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OPEN THEM UP.

THAT IS, ALL OF OUR WATERWAYS IN THE GREAT NORTH-WEST.

A SUCCINCT STATEMENT OF WHAT MAY BE DONE FOR CHEAP TRANSIT,
BY THOMAS DOWSE.

St. Paul Dispatch :—Owing to the rapidity with which the business of the water convention was rushed through, several statistical speeches which had been prepared by different gentlemen from various sections were not submitted. Among them was a paper prepared with care by Thomas Dowse, Esq., of Duluth, which is so terse and yet so wide in scope and liberal in treatment, and bears so directly on the future of the North-West that the *Dispatch* is constrained to give it publicity. Mr. Dowse did not offer it to the convention because he thought Minnesota should let her guests have the floor. The paper is well worth reading and a wide circulation.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Convention :

That we may clearer understand the vast extent of these avenues of the Almighty—which the waterways of our country really are—and therefore the better comprehend them as a whole, and by the light of such comprehension be enabled to make the recommendations of this convention in relation to such parts of our natural system of waterways as may be actively considered by it, it will doubtless be wise to give place to these facts.

“ THAT A GREAT CONTINENTAL PLAIN STRETCHES

north and south between the Gulf of Mexico and the Arctic Ocean. It is bounded on its west side, throughout its whole extent, by the Rocky Mountain zone; on the eastern side in part by a less elevated region, the Appalachian zone.”

This great plain occupies the whole of the continent of North America between the western and eastern mountain ranges. It is divided by its river systems into three perfect and distinct drainage basins. One drains to the south into the Gulf of Mexico, another north into sub-Arctic waters, and the third east into the Atlantic by the channel of the great lakes and the River St. Lawrence. Of these three great basins that of the St. Lawrence is the smallest, and the northern is fully as large as the other two put together.