These are construction and operating journals of the Memphis, Kansas and Colorado Railway, a narrow gauge branch line of the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad. The branch was consolidated with other lines in 1888.

Organized as a Kansas corporation in 1877, the Memphis, Kansas and Colorado Railway’s fifty-mile line was completed from Weir City, Kansas, to Cherryvale, Kansas, by 1881. A change to standard gauge (fifty-six and one-half inches) was made in 1882. The parent company and its branches were consolidated as the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Springfield Railroad Company in 1888.

The first volume contains the construction records of the line from July 1880 through July 1881. Included are the figures for the line extension from Parsons, Kansas, to a junction with the Kansas City, Lawrence and Southern Railroad. Poor’s Manual of the Railroads of the United States (1880) indicates that the extension was the beginning of a proposed narrow-gauge line from Memphis, Tennessee, to San Juan, Colorado.

The second volume also contains construction records, as well as accounts of bond, mortgage, and interest payments, and operating expenses. Included are the costs of the change of gauge in 1882. The last entry in this volume records the details of consolidation in 1888.


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