

Willis, H. B.

April 19, 1879

Hill to Donald Smith

Stephen wires that Gov't refuses to recognize Willis, only Murphy. If they continue in this course, we shall protect Willis as we can do by attaching some two thousand tons of steel rails now in this country. They have ordered Collector Spencer to enforce the coasting law so as to prevent Amer. steamers from running on Red River north of boundary. We can transfe two steamers to Canadian flag if we wish or we can withdra~~w~~ the boats entirely & let ~~theif~~ their people pay full charges. Ross wants to do our work west side of river but our heavy work is all on east side & we n do the west ourselve. Business is very heavy-better than we ever an-

anticipated. Work for an early reorganization is enormous. Great importance of the Northern Pacific contract.

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