

Wood as fuel

October 14, 1880

Hill to Messrs. Gou<sup>u</sup>v<sup>w</sup>ell[?] & Rice, Willmar

I note what you say about the settlers being short of wood. The supply of wood on the main line thro' the Big Woods is getting less every year while the demand is more than doubling. In order to leave more wood for the settlers the Railway Co has changed during the last 8 months a large number of its locomotives to coal burners, it being our intention to burn coal almost entirely north and west of Willmar and Ferbus Falls but even with this change the people on the Main Line will have to burn coal to a large extent as there will not be wood enough here-

after to supply them and at the same time  
furnish a supply for road use. In order to  
help them out we have made a reduced rate on  
coal to all points on the main Line west of  
the Big Woods."

St.P. M.& M.Ry. LetterBook, 4:33 (1880 - 1881)

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Hill to R. B[?] Blanfield

Re coal supplies. "At the time I took charge of the road I put an entire stop to the hauling of wood to St. Paul and Minneapolis from points west of Wayzata in order to give a better suppl for the wants of the people along the main line and the Railroad Company," and last winter I started changing our locomotives over to coal. We have made a greatly reduced rate on coal to points west of the Big Woods so as to help introduce coal as a fuel for private use."

JJH St.P.M.& M.Ry.Lette bok, 4:30 (1880-1881)