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751202-G.LTR¹

TO: W. H. Neilson
FROM: R. S. Stevens

Dec. 2, 1875

W. H. Neilson, Esq.
Pres't.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of 28th ultimo came here in advance of me as I stopped over for Thanksgiving with my Mother. Its contents are noted & in this I will reply briefly. In a few days will give you a complete list of Officials & employees on our November Pay Rolls, showing their positions & salaries.

You may not be aware of the peculiar condition of affairs on this Road at time of my coming here. It was my intention to have explained it fully when you came out & unless you decide not to come, will leave that still for your arrival.

Suffice it to say, I inherited, in many respects, an unpleasant legacy & have been trying to reduce expenses, increase receipts, enforce discipline & restore order. Others must judge of my success. While not entirely satisfied therewith myself, still the prospects brighten & if my efforts receive your approval & secure your confidence, I am confident good results will follow.

I was elected General Manager Aug. 1 & took charge of Road the 9th. From Aug. 1 to date there has been sent to N. Y. Office or paid on its order in cash from earnings \$171,842.17. I have paid notes given for steel rails, (old purchase) \$36,000.00. Old taxes over \$18,000. In settlement of old suits some \$20,000. Expenses Land Department \$5,000. While in the months of Aug., Sep. & October our Gross Earnings (for the three months) were \$480,715.49. At same time I have paid old claims for overcharges, drawbacks, personal damages, &c., running back into 1874, for many thousands of dollars.

I mention these matters merely to show you into what a disorganized condition affairs had drifted. This, too, without fault on the part of

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

Messrs. Acker & Carver, but through the inefficiency, &c., of those in charge here. Commencing with Dec. 1, wages of track men are \$1. per day from \$1.10. About the 15th that force will be reduced. Our Bridge force has been large all the fall owing to loss of many small structures by floods. That has been reduced over 30 per cent. Our "Shop" are now working 8 hours only. All this will reduce amount of "Pay Rolls". I think you can rely on me for \$100,000 towards meeting Jan. interest. Will write you further in a day or two.

Respectfully yours,

R. S. Stevens

General Manager & Supt.