

~~Northern Pacific Co.~~
Northern Pacific - Land grant 3/28/98

To Arthur Gwinner, Berlin

Goes abroad April 9 for 2 weeks & hopes to see G. in Berlin. While in N.Y. recently plan was being considered for buying entire land grant of N.P. Ry Co. but J J H advised against it because of squatters, citing the notorious Des Moines Improvement Grant as typical. It took 30 yrs of litigation & great deal of state & federal legislation before title finally was recognized, even tho' land had been patented to Co. by federal govt. yrs before & "even now thousands of acres of these lands are occupied by farmers who own fine houses & farm buildings ... & the owners dare not dispossess them by law. N.P. has about

4 million dollars of land contracts at 6% interest, also proceeds of their most heavily timbered lands in Montana and Washington. Re recent "Nebraska Case"; state legislatures cannot fix rates for use of railroad property by public that will take from the rrys the right to earn a fair & reasonable return upon the value of the property used by public & "value of such property ~~&ZZZZZZZZZZ~~ is the amt. of money honestly & intelligently spent in construction of the property & the cash cost of permanent improvements & additions thereto. Re present N.D. case, where great difficulty is being experienced trying to show enough cost of construction of N. P.; chief engi-