

Stephen, George
Hill to Stephen

April 6, 1882

A long, detailed letter to Stephen in England about to return to Canada. References to: loss of \$100,000 revenue by heavy, recent snowstorm, March 16-29; also delay in movement of rails, ties, & timber to the [Canadian Pacific] front; heavy stream of immigration into Manitoba that had just got well under way; 5000 immigrants weekly to N.W.; totally inadequate provision for them at Winnipeg. "All these delays will shorten time for doing work on Can. Pac. toward Calgary & the heavy movement of people west will make it necessary for the C.P. to be more certain as to their supply of locomotives & cars than ever before. Shepard & Langdon just back from end of track west of Brandon say the

have ordered tracklaying to begin before snow is off. Angus & McIn [redacted] are to be here in a day or two & I will go with them to Winnipeg. Shepard tells me he has about 1200 teams now in sight & will have 2000 graders at work as soon as they can take the field. At my suggestion Van Horne will save considerable distance just south of Qu'Appelle. Our engineer [N.D.] Miller has gone privately to the South Saskatchewan to select the crossing; he has no land fever. Van Horne has recent information to show a good crossing & a good country all the way from Bow River to the Moose Jaw except about 50 miles south of the Elbow, where it is much like the Sand Hills with more or less Bad Lands. Rosser & several others in his dept. have been making money out of information incident to

See next card

Stephen George

Card 2

April 6, 1882

their position with the Co. Van Horne has made a clean sweep of the office & will only re-employ such as can show clean hands. Has caused some feeling (even in high places) vs. Van H. I note with pleasure what you say about emigration from England. Emigration of Canadians from Ontario to N.W. has become almost an exodus, which will be increased next year by opening of country at foot of Rocky Mts.; will lower prices of good farm lands in Ontario & welltodo English farmers can no doubt buy good well improved farms in Canada much below their value. No poor farm laborers or navvies should be allowed to migrate "railroad lands" as the would necessarily be very helpless for a year

or two on the Northwestern prairies & much suffering would result. Mr. St. John does not seem to be made for the land business. Begg has plenty of energy and a hopeful mind which will help him in his new position. I am daily more convinced that the best & most efficient method to sell lands & secure settlers is a well organized land dept. & intelligent work under a capable head." Ours is in excellent shape & giving us results I did not expect to realize for some time to come. Land grant on Hinckley Branch seems likely to prove quite valuable & we can I think get the full 10 sections to each mile. I have arranged with a Mr. Jewett who has for several yrs had charge of the State Land Office at the Capitol & has

see card 3

Stephen, George

Card 3

April 6, 1882

special knowledge of all state lands to quietly make up lists of the most desirable selections & we hope to have 200,000 acres ready by the time the road is finished. I have no doubt the lands will more than pay for the road. Mr. Kennedy has doubtless told you about the sale of \$500,000 Land contracts to the Equitable Land Co. & the drawing of \$721,000 first mortgage bonds. We are definitely trying to settle with the Nor. Pac. on the basis of their being an ~~and~~ East-West road & we a North-South road; would give us the Casselton Branch. They are willing if they can dispose of the Manitoba-South Western. Can. R. Co. ought to take the road. My work constantly increases - must al-

ways be on the alert to any movement that will fortify our position to increase our revenues!" We were very fortunate in getting possession of the Red River Valley before other lines got a foothold. It is from there & Manitoba we draw our earnings. I would certainly rejoice if I could have more time to rest and be with our children, who are getting to an age when I might be of use to them."

JJH LetterBook, 9/24/79 - 7/20/82, p. 420