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TO: R. S. Stevens
FROM: H. H. Courtright

Hannibal and St. Joseph Rail Road Co.
General Freight Agent's Department.

Hannibal, Mo. Dec. 16th 187 5

R. S. Stevens, Esq.
Genl. Manager
Dear Sir:-

In regard to lumber shipments for Kansas City Elevator of which you spoke to me this morning, Mr. Latshaw (Agent, K. C. E. Co.), came to me and requested special rates. I declined his request. He was very persistent and intimated that he knew he could do better by some other line. From here he went to St. Louis and from there instructed his shippers here to be sure to ship by M. K. & T. and to load the cars full.

When Mr. L. reached Kan. City he found some five or six cars had come by our line, and he again instructed his shippers to ship by M. K. & T. as our cars were loaded too light & if they shipped any more by H. & S. J., he would not receive it. They then loaded according to his instructions and from the amount of lumber they loaded the loads, could not have weighed less than from 27, to 32,000 lbs., and in fact I have it from the best authority that some of the loads were reported by weighmaster as weighing 37,000 lbs.

After enough of the cars had gone forward to satisfy me they were over loading and that the agent was aware of the fact, I requested Mr. Lee to write Msrs. Garner & McKissock and ?fire them the facts. After which, I am informed, they charged excess from Moberly. From the language of the instructions from Mr. Latshaw, I am led to believe that he had assurances that no excess would be charged.

If Mr. Latshaw has any feelings against H. & S. J. I am not aware of it. He may have felt aggrieved because I would not give him a special rate,

¹FROM: Book of Letters to R.S.S. from 8-1875 to 1-1876.

but if this is so, he must have thought better of it since he is now shipping by our line.

I will say in justice to the M. K. & T.'s yard master (who weighed the cars here) that I believe he weighed every car carefully and reported the proper weights to the officer.

Yours truly,

H. H. Courtright

G. F. A.