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business in this section began to improve at a rapid rate. Zenas Aplington was the contractor for the eight miles beginning one mile south of Polo and extending seven miles north. In January, 1855, when the Railroad was completed, there were but five or six buildings in the present town of Polo. From that time to this, the town has continued to increase rapidly in population and importance.

In the month of October, 1856, the *Polo Sentinel*, the first Democratic newspaper printed in Ogle county, was commenced by F. O. Austin. It lived, however, but about three months.

In the winter of 1856-7, the Legislature passed an act incorporating the town. The first Board of Trustees consisted of J. B. More, S. E. Treat, Z. Aplington, G. R. Webster and George Swingley.

Hon. Z. Aplington, in 1854, was the owner of the principal part of the town, and he it was who gave it its present name, in honor of Marco Polo, the Venetian traveler. The name has at least one important advantage, in that there is not another town of the same name in the United States.

In June, 1857, the *Polo Transcript* was started by Chas. Meigs, Jr., who continued its publication until about the 1st of April, when the materials were purchased by the proprietor of the *POLO ADVERTISER*. On the 14th of April, 1858, was issued the first copy of the *Ogle County Banner*, R. P. Redfield, Publisher for a joint stock company. On the 6th of May, the first number of the *ADVERTISER** was issued, since which

time its publication has been continued without intermission. In January, '59, Mr. Redfield purchased the *Banner* office, and at once enlarged the paper. It is a matter of no small credit to Polo that she supports her two newspapers, and supports them well.

There are now in Polo two printing-offices and newspapers, three hotels, nine grain dealers, seven dry-goods stores, two drug and book stores, two hardware stores, two millinery stores, one melodeon factory, one wind grist-mill, one steam planing mill, three blacksmith shops, two bakeries, fifteen carpenters, four shoe shops, three lawyers, two coal yards, one wagon factory, one wood turner, three tailors, one cooper shop, three harness shops, one tin shop, one paint and oil store, two painters, two dentists, four practicing physicians, one furniture room and cabinet shop, four lumber yards.

In 1857, a large and commodious Presbyterian Church was erected at a cost of about \$10,000. It has a basement which is used for the purpose of a lecture room. The upper part is capable of seating five hundred persons. The building is made of brick, and is one of the first things to strike the eye in approaching the town. Rev. William E. Holyoke is the present Pastor. In June, 1858, a parish was organized under the canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and called Trinity Church. It is the design of the Vestry to erect a handsome and commodious church edifice during the coming summer. At present they have regular services at Union Hall. Rev. Charles J. Todd is Rector of the parish. The

*See advertisement on second page of cover.