

23 Wall Street.
New York.

October 14th, 1915.

James J. Hill, Esq.
291 East Third Street,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Mr. Hill:

A very fine lot of men, as I think you will agree, have joined themselves with you in signing that statement. The changes that your secretary suggested to me over the 'phone last week have been made, and I attach herewith a copy of the statement in its final form, as approved by everybody, including yourself, and to the bottom of it I have appended the names of the gentlemen who with you are signing. I think you will recognize them all.

The present idea is that the most effective means of getting this out would be to have it given out simultaneously by yourself at St. Paul, by Mr. Choate perhaps here in New York, and by Mr. Higginson in Boston. You must, of course, on this point do whatever you see fit, but I should be glad to have your answer by wire after you have received this letter, if you care to follow out this plan. If so, the arrangement would be to have you give it out in St. Paul on Sunday after-noon or evening, October 17th, for publication in the next morning's papers. Of course the St. Paul papers will telegraph it to all their correspondents, etc. In this way it will appear simultaneously in the North-West, in the West, New England, New York, etc. in Monday morning's papers.

It would have been better if some Chicago people had come along, but none of the merchants out there, so far as I could find out, had any more nerve in stating their position than they had when the matter of the loan came up. In fact Chicago, between you and me, is not appearing very well before the country in this matter. New York will have taken between two and three hundred million dollars, New England between fifty and seventy-five, Pennsylvania thirty or more, the North-West very creditably, but Chicago about three and a half million.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas W. Lament

TWL-Hn

P.S. I figure that probably I better send this out by special messenger instead of by mail, so that it will surely reach you not later than Sunday morning.