

while a larger number contain only one time limitation,—either that in which to begin, or that in which to complete the construction. In the case of one charter, these limitations were imposed by an amendment.

A single charter only, outlines definitely the whole route of the proposed railroad; this is a charter, too, which in all other respects is the most imperfect of all, and which provides for the building of a road of minor significance. Out of about twenty-five provisions which form the basis of this comparative study, this charter contains but seven. At the same time it is the only charter which describes properly the entire route between the termini. Nearly all of the charters are remarkable for their lack of definiteness and accuracy in naming termini and in describing the proposed route. To what extent this was intentional, and the means of employing questionable methods, it seems impossible to determine. In some instances, subscriptions to stock were secured under pretense of building the railroad along a certain route; and then a different one was selected, and additional subscribers sought along the new route. For similar purposes, a change of route was secured by an amendment (passed, like all other amendments to charters, by the legislature). Lack of harmony in the legislature, due to rivalry between different localities represented by the members, was another cause of this indefiniteness. Thus, in case of the Lake Michigan & Mississippi charter, the Racine faction defeated every attempt to fix the termini, so that the charter simply says that the railroad shall be built from "some point on Lake Michigan south of town eight,<sup>1</sup> to a point on the Mississippi River in Grant county." In most cases, however, the termini are definitely named, and frequently a few intermediate points are mentioned. These are usually embodied in the charter name of the corporation, which, on the whole, comprises the description of the route as definitely as the charter itself. In many cases, the termini of the

---

<sup>1</sup> Town 8 embraces the northern township of Milwaukee county.