

Transcribed Excerpts from "Local Matters - Important Railroad Meeting" Newspaper Article, February 24, 1854

Local Matters.

Important Railroad Meeting.

We attended a meeting of our citizens at Ogilvie House, yesterday afternoon, and found the people much interested in Railroad matters ... The meeting was called for the purpose of consulting with the representatives of the Lyons Iowa Central R.R. company, consisting of Henry P. Adams ... Messrs. Haun ... upon the subject of Railroads. Many of our leading citizens were present, and an excellent friendly feeling was exhibited by all. There seemed to be a determination to do something for the interests of Muscatine, and, we believe, a great and important step was then and there taken, which shall tell on the future of our city...

W.G. Haun, esq., ... then made the following proposition: That if the people of Muscatine would raise \$125,000, [the Lyons Co.] would construct a Railroad from this city to intersect with the Lyons Road at De Witt ... for the purpose of giving Muscatine an Eastern connection, they (the Lyons Co.) would furnish the remainder, and pledge themselves to have the Road in running order in less than fifteen months. It was estimated that the entire cost of such a Road would be about \$600,000. He also stated that, upon consultation with Mr. Adams, he was authorized to say that the Company would take \$50,000 less than the amount required of the people of Muscatine and Johnson counties to construct the Road from this city to Iowa City; making the sum necessary to be raised for that project \$200,000; and they proposed to have both Roads--the De Witt and Iowa City--completed within 15 months...

Says Mr. Adams, "... We want to build those two roads because they will pay, and not only pay us, but they will pay you, and we wish to identify our interests with yours that we may move along in harmony. Even suppose you do not choose to raise anything towards these two projects, they will be undertaken and completed, but, perhaps, not in just the way you would like," nor in the time that would suit your interests.

"With such a connection east, a line of Road will be extended below the Rapids, on your river to Keokuk. This, I consider, must be the inevitable result, and that it must necessarily be built very soon...

Mr. Adams then suggest the propriety of the gentlemen...of the Lyons Company, leaving the room for a while and allowing the citizens to talk the matter over among themselves, which was

accordingly done. T. M. Isett, Esq., being called to the chair, Mr. John A. Parvin offered a resolution that the citizens of Muscatine raise the required \$125,000 forthwith, which was unanimously agreed upon. The result of this meeting was then reported to the members of the Lyons Company, who then reassured our people that the thing should be pushed through with all possible dispatch, as soon as our proportion was raised...

We have seldom witnessed the unanimity of feeling that pervaded the whole meeting. Each person appeared pleased with the very liberal offers made there, and seemed determined to push the matter through with all possible speed...

We trust the vote for the city loan of \$55,000 will be carried without a single dissenting voice, for we consider that loan the setting in motion of a ball which shall not lose its momentum until Muscatine takes her stand among the first cities of the west.