

Stephen, George

March 31, 1900

Gaspard Farrer to Hill ~~See Farrer's letter of March 16.~~
Refers to a bereavement [loss of a child] of Lord and Lady Mount Stephen. Standing timber east of Rocky Mts. almost gone. "I think there is as much standing pine north of the Fosston Branch as there is left in the two states of Wisconsin and Michigan. The price of pine lumber in the East has advanced in the past year from six to ten dollars a thousand. In 1894 our average was from ten to fifteen cars a day Eastward from Puget Sound. At the present time it amounts to about seventy-five or eighty cars a day, ... The two new Pacific steamers which we are building ~~with~~ with a measured gross tonnage of twenty-six thousand tons, will

I hope enable us to meet the demand without increasing our empty ~~cars~~ 1." Re Oriental trade prospects. "The number of creameries along the line of our road has multiplied very fast during the past five or six years... The Eastern Minnesota carried last year a million tons of iron ore, with a traffic income of \$800,000. This year ... 2½ million tons... \$2,000,000. Tells of reducing grades and eliminating trestles on his roads. "We have had for the past two weeks the heaviest rush of emigration we have ever known. Some days we have sent from One to two thousand settlers, most of these going into North Dakota and others into northern Minnesota. It looks as if we would receive twenty-five thousand new settlers this year

See card 2

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on the East end. There is a constant stream of
people going to the west Coast, from common
labor. lumbermen, and miners, to concerns with
large capital, who are going out to the timber
districts and building lumber mills.... We have
recently received reports of very valuable de-
posits of iron ore in the Cascade Range and
Puget Sound country, within easy reach of full
supply of cheap coking coal with a few miles
of tidewater... Ship plates and frames of
course would follow, which would make Puget
Sound the cheapest ship-building place in the
world. "Recent discovery of [iron] ore a few
miles from Leavenworth." Goes west tomorrow
with our chief engineer Mr. Miller, and Jim
and Louis also ... also an iron mining expert.

Can spend three weeks abroad. Must settle Mrs Hill and the children in Paris.

JJH LetterBook, March 31, 1900
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