.

By their vote on Saturday, the people of Pottawattamie showed their determination to be classed with the progressives of this age, and to receive a part of the benefits accruing from a Railroad communication to the East. They decided with a unanimity, not to be misunderstood, that what they want, need and must have, and that soon, is a Railroad. As the people of this city and county have responded so magnanimously to the proposition of the Company, they have a right to expect the Directors of the Company to fulfill their part of the agreement. That they will do it, we have every reason to believe. The route is now permanently located down the Mosquito Valley, and a map of the survey is now on file in the Land Office in this City.

By this vote, the people of this County have secured the completion of the road to this point, at least three years' sooner than it would have been completed, if this county had not extended a helping hand to the enterprise. To show that this is not all gammon, we have but to refer to the past operations of this same company. Jasper County and one or two other counties along the line of the Road, when asked to aid in the construction of the Road, decided, by large majorities, against the proposition, and the consequence has been, that work on the route has been delayed full two years. On the other hand, the people along the route of a branch of this same road, from Muscatine to Oskaloosa, voted the Company over a million of dollars to aid in the early completion of the road. So it may be seen, that nothing is gained by withholding all proper encouragement from an enterprise, that is calculated to exert so important an influence over the destinies of the County, from which encouragement is expected. Had all the counties along the route between Iowa City and Council Bluffs acted generously towards the M. & M. R. R., the

people of Des Moines would now be enjoying an Eastern connection by railway, instead of being compelled to rely on mulish conveyances as at present. Had the above policy been pursued, Council Bluffs, instead of having yet to wait three years or more for a railroad, would have to wait but one year. But we have the satisfaction of knowing that this delay has not been occasioned by an indiscreet movement on the part of the people of old Pottawattamie.

Well, so it has been--but let by-gones be by-gones--and let us live in hopes of better things in the future, and that too, at no distant day. The Railroad question having become a matter of record, the friends and proprietors of other would-be railroad terminus, can no longer make capital for themselves and their pet points, by misrepresentations of facts now so well established.--Their "occupation is gone," and they had now better turn their attention to some reputable business, instead of laying out new towns for the Pacific Railroad to run through and spoil--beautiful farms.

Council Bluffs has received a new impetus--from the certainty of a railway communication at the earliest possible day, and we may reasonably expect to see a large increase of population, and rapid upbuilding of the city, the present season. Already, has the work commenced, and we have every assurance, that it will continue unabated during the summer. The increase of population in this city, so clearly shown in the large vote on Saturday, speaks well, and furnishes data from which to judge of the future. We are indebted to our contemporaries, for the fact, that this city has gained since the November election, three hundred and thirty-five votes--i. e. in but seven months. If there is any other city in Iowa or Nebraska, that can show a like gain, let 'em speak right out, and we'll knock under and say nothing about it. This increase shows conclusively, that Council Bluffs is making rapid strides in progress and improvement, and establishes the fact, that it is only necessary for its position, its commercial advantages, and the unsurpassed fertility of the surrounding country, to become better known, in order to ensure it greater prosperity, and more rapid pace in improvements.

Now, that the certainty of a Railroad to this point, as soon as money and men can build it, is established beyond cavil, we want men of well-known energy and business capacity to settle in and around this city. We want no more speculators--we have enough already--to come here and make money, without expending a single dime for the upbuilding of the city, further than to settle their weekly board bill. The more we have such men, the worse we are off.--There are several hereabouts, who have realized handsome fortunes here, by speculating in real estate, and yet have never built as much as a pig-stye, or contributed a dollar towards any public improvement. We could get along very well without the presence of such men. We want producers, mechanics, laboring men, and men with capital to invest in the erection of dwellings and business houses. Men that will take hold and "turn up something," is the kind that we of the West are most in need of.--To such, there is a rich opening here on the Missouri Slope, and they have but to take hold in real earnest, to become independently rich. Council Bluffs and Pottawattamie County affords rare chances for men of the above description, and we hope, and have a right to expect to see a large emigration to this City the present summer.