

NOTE: The original of this document is in the Stevens Family Papers, #1210, at the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library, Ithaca, New York 14853.

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TO: R. S. Stevens

FROM: D. N. Welch

Pullman's Palace Car Company,

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

Chicago, Aug. 14th 1875

R. S. Stevens, Esq.

Genl. Mang'r., H. & St. Jo R.R.

Hannibal, Mo.

Dear Sir:-

On my return from the East the other day I learned that you had been appointed General Manager of the H. & St. J. Road, and was very glad to know it. I want to have a little talk with you in regard to a few unsettled matters between this Company and the H. & St. J.

I learn from the Genl. Acct. that they have considerable difficulty in getting some of the authorities on your road to understand the arrangement for repairing the Car "Brookfield". It was agreed on the part of the Supt. Chicago Div. of this Company and your then Gen. Supt., Mr. L. W. Towne, that certain articles should be furnished by our Company and certain work by the railroad Company and that we should forward a Baker heater — or the railroad company furnish one, one-half the expenses of which we were to pay. This is exactly the way the matter stands. It was then agreed with another Superintendent or with the then Genl. Mangr., Mr. Morse, that precisely the same thing should be done with regard to car "Hamilton" which was then lying idle, and the articles were forwarded with the hope that the car would be put in order as early as possible. I understand however, that the material is lying at Hannibal waiting for the workmen to put them into the Car.

The reason I write about this matter is this: Your Company is now paying mileage on two wild cars between Toledo and Kansas City. These cars were furnished for this line at the request and solicitation of the officers of your road and the T. W. & W., you agreeing to pay us regular mileage. It seems to me, however, that if your two assigned cars were put in proper condition, they could be put in the through line, thus saving your road considerable expense for mileage and reducing by one half, the amount of our investment in the line, which would be effected by the withdrawal of the two wild cars. I think you will readily see that two cars "Brookfield" and "Hamilton" should be put in good order and placed in the line.

¹ FROM: 1875 Book of Letters to R.S.S.

Another matter. Some time in March last one of our assigned cars to the H. & St. J. Co. was destroyed by fire while on its regular run, some miles out on the T. W. & W. Road, no material being saved. The car was purchased of the H. & St. J. Co. by this Company and after it was destroyed we rendered a bill to you Company for the amount we paid for it in cash. A similar loss occurred about a year previous to this and a bill was presented by us for the car just as we furnished it, and it was paid, as your Company succeeded in obtaining insurance money for the car; but whether you had obtained the insurance or not there was no doubt as to your responsibility for the car. For the money for this second car we have been waiting since the bill was presented in March last, and we have understood from the different parties we have conversed with that the delay was owing to the fact that the car was burned on the Wabash Road and the insurance companies, therefore, would not pay the amount of the insurance, which we think was \$10,000.-, claiming that the insurance should be collected by the Wabash Road. Of course we know nothing about this matter and now bring it to your attention hoping that you will be able to settle the matter with the Wabash people.

As soon as you have an opportunity to look into these matters I would like to hear from you. Of course I do not expect you to find out all about them at once and am willing to wait a sufficient length of time for you to give them a thorough investigation.

Very Respectfully,

D. N. Welch

Genl. Supt.

[NOTE: On the reverse of this letter is the following note to R. S. Stevens, from W. J. Hilton, Treasurer of the H. & St. J.:]

August 20th 1875

Col. R. S. Stevens

General Manager, &c.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to the within letter, <?> understanding of the matter is as follows.

In regard to the Baker heater for sleeping coach "Brookfield", it was decided by our officers to pay the expense of the same, and a voucher has been sent to cover the amount.

The sleeping coach "Hamilton" is now in the shop undergoing repairs as per agreement, but ?how much has been

done on it I am not advised.

The Sleeping Coach "Chillicothe" was ruined on the through line between St. Joseph and Springfield on the night of March 11th/1875 when it was destroyed by fire on the T. W. & W. Road near Clayton, Ill. By order of Mr. L. W. Towne, then Genl Supt., the trucks and other parts which were saved were sent to our shops here. Proofs of loss were furnished to our Insurance Agent in New York and they made demand on the Insurance Co. for the amount which was by them refused, on the grounds that they were not liable, as the coach was not destroyed on the line of our road. Demand was then made on the officers of the T. W. & W. R.R. Co. which was likewise refused, they claiming that they were not liable as the fire originated from a defective smoke jack, which fact they say they can prove.

Yours truly

W. J. Hilton

Treas.