

there was less travelling. That accounts partly for the falling-off in the passenger traffic. Then, again, while the harvests in Ontario and other places have not turned out to be so good as was anticipated, yet the harvest for corn (maize) has been even greater than we had been led to believe. We were told they had the greatest harvest of it the world has ever seen, but prices have been much reduced, and there is not sufficient margin of profit; and they are at the present moment finding it cheaper to burn corn for fuel in some places than it is to burn coal. Then we have had continually complaints of the want of snow during the winter. They depend upon snow to make roads and bring traffic to the stations, and from the want of snow we have lost some traffic during the winter which could not be carried to the stations. But not only has there been a deficiency of snow but there has also been a deficiency of ice. This has turned to our advantage, for when they have, as they call it, a bad crop or no crop of ice in our more Southern districts we are abundantly supplied in our Lake district, in our Midland division, and we have been carrying a good deal of ice—in fact, there has been lumber that we have not been able to carry as promptly as we could wish, because we have been carrying so much ice. Happily for us, ice is not only a luxury but a prime necessity in a great part of America and Canada, and especially so in the great cities; and we may hope to earn during the summer some extra money for carrying ice to many regions of the United States, as large quantities have been stored in various districts of our line. We really hope now, and we are led to believe, that there may be what they call in America an improvement in trade and in travel. You will observe that, although a

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