

6. MARCH 30, DAVISVILLE STIRS

March, 30, 1905 might well have been the single most important day in the history of Davisville (soon to be Davis).

From its start in 1868, Davisville never formed a government and could not even organize a viable association of its business people. Put differently, aside from having two churches, public and civic

organization was weak or non-existent.

But this began to change significantly on March 30. "Colonel" B. B. Tuttle called a public meeting, leaders were elected on the spot, and the town began to organize for the purpose of becoming the site of the new State Farm.

Davis Enterprise **report on the** **Thursday, March** **30 "Mass** **Meeting"**

- The emergent & *ad hoc* character of the meeting →
- Martin Sparks makes good on his promise to George Pierce, thus making forming organizations more credible. →
- A "promotion" committee is then formed. →
- Because Davisville had no "permanent organization" of a civic sort, a committee to form one is appointed. →

A Mass Meeting is Held -- Committees on Farm, Finance and Permanent Organization Appointed.

Gen. B. B. Tuttle called the meeting to order and stated the object for which it was called and requested nominations for chairman and secretary.

J. E. LaRue was elected chairman and A. J. Plant secretary. Then followed a general discussion and expression of opinions and ideas relative to the subject of Agricultural farm and its location. There were present a goodly number of our brainy and energetic farmers and business men but we have no space to give the utterances of those who spoke. However many of those present were not backward in giving expression to their opinions. Sam Montgomery made the statement that Yolo county alone had what, under the terms of the bill could be considered an Irrigation system, and demonstrated the correctness of his assertion. In the matter of a site, M. V. Sparks pledged his fine farm which adjoins Davisville on the west, or half of the farm if all was not wanted, at a reasonable price. Montgomery moved and same was carried that a committee of 7 be appointed, including the chairman and secretary, as follows: G. W. Pierce, chairman; B. B. Tuttle, G. K. Swingle O. B. Wilbur and Dr. W. E. Bates.

F. P. Smith offered a motion which carried, that a finance committee of three be appointed and F. P. Smith was made chairman, with M. V. Sparks and J. W. Anderson completing the committee.

The matter of forming a permanent organization for the town of Davisville was next in order and the subject was talked upon at considerable length and the consensus of opinion predominated, that by all means Davisville should have a permanent organization to be termed a chamber of commerce or board of trade as the committee thought best, and a committee of five were by motion ordered appointed for the purpose of investigating the feasibility of forming such an organization. The following named were appointed by the chair: Chairman, Dr. W. E. Bates, with A. L. Tufts, F. P. Smith, A. J. Plant and Ex-Supervisor W. O. Russell.

The Sacramento Union declared editorially yesterday morning that Davisville was undoubtedly the site of all the sites for the location of the Agricultural Farm. The Union article will be found in the editorial columns of this issue of the Enterprise.

Publishing on Saturday April 1, two days after the historic mass meeting described above, Editor Scott expresses both pleasure and caution about Davisville's capacity for public action.

His guarded response is prompted by the previous absence of an organization working for "the advancement of the best interests" of the town and the recent failure of the Men's League.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1905

In the last issue of the Enterprise we suggested, in fact urged, organization for this community, hence it is very gratifying to note the active movement along these lines that has been inaugurated in Davisville this week. We don't claim any of the credit, but are pleased to fall in line in the matter of organization and promotion. During all the career of Davisville she has never had any such thing as a board of Trade or chamber of commerce. The nearest approach to an organization that had for its purposes the advancement of the best interests of Davisville, and the community in general, has been the Mens League, which was set in motion last spring, nearly a year ago. The foundations of this body politic were by the by laws and constitution made broad and comprehensive. Quite a number of meetings were held and no small amount of general good resulted, notwithstanding there was much that was not accomplished, possibly not as much as ought to have been. As the busy summer season came on the meetings were neglected more and more, finally ceasing to meet at all.

One thing the Mens' League thus far has undoubtedly demonstrated and that is the necessity for organized effort in behalf of the needful and good things for the upbuilding and growth of our community. There is much work in store for the board of trade or chamber of commerce or whatsoever other name the body may be designated by. Possibly the name is not of such vital importance so long as there is an organized body with a proper excuse for its existence. A town without a head is something like an army without a general or leader. Its a go as-you-please proposition with the inevitable result that "what's everybodys business is nobodys business," and chaos follows. Seemingly Davisville has all the requirements necessitating united effort.