



CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND & PACIFIC RAILWAY.

THE railway from Chicago to San Francisco is the most stupendous enterprise of the age. The Iowa Division properly comes within the Annals of Iowa. No lands were set apart for the Iowa Division (original Mississippi & Missouri Railroad), by Congress, till after a convention was held at Iowa City in 1850; and after the subsequent election of James Thorington, Esq., to the House of Representatives at Washington. A change of policy took place and a railroad grant of land for three roads across Iowa was made by Congress. The State of Iowa made over lands to the Mississippi & Missouri Company, which is now called, by a transfer to the Chicago & Rock Island Company, the Iowa Division of the Pacific Railway. The first section of this road was made to Iowa City, and entered the city January 1st, 1856. The writer of this article reported for the *Iowa City Republican* the proceedings of a large meeting celebrating the construction of the Mississippi & Missouri Railroad to the city. The report of the doings, speeches of General Dix and others, filled almost the whole weekly paper. It would be interesting to insert here, at this stage of railroad history, some of the resolutions, toasts, and addresses, on that occasion, but the *data* are not now at hand. They may be obtained by the time of issuing the July number. As a part of the current history of Iowa, it will be prosecuted and continued as a wonder in the transformation of the country as an agricultural State. Corn, for example, by the facility of transportation, has advanced from ten and fifteen cents a bushel to sixty-five and seventy-five cents a bushel. Pork, from a dollar or a dollar and a quarter a hundred to six, eight, and nine, dollars a hundred. And so of immigration and population. It has increased from 92,000 in 1850, to 1,600,000 population in 1882.

Other roads, and branches of the Pacific, have been built, till now over five thousand miles of railway are in operation; and still new grounds are broken and new roads begun all over the State. The ample means of this great line to San Francisco enable the company to make most substantial additional works.

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