

A Gallup Poll in 1872

[During presidential years travelers by steamboat, train, or stagecoach frequently took straw votes to determine the popularity of presidential candidates. The pollster of 1872 could scarcely be described as "unbiased" or "Non-partisan" even though his letter was reprinted in the *Story County* (Nevada) *Representative* which was owned and edited by W. H. Gallup. One might gather from the following letter that Greeley would garner few votes in Iowa. Actually, Greeley received 71,179 while Grant received 131,566. THE EDITOR.]

From Sioux County, Iowa, August 8th, 1872

Editor Representative — Permit me to write up a few items for your paper from the Northwest. I left your county by rail, the 24th of July and arrived at Grand Junction at about four o'clock. Desiring to take a ride on the Valley Road, I was compelled to lay over some four hours, taking up my lodging at the R. R. House known as the Ashley House where every attention is given to make comfortable those who stop as guests. We improve our leisure four hours in learning something of the political features of the town and county, and other localities represented by guests of the Ashley House. And first to remark, Greeleyites around Grand Junction are few and far between, and be it said to the honor of

quite a number of Democrats in the locality, that they declare for Grant in preference to Greeley, and avow they never can vote for a turncoat. John A. Hull, it was remarked by one present, declares that Greeley will be elected, but throws in as conscience compels, "that the people in and around Boone dont stand up for him as they ought." It was remarked by one present that over 20 liberals in Webster County had gone back on Greeley. We also had an Iowa City man, Mr. Berry Hill, present, and he stated that Greeley had no show there, that Grant was the coming man, that Greeley stood identified with the Democratic Convention and not of Liberal Republicans, as is claimed, that the Democrats made Greeley *their* candidate by formal declaration in convention assembled at the city of Baltimore, and to-day he stood before the people as a Democrat, pledged to do their bidding, whether it is in keeping with his feelings or not.

At 8 o'clock and some minutes, we took the train for Ft. Dodge, arriving there near eleven o'clock P.M. and on recommendation, we took the Omnibus for the Occidental House, where we were carefully stowed away until 4:30 A.M., when we were rushed from our sleeping apartments into the omnibus, away for the morning train, westward bound. There is nothing like being on time, too, in traveling, as one of our lady guests realized that morning when upon the sharp

whistling of the train she was compelled to take to the omnibus half appareled, as she remarked, by no means well pleased with such hurried work. Going in on the night train and leaving on the morning train, we had no opportunity of learning anything of the local politics of Ft. Dodge.

ASHLEY HOUSE,

K. BATEMAN, Proprietor.

GRAND JUNCTION, IOWA.

Herd! Herd!!

To the citizens of Nokomis township: I, the undersigned propose to herd cattle for the season at \$2.50 per head or 50 cents per month, salting included.

ALFRED WINTERS.

Des Moines Valley R. R.

No. 104. TIME TABLE. 1871.

On and after Thursday, May 25, 1871, trains will run as follows:

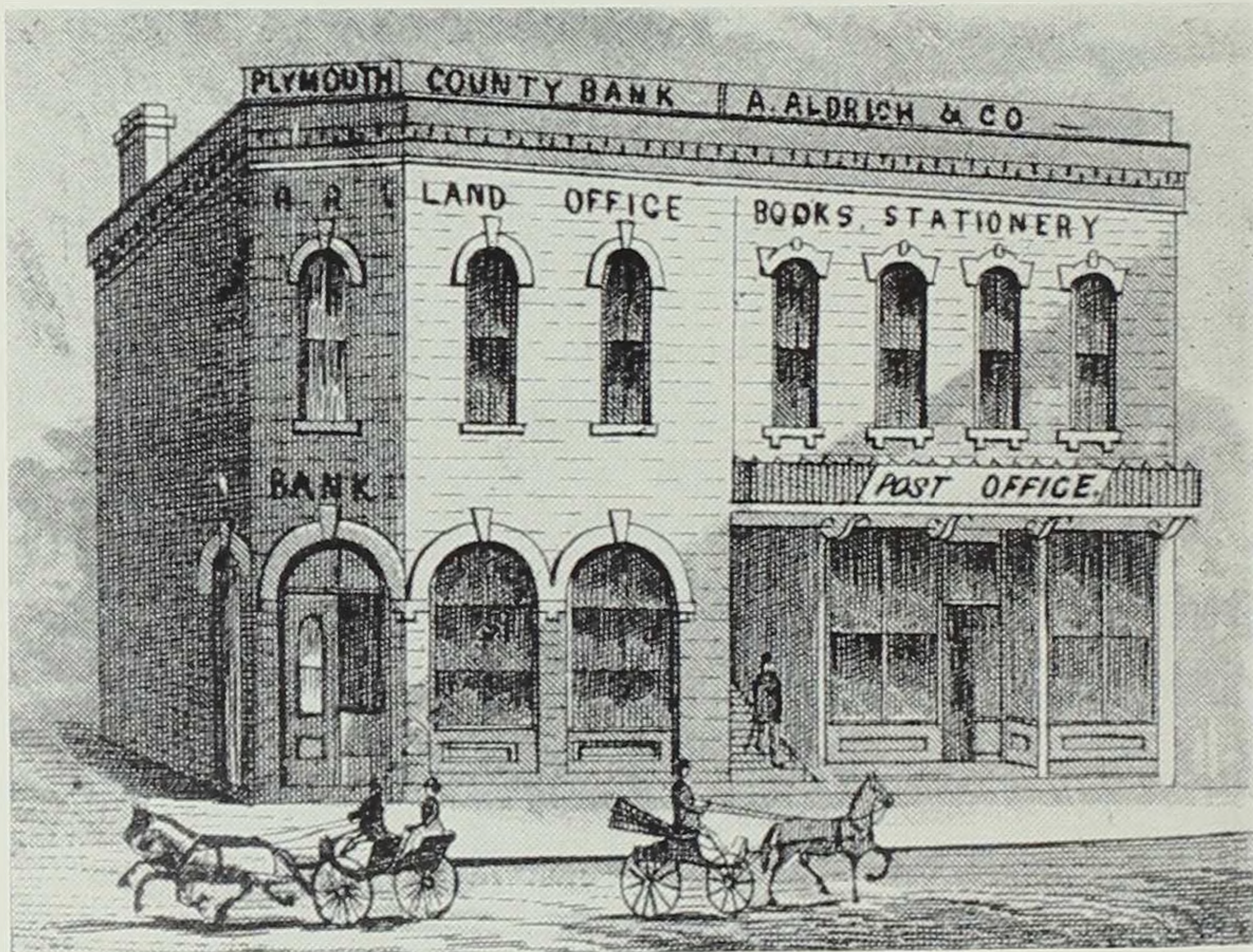
WESTWARD.	STATIONS.	EASTWARD.
Leave Keokuk.		Arrives Keokuk.
2.45 PM 7.30 A M	Keokuk...	4.15 PM 3.45 A M
4.21 " 9.02 "	Farmington.	2.40 " 2.08 "
4.41 " 9.18 "	Bonaparte.	2.23 " 1.50 "
4.53 " 9.29 "	Bentonsport.	2.12 " 1.39 "
5.14 " 9.48 "	Summit.	1.52 " 1.17 "
5.58 " 10.30 "	Independent.	1.08 " 12.31 "
6.15 " 10.45 "	Ashland.	12.48 " 12.15 "
7.15 " 11.50 "	Ottumwa.	12.10 " 11.35 "
8.05 " 12.37 P M	Eddyville.	11.05 " 10.35 "
8.33 " 1.03 "	Oskaloosa.	10.38 " 10.08 "
8.55 " 1.25 "	Leighton.	10.18 " 9.47 "
9.22 " 1.50 "	Pella.	9.55 " 9.22 "
9.47 " 2.12 "	Otley.	9.32 " 8.52 "
10.03 " 2.28 "	Monroe.	9.17 " 8.40 "
10.31 " 2.52 "	Prairie City.	8.52 " 8.14 "
11.14 " 3.30 "	Altoona.	8.15 " 7.32 "
11.50 " 4.10 "	Des Moines.	7.45 " 7.00 "
12.32 A M 5.08 "	Wauke.	6.30 " 5.55 "
12.52 " 5.33 "	Dallas Centre.	6.05 " 5.35 "
1.10 " 5.57 "	Minburn.	5.42 " 5.18 "
1.30 " 6.22 "	Perry.	5.15 " 5.00 "
2.15 " 7.20 "	G. Junction.	4.15 A M 4.15 "
Arrive 10.00 "	Fort Dodge.	Leave 1.30 P M

JOHN GIVEN, Superintendent.

JAS. BARKER, General Ticket Agent.

The speed made by the train during the day, was very slow, so we enlivened the times by canvassing the political views of those aboard the train, and be it said to the credit of the cars in which we rode, that there was but one Greeley man found, who was from Newark, who knew nothing only as he received it from Senator Tipton and such men. A Pennsylvania man, and by

the way I chiseled him up one side and down the other, and then an Ohio man, now living in the Southwest part of the State would go for him, and in his confusion to hold up his side of the question



Union Block — LeMars, Iowa.

the ladies in the car would laugh at him, and finally being grounded for want of argument, he confessed he had always been a Democrat and voted with the party. So with a great many of our pretended Liberals, when you grind them down you find they never were true Republicans but hangers on for the loafs and fishes.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania represented the political aspects of that State as being for Grant decidedly.

We finally arrived at LeMars, near four o'clock, and compelled to stay until the next day in order to get conveyance up into Sioux county, where we are located, making three days by rail and stage. — We drove in with a team in five days. — Expenses by rail from Nevada to Le Mars *via* Ft. Dodge, is \$8.25; distance 183 miles.

Grant has the balance of power in Northwestern Iowa. Too many soldiers' Homesteads in this neck of woods for a Greeleyite to prosper here. It is reported that at Cherokee they have quite a nest of them. As to the truth of it I know not. I have yet to know a Republican who is a Greeley man. Hon. J. Orr will carry Sioux County delegation, and from present indications, he will be unanimously nominated and returned to a second term in Congress.

Crops are very fine in our part of the country. Wheat the best I have ever seen in the State. An average is expected from 20 to 30 bushels per acre. Corn is very rank and thrifty. We will have a market for our grain within $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles, at Sheldon, a town on the St. Paul and Sioux City R. R. Buildings are going up very rapidly. Not out of the world, but the garden of Eden for farming. I close lest I weary your readers. Respectfully

A. K. Webb