

HISTORICAL
ENCYCLOPEDIA
OF
ILLINOIS

EDITED BY

NEWTON BATEMAN, LL. D.

PAUL SELBY, A. M.



AND HISTORY OF

MERCER COUNTY

EDITED BY

COL. WM. A. LORIMER.

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cago, three miles southwest of the southern city limits. It is on the line of the Illinois Central and the Chicago & Grand Trunk Railways, and has extensive manufactures of harvesting, street and steam railway machinery, gasoline stoves, enameled ware, etc.; also has one newspaper and ample school facilities. Population (1900), 5,395.

IOWA CENTRAL RAILWAY, a railway line having its principal termini at Peoria, Ill., and Manly Junction, nine miles north of Mason City, Iowa, with several lateral branches making connections with Centerville, Newton, State Center, Story City, Algona and Northwood in the latter State. The total length of line owned, leased and operated by the Company, officially reported in 1899, was 508.98 miles, of which 89.76 miles—including 3.5 miles trackage facilities on the Peoria & Pekin Union between Iowa Junction and Peoria—were in Illinois. The Illinois division extends from Keithsburg—where it enters the State at the crossing of the Mississippi—to Peoria.—(HISTORY.) The Iowa Central Railway Company was originally chartered as the Central Railroad Company of Iowa and the road completed in October, 1871. In 1873 it passed into the hands of a receiver and, on June 4, 1879, was reorganized under the name of the Central Iowa Railway Company. In May, 1883, this company purchased the Peoria & Farmington Railroad, which was incorporated into the main line, but defaulted and passed into the hands of a receiver December 1, 1886; the line was sold under foreclosure in 1887 and 1888, to the Iowa Central Railway Company, which had effected a new organization on the basis of \$11,000,000 common stock, \$6,000,000 preferred stock and \$1,379,625 temporary debt certificates convertible into preferred stock, and \$7,500,000 first mortgage bonds. The transaction was completed, the receiver discharged and the road turned over to the new company, May 15, 1889.—(FINANCIAL.) The total capitalization of the road in 1899 was \$21,337,558, of which \$14,159,180 was in stock, \$6,650,095 in bonds and \$528,283 in other forms of indebtedness. The total earnings and income of the line in Illinois for the same year were \$592,568, and the expenditures \$566,333.

SPARTA, a city of Randolph County, situated on the Centralia & Chester and the Mobile & Ohio Railroads, twenty miles northwest of Chester and fifty miles southeast of St. Louis. It has

a number of manufacturing establishments, including plow factories, a woolen mill, a cannery and creameries; also has natural gas. The first settler was James McClurken, from South Carolina, who settled here in 1818. He was joined by James Armour a few years later, who bought land of McClurken, and together they laid out a village, which first received the name of Columbus. About the same time Robert G. Shannon, who had been conducting a mercantile business in the vicinity, located in the town and became the first Postmaster. In 1839 the name of the town was changed to Sparta. Mr. McClurken, its earliest settler, appears to have been a man of considerable enterprise, as he is credited with having built the first cotton gin in this vicinity, besides still later, erecting saw and flour mills and a woolen mill. Sparta was incorporated as a village in 1837 and in 1859 as a city. A colony of members of the Reformed Presbyterian Church (Covenanters or "Seceders") established at Eden, a beautiful site about a mile from Sparta, about 1822, cut an important figure in the history of the latter place, as it became the means of attracting here an industrious and thriving population. At a later period it became one of the most important stations of the "Underground Railroad" (so called) in Illinois (which see). The population of Sparta (1890) was 1,979; (1900), 2,041.

TOLUCA, a city of Marshall County situated on the line of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad, 18 miles southwest of Streator. It is in the center of a rich agricultural district; has the usual church and educational facilities of cities of its rank, and two newspapers. Population (1900), 2,629.

WEST HAMMOND, a village situated in the northeast corner of Thornton Township, Cook County, adjacent to Hammond, Ind., from which it is separated by the Indiana State line. It is on the Michigan Central Railroad, one mile south of the Chicago City limits, and has convenient access to several other lines, including the Chicago & Erie; New York, Chicago & St. Louis, and Western Indiana Railroads. Like its Indiana neighbor, it is a manufacturing center of much importance, was incorporated as a village in 1892, and has grown rapidly within the last few years, having a population, according to the census of 1900, of 2,935.