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751002-A.LTR¹

TO: O. W. Potter

FROM: R. S. Stevens

Oct. 2^d, 1875

O. W. Potter, Esq.

¹ FROM: Letter Book, "FROM R.S.S. — 1875-76."

Pres't., N. C. R. Mill Co.²

Dear Sir:

Upon reaching here this morning, and looking over the condition of affairs I find, that we have about Twelve hundred tons of old rails on hand which should be disposed of either for new iron rails, or else turning it into steel. The pattern we propose to adopt is the one now in use upon the T. W. and W. R.R., which was introduced by Col. Andrews, Supt. of that Road, and weighs 52-1/2 lbs. per yard, the head of the rail being about the same weight as the original sixty pound rail, the difference being taken from the shank and web.

I am yet undecided whether to have 500 or 1000 tons of iron rails, or to dispense with iron entirely, and exchange for steel.

Upon what terms will you furnish me steel rails, of the pattern indicated, taking these old iron rails in part payment?

I would like to arrange with you (if any arrangement is made) for the delivery of your rails here, and the receiving by you here of the old rails, you making your arrangements with the C. B. and Q. R.R., Gilman & Springfield, or "Wabash" Railroads, each way.

If we can agree upon any basis, I would like, say one hundred tons at an early day; during the month of Oct., two or three hundred tons more; & so on.

Please give me your views by return mail.

Respectfully Yours,

R. S. Stevens

Gen'l Manager

² North Chicago Rolling Mill Co.