Franklin Pierce, the last President to head a committee of three distinguished representatives of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Wisconsin Among the first of the great railway systems of the country, was to be organized as a corporation to take over the control of the various trunk lines of the region. The new company was to be called the Great Northern Railway. This move was hailed by the Chicago business community as a great step forward in the development of the West. At the same time, it was feared that it might lead to a pooling of resources and a concentration of power in the hands of a few railroad magnates. It was the beginning of a long struggle between the railroads and the government, which was to result in the passage of the Interstate Commerce Act in 1887.

The meeting of the Chicago business community was a success. The railroad companies were enthusiastic about the proposed plan, and they promised to do everything in their power to make it a success. The public was also interested in the project, and they were eager to see the results of the new company. The Great Northern Railway was established in 1881, and it quickly became one of the most important railroad systems in the country.

The history of the Great Northern Railway is a fascinating story of commerce, industry, and government intervention. It is a story of the success and failure of different plans, and it is a story of the role of the Federal government in regulating the railroads. The Great Northern Railway was a pioneer in the development of the West, and it played an important role in the growth of the country.