

Hill and Acker  
Letterbooks

After July 1, 1877 Hill, Saunders and Acker

It is difficult to separate the papers and records of these and other Hill companies. Apparently Hill & Co. came first; then Hill, Griggs & Co. [Chauncey Griggs]; then, about July 1, 1877, Hill, Saunders and Acker; finally the Northwestern Fuel Co. How much Hill had to do with the last is problematical. Hill and Armstrong were in all of them [J.A. Armstrong]. There are ~~three~~<sup>four</sup> letterbooks. Hill signed the first, Oct. 23, 1867 "Jas. J. Hill & Co." In 1868 he began to have much more correspondence with Rupert Land [around Winnipeg]

residents, especially at Winnipeg and Fort Garry. On May 18, 1868 in a letter (p.776) to F. E. Kew, he writes, "It being our first year in the Red River Business...." Evidently he or his company agreed to be the purchasing and forwarding agents for these Red River business men. How long this continued is not revealed by these letterbooks; and the ones that are missing occupied many stretches between 1868 and 1875. Then they become the records of Hill & Acker until July 1, 1877, when, apparently Saunders entered the firm. In late 1877 and in 1878 a few letters are those of the N.W. Fuel Co. Hill himself wrote most of the early letters of the firm

See card 2

Hill & Acker Letterbooks card 2

Then, increasingly, others, especially E. N. Saunders, wrote them. Acker was apparently George S. Acker. One large ledger marked "E. N. Saunders, 1877-79" is too big for filing boxes and stands alone with Hill's other financial tomes. In the financial volume, "Hill & Acker 1877-1878" are loose trial balance sheet seeming to indicate the proportion each partner had put into the business of Hill, Saunders and Acker as of May 31, 1878.