

Coal - Transportation

June 7, 1877

Hill to F. B. Clarke, General Freight Agent
Re conversation this morning re coal via Chicago will give our views as follows: the aggregate amount of coal sold in St. Paul, Stillwater, and Minneapolis during the past year was a trifle over 1800 tons. Our coal coming by way of Duluth cost us from Buffalo, Erie or Cleveland for freight and handling to St. Paul \$2.60 to \$2.90 per ton and with these figures the present low prices of coal in the Eastern markets makes the all rail coal in Chicago too high.... We have a trade at Faribault, Austin, Redwing, Lake City & other towns on the Milwaukee and St Paul RR. which takes a [redacted] 3500 to 4000 tons. Up

to the present time this season we have shipped all of our coal via Duluth, but later we expect to bring some coal to Milwaukee for our trade with points on that road and probably some for St. Paul or Minneapolis. We would be very glad to give some of our carrying to the C&N.W. but heretofore this spring whenever we have figured on contracts which would be filled some party from Chicago or the East with same or better rates than ours and in self defense have been compelled to get a competing rate in Duluth which we are always able to do... Heretofore we have been able every year to give the C&NW from 2 to 3000 tons of all rail coal and if the market recovers so that we can ship all rail this amount would be increased.

Hill & Acker, Letterbook, 10/5/76-11/14/77, p. 394