

ANOTHER LINE TO KANSAS CITY. THE MILWAUKEE AND ST. PAUL PLANNING A ROAD FROM OTTUMWA.

CHICAGO, Aug. 21.—It was ascertained to-day from sources which cannot be doubted that the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad is about to begin the construction of a new line from Ottumwa southwest to Kansas City. Assistant Chief Engineer Kimball was at Ottumwa to-day and started three surveying parties out on the line of the new road. By building an extension from Ottumwa southwest the Milwaukee and St. Paul will have as short a line to Kansas City and other Southwestern Missouri River points as the Rock Island, and shorter than the Burlington route by way of the Kansas City, St. Joseph and Council Bluffs. From what can be ascertained, it is the intention of the Milwaukee and St. Paul to complete the surveys as speedily as possible, and to begin the construction of the new road next Spring and complete it before January, 1887.

When the Milwaukee and St. Paul built the extension from Marion to Ottumwa about a year ago it was the opinion that the object was ultimately to push it over to Kansas City. But at that time the report was denied by the Milwaukee and St. Paul officials, who claimed that the object of building a road to Ottumwa was to reach the coal fields in that vicinity. After the construction of a Kansas City line by the Milwaukee and St. Paul the Chicago and Northwestern will be the only Council Bluffs line that is shut out from the Southwestern Association's territory. It is hardly probable that the Chicago and Northwestern will continue its isolated position, and as it has to suffer as much as the Milwaukee and St. Paul from the encroachments of the Burlington and Rock Island upon the territory in the Northwest, it will also try to get even by building a line to Kansas City and other Southwestern Missouri River points. The effect of this invasion of the territory of the Southwestern Railway Association, which has hitherto enjoyed immunity from internal dissensions and rate cutting, will probably be a bitter rate war and the ultimate reorganization of the association.

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