

S. Martindale, jr., La Crosse, Wis.: It is with the keenest regret that I find myself unable to attend as a delegate for the state of Wisconsin at Cleveland. The object of your association appeals to me strongly, as it seems to me it must to every citizen of the great west and our common country. I can see no enterprise, in which business men can engage, fraught with so much good to themselves and to their fellow men, as I believe will ultimately grow out of this deep-water navigation.

Geo. S. Morison, President A. S. C. E., New York: The subject which your association is to consider are of the highest importance and there are no matters of greater professional interest. I sincerely hope that this first annual convention will prove all that its best friends have hoped for and will result in the advancement of some of the most important interests with which our profession have to deal.

D. H. Bacon, President Minnesota Iron Company, Soudan, Minn.: Upon my return from Chicago I find my appointment as delegate to the first annual convention of the Deep Waterways association to be held in Cleveland on the 24th, 25th and 26th days of this month. I esteem it an honor and regret very deeply that it is impossible for me to be present, as matters of importance require my attention here. Let measure you of my support in any undertaking which will stand the close examination of business men and will promise the delivery of our product at the Atlantic, or abroad, or the product of other countries or of our seaboard cities, at our lake cities, at a saving to the whole.

R. S. Taylor, Mackinac Island, Mich.: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your kind invitation to be present at the first annual convention of the International Deep Waterways association, to be held at Cleveland, Ohio, September 24, 25 and 26, and beg to apologize for this tardy response to the same. I would esteem it a great pleasure to be present on that occasion. A considerable part of my time for a number of years past has been given to a work falling within the general field of the objects of your association.

Among all the economies which have transformed the conditions of life in modern days no one is more far-reaching and beneficent in its influence than economy in transportation. It reaches producer and consumer alike with its blessing. It lightens the load of the whole human race and augments human happiness like a lengthening of the day. And in the close study of all the economies which modern competition enforces, no fact more clearly appears, in my opinion, than that the highest economy in transportation is to be found in deep waterways and large units.

The good your association may have it within its power to do by awakening and improving public opinion on this subject and bringing it to the attention of legislatures and governments is beyond measure.

When I received your invitation, my thought was to try to find some way to be present, and I deferred an immediate answer in the hope that I might do so. But various causes, one only of which is the pressure of other engagements which I can not postpone, combine to defeat my wish; so that I can only send you my regrets with my earnest hope that the session of your convention may prove agreeable to those present and useful to us all.

J. G. McCullough, Receiver, New York, Lake Erie & Western Railroad Co., North Bennington, Vermont: I am very sorry that my engagements in the east are such as to deny me the privilege of accepting the invitation of the International Deep Waterways association; otherwise I should consider it both a pleasure and a duty to be with you in your discussions. I regret this the more because I believe that the work contemplated by your association is one of the most important of the day and one that calls for and should receive the most earnest public attention. I can not conceive of any work fraught with more momentous consequences to the material interests of that great region that stretches from the mouth

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