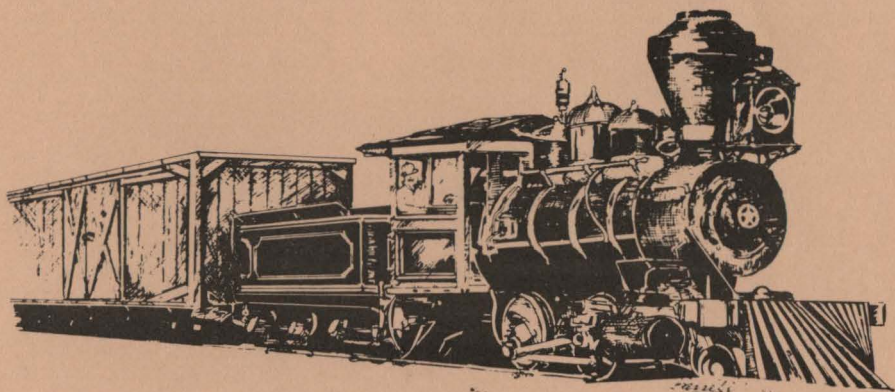


**GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY
COMPANY PAPERS
Part I, 1862-1922**

**Series A:
Board of Directors' Minutes and
Corporate Histories**

**Series B:
Labor**

**Series C:
Settlement and Development**



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NOTE ON SOURCES

Materials for this publication were filmed from the originals in the Great Northern Railway Company Records held by the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota. The series summary sheet and other introductory materials that precede each file within the collection were formulated by the Minnesota Historical Society for use by researchers utilizing the collection in its original form.

This publication is an edited collection. The complete Great Northern Railway Company Records include over 6,000 linear feet of material and cover the entire period of the railroad's existence to its 1970 merger with the Northern Pacific, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, and the Spokane, Portland & Seattle railways to form Burlington Northern, Inc. This publication deals primarily with the Great Northern's broad corporate policies, labor relations, and settlement and development activities, from 1862 to the First World War and its immediate aftermath. Files that extend beyond 1923 but which are not too extensive are included.

NOTE ON MICROFILMING

The file folders for this collection were not filmed. The contents of each folder are in chronological order. However, one should not assume that all of the folders, as a whole, are in correct chronological order. Some folders have "topics" or "subjects," each of which is in its own order. The material was microfilmed as it is filed at the Minnesota Historical Society. We have included file numbers, where available, and the locator numbers.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY PAPERS 1862-1922

The Great Northern Railway Company (GN) played a pivotal role in the conquest and development of the northwestern frontier, a territory that included Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Both nationally and regionally, the GN was a latecomer among transcontinental railroads—the Union Pacific was completed in 1869, while the Northern Pacific traversed the northern tier states in 1883. Yet the Great Northern, too, opened vast new lands in the Northwest, while it quickly surpassed other carriers in the region, despite the fact that it did not enjoy a federal land grant. Later, it served as a base for its president, James J. Hill, to ally with J.P. Morgan and construct the Northern Securities Company, a predecessor of Burlington Northern, Inc., which controlled the GN, Northern Pacific, and Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroads, and which was the largest corporation of its day.

The Great Northern, then, was an important member of the industry which spawned America's first big business. As such, it was a pioneer in its own right as it developed new techniques of management, finance, and labor relations, while it sponsored major campaigns for settlement and economic development along its lines.

This collection documents three important aspects of the GN's varied activities in the Northwest. The Corporate History section includes the minutes of the Board of Directors, bylaws, financing, and other matters vital to the planning and execution of management's policies, 1862-1946, although most of this material is concerned with the period prior to 1923. Within this section, researchers can trace the activities of the Great Northern and its predecessors. Among them was the St. Paul & Pacific, a north-south railroad incorporated in 1862, which was taken over in 1871 by Northern Pacific, which disposed of its stock only two years later when it was forced into receivership as a consequence of the Panic of 1873. Shortly thereafter, James J. Hill, Norman W. Kittson,

Donald A. Smith, George Stephen, and John S. Kennedy acquired the railroad, completed the line from St. Paul to Winnipeg, and secured the land grant owed the rejuvenated line. In 1879, they transferred their holdings to the new St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railway (Manitoba), which completed its first great leap toward the Pacific Coast in 1887, tapping the rich and fast-developing mines of western Montana Territory. Six years later, the Manitoba (Great Northern after 1890) reached Puget Sound and emerged as a major transcontinental railroad in its own right.

The Labor section documents the experiences of those who worked for the Great Northern, 1893-1941, although most of this material is concerned with the period prior to 1923. The GN served as an employer of first resort for thousands of westering laborers. This section details workers' varied experiences from 1893 to the period of company unionism that followed in the wake of the 1922 Shopmen's Strike. Topics included in the collection are wages and working conditions; labor organizations; strikes; the impact of race, ethnicity, and gender in the work force; federal intervention and legislation affecting the railroad; and other related matters.

The Settlement and Development section documents one of the Great Northern's and its predecessors' principal concerns, 1879-1946, although again, most of this material focuses on the period before 1923. The GN's welfare always was closely intertwined with general economic vitality and growth along its line. Consequently, it paid serious attention to agriculture and other matters within the territories it serviced. Similarly, the railroad launched strenuous campaigns to recruit farmers and others to settle the newly opened lands, while it played an important role in various irrigation and reclamation projects, primarily on the Great Plains and, west of the Rocky Mountains, on the Great Columbia Plain. A final topic documented in this section is the Great Northern's early role in the development of Glacier National Park and the tourist industry.

W. Thomas White

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- 0241 Folder 1—June–September 1910. 142pp.
- 0383 President's Subject Files: Agricultural Book Published by Great Northern Railway. 1910. 131pp. [File #4614, L 22.E.7.9B]
- 0514 President's Subject Files: Agricultural Matters. 1913-1915. 19pp. [File #6212, L 22.F.5.2F]
- 0533 President's Subject Files: Building of the Northwest—James J. Hill—Great Northern Train. 1912. 6pp. [File #1200-5, L 22.D.3.5B]
- 0539 President's Subject Files: Agricultural Development Scheme. 1914. 13pp. [File #6442, L 19.C.9.6F]

Immigration and Colonization

- 0552 President's Subject Files: Immigration and Colonization. 1904-1916. [File #4022, L 22.D.14.8F]
0552 Folder 6—January 1904-March 1910. 55pp.
0607 Folder 5—March-June 1910. 127pp.
0734 Folder 4—June 1910-June 1911. 93pp.
0827 Folder 3—March 1911-February 1912. 112pp.
0939 Folder 2—January-December 1912. 93pp.

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- 0001 President's Subject Files: Immigration and Colonization. 1904-1916 cont. [File #4022, L 22.D.14.8F]
0001 Folder 2—January-December 1912 cont. 29pp.
0030 Folder 1—January 1913-May 1916. 125pp.
0155 President's Subject Files: Immigration of Hindus. 1913. 75pp. [File #5874, L 22.F.3.5B]
0230 President's Subject Files: Immigration and Colonization—Agricultural Exhibit. 1916-1923. 134pp. [File #7648, L 19.D.6.2F]
0364 President's Subject Files: Immigration to Northern Minnesota. 1911-1915. 69pp. [File #4785, L 22.E.9.3B]
0433 President's Subject Files: Colonization in Central Oregon. 1910-1925. [File #4608, L 22.E.7.8F]
0433 Folder 1—January-June 1910. 139pp.
0572 Folder 2—June 1910-June 1911. 125pp.
0697 Folder 3—May 1911-April 1925. 140pp.
0837 President's Subject Files: Immigration to and Lands in Washington. 1911-1915. 86pp. [File #4788, L 22.E.9.3B]
0923 President's Subject Files: Development and Colonization of North Dakota. 1911-1922. 105pp. [File #4789, L 22.E.9.3B]

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- 0001 President's Subject Files: Irrigation and Reclamation. 1904-1916. [File #4013, L 22.B.14.6F; 22.B.14.5B]
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0087 Folder 16—April-July 1904. 114pp.
0201 Folder 15—February-October 1904. 118pp.
0319 Folder 14—March 1904-April 1905. 117pp.
0436 Folder 13—February-July 1905. 125pp.
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0643 Folder 11—March-July 1906. 71pp.
0714 Folder 10—May-November 1906. 62pp.
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- 0906 Folder 8—February 1908-May 1909. 111pp.
1017 Folder 7—May-August 1909. 149pp.
1166 Folder 6—September-December 1909. 53pp.

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- 0001 President's Subject Files: Irrigation and Reclamation. 1904-1916 cont. [File #4013, L 22.B.14.6F; 22.B.14.5B]
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0443 Folder 2—September 1911-November 1912. 98pp.
0541 Folder 1—April 1913-January 1916. 85pp.
0626 President's Subject Files: Irrigation and Drainage Conference. 1912-1916. 36pp. [File #5248, L 22.F.1.1B]
0662 President's Subject Files: General Irrigation File. 1916-1922. [File #8160, L 19.B.10.2F]
0662 Folder 1—November 1916-July 1922. 179pp.
0841 Folder 2—June-August 1922. 11pp.
0852 Project Maps. 52pp.
0904 President's Subject Files: Columbia Southern Irrigation Project. 1912. 12pp. [File #5015, L 22.E.10.4F]
0916 President's Subject Files: Quincy Valley Irrigation Project. 1911-1916. 131pp. [File #4700, L 22.E.8.9B]
1047 President's Subject Files: Wenatchee Park—Land and Irrigation Project. 1916-1918. 86pp. [File #7705, L 19.D.6.5B]
1133 President's Subject Files: Irrigation—Big Bend Project. 1918-1919. 6pp. [File #8891, L 19.D.14.10F]
1139 President's Subject Files: Irrigation Project in Jordan Valley. 1913. 6pp. [File #5503, L 22.F.2.2F]

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- 1145 President's Subject Files: Establishment of Glacier National Park and Other National Park Matters. 1909. 3pp. [File #325, L 22.E.4.1B]
1148 Great Northern Glacier Park Company: Histories and Related Records. 1911-1940. 151pp. [No File #, L 22.C.14.2F]
1299 President's Office, Chairman's Files: Glacier National Park—Superintendency. 1912-1914. 24pp. [File #66, L 22.A.1.8F]

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