

"Alderman Marr—I would like to ask the gentleman the condition of this road from Minneapolis to Sault Ste. Marie. Is it merely contemplated, or under process of construction?"

"Mr. Stephen—I know nothing about it, except what I have heard from Gen. Washburne. All the Minneapolis millers, I understand, and St. Paul people are interesting themselves in it. Gen. Washburne says they are certain to build it. That is all I know about it. We have undertaken to meet them at Sault Ste. Marie, and we have only eighty miles to go.

"The Mayor—I understood you to say they have undertaken to build the branch line.

"Mr. Stephen—It is beyond the region of talk now. I cannot tell how far. We are ready to build there wherever we have any object to build there. We shall only be too happy to take their flour when they get it there."

Alderman Emery—I think it was understood in the order that to-night we were to hear who are the parties represented who were to make propositions for this road. While I mean no disrespect to Mr. Wescott or the parties in New York, or attorneys, I think it is extremely proper the thing should not go by default. At least we should know what lines and what road they represent, if they can give us that information. I merely mention this as I do not wish to see the matter go by default. Mr. Wescott represents in his own name no lines, roads or trunk roads. It is desirous to sell this line to some road which will make it a benefit to the city.

The Mayor—Mr. Wescott is here to answer for himself, or through his counsel.

Mr. Cleaves—I will state, Mr. Mayor, there seems to be nothing before the meeting requiring any further disclosure here, but I will say to the Mayor and committee that we represent here the interests of George P. Wescott. The proposition has been stated before. There seems to be no occasion for any discussion as to the matter, as I understand the meeting to-night is for the purpose of hearing propositions and, in connection therewith, disclosing the interests. It seems no proposition is made, and I do not understand it was necessary to disclose the interest represented.

Alderman Emery—I only wish to say that I speak of it because I do not wish the matter to go by default, and as this was the time named by the parties interested.