

Donnelly, Ignatius
Hill to P. H. Kelley

May 19, 1885

Sarcastic references to the old-line Democrats who have done no work but now want offices. Donnelly is described in uncomplimentary terms reviewing his career. "He is a man of undoubted ability and industry and none more likely to make a favorable impression where he is not known, but looking back to his career in this state both personal & political from first to last - Pacific Railroad - Oakes Ames - Nor. Pac.- Finley letter - refusal to mention Cleveland in last Campaign, I cannot but wonder that he is tolerated among people who have or should have proper self respect." Praises John G. Nelson as receiver [of the Land Office] & reviews his career. "The present officers of the Fergus

Falls office are all the time at work for their friends, and have been the cause of a number of contests by speculators against the Bishop Ireland settlers on RR Lands near Morris. Fred Brackett our agent has the particulars at his office in Washington. Please have present collector [Bookwalter ?] at St. Vincent kept in his post. Under McMurtrie's four years' tenure we had the greatest trouble with passenger trains. "The Can[adian] officers do what they can to favor Thunder Bay Line and it is necessary to have a man who will show a spirit of accommodation to the public and at the same time protect the interests of the Government."

JJH LetterBook, 3/15/85 - 9/8/85, p. 379