

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY,

27-29 PINE STREET,

P. O. Box 756.

NEW YORK,

Dear father:

I have just lunched with Mr. Bull and while in his office read your letter to him about the U. P. attempt in U. P. territory. While I am not familiar with all the agreements made by the three different companies I have seen all the correspondence in Mr. Harriman's office & talked the matter over with Mr. Bull Mr. Baker & Mr. Cannon also with Mr. Schiff, so felt that I can form some opinion of what Mr. Mullen has in his mind. I do not think that he wants to shorten his line at all. What he wants is to get a connection from Pasco with the country south & west of Lewiston. Mr. Mullen feels, from what I can hear, that the road he managed is controlled by one house which house allows Mr. Coster to act for them. If he succeeds in getting Mr. Coster to see things his way he is reported to have said that he does not care what his other directors say or wish.

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I do not think Mr. Baker fully appreciates how near things have come to a crisis in this matter. If he did he would see Mr. Morgan & have Mr. Mellon straightened out so that he would stay straight at least for a short time. You might put the matter before Mr. Baker so that he would see it.

He will do anything possible for you and told me that he is most anxious to have both companies avoid getting into trouble. I think the G.P. will declare their dividend on common stock without any doubt. If they do get into trouble about this U.R. & Co matter it will be the last common stock dividend they will be able to pay for a long time in my opinion. If you were here I would see Mr. Morgan & think everything could be settled as Mr. Morgan intends to act fairly in my opinion. He is very busy & delegates such matters to his subordinates & colleagues & cannot keep himself entirely posted on all the moves. If he could he would not all Mellon to change around the

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may he has been doing lately. When I left Mr. Baker's office yesterday I thought the whole matter would be smoothed over but now I think you will either have to see Mr. Morgan yourself or else get Mr. Baker to so understand the matter that he will put it before Mr. Morgan & insist on his forbidding Miller to go on.

I suppose you have heard all the above & more from Mr. Mohler.

My rheumatism is better & I expect to start for home early next week unless I get another attack in the mean time.

Give my love to mamma & the few of the family who are not here.

Affectionately your son

James.

11/2/98