

(Personal)
OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL COURT REPORTER.

St Paul, Minn. April 7th 1893.

J. J. Hill, Esq.,

Pres't Great Northern Ry. Co. City.

Dear Sir:-

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,
Received,
APR 7 1893

I trust you will pardon the liberty I take (being an entire stranger to you) in asking of you a favor, the like of which is rarely asked of any one, except by those most intimately acquainted with the prospective benefactor. My own native timidity and pride have for a long time prevented me from taking this action, and now it is with much reluctance that I address you on the subject.

My brother, a young man, residing in Pennsylvania, a telegraph operator in the employ of the Penn'a Railroad, more than a year ago conceived the idea of a printing telegraph instrument. He worked the matter up to a point, where he thought he could see a successful culmination of his idea, Early last August he unfolded the whole thing to me, and on account of his financial inability to develop and procure a patent on the device, offered to assign a half interest in the same to me, if I would undertake the work and expense, which offer I accepted. I took hold of his plans and worked on them until the line of perfection seemed to be distinctly drawn and at the beginning of the present year filed an application for letters patent, and about a month prior to that time began the work of constructing two working models, that number being necessary for the proper demonstration of the practicability of the machines. This latter work has progressed finely up to the present time, and is well under way. All my tests and experiments have thus far been highly satisfactory and give promise of ultimate success. Some of the larger and most important parts which enter into the construction of the models, I have had made by competent machinists, the minor parts, fitting and experimenting having been done by myself. I have spent all my evenings till midnight and all holidays on this work during the past four months, my day time being employed in the performance of my duties as Reporter of the Municipal Court of St Paul. I have now reached the point, where my own means have become exhausted and the work is practically at a standstill, except such small additions as I am able to make with my own efforts and tools. The amount of available funds at my disposal, arising from my monthly salary, after paying all the legitimate expenses of maintaining myself and family and keeping up life insurance which I carry for the protection of those who are dependent upon me, is so small, that it avails but little in the prosecution of the work I have undertaken, which owing to its peculiar nature, being mostly electrical, is very expensive, often exorbitant. No month does the amount exceed twenty dollars, and some months considerable less. This amount is inadequate to carry on the project as it should be, without any delay, for another reason, namely, that we have recently evolved some new ideas, which when developed will affect some important improvements and add to the effectiveness of the machines by increasing the printing speed and by diminishing the amount of power required for their operation. A new application for letters patent will have to be made before the patent of the original application issues to cover the proposed improvements, and that will necessitate the expenditure of a considerable sum within a short space of time, meantime the expense of carrying on the mechanical work will be accruing and will have to be met. The outlay thus far, including one hundred dollars paid account of patent fees, amounts to nearly three hundred dollars; this is outside of my own time and labor, which has effected a saving of at

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least half that amount. I intend to continue my work and save every dollar of expense possible, and believe that five hundred dollars, judiciously spent (and I believe my knowledge and acquaintance with the subject and my experience in dealing with people warrant me in saying it would be so spent) would complete the two machines.

Now, the favor I am about to ask of you, is in the nature of a business transaction, or an accommodation, and in no wise a gift, and my proposition is this: Loan me five hundred dollars, to be repaid to you at the rate of ten (\$10) dollars per month, and the interest (rate to be agreed upon) payable quarterly, and upon such other terms as may be agreed upon and arranged to the satisfaction of both parties. I have proposed the above named easy terms for the reason, that whether the machines are a success or not, I will be able to pay all my obligations in connection with the undertaking, the payment of my debts being the strict practice of my life.

I ask this favor, not because you are reputed to be a man of great wealth, for I know that all such men are being constantly besieged by indigent and unfortunate people, many of whom act not in good faith, but who simply prey upon those whose industry, thrift and integrity have enabled them to amass fortunes, while they, through their own neglect and indolence, have allowed the golden opportunities of life to pass them by unimproved. I ask this favor puerly and simply in the light of a business transaction, as one business man would ask an accommodation of another, and have singled you out from amongst the other respectable, prominent and well-to-do men of our city, because of your ability to respond to the request, because of your progressive spirit, and especially because the object of my undertaking, if successful, will come more directly in line with the great interests which you have so zealously built up and which you now so ably and worthily supervise.

A little inquiry about the city would probably serve best to inform you as to who I am and as to my character. I have resided here for the past eight years and have a large acquaintance in the city. Have been in the employ of the City since August 17th 1885, with the exception of fourteen months I served as Stenographer to Mr. D.S.B. Johnston of this city. For nearly three years subsequent to the above named date, I acted as Secretary to Mr. L. W. Rundlett present City Engineer, and during the past four years have been the Official Reporter of the Municipal Court. Delicacy forbids my speaking in praise of myself, therefore, will only say as to my habits, that they are regular and temperate. I do not believe a man young or old, has a right to waste or idle away any of his time, hence, I have long since formed the habit of keeping busy, making use of all the odds and ends of my time in some employment which I believe to be productive of useful results. Having been deprived of the advantages of schooling in youth, a great deal of my time outside of business hours has been spent in seeking out and treasuring up such bits of useful knowledge as I was able to find from books, from people and from that prolific source known as observation. As to my honesty and integrity, I would rather let those who have known me for several years speak.

I have written, instead of calling in person and introducing myself and the subject of this communication to you, because, I appreciate the fact that you are a busy man, and have many demands upon your valuable time, and therefore thought that you might peruse this at sometime when you had a few moments leisure, when it

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would be inconvenient to appoint a meeting. I should be pleased to call upon you at any time you see fit to designate and submit the plans of our device, and explain more fully the nature of it, as well as giving any other or further information you may desire. Arrangements could also be made for giving you an opportunity to view the machines as far as the work is completed.

I have never yet needed any references in this city, but should you wish any, I think I can produce more than enough to satisfy you, before you take any decisive step in this matter.

In conclusion, I trust you will not let this opportunity to confer a great favor upon an honest and earnest applicant go by without giving me an opportunity to see you and yourself an opportunity to inquire into the merits of the case. My only desire in this matter is to succeed by fair and honorable means; my greatest misfortune being that I am poor.

Hoping that after having read the foregoing, you will pardon the seemingly unwarranted liberty I have taken, and that I may hear from you at your convenience, I am, Dear Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

Harry De Wallace

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

40-42 WALL STREET,

P. O. Box 756.

NEW YORK.

April 7th 1893.

James J. Hill Esq
St Paul Minn.

Dear Sir;

After writing you yesterday I sold
\$10,000 Consols at 123 $\frac{1}{4}$ as per report herewith.
The 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Cons. on the report was sold for the Coy
being a bond acquired by the exchange transactions.
I have delivered bonds today for your a/c as
follows:

\$30,000 @ 123 $\frac{7}{8}$	36,900.	
10,000 @ 123 $\frac{1}{4}$	12,325.	49,225.
Less Com 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ %		50.
To your credit		49,175.

Nos. of bonds delivered 10631/70 incl.

I have paid Chase Bank today in reduction of
your loan of \$90,000. Mch 31. \$50,000.

Yours very truly
Wm. H. Hobbs

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

This Company TRANSMITS and DELIVERS messages on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of Unrepeated Messages, except the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case when the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.

This is an UNREPEATED MESSAGE, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. ECKERT, General Manager.

NORVIN GREEN, President.

NUMBER

SENT BY

REC'D BY

CHECK

1057 R my 18 Rd 22 Co

RECEIVED at Fourth and Robert Streets, St. Paul, Minn.

M. Standard Time.

Dated

To

New York 7 354
Geo J Hill Rt 9 m Ry

Can

I see you at
your office 2 Paul on Monday
but and my expense

Geo

Wm

Barlow 10 Wall Rt

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

THOS. T. ECKERT, General Manager.

NORVIN GREEN, President.

Receiver's No.

Time Filed

Check

SEND the following message subject to the terms {
on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to.

7th April, 1893.

To Geo. W. Ballou,
10 Wall Street,
New York.

Telegram received. Yes.
Jas. J. Hill.

D. H. Pass.

👉 READ THE NOTICE AND AGREEMENT ON BACK. 👈

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

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This is an UNREPEATED MESSAGE, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. T. ECKERT, General Manager.

NORVIN GREEN, President.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK
534 ch	no	10 paid	<i>[Signature]</i>

RECEIVED at Fourth and Robert Streets, St. Paul, Minn.
M. Standard Time.

apl 7 1893

Dated Chicago

To Wm Stephens

Care of Hill

Could I see Mr Hill
at office or House tomorrow

H C Dicks



Minnesota Historical Society

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