

Stillman, James, Pres.

July 17, 1898

Hill to Stillman, National City Bank, New York  
[Gilbert G.?] Thorne is 30 to 35 years old -  
was in a bank at Hastings, Minn. for about 2 yrs;  
then appointed bank examiner for this district  
in Cleveland's administration. Considered by best  
N.Y. bankers as a very promising man, a particularly good judge of credits, conservative in his methods and active. Is an Englishman by birth [John Thorne, born in England, settled in Hastings in 1856], of good appearance and exceptionally good manners.

Case of Minn. attack on railroad rates for iron ore opens in Duluth on the 12th - will probably

result in an order reducing rates. Order can be appealed but the testimony furnished by the state and the large earnings reported by the co. to the state will be difficult to overcome. Mesaba Company can take its business across the Bay into Wisconsin, making it an interstate question and removing it from state jurisdiction. That is about the only way left for them to meet it successfully. People of Duluth are pushing the case and will be slow to drive business over.

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