

Stephen, George

May 8, 1882

Hill to Stephen

Deep snows, heavy floods, rush of settlers have prevented me from giving the attention to construction that I expected. Under construction are: the Branches from Grafton to Smugglers' Point; from Larimore west; from Fleming to Hope; from Wahpeton West; from Clearwater to St. Cloud; St. Cloud to Hinckley; and from Morris east. The **rush** of settlers into the country north of Devil's Lake bids fair to eclipse anything that has occurred heretofore in the West and will I think result in locating the capital of northern Dakota on the north shore of the lake. We can arrange with parties controlling the lands at that point for such interest in any Town

that may be built as will go far towards defraying the expenses of grading the Road. An engineering decision is not the only one to be made; the commerce of the region should also be taken into account.

St.P.M.& M.Ry.LetterBook 6:123(3/24/82-4/23/83)