

Grand Forks, Sept. 21, 1878

J.J. Mill Esq;

Dear Sir:

I understand Mr. Kittson has left for the East. I heard nothing from him in regard to any of the Co's affairs, although I wrote one or two letters informing of the situation up here which is daily growing worse.

I suppose you know that we are wearing out our stock very fast and making no money nor giving satisfaction to anyone. In about 30 days we will be caught with a lot of freight accumulated on our hands, everybody clamoring for their freight, and I will be ordered to run boats to the last minute taking chances on their being frozen up before they get through. Now we have two or three boats that must hauled out before there is any ice or I will not be responsible for the result. What may happen to the balance of the line in the next month is more than I can tell, for our two best boats, the Minnesota and the Manitoba leak like two old baskets, and the wear and tear at this stage of water is perfectly fearful. You need not be surprised to hear of any one of them being on the bottom of the river at any time. The Minnesota ^{sank} ~~sank~~ the barge "Chippewa" in the Red Lake River Wednesday night, damaging quite a lot of freight I had the boat enter Protest here. I think Syons & M----- & Mallock of Winnipeg will be the largest losers.

The Company loses the use of the best barge and what it cost to raise and repair it, which (latter) will not be a very great expense.

I want to commence hauling out about the 20th. of Oct. or at least not later than the 25th. Oct., for the river is so low that should we have an early cold snap, it is sure to close. Even if we have a late fall, it will take out the Minnesota and the Manitoba; hope to get along without anything further, unless we have an accident which will make it necessary to haul out something else to save the property. The repairs to be put on these boats will be hull work almost exclusively, as the passenger business is at an

end

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end, and repairs to upper works, painting and outfit, will not be attempted. The "Alpha" has knocked herself to peices a good deal on the docks in L.R. & A. Have just received a telegram from Sheets that they knocked off a stag, and if we could get consent of the customs authorities to run him up here for repairs it would be best to do it.

While I don't have the least particle of faith in the completion of the ^{ice} Pembuin before the close of navigation, so that any trains can be run over it; I am still hoping that it will be done in order to be able to run our boats from there for a week or two which would release a boat or two at once and let us haul them out. Write me what you think of the prospect, and don't ~~decei~~ deceive yourself or be too imaginative in regard to the completion of the road to do us any good this fall.

The C. barges were started from ^{Fisher} ~~Fernu~~ Tuesday evening. I came the most of the way with them, and it was an awfull job to get them out of the Red Lake River, the one carrying the locomotive draws more water than there is in the river, but there is no way to light it. We gave them out last night (nearly three and a half days from Fernu), and they left here towed by the Dakota this morning. As there is less water in the Red River below here than in the Red Lake River it is uncertain when they will get down, the last boat u up last night reported that they had to pull over with a line coming up stream lights at more than twenty different places.

I see the Canada general election has gone against the government. I think this will defeat Mr. Smith - without a doubt - I hope it will not effect your inte ests unfavorably but have been quite anxious about it.

Please let me hear from you, Excuse haste,

Yours truly,

E.V. Holcombe

[Blank No. 1.]

The North Western Telegraph Co.

The rules of this Company require that all messages received by this Company 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 messages.

J. H. HARRIS, Sec'y & Treas.
MILWAUKEE, WIS.

E. S. HINGSTON, President.
E. S. HINGSTON, Secretary.
KENOSHA, WIS.

Dated, *Winnipeg*, *23* *1878*

Received at

To *James J. Hill*

glad know extension
vigorously pushed up
reports excellent progress
branch election *reports with*
success *friends what*
gains worth *stunt*
plans

Don a Smith

17/14/11

DELAWARE, LACKAWANNA & WESTERN RAILROAD CO.,

COAL DEPARTMENT.

26 EXCHANGE PLACE

P. O. Box 2090.

New York, Sept 23 1878

J. J. Hill Esq
St Paul
Minn.

Dear Sir,

I permit me to
introduce to you Mr W. S. Child
of this city whom brother Mr
L. P. Child of our office you may
remember having met here.
- Mr Child visits the West for
the benefit of his health and may
be glad to receive from you
the suggestions and information
bearing upon the circumstances
favorable to his condition and
wishes. I write without particu-
lar knowledge as to his intentions
but know that you will take
pleasure in furthering them
when he shall have indicated to
you his desires. It occurs to
me that possibly a trip up
your famous Red River country
may be of benefit to him especially

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if it can be so arranged as to
procure for him some light
employment to engage his
attention and divert his mind.
I need not assure you that
I shall deem any favor you
may extend to her child as
adding to the obligations I
am already under to you.

Very truly yours

A. C. Holden

Horace Thompson Pres. L.C. Reed Vice Pres. H. P. Alphonse Cashier

THE
First National Bank,
OF
SAINT PAUL,
UNITED STATES DEPOSITORY.
CAPITAL \$1,000,000. SURPLUS, \$250,000.

St. Paul, Minn. Sep 23 1878
J. J. Hill Esq
N.Y.

Becker applies
again to clear his land
matter.

I had told him that the Bond
would be furnished.

If the Bonds are not here
don't fail to bring them with
you. that it may be ended

Very truly
Yours
Horace Thompson

Dear Sir

Feb 23. 1878

My Dear Mr Hill

This will be
also by two pieces
of mine from Halfan
both in H.M.S. Mr
Owen & Capt. Elms
They are going to
Winnipeg & then on
to Brit. Columbia or
California, shooting
all

the way if they can.
Will you kindly do
what you can to
expedite their coming
as far as possible
I oblige you
Respectfully

J. H. H. E.



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