

March 2nd 1898.

Hon. D. S. Lamont,

Vice-President, Northern Pacific Railway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Lamont:-

Since receiving your note of the 21st ultimo, I have seen Mr. Phipps, and also saw the chief men of the Mississippi Logging Company of which Mr. Weyerhaeuser is the head. Phipps has supplied him with the Company's notes of its timber lands on the Pacific Coast, and I think also in Montana. These people are very strong. Their united capital is twenty five or thirty millions of dollars, and they will be able to buy the entire lot and pay for it in short payments. This would give the Railway Company large sums of money for the early redemption of its Land Grant Bonds, and at the same time relieve the Company from the very heavy expense of watching the timber against trespassers, and the loss from fires which annually amounts to a great deal. The Company's lands, being alternate sections, are exposed to fire from every squatter or settler on Government lands, and these squatters are increasing every year. The recent attention given to mineral explorations in the Cascade Mountains and West of the Main Range in Montana is taking a great many mineral prospectors through the country who are constantly building camp fires and leaving them to run through the woods, annually destroying millions of feet of timber.

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The North Dakota rate case is giving both Mr.Bunn and Mr. Grover much anxiety on the question of capitalization per mile of the Northern Pacific Railway. They will, I feel sure, be able to head off the present suit in whole or in part, but every time the question is tried the Attorney General for the State raising the question is being educated until finally the Courts will take notice of the capital per mile in fixing what are legal rates. I see no ultimate or permanent relief out of this except through using the Land Grant to retire either bonds or stock.

I hope you are entirely recovered from your illness, and that you will not be left with any bad results from it.

Yours very truly,