

Personal

St Paul Minn 7th Oct 1878

Geo Stephen Esq

Montreal

Dear Sir

Referring to your last letter I note
your view that the NP people are decided to
have a new line to South Rapids.

Some of those interested say that they agree with
me that it should not be built except from
necessity. I think they are not so well satisfied
with the award of the Repairs as to be content
with the arrangement permanently.

They also urge with some force that Minneapolis
& St Paul are a centre of too great importance
for them to be satisfied long without independent
facilities. At the same time they admit
that one line can do all the business, and they have
equal rights on fair terms, with independent
terminal facilities at both points.

If you are correct in your conviction that
they are determined to have a new line, of
course no further negotiations would profit either
party. I have another letter from Mr Cook
which I will mail to you. I am not

aware what, if any, influence he exerts, but suppose him to be somewhat active in the Camp.

I shall be certain to say nothing to him which you would disapprove.

As they have appointed a committee to consult I still cherish a faint hope that an arrangement may be consummated.

How far the St Paul & Pacific should go with a view to harmonize with the Northern Pacific I do not suggest.

I do not know that this is at all practicable.

I had earnestly hoped, considering the probability that no adjustment would be had with the Leechfields that the two Railroad interests might be harmonized. If we have both to fight they can & will give each other more or less aid and comfort in the contest.

As I interpret their action they are not yet fully committed to the new project.

Very respectfully yours
Signed Horace Thompson

P.S. Dr Kellon is absent. I fear his health is precarious.

[Blank No. 1.]

The North Western Telegraph Co.

The rules of this Company require that all messages received for transmission shall be written on the message blanks of the Company, under and subject to the conditions printed thereon, which conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message.

C. H. EAKIN, Gen'l Secy. }
MILWAUKEE, WIS. }
D. S. SIMMONS, President. }
H. E. HINDALE, Secretary. } KENOSHA, WIS.

Dated, Winnipeg May 7 Oct 1878
Received at ST. PAUL, MINN., 8 gao
To J. A. Niles

No Sherwood and what was
the price for ties & Elmers

H. A. Niles

1000.

200

2

2

2

2

2

2

2

1000 1000 1000 1000
Pile man leaves tomorrow
Will write about 2 to

891

*Private
Confidential*

St Paul Oct 7th 1878

77

George Stephen Esq
Montreal
My dear Sir

I have your personal letter
of the 3rd inst and have telegraphed Mr Barnes
asking him to do as requested in my letter of
28th ult regarding the Committee's assent to
the issue of debentures on the completion of the
line to Pembina and Alexandria. Mr Barnes
has confirmed the assent to the order of May 31
with the assent necessary to avoid delay in
the issue of debentures, and so as to ensure
our having it we mailed Messrs K & C a short
form of assent which might be cabled to the
Committee and properly executed and attested
and mailed to N.Y. without delay.

Enclose you a note which came enclosed
with one from Mr Hartig and today I had a
talk with him when he told me that his in-
formation came from Folger a banker of
Kingston who is a warm friend of Sir John.

I think it would be well to be on hand early

Q

[14-7-78]

watch if the Nor. Pac. thro. any of their last winter friends were trying to secure any advantages in regard to Manitoba. You will remember that Genl Stark their Vice President has spent a great deal of his time the past summer in Manitoba and Canada. I would hardly suppose Sir John would try to reverse the action of the former Government when such action had been reduced to a contract, still it may be well to keep an eye out for everything.

Under the construction contract the road will remain in the hands of the contractors until Dec 1st 1879 and I understand the Govt are about changing the bridges to iron which will give an opportunity to extend it still further should we deem it desirable to do so.

I note fully what you say about the failure of the Glasgow Bank and have in mind all along the necessity of our getting the debtors at an early day, and as Mr Smith will tell you that only a failure to get the material on the ground will prevent our having the road completed the

[10-7-78]

(B)

present month and if Mr Barnes will cable the form of ascent which mailed him, to the date Nov. I know of no reason why we should not have the ~~bonds~~ debentures by the 8th or 10th of November at latest - I hope we will have about \$400,000. debentures as margin on the work. I note what you say about the earnings for August but a glance at the large payment for repairs of road will show that the earnings ordinarily would have been \$60,000. at least. Again you will remember the figures named are for the First Division only.

I think September will be \$70,000. and October still more.

I have thought of the matter of the debentures on a foreclosure of the Extension Line and mentioned it in my last June when we spoke of a lease of the Line from the Receiver, and I still think we should have the lease.

In the event of our getting the foreclosure in December which I consider almost certain we would undoubtedly have to pay off the

H

[10-7-78]

Debentures in cash and could not issue any bonds on the Penobscot line at any rate, but I think we could on the Alex and the Line. However I will look this up with the attorney. If we did not want to pay cash for the line to the rest of the debentures we could after getting the decree of foreclosure postpone the sale at our convenience. Could we not amend our agreement with the Dutch Govt. this May so as to cover this matter. On my return I will get Young and go over the whole subject and write you fully — Mr Thompson has finally got Becker to a point on the matter of his bill against the Trustees for his services as their attorney and the best that Becker will do is to bonds for his farm near Morris.

These bonds will cost us from \$2500. to \$5000. and as it settles in full a claim for eleven years service against all of the trustees I think with every one of our lawyers here that it is a good settlement of an uncertain question, therefore I have to ask you to send

5

me \$10,000. bonds of the 3,000,000. issued and
what we do not are I will return and as soon
as I get the receipt in full ~~from~~ Thompson from
Becket I will have the other trustees Rice & Thompson
approve it and send it to Mr Kennedy who
can pay it out of money in hand of the
Trustees. I think it would be well for
you to write Mr. Farley frequently about his
getting the road finished at the earliest possible
date as I am daily urging the same thing and
I want him to feel that you consider he is doing
the work.

I am very glad to hear from you as often
as you can write for I am so very busy with
the construction that I may not think of many other
matters and your suggestions will help very much.

Yours very truly
Jas. J. Hill

St. Paul, Oct. 7th 1871,
Mess. Bill Semple & Co. Inc.
To Rogers & Rogers Dr.

772.
5268.

To services in case of
H. & B. Co. and St. Paul
and Sioux City & Sioux /
City & St. Paul R.R. Co's. / ~~2000~~
to costs paid out in same ~~440~~
Received Payment. ~~2440~~

OK
J. J. H.

Preston

Montreal

8th Oct 1878

My dear Mr Will

I have just this minute rec'd
a wire from Fugger. Stating privately
that Peabody Branch is all right nothing
could be more satisfactory news. but
Cautious we ~~are~~ to know that he has
wired me when I see the Premier tomorrow
I take this to mean that the Govt have
resigned & this is one of their last acts. I
hope Mr. McKenzie will apprise me tomorrow
of the fact. I hope it is as I suppose.

I was glad to hear from Mr. Fahey today
that the iron was within 20 miles of
Peabody & that you are progressing
well on to the line. Much separate
news I will write to you about all
other matters. This letter I wish to

devote

to more personal matters affecting you
& us individually as distinct from our associates
Mr Kellom & Mr Smith. - I wish to suggest
for your consideration whether we had not
better - that is you and I personally - make
up our respective disbursements up to that
hour & make a settlement of them to that
date. You must have had out a good
deal of money one way & another as
I have done & I suspect both of us will
have to guess the amount to some extent.
I think this should be done, and any
expenses Mr Smith & Mr Kellom have been
at outside of us, must be paid & deducted
but ought to be dealt with in same
way, that is reimbursed. I think however
and I do not doubt they will agree with me
that the work of association has fallen
upon us more than a year I have

done nothing else & on my going to England I
gave up the income of my business and to
between \$30,000 & \$40,000 so as to be free both
in body & mind to attend to this wealth
you. I know how you the same as
I am of opinion that in addition
to our reimbursement for expenses and
cash and pay. we that is you & Joseph
to take by way of remuneration for our
personal services or rather to make up
what we have otherwise given up.
at least \$25,000 each. His expenses
we should take out of the surplus debt.
which are of course as good as any
but we know perfectly what
to do. But we know perfectly what
you think of this proposal. say
nothing about it to Mr. Kettell nor
to any one until you have communicated
with me

With out thinking it will I have given
you. If you oppose I will take my
own way of working & known to our
friends of carrying it out. - If you
think the expense too much or too little
say so frankly. We shall give me
your opinion fully openly.

I am very truly yr

W. W. W.

[WITH GEO. STEPHEN 10-8-78]

Copy

Montreal Oct 8th 1878

Edwin C Litchfield Esq
18 William St.
New York

Dear Sir

I am this morning in receipt of your letter of the 5th instant.

I really do not know whether the Milwaukee telegram, which you enclose, refers to the proposed St Cloud & St Paul Line or to some other Road

I quite agree with you that the effect of a road line on the west side of the river from St Cloud to St Paul would be more or less injurious to the interests of the St Paul & Pacific Road, and that the construction of such a line ought to be prevented if possible.

I am now in negotiation with a Committee of the Northern Pacific, and hope the result of this negotiation will be an amicable settlement of all matters in dispute between the two roads, and their discontinuance of any encouragement to the proposed west side line project.

I do not anticipate any difficulty in dealing with the Northern Pacific if they and I can agree as to terms.

They are quite ready to accept such guarantee

as I am able to offer for the due fulfilment
of any agreement I may enter into with them
in the part of the St Paul & Pacific, so that the
difficulty in the way of a permanent arrangement,
which you assume, has no existence.

I note what you say with reference to the
possibilities of the Trustees in possession, and
of the Board of Directors of the St. Louis
Company respectively, but prefer not to enter
into a discussion of the matter, further than
to say that while I am perfectly satisfied
these will all, in a very short time, be
removed by the operation of the law.

I am now and have always been ready
to consider your position in relation to the
property, including the power which your
possession of the Stock has hitherto
given you to delay proceedings in forcible entry.
But I have been prevented from making
any overtures to you for a settlement of
your claims, whatever they may be, by my
friends, who have always said it was
useless, and that nothing would satisfy
you but to litigate them to the end;
and our plans are laid accordingly.

But while so resolved to prosecute the matter
I am quite prepared to make any reasonable
concession that will save time and trouble
in the accomplishment of our purpose.

I shall be in New York early next week
~~and~~ will be very glad to meet you.

Yours truly
Signed Geo Stephen



Minnesota
Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org