

Inadequate Railroad Facilities

Author: Unknown

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Source: Mr. and Mrs. Collins F. Kindred collection

To The Parties Concerned:

The Commercial Club of Smithville, Mo., at a stated meeting held on the 18th day of January, 1907, took up the matter of insufficient accommodations and facilities of the railroad station in Smithville, and, as a result of a discussion of the subject, the following resolution was passed:

WHEREAS, the Q.O. & K.C. Railroad Company has not provided the necessary facilities for handling the passenger and freight traffic of our town for the following reasons:

First: The depot passenger waiting room is too small, and the freight room likewise smaller than is required to conveniently care for both passengers and freight.

Second: The depot sets within a few feet of the main line of track, leaving insufficient room for passengers to safely enter and leave trains.

Third: The grounds around depot nearly miry for carriages and wagons after ordinary rains, and almost impassable in case of protracted wet weather.

Fourth: The platform is not large enough and is made of cinders, making it impossible for women to get around the depot without soiling their skirts beyond decency.

Fifth: That the stock yards are fearfully muddy, gates off the hinges, boards off the fences, posts need resetting, and in such generally dilapidated condition, that stock can not be safely confined without a man to guard them.

And WHEREAS, a committee, representing the business interests of the town made a personal appeal to the Manager of said Railroad Company on Friday, January 11th, 1907, without being able to obtain any definite information toward relieving these conditions, although he frankly admitted that the accommodations were inadequate and increased facilities were a real necessity, Therefore BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Commercial Club make a direct written appeal to the said Manager of the Q.O. & K.C. Railroad Company for immediate relief, since the facilities and accommodations have remained the same that they were seventeen years ago, when the railroad terminated at our depot, and during that period, the population of the town has trebled and the volume of business has at least quadrupled, and with no possible approach to the station by pedestrians except to tramp through the mud, or to traverse the railroad tracks, making the surrounding decidedly disagreeable and positively dangerous.

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