

*Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,*

I hardly expected to be called upon to make a speech when I came here to-night, and I am afraid you will be disappointed if you expected anything of the kind. However, as we are here, it is proper that we should give you some idea of the object we had in coming here, and first let me thank you for the courtesies we have received since we have been here. We have had a very pleasant day, and have seen a great deal more of Portland than I have ever seen before. I have been here several times before, but only just passing through the city, and knew but very little about it. I see what a magnificent harbor you have, and what splendid facilities you have for becoming a great Atlantic port, and I will confess you have a fine outlook.

Perhaps you are aware that the Canadian Pacific Railway has been at work for three years. Three years ago we made a contract to build a line of railway from Montreal to the Pacific ocean, a distance of about 2,900 miles, and we have progressed so far that I think I am safe in saying that within two years, or two more working seasons, the road will be complete, and a main line connecting the Pacific Railway of Montreal to the Pacific ocean will be complete.

In addition to that we shall have by January or February of this coming year a line of Railway from Montreal to Chicago, connecting at St. Louis with the Canadian railway, giving us a through road from Montreal to Chicago. That brings us under the control of the Canadian railway and from the Pacific ocean to Montreal, a line from Chicago, AND IT IS NOT UNNATURAL, HAVING REACHED MONTREAL, AND, AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE, MONTREAL BEING ONLY A SIX MONTHS PORT, WE SHOULD BE LOOKING TO THE QUESTION OF REACHING THE ATLANTIC, AND IT IS NOT UNNATURAL THAT OUR EYES SHOULD BE CAST UPON THE MOST DIRECT WAY, AND WHETHER WE SHALL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH OUR OBJECT WILL DEPEND A LITTLE UPON YOURSELVES. WE THINK, AS I SAID BEFORE, THAT PORTLAND HAS GREAT CAPACITY IN THAT RESPECT, AND I MAY SAY, FOR MY COLLEAGUES AND MYSELF, WE ARE ANXIOUS TO DO ALL WE CAN TO ENDEAVOR TO GET A FOOTHOLD HERE. What the advantages, direct or indirect, of our coming here you are as able to foresee as I am. It is with that object in view that we are here to-night.