

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY.

TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

C. S. JONES,
Supt. Telegraph.

Chicago, May 13 1874

J. E. Pope Esq
N. York

Dear Sir.

I am about arranging with Bliss to put in one of your alarms at Hyde Park Crossing on our road. I am holding back to compare it with other devices by Hall & others, for I wish to be able to show to our people that I took ordinary business precaution in selecting, to get the best.

Please tell me, is the principle of releasing and locking a train of wheels or other device for giving alarms, by electricity, for RR purposes patented and whose claim is it, or are the peculiar mechanisms only patented. For instance; Is the

idea of a train of cars breaking
or closing an electric circuit and
telegraphing its position to a station
or making any other signal
covered or coverable by a patent,
or is the claim too broad to be
maintained. If I understand your
claim for the alarm bell which Bliss
proposes to put in for us, the track
circuit is the feature. Mr Robinson
has been here with his system and
he claims very much the same
device. I don't know what he did
with the other roads, but our Mr Mitchell
wasnt willing to spend the thirty or
forty thousand dollars he asked to stock
the road with his system. The north-
western end & the southern end of our
road are crooked as ramshorns and
signals as he proposed might be a good thing
there, but the rest of it is as straight as a
string. — thirty mile tangents is the rule. He
wouldnt put in a few sets where we
needed them. — couldnt spend his valuable
time on small jobs!

Yours oc

C. S. Jones,