

CHAMBER OF  
GERMAN-AMERICAN COMMERCE, INC.

11 BROADWAY,

NEW YORK September 16, 1915.

Mr. James J. Hill,  
33 Nassau St.,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Please permit us to state that your impression that a threat was made or intended was a wrong one. We simply made a prediction. If a man indulges in riotous living it is not a threat but a prediction that he will ruin himself and his family. If a bank insists on risking its funds in hazardous speculations, it is not a threat but a prediction that the people will take steps to protect their interests.

Your desire to help the farmers who have wheat, corn and cotton to sell, is a very laudable one, but we believe you are not working in the right direction. Before sending out our goods and also putting up the money to pay for them, let us first supply a solvent market that can pay cash. Your energies and influence can be used to the best interests of the country by providing ways and means whereby the farmers' wheat, corn and cotton can reach the civilian population of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey. They are perfectly solvent and can pay cash. They do not ask for hazardous credit but want the goods at a high price for spot cash. They are, for instance, willing to pay 15¢ per pound for cotton. Why not supply them? Why assist bankrupt nations that block

the way of the legitimate trade of the United States, even via neutral ports? Kindly use your energies and influence toward opening the way for legitimate trade and you will really do the farmers a great service. At the same time, money realized from these transactions, together with the deposits and savings of the people, can be used to enlarge the trade of the United States with South America and the Pacific. This is a policy against which no man will be able to kick.

In conclusion, we beg to state that the free action of the business men of the United States is not threatened by Germany or any German-Americans, but by England and France who deliberately interfere in the legitimate trade of the United States and threaten that if their demands as to credit are not granted they will buy elsewhere. This is worse than a threat - it is a plain hold-up.

Yours very respectfully,

*Amiel Charles*

SECRETARY.