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TO: R. S. Stevens
FROM: E. P. Bancroft

E. P. BANCROFT'S
Real Estate Office,

Emporia, Kansas, Dec. 5, 187 5

R. S. Stevens

Dear Sir:-

Since I saw you, the public's mind through all this portion of Kansas, has been very much enlightened on the subject of cheap transportation, through the means of narrow gauge railroads, and as soon as the law is changed, which will undoubtedly be done this winter, there will be a fine field for the capitalist in those counties which have little or no indebtedness, and plenty of business for a narrow gauge road.

The old idea that there must be some outside power brought to bear, in order to build and operate a railroad, still prevails to a great extent, and the people are hardly ready to depend on themselves. As soon as the law is changed, so that municipalities can vote aid, the people all along the whole line, from Ottawa to Arkansas City, will give bonds enough to bring \$2,000. per mile in cash, and most if not all the right of way, for a narrow gauge road. This, as an actual gift, on condition that fares and freight shall never exceed a fair price, to be fixed.

Now what is needed, is a company, composed partly of Kansans, and partly of eastern men, to build these roads for these subsidies. It can be easily demonstrated that these roads can be built and equipped almost anywhere in this state for \$7,000. per mile or less, so that all the capital required, would be for a few miles to begin with, after that it would build itself. Let this company have a popular name, such as for instance, "The Kansas Cheap Transportation Co.", then let them deal with the local companies where they already exist, or directly with the municipalities themselves. The public demand something of this kind, and in my opinion those who seize the opportunity at the right time, can easily control the bulk of the business in this state with a very small outlay of actual cash.

I believe it is to be a scheme worthy the attention of the best railroad and financial ability in the country, and while it appears to cater to the popular demand, still there is "millions in it."

I know you are engrossed with business, but I wish you would give this subject an hour's thought, and, if you think favorably of it, take the trouble to present it to some of your moneyed friends. If anything is done, it should be done at once, for, as soon as counties, towns and cities have the restrictions on voting bonds removed, there will be a perfect furor for narrow gauge roads, and this construction company should be ready to take advantage of it. So far as this particular road is concerned, everything can be got ready in a very short time, so that work might commence in the early spring.

Excuse me for troubling you, but I have more confidence in your judgement in such matters than in anyone else.

Yours Truly,

E. P. Bancroft