

Stephen, George

December 15, 1881

Hill to Stephen

[Hill's early or first letter as vice president of the Manitoba Road]

Saw Willie [Stephen] on Sunday. Tod seems to have given up idea of buying your farm. Open winter here and so wood supply is low. Manvel is worried re coal supply. "Were it not for our owning the Climax mine and operating it ...entirely in the company's interest we would be paying much more for our supply and could not depend on receiving enough coal to keep us running. Don't worry about my health from my long working hours." The fact is we have taken all together a large property and one that is daily growing with the general growth and prosperity

of the country thro' which our lines are laid." Lists equipment: locomotives, cars, etc., owned by the Manitoba Road. I hope to be able to send Mr. Angus some reports of our doings and situation in time for you to see them before you leave for England." Details of land sales. Northern Pacific has dismissed all suits against both Power and Kindred. "I can well understand Mr. Mitchell's feeling in re our selling to any other company. Mr Merrill was here a few days ago and although he did not speak of it, I mentioned to him that something of the kind had been spoken of to some of our Board, but that it was not formally considered and was a thing of the past, we now felt that the property was good enough to keep... Mr Merrill said he hoped we would bear in mind the fact that his line could afford to pay

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as much as any other company in the world. I cannot help the feeling that as the Can. Pac. interest grows and becomes the important line of the Dominion our Manitoba line will not occupy the place in all our minds that it does at present and the time may come when it will be thought best to unload. I hope I am as wrong in this as I have been in some other matters (notably the amount of stocks we could make marketable) still if it should so come around I think we could make up a deal to sell the railway and keep the lands which of themselves will I am sure prove a most valuable property and I speak of this so that if it were at any time in the future deemed advisable to sell you would give me an opportunity to see what might be done."

Major Rodgers returned today and looks well after his summers work. [redacted] reports a good line, no expensive work considering the situation thro' Kicking Horse Pass, and says he has no doubt whatever of his ability to find his way thro' the 25 miles of the Selkirk range, east of the summit. The N. fork of the Illecilaewat is the line he expects to adopt and says there is a valley from the Columbia s. towards the Illecilawaet. He has gone home for a day or so and will be here to meet Mr Van Horne when called upon. Rodgers is so confident that he says the question may be considered settled. I will go over his profiles and journal with Mr Van Horne

Rodgers says a proper selection of half the ~~num~~ number of men would have enabled him to run his
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line from Old Bow Fort to Shuswap Lakes. I am glad to hear such good accounts of sales of Can. Pac. bonds in Canāda. How are they doing in N.Y.' Hopes land dept. can catch the tide of spring emigration and direct it along our line, "this aside from the traffic it will furnish will open a market for our bonds and place them where they will draw no interest."

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