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TO: R. S. Stevens
FROM: Wm. C. Neilson

President's Office

of the **Hannibal and St. Joseph Rail Road
Co.**

78 Broadway

P. O. Box 2839 **New York** Dec^r 17th 187 5

R. S. Stevens, Esq.
Genl Manager, &c.
Dr Sir:-

On my return to New York I was pleased to receive your letter, & also to learn that you had remitted a second \$30,000 to our acct here, & that you telegraphed that we were doing a good business. I entirely approve your action in reducing our force to the necessary requirements of the road.

We cannot afford to & must not pension anybody. Our duty to our Bond & Stockholders demands that not one cent more shall be paid for running the road than is absolutely required. I may say also that my duty to the people of Misso[uri] & to the Community generally calls for an example for us of honest & economical management. I have said before & now repeat, that any dishonesty on the part of our employees must be met with their immediate discharge, this should be distinctly declared. If our conductors, any of them, have appropriated their collections, deal with them at once, but be sure of their guilt. Let the same judgement pass on any who are defrauding us by trading in our supplies. Do not permit our bridge to remain a moment in an unsafe condition. If the sills are rotten put in new ones. Obtain an estimate for filling & we will consider whether we can afford now to make a contract for having the work done.

I see by an article in a Hannibal paper, which has been handed me, that it is charged that the Directors of the Hannibal & St Jo R.R. Co. are anxious to obtain possession of the lands, in order to divide the proceeds among the Stockholders. There is not a shaddow (*sic*) of truth in this

¹FROM: 1875 Book of Letters to R.S.S.

aspersion. When the lands shall revert to the road, it is the intention to use the money which shall be realized from them, in bettering the condition of the road & liquidating the debt of the Co., & not to apply it directly or indirectly towards a dividend. The dividend must be earned by the road over & above its expenses & interest, & that I trust it may do in good time under your efficient & careful oversight. I telegraphed you that I should like to see you in New York sometime after Jany 1st. If you can be spared for ?trips.

Yours truly,

Wm. C. Neilson, P^t