

Great Northern Road-  
Transient Labor Problems

July 26, 1899

Carbon. J.J.Hill to H.D.Hurley

"I...note what you say in regard to the scarcity of labor. We are deeply interested, but the laboring men of the country have got to a position where they do not want to work at all. Since last Spring we have carried Ten or Twelve thousand men out on the line of the Great Northern Railway, largely in Dakota and Montana, and have never had over two thousand men at work at one time- at present not over two hundred of these men the Company has so carried, a large  
(see back of card)

proportion are Italians.

I do not know where you can secure men for the harvest field. There are a certain number of harvest hands who commence in the States South of us and work on through the harvest fields, bringing up in North Dakota, but there have been in the past few years so many hoboes, or men who are not willing to work but rather congregate together and intimidate or rob those who do work, that the regular harvesters are slow to come to this country."

General correspondence by date.