

TOWN NEEDS FIFTY HOUSES
RAILROAD OFFICIALS PROMISE LABOR
EXPANSION HERE.

Conference of Citizens. With Director and
Alderman Monday Night. (By Editor.)
Professors and 199 More Am-
phibians in Court.

A called meeting of the business men
of Goodland to confer with Rock Island
railroad officials was held Monday night
in their private car at the depot. Mr.
Director superintendent of motive power
and equipment of all flow west of the
river, and Mr. Abbott, superintendent of
the Colorado division, arrived in their
special car on No. 10 Monday evening.

Notice of their coming had been tele-
graphed ahead with a request that the
business men meet them for a confer-
ence. Many of the business men of the
city responded.

Mr. Director reported that the Rock
Island intended to make extensive im-
provements here, and that he was in-
terested by General Superintendent
Dudman to look over the situation
and report whether houses and other
accommodations for an extra force of
men could be supplied here.

He thought that 50 houses would be
needed for fuelmen, and that the im-
provements contemplated here would
increase the population of the town at
least 200. If accommodations could be
secured the superintendent of the
division with a force of ten men would
move here. The department force
would also be increased.

Improvements contemplated are the
enlargement and remodeling of the
yards here, more round house room, re-
pairs, paint, carpenter and plumbing
shops, the installing of new and larger
machinery, calling for more power in
the shop houses and engines. Already
over \$10,000 worth of new machinery
has been installed here and still larger
outlay is contemplated.

The Commercial club met Monday
night at the office of T. F. Leonard to
discuss ways and means to meet the de-
mands for more houses. Goodland
needs a large and commodious hotel,
rooming houses and dwellings. Besides
doing all possible to meet this demand
themselves, the club decided to adver-
tise in the city and hold a press with a
view to calling foreign capital in the
building and improvements required
here. A committee was chosen to an-
nounce funds for advertising purposes.

The improvements contemplated by
the Rock Island here would indicate
that something out of the ordinary is
being projected. The Rock Island has
no station at Davenport, now graded as
far as Rock, Ok., away from Good-
land. Some surmise that this is the
case. A line has drawn from Rock to
Goodland would cross the El Paso line
at Rockville where the Rock Island had
a stop 25 miles long to Dodge City
Kan., which is only 100 miles from Good-
land.

If those two gaps from Rock to Good-
land and from Dodge City to Goodland
were filled in the Rock Island would
then have a road from Davenport to Good-
land. Near Olathe and other good
ports. Something is on the tapis for
sure, and as it well known, surveys
have been on the road for some weeks
making preliminary surveys.

The writer has repeatedly traveled
with private conveyances from Goodland
to Winona, Russell Springs, Scott City
and Dodge City. This route is estimated
by feasible for a railroad, and the
stretch of 75 to 80 miles on this line
the rails men almost be laid down on the
prairie without grading and timber in
run.

Hence this, this route would
open up territory that would make the
road pay from the start. This line
would cross the Santa Fe, Missouri, the
city and would be of immense value
to western Kansas and across the
rail town. Suppose moreover that the
Rock Island give a close traffic arrange-
ment with the Moffat road now build-
ing to Salt Lake City, we have been re-
ported the advantages both to the Rock
Island system and to contiguous terri-
tory would be simply incalculable.

At any rate it behooves our citizens
to better themselves and meet the op-
portunity offered by the proposed im-
provement of the Rock Island west
here, and strike while the iron is in. No
surveys were here last week, make
measurements and running lines in to
Goodland yards.

Town needs 50 houses 10/2/1903 Goodland Republic

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