

**NOTE:**The original of this document is in the Stevens Family Papers, #1210, at the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library, Ithaca, New York 14853.

751007-B.LTR<sup>1</sup>

**TO: Robert Harris**  
**FROM: R. S. Stevens**

Oct. 7th, 1875

R. Harris, Esq.  
Genl. Supt.

Dear Sir:-

While in New York recently, I had the pleasure, in company with Mr. Carver, one of our Directors, of meeting Mr. Griswold, of Boston, and in the course of our conversation the relations of our respective Companies were considered, and some comments made upon the laxity with which this Company had met and settled the balances due yours, and also to the Quincy Bridge Company.

A proposition was then made to Mr. Griswold, for the settlement of all balances due the C. B. and Q. Co. and the Quincy Bridge Company, up to the 1<sup>st</sup> of Oct., and the assurance that from and after that time monthly settlements would be made for whatever balances might be due. This proposition was taken under consideration by him, and was to have been referred to his Executive Committee.

I am advised by Mr. Carver, that our proposition was accepted - the proposition was the giving of our promissory note with an agreed interest.

I find, upon investigating the matter here, that it is a little doubtful whether all your vouchers have been credited up. In order to settle the thing properly, I would request that you instruct your auditor to make out a statement giving the amount of the vouchers yet unpaid, and forward the same to me at the earliest day possible. If there is no discrepancy between your statement and our books, a note will be sent for amount due with interest to commence October 1<sup>st</sup>. I trust this will be satisfactory.

There has been quite a number of statements made recently, by different parties, claiming that we were not getting our share of business, and that much was being diverted to your Hopkins branch, that should go this way.

---

<sup>1</sup>FROM: Letter Book, "FROM R.S.S. - 1875-76."

Our agent at Saint Joseph recently sold a merchant a ticket to New York, via the C. B. & Q. and Pittsburgh and Ft. Wayne R.R. Next morning he returned the ticket to the agent, asking that the money be refunded, as the agent for the C. B. & Q at Saint Joseph had given him a pass to Chicago, via Hopkins. By that course we will probably lose the freight of the merchant, which would naturally come over this Line. I merely refer to this to advise you what course is being pursued by some of your employe[els], or those of the "Council Bluffs" road, without presuming for a moment that you are cognizant thereof, or if so, would sustain the practice.

Having thus arranged for the satisfactory settlement of all balances due your Co., I hope the old friendly relations will be restored, and so far as possible, the two Roads work in harmony, and for the interests of both. One of your prominent officials told Mr. Courtright, a short time since, that the reason so much of the western business was being sent by Hopkins was because the accounts of this Company not having promptly paid its balances due your Company, therefore, if this objection is removed, I hope the diverted business will be restored.

By the way, are you making any arrangements or considering the question of opening a thro Line to Kansas City via the M. K. & T. to Moberly and thence to K. City via the North Missouri R.R.?

The General Passenger Agent of the M. K. and T. informed me that this was being done, and I understand your Asst. Supt., Mr. Munrow, made the same statement a few days since. Possibly a good Line might be worked up that way, but would it not result in a competition "disastrous to both the "C. B. and Q." and "H. and St. Joe"?

Very Truly Yours,

R. S. Stevens

Genl. Mangr.

F.