

composed entirely of men who had gained their experience with the Ohio Company, were all experienced and competent stagemen. The main change in the new firm over the old Ohio company was the disappearance of the veteran William Neil as an active and eminently successful stage manager. In many ways "Billy" Neil had been the Ohio Stage Company.

The new company did more than inherit partners from the Ohio Stage Company. Much of the stock and employees who came to Iowa with the long train of coaches and wagons in July, 1854, were former employees and equipment of the older company. Thus, with the same skillful management, coupled with sound stage experience and combined with the same insistence upon good equipment excellently served, the Western Stage Company was well equipped to dominate the stagecoach business in Iowa as thoroughly and as completely as ever John Frink & Co. had in the seven years before.⁶³

Like the Frink company the Western's reach was long and hard. Although concentrating principally upon its Iowa contracts the company also held important heavy mail contracts across southern Illinois from Terre Haute, Indiana, to St. Louis. In the years to come its stages were to penetrate to Kansas on the south and to Denver on the far west.⁶⁴

As the Frink period closed in July, 1854, staging in Iowa after seventeen years, first as an infant then as an apprentice, was ready to enter into its inheritance.

⁶³ Frink Mss., Parmelee appears to have served a short time at least with the Western Stage Co. as a general agent in Iowa.

⁶⁴ *Ohio State Journal* (Columbus), June 13, 1854.

Onions in Iowa

It is said that the man who first raised onions by the acre in Iowa was Captain Hawley, of Pleasant Valley, who was engaged in that business in 1847. He used to raise from 100 to 200 acres annually, and got from 300 to 400 bushels per acre from broadcast sowing of 3 pounds of seed per acre. The variety sown was red Whetersfield, as none others were grown there at that time. The Captain generally . . . would boat down the river . . . to dispose of the load . . . *Fontanelle Observer*, June 19, 1884.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.