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**TO: B. F. Carver**  
**FROM: R. S. Stevens**

Oct. 21, 1875

B. F. Carver, Esq., M. D.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed find article published in yesterday's Clipper of this city. Some think Mr. Morse<sup>2</sup> the author, or the one furnishing "items" to Editor. I understand Morse is very bitter on you. I am told he is also stating to many employees that after Nov. 1 he (Morse) will be Gen'l Mgr & in full charge. Some are believing it & thus, a little disinclined to obey orders issued by me. In every instance, the party thus inclined will be promptly discharged.

Did you employ MacKenzie, the Master Mechanic? If so, what was agreement as to time of service? It is being whispered around that he was engaged for five years & is therefore independent of all here. He is a good man, so long as willing to obey orders. It is hard work for him to reduce force & expenses & unless he comes down on the economical platform, I shall trade him.

Jobson shut down mine last week. Getting coal from others at 6<sup>c</sup> & shall have the mine going again today. Jobson now claims that under assurances from yourself & Morse of having mine two years, he made permanent improvements & demands \$2,000 therefor. It does seem as if all the leeches in the Universe had fastened on to this Co.

I am having a list of suits now pending made & those brought by employees alone for damages & Injuries <...?...>. Judge Carr says amount to over \$200,000. ?Then other suits for cattle, injury to <?>, passengers &c. are at least as much <?>.

Land Department is equally as bad off. Counties are continually claiming "swamp lands" & bringing suits therefor or selling lands. If you expect this Company can be kept out of bankruptcy long unless vigorous measures are adopted & the plan of reorganization as agreed upon by yourself & Capt. Acker adopted, you are badly mistaken. Our expenses are being reduced & rec'ts increased, with feeling towards Co. improving all along

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<sup>1</sup>FROM: Letter Book, "FROM R.S.S. - 1875-1876."

<sup>2</sup>Mr. Morse was Robert's predecessor at the H. & St. Joe.

Road, but this is not enough. Who comes out here at Annual meeting will with proxies! Or will you <...?...> home? Who have you settled upon as the three to be elected? If I am to remain with the Co., tis my wish to go into Directory as agreed upon. I think Baxter, Shields & McCready should be elected, then use some resignations for self & others at next meeting Board. One thing is certain, the present policy cannot be long held & the Company meet its judgments, taxes, land suits, &c.

Truly yours,

R. S. Stevens

General Mgr