

A HALF CENTURY AGO.

The Fayette County Union, of West Union, Iowa, in culling over the old files of its predecessor, *The Pioneer*, is finding some information that is very interesting. For instance, on February 27, 1855, the paper told of Robert Powers, of Taylorsville, driving to Dubuque with a load of game for market, and stated that the load included 1,000 prairie chickens, 1,000 quails, 1,000 rabbits, 8 deer, 5 wolves and 2 bears. Those were the days when game was plentiful in Iowa, and the sportsmen of to-day who go out for a few days shooting and come back with a few dozen birds do not know what real hunting is like. Another interesting item in the same paper tells of the early day schools of that county. In 1855 there were 17 school houses in the county, but in that day they never heard of such a thing as voting \$150,000 for additions to High Schools, and other expenditures of that sort, as is evidenced by the statement that those 17 school houses cost an aggregate of only \$1,898.98. There were 669 pupils attending school in the county that year, and there were seven men and nineteen women employed to teach them, the men receiving \$15.25 per month as salary, while the women received \$7.00.

On April 15, 1855, *The Pioneer* announced with a great deal of pride that "we now have a daily line of stage coaches between here and Dubuque, and before the summer is over we shall have a daily instead of a tri-weekly mail." In another place it tells of a proposed stage line to run from Iowa City to St. Paul, and of no less than 25,000 new settlers having pitched their tents in Minnesota. On January 23, 1855, the completion of the first bridge across the Mississippi was celebrated. It was a small wire suspension bridge at St. Anthony's Falls, where now stands Minneapolis. Will the next 50 years bring as many changes and improvements?—*Des Moines Daily Register, March 22, 1902.*

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