

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

1877 DEC n.d, 7-30

FOLDER NO.

10-16

JAMES J. HILL PAPERS

PLEASE RETAIN
ORIGINAL ORDER

Merchants Hotel.

A. ALLEN, Proprietor.

St. Paul, Dec. 7th 1877

Monday Night
11¹⁵ o'clock

Dear Friend Will -

Judge Young
was late finishing the several
papers deemed necessary to
cover the points - so we missed
you at the Metropolitan - you
had been gone half hour.

I have the
papers to take to Iowa and I
am thoroughly advised
what to do by Judge Y.

Owing to my having
to visit Ogden & Lehigh before
I can complete the papers
it may be next week before
you receive them.

Am sorry

[DEC 1877]

I did not see you to
say good bye. I will be
sure to keep you thoroughly
advised as to what occurs
at G.

Harry Driscoll along
with his arrangement and
look out for Pryor and
Merrill is to the Road.

Remember me
to Mrs Hill and the children.

Yours
Harr.

SIBLEY HOTEL,

H. M. Kenny, Prop.,

SIBLEY, - - - - IOWA.

Dec. 7th 1877

Wm. Acker.

St Paul

Minn.

Sir,

As regards the coal you
shipped to H. C. Grant there
seems to be some misunderstanding.
I supposed that I was to pay
frt. from St Paul, though
the frt. from Duluth which
I paid was a payment on the
coal. Of course I know that
you have nothing to do about
rebate on frt. that is another
matter and do not have benefit
of it from St Paul, only from
St James. I think if I had
attended to the matter myself

[12-7-77]

SIBLEY HOTEL,

B. M. Henry, Prop.,

SIBLEY, - - - - IOWA.

187

have had been no need of any
trouble. I expected to pay
on time what I owed due
on the coal. I know you
would acknowledge that there
is fully one third egg coal if
you were to see it. I wish to
have it satisfactorily settled
soon. Please let me hear
from you and very much oblige
Yours Respectfully
B. M. Henry

OFFICE OF THE
Board of Public Works,
SAINT PAUL, MINN.

NOV 10 1877

To John J. Hill,

You are supposed to be the owner of

Lot 112 to a of C. 320 of N. 80 8 feet of N.E.
1/4 of N.E. 1/4 Sec 36 Town 29, Range 23
Except Rice Street

Block in

in
Addition to the City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota.

The Board of Public Works will meet at their office in the City of Saint Paul,
at 10 o'clock A.M., on the 22 day of Dec

1877, to make an assessment of \$ 20.00 on said property,

to pay for Partial grading Rice Street between
Beauregard and Seymour Streets

in front thereof, when and where you are notified to attend, and will be heard.

H. B. Quinn,
President.

OFFICIAL:

A. L. Jonnau,
Clerk of the B. P. W.

CARD BOOKS, PLAIN AND FANCY
Job Printing,
EXECUTED
Neatly and Promptly.
A FULL STOCK
OF ALL KINDS OF
Legal Blanks
Always on hand, and forwarded to our customers
of the State. Orders solicited and
promptly filled.

BLANK BOOK MANUFACTORY.

Saint Paul, Dec 11 1877
C. D. Kerr

Bought of
Ramaley & Cunningham,
General Printers, Stationers and Binders,

18 WABASHAW STREET.

<i>OK.</i>	<i>To Printing Testimony in Ex-emption</i>	<i>9765</i>
<i>C. D. Kerr</i>	<i>Case of John J. Jackson et al</i>	
<i>Mo X</i>	<i>Paid</i>	
<i>o/c JH</i>	<i>Ramaley & Cunningham</i>	

Grand Forks N.D.
December 14th 1904

J. J. Hill Esq }
St Paul Minn }

Dear Sir

It has been reported to me that there are 30 or 40 Half-breds now up in the Canadian Fur Company who are entitled to Seneca from the United States. If I could get a correct list of these Half-breds from the Indian Department at Washington I would make a trip up West and take them applications to draw the Seneca and at the same time buy land get the proper power of attorney locate the Seneca

Scip is now worth from 300 to
400 dollars Cash and with more
to be made in a few days. And as
the Cambridge Scip is worth so
little I think I could get the
Washington Scip for little

Now if you could procure
this lot for me through any
of your friends at Washington you
would confer a great favor on me
if you would like to go into it
with me we would locate the
Scip together.

Yours very truly
Wm. S. Smith

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY,

St Dodge Station, Dec 14/87

Jas. J. Hill Esq
St Paul. Minn

My Dear Sir;

I telegraphed you yesterday regarding J & B. They say that they are willing to take the land on our proposition if a test hole or two proves it to be coal land.

Burnham says it is to their interest for us to come to an agreement - that they want to buy on our side of the River.

The west side man talked to them so much about there being no coal on fee & that it made them wary and doubtful - resulting in a conclusion that if we were satisfied it was coal land we could not object to a test.

But I feel that I am to blame for the trade not being closed - They had concluded that it was folly for them to cross the River and that our offer was a good one - and I question whether they would have demanded a test hole if the coal in the Shaft had been O.K.

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY,

[12-14-77]

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Station, 187

They concluded on Monday that they would accept our offer - so far as the drill holes were concerned they were ready to take my word but as to the shaft that they could see for themselves, so they got the water out and examined it and I am sorry to say found it an impure vein - about 4 feet thick - I am to blame for never having personally examined it - I took I word for it and supposed it was safe to show otherwise I would have had it caved in - I drilled it and was fooled - I ordered the shaft sunk and when he got to it and found it poor quality he hated to say so - I do not know as I can blame him. It is either a poor spot in the vein or else it is, according to your theory, the upper vein - but it is too thick for that - Anyhow I should have known the fact that it was an impure spot and closed the hole, and we would have not left it as we did a standing menace to us, as it has proved to be an injury - I never dreamed of such a thing and was willing to let them or anyone see it - Stevens once told or wrote me that it was soft but I

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ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY,

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Station, _____ 187

knew that happened in places in all veins
 and paid no attention to it but it seems that
 it is in streaks of slate, coal & black
 jack - alternating - this I would have seen
 had I gone down into the shaft. Now
 has - this vein looked well or had the
 shaft not been there I believe J & B
 would have closed on yesterday but this
 poor showing caused them to ask for
 a test hole. I may be wrong - maybe
 they would have wanted a hole or
 two anyhow (Million says they would)
 but as it is I feel very badly about it
 and feel much to blame for this delay.
 I do not think it is to be anything more
 serious than a delay for I can find
 the coal and then they say they are
 ready to go ahead. Busham told me
 that he believed it was good coal
 land and so does Hadley (Supt of
 Mines) and yet they want a test.

Now I
 think it will cost \$300 - to prove the
 coal. take 20 days - I have just come
 from Deligh and am ready to start on
 Monday.

If we could sell Williams or

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY,

[12-14-77]

Station, _____ 187

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Washburne a $\frac{1}{2}$ interest without our
doing any prospecting it would be best.
J & B ought to
be willing to take the land at our
low prices without our proving it all -
but at the same time I am not
afraid of a test -

I shall put down
one hole some 50 yds north of the
shaft to see if that imperfection in
the vein continues that far - I believe
not.

We have got good sure customers
in J & B if we prove a 3 ft vein on
the tabled land of seven - hole will
be say 175 feet deep -

I am just in
receipt of your telegram and have
telegraphed J & B at Milwaukee that
you ask them to pay expenses - In
case they refuse what am I to do?

Can you go
East via Cedar Rapids - via the
Minneapolis & St Louis Road - and
let me meet you at Waterloo for
an interview? If so telegraph me

[12-14-77]

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY,

Station, 187

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I shall go home in the morning and be at Des Moines Monday and at Judd Tuesday. I am not at all discouraged - only annoyed at my error and the delay in my work with the prospect of spending \$300 in making good the reputation of Dec 7. If our test holes on the Cable land prove 4 to 5 feet we better ask \$100⁰⁰ an acre instead of \$60⁰⁰. Let me hear from you - Yours^{re} H. B.

P.S.

I do not think we need a Contract. Frink says 100⁰⁰ & 150⁰⁰ is price on West side and that our price is low. We can hold them and had better leave ourselves foot loose. Perhaps all things are for the best for had they bought the $\frac{1}{2}$ and afterward found that at the bottom of shaft was bad coal they would have believed I knew it and it would have hurt me. All things happen for the best

Des Moines, Iowa

Dec 16th 77

Jas J. Hill Esq
St Paul, Minn

My Dear Sir;

I wrote you on Friday from Ft D relative to the J & B matter. I wish to make a further explanation as briefly & clearly as I can.

I am glad that they examined the Shaft and discovered the impurity of the Coal - Had a pale been made and ^{they} subsequently examined the coal I would have stood in a bad light. I never could have explained the matter to their satisfaction.

The delay that their requiring further proof occasions seemed at first very annoying but I am now satisfied it is for the best - and that we will so regard it before January passes.

It seemed a

"bitter pill" to suspect (I do not know that it is so) that our trade came to a halt by reason of the showing made in the Shaft and that I was alone to blame for it but upon reflection I have faith that it will prove to our advantage in this way. viz;

Before we made them a proposition we were in doubt about where they stood as to crossing the River and what they would consider a low offer. They at that time, as we now know it, had no idea of crossing the River and felt easy as they had our assurance of a "fair offer" and that we had unlimited coal on fee^g. To insure a low offer from us they appeared unconcerned - were noncommittal and talked of Crooked Creek, Cheap Bridges &c &c. We made a proposition in the dark - they took it under advisement for effect intending to play for a reduction

[12-16-77]

on it. While waiting my return they were besieged by the west sideers & stuffed with different theories as to the Field and that See [?] was a risky tract and although their talk failed of its aim - i.e. an abandonment of the East side - it served to make them anxious to prove our coal so far as convenient. This conclusion was reached Tuesday Afternoon - an examination of the Shaft was convenient - the result tended ^{to} give foundation to what they had heard and caused them to show their hands.

They are in a worse fright than any one else and more anxious about my proving coal than I am. They dread the possibility of my not finding coal and the consequent necessity of their crossing the River. When they felt sure that we had coal and was willing to sell them an interest they felt safe & easy

but now they fear (without any reason) that we may not have any coal on Sec 7 and are frightened and show their fears and position by saying to me what they have -

Burnham says, "We do not want to cross the River - aint to our interest and we hope you can prove the coal as we want your land."

Willson says, "If you find coal they will do better than you expect"

Fauk says, "We cannot buy land on C Creek for less than \$100 an acre. 'd your prices are very low."

From these expressions you can see how much they have ^{been} and are leaning on Sec 7. It serves to show us their condition - self confessed, and enables ^{us} to know just what to ask of them. The shaft has given me

[12-16-77]

a cue that we lacked before. so when we make a new proposition following our prospecting we can pay ourselves for delays &c.

I consider that our proposition was based on proofs as they then existed. if anything more was needed they were to do it. Now they require us to prove our land and decline to close the trade. That relieves us and we start afresh. If we prove Coal we by so doing increase the value of our land as additional proofs of coal always enhance the value of the property. I am in favor of asking \$1000 an acre of them for sec 7. They will pay it. I do not think that we need to make any contract with them as we can always get them after we drill - we better remain free.

Now as to finding

coal - The impure vein in the shaft does not prove anything against the land - but merely shows that it is the upper vein or else a bad place in the Middle vein.

I have hired men to put down two holes - will begin on Monday - I will be there to watch matters - I shall go up on the table land directly back from the well at head of the Ravine and go down 175 feet to the level of those two veins and must find them. If successful there I shall then go back to the exact middle of the section on a line with the well and the 1st well hole and put down a second hole - I can see no risk in this - If successful we will get a better figure and cash payment.

They asked Cronce and Hadley what they thought

[12-16-77]

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and of the chances and were
told that a drill would go
through at least 4 feet of coal.

I am to call
Hadley when we drill through
coal and on his Report J & B
say they will act.

I wish I could
see you on your way east - at
Waterloo -

Hoping that we will
be all right in 20 or 30 days

I am

Yours

H. B.

Des Moines, Iowa

Dec 16th 77

James J. Hill Esq
St Paul, Minn

My Dear Sir,

Enclosed

I send you Butlers receipt for
Interest and the Stuyker note -
of the interest on these two papers I
charge you with sufficient to balance
the sum got of you viz; \$1891⁵⁴ - and
balance of interest I paid and gave
myself credit viz; \$16⁶⁵ and I also
paid balance taxes viz; \$100⁵⁸ -
you now have notes and interest
receipts as follows -

Er ^d Napier Note	351.54
Jno Hall "	325.
Er ^d Pruden "	780.
Burrows - Interest	119.
W. S. Brown. Note ^{160.} _{16.}	176.
H. P. Butler - Interest	140.

\$1891.54

This is the exact amount that I drew

[12-16-77]

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on you for October 15th 77 - I have
paid recently some 150⁰⁰ in taxes &
interest and am broke. I need
some money to pay our men on next
Saturday for the weeks work so I will
draw on you to-morrow for 400⁰⁰. Please
honor the same.

I forgot to say that
I am to expose the middle vein on
Sec 13. and expect them to sell $\frac{1}{2}$
interest to J & B individually - full
is to be done about 15th Jan unless
I am ready sooner.

Yours &c
H. B.

P.S.

Sent the corrected article
to Coal Trade Journal -

I had Pammel
deed all our lands to you.
H. B.

26 Exchange Place
New York
Dec 20 1877

J. J. Hill Esq
St Paul
Minn.

Dear Sir

I suppose that
I am indebted to
your kindness for
a beautiful Fox skin
received by Express
a few days since.
I scarcely know why

You should thus favor
me but I am not
at all disposed to
inquire too closely as
to the reason for
this kindly expression.

My wife is in ec-
stasies over it and
joining with me in
thanking you kindly.

I trust that sometime
I may have an op-
portunity to make
you some sort of
return. At present

I must satisfy my-
-self with the expres-
-ion of thanks and
the kindest of wishes
for yourself and
all connected with
you, and may you
have a Merry
Christmas! and
Happy New Year,
as many times re-
-peated as you
can to have, always
an ability to enjoy
them. Very truly
Edw. H. Alden

OFFICE OF
T. H. JUDD,
Wholesale and Retail Dealer in
Lumber, Sash, Shingles,

Cedar Posts, Dressed Lumber, Eave Troughs, Sash, Doors, &c.,
NO. 540 LUMBER DISTRICT, PARK ST.

Milwaukee, Dec 21 " 1874

H. Broome Esq

Esq (Coal)

Miner

Yours of the 16th is at hand
Had we have found the four feet of
coal in the shaft as represented we should
have been willing to have paid a part of
the expense of testing the balance of the section
and if found satisfactory gone into co. with
you on the Lease and the four hundred acres
if we could have arranged satisfactory and
at present if you find coal four feet and
is satisfactory to Wilson and Headley we would
like to join you But we are looking across the
River to see what trades we can make there
when we find out we shd take into considera-
tion both sides of the River and do what is best
for the Co. the East side has the preference of
a bridge across the River and R.R. track and
the building of our town the preference T.H. Judd



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