

had determined to run their boats to Oswego or to any other place; and now, when the line bids fair to return the investment so liberally made, it is not reasonable that the boats should be withdrawn at the dictum of the Great Western.

It is not necessary to dwell further on this. I have said enough, I trust, to show that the hostility assumed towards you by the Great Western and Central Companies was wholly unprovoked on your part; and remembering that their fares and tariffs have long been fixed at competition rates, while yours are far above that point, you have no reason to dread the measures they have threatened.

In order to facilitate the through business on your line, I endeavoured, during the past winter, to effect ticketing arrangements with the principal lines of traffic, east and west. In this endeavour I have, with one or two exceptions, met with a liberal response; and tickets over your road are now to be purchased in the offices of several connecting lines—to New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, in the east; and to the Mississippi in the west: an arrangement which will be rapidly extended. The only opposition, in fact, which has been presented, has originated with the New York Central line, which refuses to receive our tickets or to transact business with us. Fortunately the liberal arrangement made with the New York and Erie and connecting branches, prevents any ill effects resulting to your road from the narrow policy of the New York Central, its only effect being to unite your interests more definitely with the New York and Erie, and to induce a large amount of traffic over the latter, which would, under other circumstances, have been divided between the two.

The effort of the Great Western Company to induce the Mail Line of Steamers on Lake Ontario to refuse your tickets has not succeeded; and though that interest does