

Pacific Northwest - Railroads Oct. 31, 1898  
To W. L. Bull.

Cipher to Schiff via Nichols in re Mellen's purpose to keep Mohler in N.Y., who should go West at once & place line west of Lewiston under construction, taking possession of all important points. His purpose is not to shorten line, but as basis for securing territory not now belonging to N.P. & which naturally belongs to Navigation Co. Will find line from Missoula to Lewiston via the Clearwater a very rough & expensive line to build particularly west slope of mts, Most of area in Oregon & s.w. Washington which is valuable agric. land & will sustain an agric. population is situated along the valleys of streams

flowing into Snake River. Best attack on  
Nor. Pac. would be either to grab territory  
at once or announce that a sharp reduction of  
rates will ensue.

JJH Letter Book, 10/11/95 - 3/13/99, p.452