

Wood as fuel

September 25, 1879

Hill to Hon. L. B. Hodges

Explains company's new wood policy for settler along road. "The heavy increase of population.. and the corresponding increased demand for fuel for domestic and steam purposes, together with the additional amount required for the Company's use has already diminished the area of standing timber in the Big Woods to such an extent that we are forced to look elsewhere for our supply. We have already made preparations to burnn coal in a number of our engines on the prairie portion of the road the coming winter." Much about wood's for settlers; a good deal of that prepared shipped has been pilfered; so we are changing to car lots."I

note fully what you say about tree planting and I assure you that no one realizes more fully than I do the great and permanent advantage to both the settler and the Railway Co. of a thorough and well devised system of planting forest trees on the prairies west of the Big Woods. It is not simply a matter of policy, but one of actual necessity, the importance of which cannot be overestimated... [anyone ~~not~~ knowing the great demand for fuel] cannot fail to see that the present source of supply is entirely inadequate and must soon fail altogether." We shall cease maintaining local retail woodyards at our stations hereafter.
St.P. M. and M. Ry. Letterbook 1, p. 437