

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

1878 AUG 23 - 30

FOLDER NO.

11-4

JAMES J. HILL PAPERS

PLEASE RETAIN
ORIGINAL ORDER

Memphis

Aug 23. 1878

J. I. Will Esq
St Paul

My dear Sir

I am in receipt of your
letter of 18 & 20 - I am glad to hear
that you have got the 50% reduction in
prices in New York Chicago. Can you
ask them to take any in Dec?
If you can will & good only it is not a
matter of such importance as to make
a great favor of it.

I am glad the ties are coming so
quickly.

The position of the New York Knives

[8-23-78]

I will keep at Kennedy & he will keep
at the Cambria by ~~giving~~ ^{giving} them no
rest until we get the final delivery.
Push on for Pembina, full blast.
Get the track down leaving the
riding until the last.

I am glad ~~Mr~~ ^{Mr} Farley has decided
on employing the centre dump^{cars}
in ballasting.

I hope the Winnipeg people interested
in the Steamboat stock will promptly
follow No. 1's example. I think
you should write to Mr Smith and
port him up ~~thoroughly~~ ^{thoroughly} as to the
position of the ~~Co~~ ^{Co} get him to see
Waggoner & the other Winnipeg
holders.
(2)

[F-23-76]

It would be a good thing if we got all
the stock & have trouble & perhaps some
vermin & bother, now that
Lyons is gone & he got Hargrave then
will there be only \$4000 left in Winnipeg
& 13000 outside of it. in all 22000
which could probably all be got

Am writing to W. H. Hutton today
about Steamboat matters & urging him
to do all he fairly can as Pres.
of the Steamboat Co. and interests
in the S. P. & C. to send all the
people he ^{fairly} can over on line
to St. Paul rather than
over the R. P. which is no concern
of ours.

[8-23-74]

I hope advantage will be taken of
Mr Wright's presence in St Paul
to get all matters in dispute between
his Coy & ours. Settled of bonds.
Tell Mr W that nothing good to
himself or his road can come
of his mean over Sargeant acting
towards the St M & P as he has
tried to do. We wish to be perfectly
fair & liberal with them in
all matters. but will not consent
to have our rights questioned &
trampled upon by any one.

Mr Kennedy told Mr Lewis the
Master of Saybrook Estate some
wholesome

[8-23-78]

truth the other day in Phila. which
I hope will be a point & lead me
to right to be more reasonable
with you.

The most dread of coal prices
is reced. As to the position of the
Board matter. I have sent
you full particulars.

Referring to what you say
on 7th June of 20th about
the Rolling Stock & its being
changed to the new line. I
will write to Kennedy & get
him to help me to get the
matter put right. Yours &c
Geo. Thompson

Montreal

Aug 23. 1878

J. I. White Esq
St Paul.

My Dear Sir

Thank Mr Whipple for
communicating Boiesesans Co's
letter. It will be safe for Mr
Whipple to say in reply, regarding
the "American" bid, that it is
almost impossible even to guess
what its final outcome may
be. The difficulties in the way
of a full settlement of the St
Paul & Pacific doubtless are

[8-23-78]

many & very complex in their nature
she would be a bold man who
would undertake to say ^{when}
how they will be finally ^{arranged}.

Or something to that effect.

It would never do to let any
one in Amsterdam get hold of
the idea of buying assented
Certs. If anything is to be made
in that way we want
to do it ourselves. But the
time has not come yet ^{properly} to
act & Mr. Uppham will be doing

[8-23-74]

a service of the ~~agent~~ tele,
Messrs Borsario & Co that they
had better not touch either
City or Bond at present.

Just what you say as to
the Branch line Bond. and
as regards the 12^s which are all
held in this country, I think
you may instruct Whippam
to go on buying all that came
into the market at 75 or where
they leave the bank confirm
80. As regards the 28^s held
in

[8-23-76]

Amsterdam. Will give no orders
about them until after the
time for admission to the Dec^r ^{Guest}
has closed say 10 days more.

It is not advisable then should
be any demand in Holland
for either Bonds or Certs at
present. Yours &c

Geo Thompson

Messrs Kittson & Rice } St Paul August 24. 1878

Dear Sir } The St Paul and Pacific road
is between two powerful Corporations - it has no natural
obligation to enable it to defend itself against an
opposition that may arise - The St Paul and Duluth
Road may fall into unfriendly hands - The North Pacific
& Wisconsin Central will soon be connected and as their
interests are one they will mutually work.

In my mind there is no doubt but
the line from Minneapolis to Sauk Rapids on the west side of
the river will be built - Now I wish to call your at-
tention to the North Wisconsin Road - this is finished to a
point 60 miles distant from this city - 20 miles are now
being added - it passes over a good grade - and though the
only unappropriated & valuable forests in the north west, St.
Lake terminates, Rayfield is one of the best harbors in the world,
is open on the average 30 Commercial days each year longer
than is the Duluth harbor - by connecting it with your road, thus
securing a natural outlet would it not give you strength that

will enable you to successfully stand any pressure
that adverse interests may dictate?

Excuse suggestions, but believe
me your friend truly
Henry M Rice

Memphis

Aug. 26. 1878

J. I. Hill Esq

St Paul

My dear Sir Since writing to you
this morn. under separate cover,
I have recd. two letters from
J. S. K. Co. dated 23^d & 24th.
Stating that they have requested
L. & R. to cable them, as soon
after 4th Feb. as possible. the
amt. of the assent of each class.
When that information reaches
us we shall know exactly how the

2

[8-26-78]

Bored in other stands, they add that
 after these repeated opportunities
 for action, we need have no
 compunction about squeezing
 the obturate as hard as may
 be necessary.

They say in regard Borger's
 letter to Upborne. That my ^{suggestion}
 as to the tenor of the answer Mr
 Upborne should send to B&C
 are "all right" will save them
 the necessity of replying to that
 part of your letter, adding that
 they are quite of my opinion that

[8-26-78]

3

any money to be made ~~last~~
the way B. Co. suggested ought
to be made by ourselves.

• Mr K is greatly pleased with the
reduction of 50¢ on pt. from
Clucays which Mr Fairley
managed to get. & he hopes Mr
F will be equally successful
in getting them to take Deb.

In regard to the remittance of \$16.75⁰⁰
on acc of R R & M. They ask
how they are to dispose of
it. That it really belongs to us
but they do not see, they say
how

[8-26-78]

they can pay it over to us
except as interest on ^{the bond}
or a dividend on the stock,
supposing that for the present
they had better deposit in the
B of M in their own name
as agents of the RR & the road.
It seems to me that the regular
thing to do will be to find all
the money that comes from
that source as interest on the
Bonds, and if the amt be too
large to be absorbed in that way
then pay the balance in
form of dividends on the stock.

5

[8-26-76]

But you will know that here
the matter can be dealt with
so as to accomplish our object
the easiest. By getting all the
money we can scrape him
into the B of M to our credit

I have just sent you a wire
about the construction contract,
which I would like to see
completed. I have also added
that it would be a good thing
to take advantage of *Wright's*
to try for a full settlement
of all matters in dispute with
them

[8-26-76]

6
though of course I hardly look
for much in thing as a possibility.
Mr Kennedy has been driving
the Cambria Co. ^{so pertinaciously} so pertinaciously
that they have got a "little
mad" with him - that they
will soon be over. I merely
mention it is that Mr Farley
may see that we are doing
all we can to push forward
iron.

Yours &c

Geo Stephen

Montreal 26th August 1878

J. J. Hill Esq

St Paul. Minn.

My dear Sir, I am in receipt of yours of the 21st enclosing a press copy of yours of same date to I.S. & Co. the first seven or eight lines of which are so blotched that I have not been able to make out what they refer to, further than that they refer to a note & some one has sent you asking to be paid something or a part of something about which you ask I.S. & Co to advise you - what to do in relation to the matter - All the rest is quite plain.

I am glad Mr Farley has sent an installment of the money due to the R. R. & Co. line to I.S. & Co & hope you will not be disappointed in getting an additional \$25,000

by December, as we shall need every cent
we can rap on and ~~more~~ too.

My recent letters will have posted you
thoroughly as to the position of the Bond matter.

I shall be glad to get a correct statement
of the total amount outstanding to date as soon
as you have made it up.

The question of how we mean to
reach the goal at which we are aiming - whether
by buying the Stock or the outstanding Bonds
has already been decided; that is, so far as
a decision is possible, and we are all un-
animous that in every respect the Stock
is the "bridge" to carry us over.

I need not weary you by repeating
what I have already said in favor of this
course, or by adding any additional
reasons in its favor over the Bond "bridge".

Our friend Mr. Thompson must I presume
have returned from his chicken hunt long ere
this & has I hope initiated negotiations with
Mr. Bigelow. There should be no time lost
in beginning. Time is just the thing we can
least spare, and it is only to save time that
I would consent to deal with Fitchfield at all.

I trust therefore you will do all
you can to push this matter - which is one
of radical importance to us - in fact supreme.

It is then understood that all our
efforts are to be directed to a purchase of
Fitchfield's interest; and that for the present
we do not want any more Bonds except
those of the Branch Line, which I will arrange
to buy as soon as the opportunity for
adhesion now open in Amsterdam has
been closed - say end of this week.

We will buy all the 12^s & 28^s that can be got, under any circumstances, but as to the 3^s & 6^s we do not want another Bond unless we fail to settle with f- and in that event. we want every one of them. This is the whole matter and what we have to do now, is, to work persistently according to the plan thus mapped out.

As to Land Sales my own opinion is that we should prevent them being resumed for the present - and until we are ready, by every means in our power.

If we find that we cannot deal with Fitchfield and have to buy the Bonds, we will get them easier and much cheaper, if they are not exchangeable for lands.

You can see here again how necessary it is that we should lose no time in finding out what can be done with Fitchfield. As

[8-26-75]

As to the foreclosure of the Extension line in December, its importance to us is beyond all question, and do not let our legal friends think for a moment that it is short of life & death affair.

They must get the decree in the December term.

I note what you say about the completion of the Pembina Branch, and will see Mr Mackenzie about it as he passes through here this week.

I will take care of Bridges & see that our U. P. enemies get no advantage. I am glad to hear that you expect to get the Garry stock in the Steamboat line. That is the best and surest way of securing our object in regard to the Garry Squares.

You do not say a word about the Contract for Construction. I hope that
has

been all arranged. This ~~is~~ ^{is an} important
matter for us.

I hope the work of Construction is
going on with vigor. The weather is
now getting cool so that men can work
better. I am committed to be in Pembina
first week of October. I hope that W.^r
Farley will see that I am not disgraced.

Have the Trustees relieved Breed?

If we could settle with Litchfield
and also with Wright while he is in
St Paul, so that all legal opposition in
both 1st Div + Extension lines was at an end,
what a capital thing it would be! - and
although I am confident such a settle-
ment would be the best thing for all
parties, especially for the U.P. & for Litchfield;

Such is the perversity of human nature
that I have not much hope that it can
be done.

A settlement with Wright of all
matters in dispute between them & us
would be a bit of good news to us
all, down here.

I am, my dear Sir,
Yours truly
Cotton

[Blank No. 1.]

The North Western Telegraph Co.

The rules of this Company require that all messages received for transmission shall be written on the message blanks of the Company, under and subject to the conditions printed thereon, which conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message.

C. H. HARRIS, Gen'l Supt.
MILWAUKEE, WIS.

E. S. SIMMONS, President.
H. B. HUNSDALE, Secretary.
KENDOTA, WIS.

Dated, *Winnipeg Man 928* 1878

Received at *ST. PAUL, MINN* 4 30 p.m.

To *for*

*Asperula Grot will not
Ridge Guarded Lake occultation
act until
Growth Verapheatum upper right Asafetida
fatures Create Rucyed derivation Rhubarb
Asa Hyper*

A. A. Smith

16 Paid 142



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org