

THE
HISTORY
OF
WAPELLO COUNTY,
I O W A,

CONTAINING

A History of the County, its Cities, Towns, &c.,

A Biographical Directory of Citizens, War Record of its Volunteers in the late Rebellion, General and Local Statistics, Portraits of Early Settlers and Prominent Men, History of the Northwest, History of Iowa, Map of Wapello County, Constitution of the United States, Miscellaneous Matters, &c.

ILLUSTRATED.

CHICAGO:
WESTERN HISTORICAL COMPANY,
1878.

tracks on the Company's lands, by which means manufacturers can ship in all directions with little trouble and expense. The advantages derived from this arrangement cannot be overestimated. It should be remembered that the Company has attained success in its work, and that the plan is no longer an experiment. The power is great, and can be largely increased at little expense. This grand enterprise is the key to the future growth and prosperity of Ottumwa.

The present officers of the Company are: W. B. Bonnifield, President; A. H. Hamilton, Vice President; C. F. Blake, Treasurer; I. N. Mast, Secretary; W. B. Bonnifield, Wm. Daggett, A. H. Hamilton, Daniel Eaton, C. F. Blake, Directors.

THE OTTUMWA WATER WORKS.

In September, 1877, S. L. Wiley & Co., of Greenfield, Mass., came to Ottumwa for the purpose of introducing water works. Negotiations entered into by them with the city authorities resulted in the passage of an ordinance by the Common Council of Ottumwa, granting the following rights and powers to the firm of S. L. Wiley & Co.:

The exclusive privilege for twenty-five years of furnishing the city and the citizens of Ottumwa with water, to be taken from the Des Moines River at such point and in such manner as to secure the best water, and so disposed as to be for the best general interests of the city. The Company was authorized to pipe the city for the purpose of supplying. The quantity, after January 1, 1879, is to be not less than 3,000,000 gallons in twenty-four hours. The Company was required to put in, where the city designated, seventy-five double-discharge hydrants, and to so distribute their pipes as to afford the best possible protection against fire. The exact terms of the contract need not be reproduced here, since the ordinance is on file in the city offices, and may be inspected there. Suffice it to say that the object of both contracting parties was to furnish ample water supply, in even the remote parts of the city, as the growth of the town required, for domestic, public and fire protection uses. Messrs. Wiley & Co. were to place the necessary pumping apparatus in a suitable structure and were to construct the entire works for a consideration of \$100,000. The city agreed to pay a reasonable rental for the advantages afforded by the proposed works.

A provision was introduced into the charter thus granted, which was of the greatest importance to the city. Messrs. Wiley & Co. were bound to enter into contract with the Ottumwa Water-Power Company, to complete and render available the improvement begun by the Water-Power Company theretofore, and to cause to be constructed such works as were required to utilize the vast water-force contained in the Des Moines River at this point.

As soon as the charter became operative, by virtue of the lawful execution of all the required contracts, Messrs. Wiley & Co. assigned their rights and franchises under the papers to the Ottumwa Water Works, an incorporation conceived for the purpose of carrying out the plan devised by the original parties. The new Company formally assumed all the responsibilities and privileges of a body incorporate, and placed its capital stock at \$100,000. The Board of Directors consisted of George E. Beatty, George W. Heard and S. L. Wiley. The stock of the Company was divided among those three gentlemen, Mr. Wiley taking 500 shares. Mr. Solon L. Wiley was elected President and Mr. I. N. Mast, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Company proceeded to carry out the terms of the contract, and have so far progressed, at the present time, as to have practically supplied the city with water. As the improvements are pushed nearer to completion, the advan-

tages will be more marked. The pump-house is supplied with two pumps, both of the Flanders patent. The smaller pump has a capacity of 800,000 gallons in twenty-four hours. This is driven by a water-wheel, which derives its force from the Water-Power Works, and is of 50-horse power. The larger pump is connected at present with a Corlis Engine, but will soon be run by a large water-wheel, which is being set in position. The wheel is of 150-horse power, and the pump has a capacity of 2,400,000 gallons in twenty-four hours. The boiler used to generate steam for the engine was made in Ottumwa, at the works of Peter Hirschauer. The Works are an invaluable improvement to the city, not only as a matter of public and private convenience, but as a material aid in lessening insurance rates, by protecting all parts of the city against heavy loss by fire. When the new wheel is attached to the pump, the force will be ample to throw six streams seventy-five feet high, on the most elevated parts of town, and on the lower level, ten streams. Combining this magnificent supply of water with a well-trained Fire Department, Ottumwa can boast of a sure and speedy relief in case of calamity by fire.

No change has taken place in the officers of the Company since its organization. Mr. A. W. Conant is the Superintendent of the Works.

THE MANUFACTURING INTERESTS.

It is not the design of this work to serve as a gazetteer, but to present a picture of the material prosperity of Ottumwa at the present time. This can be done best, perhaps, by showing, briefly, the extent of its manufacturing interests, since in that branch of industry alone her future fortune depends. The city must gather and retain the crude products of the country long enough to transform them into refined staples, thereby realizing a second benefit from them. Let us see what she is doing in that direction.

The large packing-house of John Morrell & Co. will be in operation before this work is issued. A brick structure, 160x96, flanked by a wing 48x96, is already completed, in which the business of slaughtering hogs and curing the meat for market will be conducted. Some four years ago, Mr. T. D. Foster, the representative of the firm (an English house) in America, made a general tour of the West, in search of a place to locate their packing-house in. No satisfactory arrangements were then made, and the business was conducted in Chicago. Last winter, Mr. Foster leased the house of Mr. Ladd, and began a preliminary experiment, to test the advantages of the city of Ottumwa as a packing point. This experiment resulted in his deciding to construct permanent works and enter largely upon the trade. It is designed to prepare large quantities of meat for the English markets, a business which can be done very satisfactorily with the supply of hogs from Southern Iowa and Northern Missouri. Packing nowadays is not like the business of ten years ago. It is absolutely essential that all forms of labor-saving machinery should be employed, and that the slaughter-house be kept at an equable temperature, by artificial means, all the year round. To do this, immense stocks of ice are required. The ice-houses of this concern are made to contain 10,000 tons, or about two years' supply, to avoid calamity through failure of an ice crop. The hog-yards, in which the stock is placed prior to killing, are 300x144 feet. The capacity of the house is 1,000 per day, but it is not expected to go much over 600 at first. Hams and bacon will be cured as soon as the necessary buildings can be erected. It is also intended to put up a cooper-shop and a box-factory, to supply their own packages. From one hundred to one hundred and fifty men will find employment in the works. Side tracks from the C., B. & Q. and the K.