GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

1879 MAR 21 - 30

FOLDER NO. 11-20

JAMES J. HILL PAPERS

PLEASE RETAIN
ORIGINAL ORDER

Montreal Mch 21st 1879

Jas J. Hill Esq
St Paul

My Dear Sir

Your letter of the 16th inst, sent to New York, was forwarded to me by Mr Kennedy, and reached me only this morning.

I have nothing from Ottawa; Schultz & Tupper are at the bottom of the bother, but the Government will find it pretty hard work to force the St Paul & Pacific to hand their freight over to any irresponsible ring Tupper may name.

I hope Wellis will get his money

back and shake himself clear of them as best he can.

Now is his time to get good terms out of Upper & C.

I do not know what to say about Becker. To me his claim looks big; I think we must settle on best terms we can amicably.

As to more Rolling Stock; I enclose Farley's letter to J S & C for perusal - of course you will be careful not to let it be known that you have seen it.

If you think it dangerous to wait until I get up to St Paul about 1st April, (10 days) you might order through Farley 100

or 200 cars, and a few engines,
taking care that you get good
value for the money.

I would prefer nothing were done
until I get up, and can consult
with you and with Wakeman as
to our necessities, but perhaps
it may not be wise to wait
so long as that. You and Mr
Kittson must judge.

Farley's judgment as to leaving
the Branch in its present condition
is at fault. He won't see that
it is barely safe to run on.

It is no use the old man
bothering himself about such matters.

I have just served you asking

about Young. I hope to hear tonight, that all is right, but am a little uneasy about his silence.

Yours truly

Geo Stephen

I will try to leave this day week so as to reach Chicago on Sunday night. G

Montreal 7th Mar

Messrs J & S Kennedy & Co
New York

Dear Sirs Thanks for the perusal of Mr Farleys letter of the 18th to your Senior, which I return herein with a press copy of a letter I have sent to Mr Farley on the subject to which he refers.

It is not easy to forecast the future so accurately so as to make no mistake in providing for it. I think however that after we have disposed of all the ground set apart for the purposes of the Eleven Stations &

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there will still be enough left for any possible extension of business likely to come this way our day, and if there were any doubts on that point, which I will determine when I go up, we can get about 40 acres on the level above the present workshops for $15.000. if not for nothing from the Corporation of St Paul.

This ground would be very available for craft car &c

I note L & R's letter. I am right glad Mr Barnes has gone out.

The N.P. agreement will be hard yet.

Yours very truly

Geo Stephens

[3-22-79]

Montreal Mch 22d 1879

J P Farley Esq
St Paul.

My dear Sir

Mr Kennedy has kindly communicated with me on the subject you touch upon in your letter to him of the 15th instant

I fully agree with you as to the necessity for the greatest circumspection and care, having regard to the probable future needs of the St Paul & Pacific Road in the matter of station powers in selling or otherwise disposing of the terminal property of the Company. But you are aware

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that we are already practically committed to the people of St Paul to provide in some way a union passenger depot during the present summer; and I fear we have no option but to deal with the question at once in some way. If it could be delayed for a year or two, I am quite sure no one connected with the St Paul and Pacific would object.

All that, I shall be glad to discuss with you and have the benefit of your advice, when I go up. By this day week I hope to be on my way up.

Thanking you for the watchful care that prompted you to write

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to our mutual friends Mr Kennedy.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Geo Abbott

PS

How did you get on with Mr Walker in our?

U. S. Consulate
Winnipeg B. N. A. = March 22. 1879.

J. J. Hill Esq

My dear friend.

We have cooperated so long and so effectively in bringing Minnesota and Northwest British America into community of interests and intercourse, that I cannot believe you will forget me at this critical period.

Of course, I refer to the reorganization of the St Paul and Pacific RR. On the 19th January, I ventured to ask your support for the position of Land Commissioner; but when last in St Paul, apprehensive from conversation with Mr Kittson that this appointment might go elsewhere I approached Mr Stephen with the suggestion that my allowances during 1878 for

special services — $100 per month — might be made permanent: and that I should not relinquish the Consular office. It certainly has its advantages: and with extended leave of absence when necessary (which Secretary Seward has assured Dr. Stewart would be granted), would enable me to resume those personal relations with the leading men of Canada, which I formerly enjoyed while holding a confidential position in connexion with the Treasury and State Departments at Washington. With my experience as a writer and speaker, I am confident that I can greatly advance the interests of the St Paul and Pacific Railroad with reference to the pending discussions in Canada on financial and commercial subjects. I regard Mr. Tilleys budget as simply tentative — that its real purpose is to lead up to a new negotiation for reciprocal trade: and such a discussion will

of course include the questions of emigration and transportation between Minnesota and Manitoba.

I have not heard of any result of my application to Mr Stephen. Was it considered? I felt assured of your friendly disposition in that event.

As I said before, I hope and believe that you and Mr Kittson will not allow me to be overlooked.

I remain, Yours Truly

Jas. W. Taylor

Montreal March 22/79

Jas. J. Hill Esq
St Paul

My Dear Sir

I had uncomfortable foreboding about Young, which your note of last night confirmed.

I cannot trust myself to write on this subject just now, I am so appalled at the recklessness which would thus imperil such important interests; what the effect may be I am not able to judge.

You know the importance to us of time, that it is the one thing we dare not waste, or misspend, and I am sure both you and

Mr Kittoon will do all you can to hasten forward to the goal.

I have just wered in reference to giving the P. B. contractors the use of Rolling Stock. Mr Farley will see that no risks are run.

I do not know that they have any means whereewith to pay if an accident occurred; I am sure no means that the St Pr Pacific could get at.

I am waiting to see what Suppers bell <u>means</u> before I do or say anything, but we must watch him, he is a dangerous, corrupt man, reckless to a degree.

Farley wrote to Kennedy a letter about selling the ground.

I meant to have sent you a copy of it, but forgot it. You will see the drift of it from the copies of my letters in reply.

Referring to your letter of 15th I cannot say more in re Becker, We must just do the best we can. Everybody seems to think we are fair game to peg away at.

Am disappointed that Reed went back upon you.

I hope Willis will succeed in getting clear of the contract with Upper

Harty has abandoned his political creed, and turned conservative.

"Any bodys dog for a piece"

I am glad we made such a good impression by our visit to Minneapolis. Yours very truly

Geo Thebes

Grand Forks D.T.
March 24th 1879

A. N. Kittson Esq
St. Paul Min

Dear Sir

In compliance with your request of the 18th inst I called a Public meeting of our Citizens on Friday evening last which was largely attended Committees were appointed to obtain "Rights of way" and see what amount could be raised as an inducement for the Extension of the Road to this place. The "Rights of way" as by Report of the Committee was obtained from all but two or three parties - and there we can probably make satisfactory arrangements with the Committee appointed to canvass the Town did not meet with as good success, there being a split between the Upper & lower end of Town, Frets and McKelvy refusing to give anything unless the terminus of the Road should be located between Kittson Street and the mouth of Red Lake River. We are still at work and will let you know results in a day or two -

I remain
Very Respy Yours
Alex Griggs
Pres. S.V.C.B.

Montreal March 24th 1879

Jas. J. Hill Esq
My Dear Sir

I am in receipt of your letter of the 19th inst.

You will see by the papers the action Tupper has taken in the House, what it really means, I do not quite make out, and mean to be quiet until events declare themselves. He evidently wants to put an interpretation upon my agreement that neither of the parties to it ever intended, and all in the interest of Schultz and this Kingston ring. While I could probably induce the St Paul & Pacific to enter into any agreement with the Government of

Canada for the working of the Pembina Branch, which had a basis of fairness and was mutually advantageous to it, and to the Canadian Govt. but I have no power to force or coerce the St P & P to do anything against its own free will and my agreement is a personal one, binding upon me individually and no one else. I apprehend will find out that his legislation, so far as the St P & P is concerned will have about as much effect as the Pope's Bull against the Comet, but he has that to learn I fancy he will not like the position he is trying to work his friends into, and when the Winnipeg people find that

Upper, by the aid of Schultz & Tapper has to make his $64,000 out of them instead of the RR & P. perhaps they will not be so jubilant.

I have wired John Bell the best Railway Lawyer in the Country to come and consult with me tomorrow as to my contract, but in any event Tapper can do nothing except to cancel the Contract, and that I do not mind, if it will please him.

I have ~~yes~~ were from Chicago I have just wired Farley asking what he estimates the amount of damages by the accident reported in Papers of 19th. I think it well

he should see these things are noticed.

Don't be alarmed at the responsibility in deciding to offer the ground at £250,000. We shall have to take our chances on that as well as on many other things and be content when we have judged and acted according to our best lights.

I hope the Winnipeg people will soon begin to understand the true inwardness of this Pembina Branch business

Tupper has fastened a ring of harpies upon them and they will have to support them for the present

I hope Wakeman has been secured

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5/95

and that his advent will do good.

I hope, between you and Upham, that you will bring Reed to terms

The Land Department needs the most prompt attention.

It is a most important feature in your work.

I hope you are thinking over it and will be ready to recommend some plan of action.

I hope you will be able to be about a good deal when we are at work on the new road.

Your Eye is the best foreman we can have.

Why should our ties cost $5000 more than is right?

The building of these new roads

is <u>our</u> affair, not the Trustees' or the Receiver, and we have only to consult ourselves.

Yours very truly

Cottrell

Minnesota
Historical Society

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