

January 8, 1923.

It will soon be time for the annual meeting of the J.H. Association, and the Linn County organization wishes to acquaint you with the situation in Kansas before this meeting.

As you know, the association was formed in 1916 and line of road established. In Kansas it extended south from Kansas City through the towns of Olathe, Paola, Osawatomie, Mound City, Ft. Scott, Girard, Pittsburg, passing through the county seats of all the counties.

From the time the road was established to present time the local organizations along the road as above described have paid dues, kept the road marked, and worked for its improvement, and it was the representatives from the above named towns that attended the first meeting at New Orleans and helped to secure the location of the road across eastern Kansas.

At the annual meeting held at St. Joseph last January, the directors of the road elected by associations along said road as above described, to-wit: Dr. Hatfield of Olathe, Paul Russell of Paola, H.A. Russell of Ft. Scott, H.B. Vanness of Mound City, were recognized as the directors from Kansas and took part in the meeting.

At the same meeting the question of changing route of road was brought up, and it was proposed to change route so as to go nearly directly north from Ft. Scott to K.C. and miss the towns of Mound City, Osawatomie, Paola and Olathe, and the annual meeting refused to make the change.

The latter part of March, following this January meeting, Mr. Shaffer and Mr. Clarkson went to the towns of Louisburg, in Miami Co., and Pleasanton, in Linn Co., and told the people in these towns that they were going to re-organize the J.H. in Kansas and asked them to send four representatives to a meeting to be held at Pittsburg March 27 for the purpose of electing Kansas directors, and at said meeting, participated in by representatives from Louisburg, Pleasanton, Pittsburg, and Baxter, Mr. ~~Stoffle~~ *Stoffle* of Louisburg, Mr. Stoffle of Pleasanton, and a man from Baxter were elected as Kansas directors, and a man from Pittsburg as Vice-Pres. for Kansas. These men were reported at headquarters as the Kansas officers of the association, and it is likely that an effort will be made to have them recognized by the National Association as Kansas directors. No notice whatever was given any of the old members of the J.H. Ass'n of this Pittsburg meeting and the old members claim the meeting was illegal. The people of Louisburg and Pleasanton had never prior to this meeting claimed to be members of the J.H. Ass'n, and had never prior to this time contributed anything to it. At this meeting the alleged directors altered the route of the J.H. to go north from Ft. Scott to Pleasanton, Louisburg, and on to K.C., leaving out all the towns that had helped to establish and mark said road, also leaving out Girard on the south.

This attempted change was made March 27, two days before Clarkson retired as general manager. It has never been recognized by the state authorities, and the old route as still the marked and recorded route of the J.H. in Kansas.

The proposed change would miss every county seat in eastern Kansas except Ft. Scott, and while it would shorten the distance from Ft. Scott to K.C. about fifteen miles, the proposed road from Ft. Scott to K.C. would pass through towns with total population of less than 3500, while the route as now established passes through towns with total population of over 17,000, and over a much better natural road.

In April the various local J.H. organizations along the route as originally established sent representatives to a meeting held at Paola and elected H.A. Russell, of Ft. Scott, as Vice-Pres. for Kansas, and Dr. Hatfield of Olathe, Paul Russell of Paola, and Marlon Coulter of Girard as the Kansas directors. The representatives of the original J.H. associations along the Kansas road will be at the annual meeting asking that the Vice-Pres. and directors elected at the Paola meeting by the people who helped to establish and mark the J.H. across Kansas, be recognized as the Kansas representatives, and that those elected at the Pittsburg meeting be not recognized.

We feel certain that when you consider the facts you will see that the men who helped to get the road through Kansas, and during the five or six years have paid expense of keeping it marked and advertised, are the ones that should be considered members of the J.H. Association, and will use your influence to have them recognized.

If you do not expect to attend the meeting, please give this to some one who will be there.

Yours truly,

Linn County J.H. Association,

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