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751206-A.LTR¹

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

Dec. 6th, 1875

W. H. Neilson

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 2nd and note contents.

Yesterday I received a telegram from Mr. Carver, which read as follows: "The president desires to know if you have remitted any portion of the Jan'y interest. If not, what amount can you remit next week, and what amount can be depended upon by Jan'y 1st". I replied that \$30,000 would be forward to N.Y. on the 6th inst.

	\$ 30,000
on the 13 th ---	\$ 20,000
" " 21 st , and	<u>\$ 20,000</u>
on the 27 th ---	
Total	\$100,000

This is the amount I mentioned to you as what you could rely upon towards the Jan'y interest. The same statement was made to both Mr. Carver and Mr. Acker. You will remember that I stated in my previous letter, that from August 1st until Nov. 14th nearly \$300,000 of our earnings had been appropriated to past indebtedness and the payment of steel rails, taxes, lawsuits, &c. This, after meeting our Oct. pay rolls, left us on the 1st of Dec. with about an empty treasury, and what money I shall send you, as stated above, must be saved from our Dec. earnings with a slight addition from what was left over from November.

My telegram in reference to the amount that would be sent you, and the dates, was sent to Mr. Carver, rather than yourself as he telegraphed me in reference thereto. It will be only by the strictest economy, and perhaps passing over of some supply bills, that I shall be able to remit \$100,000, but you can rely upon it at the dates mentioned.

In the settlement of taxes which we admit to be correct and about which there is no dispute, some \$30,000 will be required to meet settlements already made - payments to be made in Jan'y, and the last of Feb'y. In

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

closing up these tax matters, I have endeavored, so far as possible, to get as long time as I could, but as these taxes have been due for a long time, there is much difficulty in getting any delay, however in most instances I have succeeded in getting 30 or 90 days. These taxes are not those in dispute and not connected with those about which we have asked an injunction. This latter class are utterly illegal and unconstitutional, but the county courts, in many instances, insist in making levies, and in this are too much abetted by our state authorities. The only course left seemed to be to sue out an injunction to prevent levy and sale, until the question of legality could be settled by proper authority.

I leave this morning for Kansas City & St. Joe for an inspection of the Road, and regret very much that you are not here to go with me. There are many matters in connection with the Road of great importance, requiring early attention, and I dislike much to act upon my own responsibility, preferring to advise, and counsel with you before taking any action and shall only do so where delay cannot be obtained, and after having advised with you as to what is proposed.

It is my intention between this, and the 1st proximo, to inaugurate several reforms, the result of which I hope will be salutary both to the management of the Road, and its receipts. This, to a certain extent, involves a reduction of the forces, and consequently the discharge of many employees. In times past the course has been, in such cases, to apply to some director or officer of the company, and at once secure reinstatement. I am confident reports of this character will be useless in the future, believing your fullest endorsement will be given to whatever step I may take looking to the abolishing of past abuses, and increase of our net receipts, whether it be by rigid economy, or increased gross receipts.

I regret exceedingly to hear of the illness of your son, and trust it may not be serious, and that he may be fully recovered 'ere this, and that you will be able to make your promised visit at an early day.

There are many matters connected with our Land Department that require consultation and attention.

The company of which A. B. Stone is manager are now extending their Road to Louisiana from this point, and under some arrangement made with Messrs. Morse and Carver, they have gone on and graded their Line through our grounds. Under ordinary circumstances we should receive large remuneration therefor, sufficient to enable us to fill up the portion of the

ground not taken by them. I cannot learn that any agreement has been made as to the price to be paid for this right of way.

Will you have the kindness to inquire of Mr. Carver in reference to the matter, and advise me?

Yours respectfully,
G.M.