

The Evening Gazette

HUDSON & ROSE, Proprietors.

R. N. HUDSON..... L. M. ROSE.

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FOR GOVERNOR IN 1872,

Washington C. De Pauw,

OF FLOYD COUNTY.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1872.

T. H. & S. W. Railroad.

We promised a few days ago, to give a review of the "Statement of the stockholders of the T. H. & S. W. Railroad to the voters of Harrison township," but having all time occupied by other interests, we have delayed it until now.

We make no issue with this company in relation to the utility and necessity of building a railroad from this city in southwesterly direction, to a point on the Mississippi river. No road running in any direction yet to be built, is of more vital importance to the future prosperity of this city, than one running in that direction. But it must be a long road—reaching through six or eight of the rich counties of Southern Illinois. It must be a road running further than Robinson, or Olney, or Flora. It must be reasonably certain that it will reach the Mississippi river, and open, not only the trade of those counties through which it runs to this city, but the iron ore of the Iron Mountains to the iron manufacturing establishments which will then spring up all around us.

Now, the important question in this case is, can the T. H. & S. W. Railroad Company, as it is now organized, build such a road? It will be recollectcd that under its articles of association it reaches only to some point on the Wabash river. The Wabash river is some distance from the Mississippi river. To have a road run from this city to some point on the Wabash river, not to exceed twenty miles in length, certainly will not compensate for a taxation of \$150,000 on this people. The corporators in their statement, however, say:

"We cannot indicate more definitely the line of the proposed railroad to say that it will cross the Wabash river at a point between Darwin and York, and that it will pursue thence a southwesterly direction, by Olney to Flora to the final terminus on the Mississippi river."

How do the corporators know that it will "cross the Wabash river at a point between Darwin and York," and finally terminate on the Mississippi river? We understand no organization has yet been found on the other side of the Wabash, and that there is no law now in Illinois under which one can be found. The recently adopted Constitution of that State, prevents counties, townships and counties from taking stock or donating money for the purpose of building railroads, and they only can therefore be built by the assistance of foreign capital, or subscriptions. Has the T. H. & S. W. Railroad Company any assurance it can get the assistance from either of those sources. In its statement to the voters of this township, nothing of this kind is asserted, and we are therefore forced to the conclusion that the company is as ignorant of what can be done on the other side of the Wabash, towards building this road, as are any of our readers. But says this company:

"We will give a full account of our operations, the subscription of stocks which may be voted by the electors of Harrison township shall not be used, in whole or in part, unless we are able to guarantee the construction of a railroad across the Wabash river and to Robinson, Illinois, from this city. And further we pledge ourselves, that the purpose of this corporation shall be completely abandoned and its charter surrendered without using one dollar of the money that may be voted by the voters of this township, to any cause, except the construction of the route and a full canvas for subscriptions, to build the road to Robinson from this city as indicated."

To the first period of this paragraph we most respectfully suggest, would it not be consistent with all well-established notions of business and common sense, if this \$150,000 was not asked for by this company until after they are "able to guarantee the construction of the railroad across the Wabash river to Robinson?" Why ask it before this, or any other guarantees, can be given?

To the second period of this paragraph we ask, would it not be more in accordance with proper protection to the people, and more in union with sound judgment and good sense, if this heavy tax was not asked to be assessed, placed on the duplicate and collected, until of or a "survey of the route and a full canvas for subscriptions" had been made? Here is the great point of objection. This company asks to have the question determined by a vote of the electors of this township, whether they will give \$150,000 to the building of a railroad running in a southwesterly direction from this city, before even a survey has been made or a canvas for subscription had in any single county in Illinois. Is this not rather taking "time by the forelock"—rather jumping a greyhound stretch ahead of the dogs—being a little too sharp to be entirely business like? But says the company: not one dollar of this tax "shall be used, in whole or in part," unless the above named guarantees can be given. The corporators perhaps lose sight of the fact that this large sum will be assessed against the property of this township, will be put on the duplicate; collected by the tax collectors; put into the county treasury, and then, who ever heard of one dollar being paid back to those from whom it was collected? The hardship is for the people to pay it—the prospects of it being paid back to them the remotest conceivable. If after it is collected, it's then found that the T. H. & S. W. Railroad Com-

pany will "completely abandon and surrender their charter," still the money has been taken from the pockets of the people, and if not used in the building of this road and a bridge across the Wabash, might it not be used in building iron bridges over dry streams, in different portions of the county?

It is better, yea far better, that this large sum of \$150,000 remain in the pockets of the people, where it has been placed by the sweat of their brows, until after this company can give a positive assurance that this road will be extended at least through a large portion of our neighboring State. If this can be done, we have but little doubt the people will willingly vote the subscription—until this is done, in our judgment they ought not to.

In concluding this article, we will again repeat what we have often before said in the columns of the GAZETTE; that we are warmly in favor of a southwestern railroad running to a point on the Mississippi river, and would willingly vote to be taxed to give our portion of \$150,000 for that purpose; and when an organization is completed to run a road thus far, and satisfactory assurances are given that such a road can and will be built, we will feel impelled, as the editor of this paper and a citizen of this city, to do all we can for it; but we cannot reconcile it with our duty as editor and citizen, to advocate the appropriation of so large an amount to be used by an organization which extends no further than the east bank of the Wabash river. To build a road that far, might be of some advantage to this city, but certainly not one hundred and fifty thousand dollars worth.

The theory that a desire to investigate implies unfriendliness to the Administration, is altogether novel and original. It is a recent discovery made by Senator Conkling and those who followed his absurd leadership in opposing Mr. Trumbull's resolution. As for Mr. Trumbull himself, he secured a substantial triumph in the estimation of the country, without desiring or intending it. He sought no victory over anybody or anything, except the bad system which he has so long opposed and exposed. He has made no attack upon the Administration, nor is there any reason to suppose that the Administration desired to prevent the passage of the resolution, or to avoid an investigation as searching as anybody desired to make. Whatever appearance there has been of a victory over the Administration is due to the officiousness of Conkling, Chandler, Sherman, and their carpet-bag followers, who ought to be notified, if they have not already been, that their self-constituted championship is a damage to any well-regulated Administration."

"We are aware that some of the cibined and cibined intellects of the age have an idea that the newspaper men are of the lower order, and that they, as readers, are the only *Aristoi* of the country. The poor ninnyhammers do not know that newspaper men are the political as well as the moral directors of the tribunes of the people. Nothing we have equals their power. Even the pulpit itself dwindle into mortal weakness before it. Therefore, wherever we go, we look out for the press—as the best fulcrum of our growing civilization."

State Teachers' Association. The State Teachers' Association has just closed its eighteenth annual session. Whether it was a profitable convention we are scarcely prepared to say. To all appearances it was too laborious to be either profitable or pleasant. Here were three hundred teachers from all sections of the State, for the most part holding prominent and responsible positions, devoting four days of a much needed vacation to the business of three daily sessions of a convention. If not interested in its proceedings the attention they felt "moral bound" to pay was all the more irksome. It was not possible for them to take an interest in all that was said and done. The programme was long, and each member assigned to it his duty and privilege to occupy the thirty minutes assigned, which allowed very little time for discussion. With very few exceptions the essays and speeches were scholarly and impractical. The mind was exhausted in attempting to understand them. The half dozen papers and speeches which abounded with common sense were a welcome relief. It might be invidious to name them, but to the honor of women it may be said that two of the cleverest, most analytical and practical speakers in the Association belonged to female members.

Some of the questions discussed by the Convention were of great importance—the use and abuse of text books, and the marking system, corporal punishment, and compulsory education. This discussion of corporal punishment was very animated, the gentlemen with a single exception advocating the use of it in schools. Miss Armstrong, the principal of the training school in Indianapolis and Prof. Merrill of Lafayette, No. 10, took strong ground against it. Prof. Shorridge asked Prof. Merrill if the shaking of a pupil by the shoulders, the pulling of his ears, etc., were under stood as corporal punishment. "Most certainly," Prof. Merrill answered, "I never heard of it." President Jones, of the Normal School, and a great many others, also took strong ground against it. It is the great point of the discussion, whether it is the most humiliating and degrading punishment known. One dose of Warner's Tonic will cure it. For sale by drugists everywhere.

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