

1906, 19 June: Passenger And Freight

Spokane Railroad Men Profess To Believe That G. N. Is To Be Made Freight Road And The NP To Be Made Passenger Road.

Grand Forks Herald: Spokane railroad men are inclined to the belief that the time is not far distant when an effort will be made to make the Great Northern road more of a freight line than it is at present, taking over as much as possible of that traffic of the Northern Pacific which will give the latter system more opportunity to make a specialty of passenger trains.

It is conceded that the latter road is more popular as a tourist line, and that it does from three to four times the amount of freight business that the Great Northern does. The Northern Pacific, with its present facilities, is unable to handle its legitimate business, while the Great Northern has time and equipment to spare.

The promulgation of an agreement whereby the Great Northern is to handle all the transcontinental freight of the Northern Pacific, leaving the latter more free to care for its passenger trains, would not be a surprise to railroad men. And in exchange the Great Northern would throw as much of its passenger traffic to the Northern Pacific as possible.

The Northern Pacific handles enormous quantities of freight from the east and Pacific coast for Butte and Montana common points. It is said that the Great Northern could handle this freight by taking the cars or trains over its lines to Shelby Junction, Mont., and from there, via the Montana Central, a Hill line, into Great Falls, Butte, Helena and over to Anaconda.

The haul would not be much longer than if the freight went direct via the Northern Pacific from either eastern or western points. And the latter road would be relieved of those extra trains and could handle additional passenger trains to better advantage.

It is known that this scheme has been contemplated for a long time by the two roads and there are railroad men who assert that they see evidences, on the quiet, of the powers that be putting the actions into practical operation by easy stages.

--- Bismarck Daily Tribune