

The Agriculture and the Railroad Interest

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It is self-evident that the railroad interest is greatly indebted to the agricultural business, and vice versa. Where would the railroads be if there were not agricultural products to transport? And where would agriculture be in the far West without railroad to take the products to a good market? It is therefore doubly unfortunate that lately these two interests, so...dependent on each other, have been brought into antagonism; but the remedy to reconciliation is easy if the financial managers of the railroads understood their own interests. The farmers can not change anything; all that they can do is to attempt to obtain the greatest possible amount of produce from their lands; the railroads should not, therefore, take advantage of their helplessness by charging exorbitant prices for transportation, thereby crushing the agriculture of the West...There are many instances where farmers have preferred to use their apples and other fruit for feeding the hogs, and their corn for fuel, rather than submit to losing it nearly all by the cost of railroad transportation.

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