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751022-A.LTR¹

TO: B. F. Carver
FROM: R. S. Stevens

Oct. 22, 1875

B. F. Carver, Esq., M. D.
N. Y. City

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 19th is at hand. Let us look a moment at the position in which your action is placing me.

On coming here, you clearly & most distinctly stated (and requested) twas your desire, that I should take control of every Department & of every official in the West. Yet your first act (when here August 9), without the least advice to me, was to order monies deposited in Lamb's Bank. While this was all well enough in itself, notice should have been given me so that proper arrangements could have been made for doing our business. Result is we have been compelled to change our account to a certain extent.

You stated to me in most positive terms the Company did not owe a dollar in N. Y. or on acct N. Y. office, except \$90,000 borrowed to pay Sept. interest. This I have repeated on your statements. Since Aug. 7 by your order, or on Mr. Acker's Dfts, \$126,842.17 have been paid on acct. N. Y. office, & today your letter of 19th requests of me the sending to N. Y. of \$40,000 more - making a total of \$166,842.17. To pay \$90,000 you advise me in said letter of the importance of sending this \$40,000, yet you send Mr. Hilton a copy of Resolution passed by Board ordering him to send it! In addition to the above amount, I have <...?...> in the settlement of old scores, taxes, &c. Tomorrow must pay \$12,000 on acct. steel rails bought long since (which was stated repeatedly to have been paid for in full), & some \$3,000 to Alexander, an old paint acct, making a grand total of over \$183,000 since Aug. 7.

Sometime since, in exact accordance with the views of yourself & Mr. Acker I directed Mr. Hilton to pay no money without advising me on what account, & giving me reasons therefor. Yet when here on the 14th inst. you directed him to continue sending to N. Y. & not say anything to me about it!

(So says Mr. Hilton.)

¹FROM: Letter Book, "FROM R.S.S. - 1875-1876."

Now this may be the way to treat me, & you may be able to meet all demands & sustain credit of your Company by such procedure, but I shall not be a party to such deception. I am perfectly willing to carry out all orders, or in event of my not approving any policy laid down, will promptly & willingly resign & quit, leaving someone else to play the part of knave or fool.

I am writing without hard feeling & in no unkindness to you, but I have a large amount of stock in the road, purchased on your representations as to pecuniary condition of Co., (together with Capt. Acker's), & I do not propose to see my investments & the property of others in my charge, without any effort to save it, nor will I <...?...> deceive you or your associate stockholders or Directors. My best energies are being directed to improve & save this property. If you do not approve my course in this direction say so candidly & I will retire.

Our business is improving. Penfield, (Passenger Agent), writes from Colorado he has splendid assurances for travel. Courtwright, (Frghht Agt), is now in Chicago perfecting details of plan settled upon by Mr. Harris & self that should increase our westbound frghht accts some \$10,000 per month. He was also hoping next month to reduce expenses in several departments.

Respectfully yrs,

R. S. Stevens

Genl Manager