

Stephen, George

Sept. 8, 1878

Hill to Stephen

Moor of Grand Trunk Ry. has presented your letter. Beatty is also here & anxious to get balance (abt. 2000 tons) of his steel rail contract carried down Red R. to St. Boniface by Oct. 10, but less than 2 ft. water in channel & still falling. Better to get Minister of Pub. Works to allow it to go by rail to Pembina after our road is finished. Upper & Harty also recommend it, as they want "to lay the iron from this end when we arrive at Pembina." Re Harty's report & wish to have Gov't protect them from any additional expense from completing line this fall when their contract expires them until Dec. 1, '79 to complete it. Hill makes liberal offer of

of laying their track &c. "Of course you will understand my object [redacted] to get them to finish the road this fall. Importance of finishing them for harvest transport, for emigrants. Add'l expense no more than \$10,000. Otherwise it will be necessary to put 2 of our largest boats on river under Can. flag to run between Pembina & Winnipeg. Will also write Smith as it will make \$100,000 difference to our entire interests. Our own line is o.k. for ties. Iron is coming slowly - only 3800 tons have left Johnstown up to Sept. Had Farley wire Cambria "our land grant would be lost if they did not send iron faster." Have laid only 13½ mi. of new track north of old iron are out of spikes & short of iron. Unlikely to reach Pembina before Dec. 1.

JJH Letterbook, 4/11/78 - 1/16/79, p. 301

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Hill to Stephen (letter faint; see original in
correspondence by date)

Thompson & Rice have taken the necessary steps
to remove Breed & I have Binning hard at it.
Breed took it very well and is doing all he can
to show Binning. Thompson has taken strong in-
terest in our behalf with N. Paul. He has written
a long letter to Jay Cooke advising him to look
carefully into the relations of 2 roads. Wright
surprised when I told him I had an invitation
to their annual meeting. I told W. plainly that
their attitude was wrong & a settlement would
have to be made now if at all. Tho' he

promised to arbitrate, two months have passed without results. I threatened that if he continued we would survey a line from Grand Forks to Fort Buford at mouth of Yellowstone & ask Cong. for 1/2 his grant to the Rocky Mts. Try to get Kennedy to meet us in N.Y. to talk over my new plan & have him "get a short article into N.Y. Trib. saying that there was a line about to be surveyed from Minn. to Buford...which would follow line of Gov. Stevens Pac. survey to mts. & that parties connected with enterprise would ask for 1/2 Nor. Pac. grant next winter & would build road. Fact that Jay Gould is supposed to control Trib would I think lead N.P. people to think Gould was in some way connected with it & I have learned Gould is anxious to do all he can to cripple them." JJH Letterbook, 4/11/78 - 1/16-79, p. 318