

Mr. Abbott—My friend, the President, has stated exactly what we desired should be stated, and I do not know that I can add anything to it, except that I hope you and the committee will understand that we shall give the matter the most serious consideration possible, in order to present by and by, when the proper time arises, a business-like proposition, which we hope will be acceptable to the city, and one which the city will have confidence in seeing carried out.

I must also second what my friend, the President, says with respect to the reception given us here. Most of us have seen Portland before, but never under such pleasant and auspicious circumstances as to-day. We have had the pleasure of not only passing through the town, but have seen it from end to end. I must express my gratification at seeing your beautiful town, its beautiful roads and avenues of trees, something we are not able to raise in our country at the north—all that we are denied. I am sure the citizens of Portland can congratulate themselves on their beautiful harbor, and I have no doubt it will reach the position which it ought to hold, one of the largest and most prosperous seaports on the Atlantic coast. [Applause.]

Mayor Deering—For the information of the committee I will say that the parties in New York who have written the city in regard to the Portland and Ogdensburg railroad property, sent a messenger here on Saturday. He left Saturday evening to return to New York. He was given all the information I could give him, and to-day they sent the following telegram: "We are ready to meet the Council when you are ready to name a price for your property, and make a prompt settlement of this question." That is the telegram, and that is all there is of it.

Mr. Stephen—It has just occurred to me that I have forgotten a point which I should not have forgotten, that of seeing an article in to-day's paper from my friend General Washburne, of Minneapolis. I will now simply say that we have about completed a branch line of the Canadian Pacific, that is now within eighty miles of Sault Ste. Marie, the point Gen. Washburne contemplates; and we have undertaken to build these eighty miles and reach the sea as soon as they are ready to meet us. We have engaged to meet them at Sault Ste. Marie, and when that connection is made it does not require a very fertile imagination to see what is going to be the effect on the ports at the Atlantic receiving flour from Minneapolis in enormous quantities. IF WE CAN MANAGE TO GET THE FLOUR MANUFACTURED AT MINNEAPOLIS SHIPPED TO PORTLAND, YOU WILL HAVE A VERY BUSY HARBOR.