

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

1878 SEPT 24 - 30

FOLDER NO.

11-8

JAMES J. HILL PAPERS

PLEASE RETAIN
ORIGINAL ORDER

41 CEDAR STREET,
NEW YORK

Sep 24th 1878

Res. Stephen Gay
Montreal

My dear Sir I returned from Phila.
last evening - I saw the parties
who represent the "Pennsylvania
interest" in the N. or Pacific and
learned that they are very anxious
to work in harmony with us.

They told me that Wright-Stanlee
Carr Cherry Billings and Thoad
who held largely in N. or Pacific
originally have about sold out on
exchanging for lands, but having the
negotiations they have sent out blanks
and received proxies from the seating
holders of the preferred stock and as
that way have kept themselves in
power, and that at the present time

they think Wright-St. have proxies
for a majority of the pfd stock
The "Penn interest" hold a large
amt of ^{the} stock and a still larger
amt of the bonds which have not
exchanged for the preferred stock.
a much larger amount they think
than could be gathered against
them - Col. Batts who leads
this party will attend the meeting
of stockholders tomorrow and
has been asked by Wright to take
a place on the Board of Directors
When the West side line comes
up he is going to say that it is a
new question to most of them and
while they recognize the importance
of an all rail connection to the
East, they think it a very important
matter as to who controlled the line
and how the connection was to be
made &c. by the St Paul & Pacific
or otherwise - and named the whole
subject be referred to a Committee
of the stock holders to investigate
and report - This you see will

place Coll. Veto as Chairman of the Com. and the whole subject will be in the hands of those who desire to work in harmony with us.

Unless Wright has fully made up his mind to rush matters thro' at any rate, he will not dare to oppose an interest that can at another time put him and his friends out entirely. Again these people say that Wright is trying to induce them to work with him and his friends so that I think they will succeed in having it referred to the Committee.

On the whole I am well satisfied with the trip and feel that unless Wright is under some bargain to build the Westside line and will not therefore dare trust the Committee this "Peace party" will work with us and the end will be that Wright and his friends will have to step down and out.

Mitchell is here and has a meeting of his own Board today. I will not go out of my way to find him as your letter will do him more good

than anything that can be said and at the same time while it calls for action on his part he cannot raise any questions or make any qualified denials until he has been compelled to act one way or the other.

Enclosed I send you a letter from E. C. G. which speaks for itself and says about nothing. I will make no reply to it as I had already written him to leave word at the P. & M. when he would be in N.Y. and when you were in the City you would probably call to see what might be done if anything. I leave for home this P.M. and will on my arrival see that Bigelow understand the Nor. Pacific seems determined to build. I am sure this will effect L. more than anything else and our time to deal with him is while this remains uncertain & c. - Please advise me anything new and believe me
Yours very truly Jas. H. Hill

Wentworth

Sept 25, 1878

My Dear Sir

I am writing
you this very short
note from the
the Westminster. I
now see how read
your message to me
give me the idea
that you would
want to forward the
letter to the whole
to

Phila, I am in
doubt good will result
from your having seen
him. If we only
knew what they
really meant and
intended to do. We
should know how
to act. Yours &

W. L. Stephens

No. Message will be received for transmission unless written on the proper blank, or attached thereto.

READ THE CONDITIONS PRINTED ON THIS BLANK.

THE NORTH WESTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

All Messages taken by this Company subject to the following terms:

To guard against mistakes, the sender of a message should order it REPEATED: that is, retransmitted back to the originating office. For repeating, one-half the regular rate is charged in addition. And it is agreed between the sender of the following message and the Company, that said Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery of any message beyond the amount required for sending the same, nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery of any message beyond fifty times the sum required for sending the same, unless specially insured. nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruptions in the working of their lines, nor for errors in cipher or obscure messages. And the Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward any message over the lines of any other Company when necessary to reach its destination.

Corrections in the transmission of messages to any point on the lines of this Company can be in cipher by contract in writing, stating agreed amount of risk, and payment of premium thereon at the following rates, in addition to the usual charges for repeated messages, viz: one per cent. for any distance not exceeding 1,000 miles, and two per cent. for any greater distance. No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

The Company will not be liable for damages in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after sending the message.

H. B. HINSDALE, Secretary. C. H. HASKINS, Gen'l. Mgr. Z. G. SIMMONS, President.

Send the following Message subject to the above terms, which are agreed to.

To J. J. Hill
Please direct utmost dispatch in forwarding engine and cars using two steamers one for each cargo, send instructions to Punta. Miller here most anxious.
D. A. Smith
and by Mr Farley

ALL AMOUNTS MUST BE WRITTEN OUT, AND DUPLICATED IN FIGURES.

J. J. Hill Esq
St Paul.

Montreal Sept 25th 1878

My Dear Sir

I have your letter of yesterday
with its enclosure.

Litchfield is a wary bird, on
whose tail it is not easy to put
salt. I shall make no move until
he does.

In regard to our Northern
Pacific friends we must wait and
watch. I think Wright and his
clique will try to force the building
of the West side line.

If we had settled with Litchfield
and were a little more firmly seated
in the saddle, I would be much
inclined to go in for Porters scheme

of controlling the road.

My letter to Mitchell had been sent to the Post before I got your message.

I sent it open under cover to Barnes for him to read.

All this I wired to you at the Westminister last night, requesting you to instruct Barnes about forwarding it to Mitchell at Philadelphia.

I shall be curious to see what reply Mitchell makes.

Farley wires me today that work on the R R line is progressing well, and says that we must begin laying iron on Alexandria line on 1st Oct.

I wrote to him last night, pointing out the supreme necessity of our having the Debuttees not later

than 1st November.

It will be well that Bigelow
should understand the full import
of the building of the west side
line. I have written J S Kennedy & Co
to see that the last 1000 tons
made by the Cambria Company are
reheated.

I am, Dear Sir

Yours very truly

Geo L Stephen

[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. E. HARRIS, Sec'y, Sept. 1
MILWAUKEE, WIS.

J. J. HILL, President.
E. S. HINDALE, Secretary.

St. Paul, Minn.
Sept. 1, 1878

Dated *Minneapolis* *Mar 26* 1878

Received at *ST. PAUL, MINN.* *Sept 26*

To *J. J. Hill*

*Smith elects majority eight or
ten @*

A. B. Miller

6 paid/00

Montreal Sep 7/78

J. J. Hill Esq
St Paul

Dear Sir

By direction of Mr
Stephen, we beg to enclose
herewith copies of a letter
from Geo Stark Vice Pres.
of the Nor Pac R.R., and Mr
Stephen's reply thereto.

Mr. Stephen also desires
us to say that he will
write to you tomorrow.

Yours truly
Geo Stephen & Co
per R.R.

Northern Pacific RR Office

28 3 Ave. New York 26-841 78

(Yes, I like you)
 Sincerely,
 Dear Sir,

At the Annual meeting of
 the stockholders of the Northern Pacific Railway
 Co. held in the City of Portland, the subject
 of securing a freight car more satisfactory
 in construction between such Rapidly Running
 cars and the car, was very fully discussed, and
 by a resolution unanimously passed, one
 was made in which it was decided that
 a reasonably long freight car, satisfactory and
 permanent arrangement can be made with
 the Great and Pacific Railway, the history of
 them for securing the satisfaction of the
 freight car from such Rapidly Running the
 first in situation.

At a subsequent meeting of the Board
 of Directors, a committee was appointed
 to carry on the negotiations of the Committee
 toward of (our friends) of the Pacific
 and the Great and Pacific Railway, and the Pacific
 Railway to the matter which the Pacific

and myself had the pleasure of helping with
you at this office a short time since
and the views you then expressed of the
desirability of harmonizing the difficulties
between the two Companies without resort
to competitive measures, our committee
desires me to write you to meet with
them for a friendly discussion of the situation.
They suggest that as your business affairs
often call you to New York, and it would
be much more convenient for them to meet
you here, than elsewhere, they would be pleased
to have you come to this City for an interview.
Will you kindly favor them with a reply
to the communication, and if agreeable
to you to become a party to such a
meeting, please name the earliest time
for it that your convenience will permit.

Respectfully,
Yours &c.

Signed Geo. Stark
Vice Pres.

Copy

Montreal Sept 27 1878

Geo Stark Esq
New York

Northern Pacific Railway
New York

Dear Sir,

Referring to your letter of yesterday, for which I am obliged, I think the object, which I hope we all have in view, will be more speedily and easily attained if the gentlemen forming the Committee of your Board to which the matters in conflict between the two Companies have been referred, will at once act upon the suggestion I made to Mr Wright and yourself last Friday.

You will remember that I went so far in the interests of peace as to say that if Mr Wright would take into fair consideration the legitimate interests of both roads, and put down on paper what he wanted the St Paul & Pacific to do in order to put an end to all disputes and differences of every kind between the two roads I would promptly do my best to meet his views.

If the gentlemen forming the Committee will act upon the suggestion, I shall not

have a day in communicating with
them, after I have had information
of their views.

I need not repeat my earnest
desire that peace and friendship
between the two Companies should
be maintained.

I am Dear Sir

Yours truly

Signed Geo. Stebbins

[Blank No. 1.]

The North Western Telegraph Co.

The rates 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. HASTINGS, Gen'l Mgr.

MILWAUKEE, WIS.

E. J. HENNING, President.

E. D. HIGHTALE, Secretary.

KESHOGUA, WIS.

Dated *Winnipeg* *Mar 27* 187*8*

Received at *ST. PAUL, MINN.* *Apr 6*

To *J. J. Hill*

*Wired Fisher yesterday to
know about supper &
now Car why don't
he answer.*

A. B. Willis

1st paid 128

[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 hereon, which conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message.

C. E. HARRIS, Genl Supt.

MILWAUKEE, WIS.

E. J. HARRIS, President

E. J. HARRIS, Secy.

KENTON, WIS.

Dated, *Sept 27*, 187*8*

Received at *ST. PAUL, MINN.*

To *Hill*

Marcus Smith Chief Engineer
left by steamer last
night expects reach Fishers Landing
Monday very desirable you
meet him there &
show him progress work
on extension that he
may report to Government
and urge expedition from
branch answers

Don A Smith

37 Col

Montreal Sept 28th 1878

J J Hull Esq
St Paul.

My dear Sir I sent you last night
a copy of the R O letter to me and
of my reply, and now I send you a
copy of Mitchell's letter.

If he is correct in his view, the
threat to build the west side line
is made merely to squeeze good
terms out of us.

It will be to our advantage to
give them good fair terms, and to
deal with them in the way we
have said to them that is our wish
to do, and if they refuse to be
reasonable, the moral advantage in
any fight that ~~they~~ may be forced
upon us will be with us and

against them

What do you think of Mitchell's letter?

Of course you have heard that Mr Smith is elected by a majority of 10.

I have a wire from him today saying that he will be down soon.

The indications of an early winter are creeping in upon us down here very fast.

Say to Mr Farley that I am looking to him to get me those debentures by 1st November at very latest.

I am much engaged today, but will write you fully tomorrow.

Yours very truly
C. O. Stephens

[Sept. 28, 1878]

[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. HASTINGS, Gen'l Supt.
MILWAUKEE, WIS.

79

E. G. SIMMONS, President.
E. B. HINDSALL, Secretary.

1228
KENOSHA, WIS.

Dated, Minneapolis even 28 1878

Received at ST. PAUL, MINN. Sept 28

To James J. Hill

IS + OR
Not Extra Amt
No reply guarded fairness anticipated
Smith
Sophistry urges permission is
most favorable
Knapples finding important must
him
San A. Smith

15 call 135

[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 books of the Company, under and subject to the conditions printed thereon, which conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message.

S. H. HASKINS, Sec'y & Dep.

MILWAUKEE, WIS.

C. D. HUNDELL, President.

KENOSHA, WIS.

Dated.

Winneapolis 29

1878

Received at

ST. PAUL, MINN.

252pc

To

James J. Hill

Ask Farley to telegraph
fully satisfactory reply to
free press telegram about
St Vincent branch.

A. A. Smith

14 Paid 128

OFFICE OF
The Red River Transportation Company,

NO. 120 EAST THIRD STREET.

N. W. KITTSON, General Manager,
C. MICHAEL, Secy and Treas.

St Paul, Sept 30. 1878.

Dear Sir:-

I beg you will permit me to address you in the first place, rather than any other. As sent to you, I may consider you my patron here.

The probability that business in this office will soon be very much curtailed, induces me to write & urge you very earnestly to keep me in remembrance, in any changes on your line by which my position may be improved & my income increased.

I beg you will allow me now to say, & I do so in no boastful spirit - that my education in all branches, is surpassed by that of very few - My liability is well appreciated, my capacity for work has not been adequately tested in this office - My

familiarity with the work entrusted
to me here is such as is not
likely to be much improved by
a longer apprenticeship - and
as I was placed here merely
to prepare for some thing better -
I trust you will not over look
me should an opening occur
on the St. P. & P. R. R. by which I
may obtain promotion soon -

I trust you will wish me to
report favorably to those of my friends
through whose introduction Mr. Stephen
sent me here - before they leave for
England - In the mean time
that you will not consider me
obtrusive but believe me,

most faithfully Yrs

Geo. Will Higginson

J. S. Willing

Wm. H. 3



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