

Northern Pacific Railway Company.

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRMAN
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

35 WALL STREET,
NEW YORK.

September 1st, 1897.

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PRESIDENTS OFFICE,
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GREAT NORTHERN RY.

JAMES J. HILL, Esq.,

St. Paul, Minn.

My dear Mr. Hill:-

Herewith I enclose for your personal information and guidance a copy of my recent exchange of communications with Mr. Winter regarding a criticism of my action that I found here upon my return from the West.

While I seek, as I think you understand, to accomplish results with the least possible red tape and friction, I have had too long an experience with corporate life not to recognize the *importance* of personal responsibility and the value to be obtained by holding each official directly responsible for all that transpires in the Departments over which he has charge.

Referring to the enclosed copy of my letter to Mr. Heidelberg, I would further explain that Mr. McNeil called to see me to-day and gives his positive assurances that he neither has any interests now in this particular scheme of Mr. Wrights nor will he become interested in any enterprise that he would consider antagonistic to the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company.

Mr. Wright, in an interview here yesterday, declined to pay his acceptance of the draft of G. B. Hunt, which matured December 1st, 1891, and stated his readiness to meet us in

J. J. H. - 2.

Court for the adjudication of the matter.

We have therefor brought suit in the Supreme Court of this State for the \$75,000 and interest, after having been assured by our expert accountants and by our counsel that the claim is a just one and should be collected.

Sincerely yours,

Edward G. Adams

Enc.

B.

James J. Hill Papers
Minnesota Historical Society

NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY,

Office of the President.

S t. P a u l, Minn., Aug.30th, 1897.

(PERSONAL)

My dear Sir:

Your several letters of the 27th, in one enclosure, are received. I shall be glad to act upon the suggestions they contain.

The "criticisms" to which you refer, if there were any, have come from the nebula which has surrounded the situation for the past six months, and were entitled to as little respect as most of the other poisonous stuff of the period. I am as little given to personal expressions as yourself, believing that one can be better understood in due time by other ways, but I may say now that I have never misinterpreted your motives, and I hope our year of association has made you sufficiently acquainted with my weaknesses to believe that it would have been impossible for me, in view of our early understanding, to have kept from frankly discussing with you any occurrences which apparently threatened to disturb official relations.

I hope, so far as you and I are concerned, all danger from malicious gossip is past. It would take a great deal more than has occurred to affect my personal regard for you, and as much, I hope, to cause you to doubt that I shall remain,

Yours, very truly,

EDWIN W. WINTER

Mr. EDWARD D. ADAMS
New York City.

August 27th, 1897.

(PERSONAL)

EDWIN W. WINTER, ESQ.,

Summit Avenue, S t . P a u l , Minn.

Dear Mr. WINTER:

Upon my return here I learn that some one has criticized my action in communicating directly with some of the heads of the departments under your administration.

I cannot trace the matter to any definite statement, but wish thus promptly to inform you that wherever it has been done, it has been pursuant to my understanding with you from the beginning of your administration that you preferred that I would give my particular attention to matters pertaining to the Land and Comptroller's departments.

You may recall my request, in the presence of Mr. Wm. H. Phipps at least, that all my communications should be shown to you, and moreover that copies of my communications to me should be filed in your office for your information and guidance, which latter arrangement you stated on the occasion that I referred to, would be unnecessary.

There has been occasion, of course, from time to time for communications with the legal department, particularly in answer to letters from General Counsel C. W. Bunn, but these have been the exception as my custom has been in most cases to communicate with you directly on all matters requiring the attention of Counsel.

As I confidently believe that if you had an exception to take to my course in this regard, or regretted having arranged this division of attention, you would have mentioned the matter to me, so that your own preferences, even if changed after the experience of a

few months, might prevail, I do not attribute these criticisms to you. I desire, however, to refer to this matter now, so that upon the arrival of Mr. Mellen you can explain to him what has been our custom which is no longer necessary as we now have a Vice President who is expected to give personal attention to many of these matters.

You will, therefore, please explain to the Land Commissioner and others as you may deem necessary, that while I desire to receive as full detailed information as hitherto, I prefer to receive them hereafter through the office of the President of the Company.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD D. ADAMS

James J. Hill Papers
Minnesota Historical Society

September 1st, 1897.

(PERSONAL)

ALFRED S. HEIDELBACH, ESQ.,

27 William Street, C i t y.

My dear Mr. HEIDELBACH:

It is stated by a party who was invited to participate in the business that Mr. Edwin McNeill is now associated with Mr. W. D. Tyler in an endeavor to raise the necessary capital to construct a line of road on the Northern Bank of the Columbia River to be operated in competition with the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company and in connection with the Washington & Columbia River Railway.

It is stated that Mr. C. E. Wright, the owner of this latter road is assisting these parties in inaugurating their enterprise.

If Mr. McNeill is accessible it seems to me that you or I or both of us should see him in regard to this matter.

After the consideration shown to Mr. McNeill it appears to me that he should not thus engage in promoting a competitive line to the detriment of the Navigation Company's interests.

Possibly you may know something about this business. Any information you can give me will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD D. ADAMS.