

MIDLAND PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

**First Annual Report and Circular
Made 1868.**

The citizens of Nebraska City, having lost their customers from the mountains and the plains west of us; the farmers having lost the western market for their corn and other products of their farms, by the building of the Union Pacific Railroad from Omaha west, there was a strong and earnest desire on the part of the people for the building of a railroad west from Nebraska City, through Otoe county, to make a connection with Lincoln, the capital of the state, and also a connection with the Union Pacific Railroad, to restore or regain a portion of that trade for our merchants and farmers which belonged to them, and bring back that trade that was once the stimulus to every merchant, mechanic and farmer in Otoe county. That desire was manifested by presenting a petition, signed by a large number of tax payers in the county, directed to the county commissioners, in November, 1867, asking the county commissioners to call a special election, allowing the people of the county to vote on a proposition to issue county bonds, in the sum of \$500,000.00, as voluntary aid towards building a railroad from Nebraska City west, through the county. The subject was discussed by citizens before the board of county commissioners. At the suggestion of Chief Justice O. P. Mason, the sum was reduced to \$150,000.00; he saying in his remarks, that the county could well afford to give the amount of \$500,000, but he thought that it would be policy for the county to appropriate the sum of \$150,000 at first, then appropriate the balance as the work progressed. The county commissioners adopted the sum of \$150,000, and called a special election to be held on the 21st day of December, 1867, and submitted the proposition, of which the following is a copy of said proposition and notice:

SPECIAL ELECTION.

To the Electors of Otoe County:

Notice is hereby given, that in pursuance of and by authority of law passed by the Legislature of Nebraska and approved February 12, A. D. 1866, and under a resolution of the Board of County Commissioners, adopted November 18th, 1867, an election will be held, at the usual places of holding general elections, in the several precincts of Otoe County, Nebraska, on Saturday, December 21st, 1867, from 9 o'clock in the morning until 6 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of determining the question: "Shall the County Commissioners of Otoe County, Nebraska, issue the bonds of said County for the sum of \$150,000.00, redeemable, at the option of the County Commissioners, at

twenty years from date or less, and for the payment of interest and to provide a sinking fund for the redemption of said bonds and interest a tax to be levied annually until all said bonds and the interest thereon shall be paid. The said proposed bonds to be issued to aid in the construction of a railroad from the Missouri river westward to the Otoe and Lancaster County line." And the ballots voted at such election shall be written or printed in the words following: "For the issue of \$150,000 bonds for western railroad in Otoe County," or "Against the issue of \$150,000 bonds for western railroad in Otoe County." And such election shall be held and the returns therefrom made in all respects as near as may be according to the laws governing general elections.

Done by order of the County Commissioners, this 18th day of November, A. D. 1867.

Witness our hands the date last named:

O. STEVENSON,
JOHN ROBERTS,
A. STOUT,
Commissioners.

Attest: G. R. McALLUM,
County Clerk.

At the election held pursuant to the above notice, only seventy-two votes in the county were cast against the proposition. It was nearly unanimous.

The repeated failures heretofore in offering large inducements to foreign corporations to build a railroad for us, either to or from Nebraska City, also the inducement now offered of \$150,000 in Otoe county bonds to build a railroad west from Nebraska City, suggested the idea of a home corporation, composed of men identified with the interests of Nebraska City and Otoe county, to take the donation offered by Otoe county, together with what other moneys from stock subscriptions and donations of state land that Otoe county and the people in this section of the state would be entitled to undertake the great enterprise so much needed and desired by every citizen in Otoe county, and the counties along the line of the now Midland Pacific Railway. Many of our wealthy citizens refused to take the chances of the enterprise, preferring to give in donations rather than hazard a stock subscription; but the present stockholders believed the road could be built, and with energy and determination took hold of the enterprise, with the expectation of eventually completing the Midland Pacific Railway, and placing Nebraska City and Otoe county on the great central route from ocean to ocean.

At a meeting of the county commissioners with the Midland Pacific Railway directors, after the organization of the railway company, the county commissioners passed a resolution to issue to the Midland Pacific Railway Company \$50,000 of Otoe county bonds, as

voluntary aid towards building this railway, taking a bond from the railway company, of which the following is a copy:

Bond of Midland Pacific Railway Company.

Know all Men by These Presents, That the Midland Pacific Railway Company of the state of Nebraska, is held and firmly bound unto the county of Otoe and state of Nebraska, in the penal sum of one hundred thousand dollars, for the payment of which, well and truly to be made to the said county of Otoe, the said Midland Pacific Railway Company binds itself, its successors and succession, firmly by these presents, sealed with its seal, and dated this second day of March, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, and signed by its President and attested by its Secretary. Whereas, the Board of County Commissioners of said county of Otoe, did on the sixteenth day of January, A. D. 1868, by order bearing date on that day, authorize and direct the issuing of the bonds of Otoe county to the amount of fifty thousand dollars, payable to the Midland Pacific Railway Company, or bearer, in twenty years from the date thereof, with interest coupons attached for the payment of interest semi-annually, at the rate of ten per cent per annum, to be paid over and delivered to the said Midland Pacific Railway Company, as voluntary aid in the construction of a railroad from the Missouri river, at Nebraska City, westward through Otoe county, in the general direction of the town of Lincoln in the county of Lancaster, in the state of Nebraska, upon the express condition that the said company shall faithfully expend the proceeds of such bonds in the location, survey, right of way, grading, constructing and equipping such railroad, and the expenditure by the company of an equal amount of other moneys in and for the object aforesaid.

Now the condition of the above obligation is such that if the said Midland Pacific Railway Company shall well and faithfully expend all net proceeds by such company received for the said fifty thousand dollars of Otoe county bonds so to be issued and delivered to the said Midland Pacific Railway Company, in the locating, right of way, grading, constructing, and equipping of the aforesaid railroad, then the above obligation to be void, otherwise to be and remain in full force and virtue.

TOLBERT ASHTON,
Vice President.

Attest: ROLLIN M. ROLFE, *Sec'y.*

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of JAMES SWEET.
[W. S. STAMP, 50 cts.]
M. P.

I hereby certify the above to be a true and faithful copy of the bond given by the Midland Pacific Railway Company, on the second day of March, A. D. 1868,