

REPORTED CONSOLIDATION

WINNER INTERESTS SAID TO HAVE ABSORBED OTHERS.

ANCHOR ROAD INTO ST. JOSEPH A POSSIBILITY.

A Story is Being Circulated to the Effect that Willard E. Winner Has Evolved the Scheme of His Life—Will Complete the Winner Bridge at Kansas City, Build a Railroad Through St. Joseph and Tap the Newly Discovered Coal Region in Atchison County Line—Story Not Given Out Officially But Comes From an Apparently Good Source.

A story which appears to have some foundation in fact was in circulation in various parts of the city last night to the effect that Willard E. Winner of electric road fame had consummated a deal of gigantic proportions that beyond the peradventure of a doubt meant another railroad for St. Joseph.

The story is that Winner has secured a transfer of whatever rights a large number of stockholders might have in the unfinished bridge at Kansas City to himself, and that he has absorbed the Kansas City, St. Joseph & Omaha Railroad company, which was organized in Kansas City a few months ago.

Winner, of course, intends, so the story goes, to build his electric road to this city, or he may conclude, after he has it built, that steam is a better motive power, but that matters not at this time. Reaching here, it is reported he will secure an entrance to the city by purchasing the franchise held by the St. Joseph Railway and Terminal company. Then the line will be extended along the proposed route of the Kansas City, St. Joseph & Omaha road to the Rankin coal mines in Atchison county. It is evident, therefore, that all these interests have been consolidated if the story referred to be true.

It is said that a large number of people own stock in the company formed to build the bridge at Kansas City several years ago. It is known that Mr. Winner has been trying for some time to get possession of all the stock in the concern for the evident reason that he could manage it more to his liking if entirely within his control. One of the results of the consolidation will be the completion of the Winner bridge at Kansas City.

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