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J.T.Mills Jr.  
CASHIER.

# The Chase National Bank

New York,

Feb. 26th. '96

James J. Hill Esq.

St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Mr. Hill:—

I have endeavored to keep you as fully informed as possible in regard to the Nor. Pac. situation. There are several matters of interest which have come to my observation recently. As indicated in my telegrams to you Morgan & Co have been buying consols through their brokers and other members of the Exchange. I am inclined to think that Brayton Ives has also been a purchaser. I am informed that Morgan thinks the decision in the Gt. Nor. suit now in the Supreme Court of the U. S. is liable to be decided against us and whether it is or not, as soon as the decision is reached it is his intention to actively take up the Nor. Pac. reorganization. I conclude that it is his intention to have quite close relations with Adams and although nothing of importance has been done yet I believe within thirty days a plan will be ready for examination of the parties who are interested.

Mr. Ives, as you are doubtless aware, has resigned the Presidency of the Western National Bank giving as a reason the death of his partner J. B. Medcalf (Mr. Ives being a partner in the firm of J. B. Medcalf & Co) and also because he desired to give more attention to Nor. Pac. matters. Since resigning from the Western National Bank he has taken offices in the Mills Building, adjoining those occupied by Adams, as Chairman of the Nor. Pac. Committee, and friends of mine have met Ives coming out of Adams' office and many persons believe that a truce has been declared between the warring factions although Adams intimates that such is not the case. Adams informed a friend of mine to day, who asked him what your relations were to the Reorganization at present, that you were playing a waiting game but that he thought very likely you would not be successful as the earnings of the Nor. Pac. were so good. Whether this was said for effect or whether it represents his feeling I, of course, am unable to say.

Mr. Schiff confirms nearly everything I have said in this letter although, of course, I have not informed him of Adams statement. Mr. Schiff Leaves next Sunday for the South—to be gone about two weeks— and I now expect to leave here next Friday night for a trip to Florida in order to obtain a little much needed rest. By going South I can spend the days out of



doors and, while I am not ill, I feel that I need a little change after the long and hard pull that we have been having here lately. I write this letter feeling the importance of your being acquainted with the situation here. The truth is that you will have to be as wise as a serpent and as harmless as a dove with these people. I am inclined to think that some important move will be made within the next 60 days in Nor. Pac. matters. The money market is in nearly normal condition although time money is still quite close. There are indications of foreign buying on the stock exchange and the foreign bankers here are feeling much more cheerful than for a long time past. I had a talk with Secretary Carlisle yesterday and am satisfied that, if necessary, the Administration will issue more bonds and the success of the last loan has certainly been greater than the most sanguine expected. All of our bankers are astonished at the comparative ease with which money has been paid into the Treasury and the fact that gold has been at a nominal premium only indicates that we have a large amount of coin in this country available for supporting the credit of the government.

We expect Mr. Moore here in about thirty days. Schley is on deck and is quite prepared to do any business that may come up. The house of Moore & Schley is strong and powerful and in case you decide, after coming here, to set a bucket under any particular line of securities and catch such as will come at a reasonable price there will be no difficulty in Mr. Schley's taking care of the matter to your entire satisfaction. Mr. Schley expects to see you immediately upon your arrival here and in case I am needed I shall return at any time. I desire to get a little rest and be in good condition for the Spring campaign for I feel confident that you will have some important business on your hands during the next 60 days and think I may be of some use in the matter. I have rid myself of nearly all outside matters and our bank is running very smoothly.

With regards,

Yours faithfully,

*A. Braun*