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I received your letter of Oct. 3, 1895. in answer to mine of Sept. 1st of same year. I answered your letter about two months ago, but as yet have received no answer. The mails are very uncertain here and I thought perhaps you might never have got my letter.

In my last letter to you I gave an outline of the evidence that might be produced in the land suit, and I am convinced more than ever, that enough can be produced to do old Streeter up. I have heard lately that another letter has been found which was written by Streeter, telling a party how he had to buy his witnesses. I wish you would just drop me a line and let me know if you got my last letter, wherein I gave you an outline of the evidence.

A. B. *withersfield*

TYPED BY  
PAPER

32 Lafayette Place, New York City.

1895

Dear Sir: If the person you have named would take hold of the Concessions and properties which I have ready to launch into attractive enterprises, within one year, he would have under his absolute control resources and wealth equal to a principality - he would be in a position to dictate terms for Pacific traffic, to five trunk railroads - to control the Japanese trade across North America - to make a central supply depot for all North-Western Mexico - to boom the greatest silver, copper, iron and gold mines in the world - to establish a banking institution which would be absolute in a zone of continent larger than New England - to possess the site for the greatest metropolis on the West Coast of America - to market the largest quantity of the best timber in Mexico - and to advance railroads, colonization and steamship enterprises under a combination of special

privileges superior <sup>to</sup> any now to be had on this  
Continent.

What is needed is an organization, at once,  
of half a dozen men known for their push, me-  
thods and successes; and, within six months,  
of an expenditure of \$200,000.

The publications descriptive of The Pacific  
City Colonization Company show what may be  
accomplished with \$100,000. The second \$100,000  
should be used as follows: \$60,000 to construct  
10 miles of railroad from Topolobampo to "Mockis";  
\$35,000 to pay the cash necessary to secure the  
Concessions, etc., \$2,000 to take out a Charter  
in Colorado, to build railroads and to operate  
Steamship lines, etc, and \$3,000 to open an of-  
fice and to issue a prospectus to present the  
several enterprises in an attractive way to  
the public.

Under the said Concessions there may be 1,000  
miles of railroad and telegraph lines built. Each  
mile carries a subsidy of land certificates which  
may secure about 14,000 acres in one or in all

of the five Northern <sup>3</sup> States of Mexico, including Mining, timber, plateau and Coast Lands - Lands which may be made of great and immediate value by settling Colonists upon them under the special encouragement of our Colonization Concessions.

The railroad and equipment, from the Gulf of California to the Rio Grande and from Topolobampo to the Sonora Railroad, can be made ready to operate for \$10,000 per mile, and to do this, there should be issued say \$15,000 in First Mortgage Bonds and \$15,000 in Common Stock, per mile. To pay 5% interest on said Bonds and 5% dividends on said Stock, would require only \$1,500 earnings, per mile, over operating expenses.

The railroad from Orange to Houston (Texas), 110 miles, is peculiarly a timber road and earns \$11,000 per mile, a year; and that from Escalon to the Sierra Mojada (Mexico), 78 miles, is exclusively a silver ore road and earns \$15,400 (Silver) per mile, a year. The railroad from Topolobampo to the Rio Grande, will pass through

6/11/88  
The richest timber <sup>4</sup> and Mining zone in Mexico, and should pay larger gross receipts than either of the two roads above mentioned.

By booming Pacific City at the same time that we begin to construct the railroad, it may readily be shown that 24 per cent. can be paid, from the start, to those promoters who advance the said \$200,000; and this will be explained, in detail, when the subject is taken up seriously.

The opportunity for speculation, by selling the stock of the Company, will be certain, owing to the fact, that five trunk lines may be made to compete for this short and free from snow route to the Pacific. There will be 1,000 miles of railroad to construct, and the stock on this will not be less than \$15,000,000, divided as follows: 65% = \$9,750,000. to the Capitalists, and 35% = \$5,250,000. to the Concessionaire and his friends.

Respectfully,

A. K. Owen.

32 Lafayette Place, New York City.

1895.

No. 2

Dear Sir: It has been wisely remarked that American investors have been dormant for so long a time that they would rush to get the first stocks of big and attractive enterprises which were launched upon the market by a syndicate of prominent and successful business men.

What is required at this time, to inaugurate a popular craze for new investments is the opening up of a new zone of continent like that of Northern Mexico - The building of a short free-from-snow-trunk railroad to the Pacific - The putting on of Steamship lines to Japan, Australia and all ports in Central and South America - The marketing of the timber from a great and up-till-now undisturbed forest - The Colonization of vast tracts of new lands and the development of a mineral region known to be fabulously rich by the writings of Humboldt and Ward, and by the actual workings under very

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great embarrassments, of thousands of silver,  
and Copper and gold Mines.

The unprecedented excitement which  
raged during the past Summer in London and  
Paris over the Kaffir gold Stocks of South Africa  
and that which is now at its height for invest-  
ment in Western Australia, recall to mind  
what took place in the United States when Cal-  
ifornia and Colorado Mining Stocks and Rail-  
road shares for unsettled sections of our Country  
were inaugurated; and let it be borne in mind  
that the heart of Northern Mexico, today, stands  
within four days travel by rail, from New York  
City - that telegraph lines cross it in several  
directions, so that the Central office in New York  
City could be put, within a few weeks, in instan-  
taneous touch with every district along the  
trunk line of railroad which is to be the basis  
for the exploitation of the said enterprises - that  
the Climate is such that Winter and Summer  
it is inviting to out-door labors, and withal that  
it is a part of North America and geographically  
just west of Texas - being that mass of plateau,  
mountains and Coast lands of the temperate zone

which lie between the Rio Grande and the Gulf  
of California.

Again, your attention is called to the fact  
that there has never been offered to the public  
in the United States a small enough bond to  
be within reach of the wage-earning people -  
within reach of those who put their money in  
our Savings Banks. In Great Britain the  
wage classes have savings in the banks =  
\$1,200,000,000; and in 1894 their deposits in  
the Post Office Banks of Great Britain were 40  
millions of dollars, equal to twice the amount  
of their deposits of 1893. The number of these  
Post Office depositors who have taken only \$50.  
each amounted to 35,574; and yet these invest-  
ments receive only 2½ per Cent. interest. France  
has become known as "The Land of Little Capitalists"  
because of the encouragement the people receive  
to invest, by the Government and Cities issuing  
\$100., \$80., \$40. and \$20. bonds bearing from  
2½ to 3 per Cent. interest. See the list of the  
Credit Foncier of Paris, of 1879, 1880 and 1891.  
The people in Paris are so anxious to get these



Small loans that they take their position in line the night before the day they are to be sold, and these have their food in baskets and camp in the street until they can get their savings invested; and apropos to this, on September 2<sup>nd</sup> last when the \$5. shares of The Barnato Bank, Mining and Estate Corporation, Limited, were put upon the market in London they were immediately taken by the public, and went in a few days to \$22. The Syndicate which made this issue, made \$10,000,000. in a single day.

When we consider how many millions of dollars are lying in the Savings and other Banks, in the United States, where they are not given more than 2 1/2 to 3 per cent. at any time, and, in many instances, do not get any interest, together with the fact that our people are anxious to invest in bonds that would be secured by lands coupled with a railroad where an interest of say six per cent. can be readily paid, why is this not the given opportunity for a syndicate to take the concessions we have now in hand for railroad, Colonization and Steamship lines, and to inaugurate a series of enterprises which will at once become the topic of conversation in every home throughout our country and which will interest the people, from New York to San Francisco, to occupy with their money and industries the richest region of North America that has not yet been developed. Respectfully, A. K. Owen

Copy.

Guanajuato January 14<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Col. Albert K. Owen  
Chester, Pa.

My dear Sir:

I am addressing this letter to Chester in the supposition that you have left Mexico a few days after my departure for this place.

In regard to the traffic estimates which I have sent to you some time ago, I will state that they are based upon actual figures as obtained at the Mexican Central Railway Station, Chihuahua. I had access to the books through the kindness of the Station Agent and took an average tonnage from 1884 to 1888. These figures of course will greatly increase in the future, and in assuming a tonnage for say 10 years to come, it is necessary to take into consideration, in addition to the development of trade brought on by the railway, all the business for Sonora and Sinaloa, which is very considerable, and in my opinion — having resided in those two States and Chihuahua — is more important than the Chihuahua business.

All these facts are set forth in my detailed report. — but in sending you the figures you have

2  
now in your possession, I could only refer to actual facts, and could not take into consideration prospective development without sending you my report as well.

Now as another example of traffic in the Northern part of Mexico, I will refer to a statement made to me by Mr Edward N. Whorf, late Assistant Manager of the Mexican Central Railway. - He told me: "it was thought that the Northern part of the line will never earn enough to pay for its proportion of expenses, and now (1892) we are almost busier on the North end than down here (City of Mexico). - The Mexican Northern Railway furnishes 350 tons of ore a day, for El Paso - a line running practically through a desert!" - (The Mex. North. connects with the Central at Escalon). Mr Whorf is an old friend of mine whom I have known for 14 years.

When the Sierra Mojada Mines were opened up, it was thought that the railway will just about earn expenses, and was considered a risky undertaking. Now the line is doing a most prosperous business, and if I am not mis-

- taken is the best paying railway in the Country.

These facts may illustrate to you that traffic returns in this Country are apt to increase in a most unprecedented measure, and it is hard to say just now what the future development of the Topolobampo line will be in view of the immense resources of the Country which the line traverses west of Chihuahua.

The Sierra Mojada Mines would have never become what they are today, without the Mexican Northern Railway, and imagine what masses of ore will be shipped out of the Sierra Madre, when transportation will be cheap; - the Sierra Madre is practically a solid mass of ore, but with the present lack of facilities these millions of tons of ore must lay idle.

Hope you have had a pleasant voyage home. - Am writing in a great hurry as I must leave in a few hours for Chihuahua.

Sincerely Yours,

Alfred D. Rosensweig  
Engineer & Constructor.

order  
written

Copy.

Guanajuato, Mexico, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> 1895.

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Hope you have had a pleasant voyage home, - am writing in a great hurry as I must leave in a few hours for Chihuahua.  
Sincerely yours, Alfred V. Rosenzweig.

28  
New Windsor, Ill. Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 1895

My dear Sir:

Your favor of the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. at hand, and in answer will say, that the time is not yet come for a big emigration to the Guerte River Valley, in Mexico. The Canal should be first constructed and some more land should be bought while it is cheap, and when it is best or most ~~advisable~~ available for irrigation from the ditch when made. Some such land can now be had for \$1. an acre, some for less.

My plan has been to first buy the land along the line of the proposed ditch and then to construct the ditch - and then open the valley to immigration. These lands can be surveyed and sectionized in the mean time. When the Canal is made and water on the land it will not be held above \$5. per acre. If the single tax men think the price too high they can find all the land they want in Mexico for \$1. per acre. Don't you think that would be better than to talk so much about dispossessing other people of their land, and for



which the owner has paid so much money?

That Valley will be owned and controlled by individual ownership. A. K. Owen has tried Cooperation and Communism there and it proved a failure. They quarreled, broke into fragments, and scattered. There is a remnant of Owen's Colony left. They never have had enough water, sometimes not enough for domestic uses.

I will not encourage emigration before the water supply is abundant. To this end it is desirable that men of means should aid in the construction of the ditch or Canal. When this is done immigration will go there like a flood tide. All the good hustlers will make big money there. A poor man without energy or Cash Capital had better not go there, for if he must compete with the Indians for common labor it is not the place for him.

I will go there again the last week in March or first week in April, and expect to stay some time. I want good businessmen of means to go with me to see the Country, and aid in the construction of the Canal. It is a grand undertaking and will be very profitable. I have so many enquiring letters to answer that

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I really have not more time for you to day.

Yours truly  
A. J. Streeter

70

New Windsor, Ill. Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Dear Sir: your favor just to hand, and note what you say.

Of course I am quite willing for Colonists to unite and cooperate and am willing in the Tazewell River Valley, and will aid them in so doing. But I like the old way best as a community. To make money and acquire property, should utilize the opportunities around him.

I would advise a man (not) to work too hard when he can get Indians for 25¢ per day and board himself, while I am making one or two dollars off his labor, clear money. One is theory the other is practical business.

A. K. Owen tried Communism and Cooperation combined but the Colonists soon got tired of him and his theory and bursted all into fragments. The practical man will deal with people as he finds them. He cannot make them very much different from what they are, nor can

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They "enter into their mother's womb and be born again."

I think your people can find plenty of land there now for one dollar an acre, perhaps for less. If the title is good it will not it will not take much money. Then if they want Community in land let them have it by all means.

You talk about the people getting out of the rut. I have tried for twenty years to help the people out of the ruts, but found that they tumbled back in about as fast as they were lifted out. I will vote with them, and for them whenever I have the opportunity, but it makes me a little tired to see how they act, talk and vote.

Oranges and all the citrus fruits do well in the Guerte Valley. But peaches, pears, plums and some other fruits do not do well there.

I have fixed the day for my next trip to Mexico, April 4<sup>th</sup>. If you have a few friends who have four or five thousand dollars, and want to make it \$100,000., in a comparatively short time, there is the place to go to do it.

I fully agree with you that monopoly in land is wrong, but land monopoly in Mexico is worse than here, and whenever steps are taken to remove it I will second the motion, but in Mexico they do not even agitate the question. Both there and here we will see a rich and a poor class, and the poor will work ~~hard~~ for the rich, and you cannot get half of the poor class to vote to change it.

Yours truly  
A. L. Streeton.

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COPY.

New York, April 5th. 1895.

Pedro Quinones Esq.,  
Attorney at Law,  
Fuerte, Sinaloa, Mexico.

Dear Sir:-

After great delay in the mails, I am in receipt of your favor of the 4th. of February, for which please accept my thanks. My information from Messrs. Wilber and Free has been that the Court at Fuerte had decided the cases against us, and for some reason we had lost the right of Appeal to the higher Courts, State and Federal. From this I assumed that our only remedy must be by some appropriate action through the Federal Courts in Mexico City, or some branch thereof in Sinaloa. Now a statement comes as emanating from you, that the actions or one of them, has been adjudicated in our favor in the Federal Court at Mazatlan. The fact, is, that I have not been able to obtain any clear and intelligent idea of the proceedings and their status in the Courts from Messrs. Wilber and Free (this in confidence), and therefore am pleased to be in direct communication with you upon the subject. On receipt of this you will ~~be~~ oblige me by submitting a detailed statement of the proceedings in the two cases, and the present status of each of them; and also a statement of your charges in connection with them, and the amount you have been paid by Messrs. Wilber and Free or either of them. And if the actions still survive, please inform me what papers and evidence may be needed for further protection of our rights in the premises. In one of the letters of Free or Wilber it was stated that our lands had been attached. Please inform me also as to this. On receipt of your answer I will make remittance to you ~~direct~~ in whole ~~or~~ in part for your services. Submitting this, I remain,

Most respectfully,

Yours etc.,

(Signed) John H. Rice.

N. B. Copy of original sent in English and Spanish.

J.H.R..

Mochicahui, April 13<sup>th</sup> - 1895.

Friend Owen:

The Borboa debt is settled. He took the Grader, the Steam drill and boiler, three Mares and \$100<sup>00</sup>.

The boiler we still keep, agreeing to pay 50¢ rent per day.

Within a few days, Streeter with some Northern Capitalists are expected here. They will, as Borboa states, prepare to irrigate the Santa Rosa tract by a big ditch, commencing at Vegaton.

The Yaqui irrigation enterprise broke down - works abandoned, and some of our Plat friends returned a few days ago.

Gov. Canedo wrote me a very nice letter (received yesterday), thanking for rectification in the "Monitor Sinalvense", and expressing his satisfaction, that we, on your advice, are going to put the Canal in shape.

The mail closes, therefore, in haste, accept our regards.

Fraternally,  
J. Hampl.

Mochicahui, April 13<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Friend Owen:

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Fraternally,  
J. Hampl.



8177

El Paso, Texas, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1895.

Mr. A. K. Owen -  
New York.

Dear Sir: I have had yours for some days, but deferred answering as I wish to be better in re status of matters in Mexico, and completed - as nearly as may be, my collection of data as to resources of Country intervening between Juarez and Guerrero. I have recently traversed that entire section, and am happy to say that my former calculations as to its resources, are very far below the mark.

Coralito and Liberal, (12 miles distant.) can alone, today, give a train, per day, of 15 Cars of raw ores. With an assured railroad to that section this traffic may be safely calculated at a quadruple basis within 12 months.

You can draw your own inference as to what would likely be the corresponding traffic in other respects. The copy of your letter from "A. M. Gibson" mentions Mr. Condict. Will you kindly tell me

who is Mr. Gibson, and who is Mr. Condict,  
and under what Concession is the latter mo-  
ving?

I am very anxious to go East, but do  
not think it advisable to do so until mat-  
ters are well assured at this end.

My people give me very favorable hopes.

Yours truly,

J. F. Crosby.

408

El Paso, Texas, May 14<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Mr. A. K. Owen -  
New York.

My dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. I am reminded that in the enclosed copy of a letter from your correspondent abroad - A. M. Gibson - it was reported that Mr. Condit was to leave for this section with an Engineer to look over proposed line, etc.

This idea seems to have been abandoned, as I have heard nothing of those parties save through your last referred to. I suppose that these are the same parties who have been in treaty for some time past (and were to have closed on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst.) with Telepho Garcia for the old unexpired Huller Concession from Juarez, via Magdalena, Sonora to Punta Lisa - bel, on the Gulf of California. In regard to this negotiation I am fully posted by \_\_\_\_\_ . So far there has been a failure to "connect" x x x x x.

My recent trip to the Country between here

and Guerrero, renders me far more anxious than ever to open up this unrivalled Country to railroad communication. I previously had what I supposed to be a correct conception of the resources of this Country, but I now realize from full and personal investigation, that I was a long way below the mark, and that a line even hence, to Corralitos would pay handsomely after the completion of 50 miles.

x x x x I feel quite sure that the Corralitos syndicate, can swing this business. To say nothing of the increased value of their general property, their mines can be brought to an output of a Million in the next year. Sabinal (10 miles distant,) half as much, and other continuous properties as much as the latter. Beside this, they have - including the Santa Maria Valley, 500,000 acres of splendid land which, at small cost, can be irrigated and colonized. I shall be glad to hear <sup>from</sup> you. But we must not delay.

I am very anxious to see and aid as far

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as I can, the general plan; yet, the present opportunity must not be lost to our own local interests.

Yours truly,  
J. F. Crosby.



21  
COPY.

Fuerte May 18, 1895.

Dear friend Owen,

I have just had a long interview with the new Prefect. I called on him yesterday with Alvarez to introduce me and he invited me to come again to-day to have an extended interview with him. He expresses the best wishes for the advancement of the colony. I told him plainly that the only way <sup>that</sup> the colony could advance was to be insured that it would be protected from attacks from such men as Streeter, that Streeter was only here for speculation, while we are here to establish <sup>m</sup>houses and industries. I told him that the time had come for the local authorities to choose between a grasping capitalist who had no following and an unlimited number of intelligent artizans and workmen who <sup>so</sup> aggregate capital might be a great many times more than Streeter's. I asked him which he thought would be most advantageous to the country and he admitted that the people would be the greatest benefit. The only thing that troubles me now is that our people may not hold out until these lawsuits are settled.

If we had a good watersupply they would be much more likely to do so. But even that would not be satisfactory to most of them if the land question were not settled. We have people who would like to sell their homes in the States and establish themselves here and invite others to do the same, and so this that they cannot do so long as the titles to the lands are not satisfactory. If a speedy decision would be obtained in the land suits and a portion of the lands deeded to the Company and a favorable contract given for the remainder I think that all would be well. I urge that the land suit will be pushed and that something of this nature be brought about. If this cannot be done why cannot you deed to the colony a portion of the "demasias". You ought to know what can be done in this direction better than anyone else, but perhaps you do not understand as well as some of us here the necessity of doing something of this kind. Give the colony a chance to come out with a unanimous manifesto denying en toto the charges of fraud and speculation, by saying we have land that we cannot lose and a ditch to water it and I honestly believe that we can get capital in that way sooner than

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in any other. Then we will not be under bonds to the capitalists with the danger of losing all in case we shall fail to pay. If the whole strength of the C. F. movement could be thrown into this channel I am sure we could work wonders in a few months. As Ortiz says everything depends on the people here. But I assure you that the people here will not be satisfied until they know that the lands are secure to them. And they do not ask it as much for their own satisfaction as they do for the satisfaction of their friends in the north whose help we need but who are holding back to see how it is going to turn out. Safety and security in the land are the first things that should be looked in establishing a colony. Please write me on this point and inform me as to what can be done.

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) George L. Page

April 19, 1932

5511

Fuerte, May 29<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Mr A. K. Owen -

Dear Friend:

For four days past I have been laboring to get a registered copy of the report by the Alcalde of Mochucahui to the Judge of the 1<sup>st</sup> Instance, on the case of the armed resistance shown by our neighbors, the "Platters," to the Mexican authorities, and, so far, have succeeded only in obtaining a promise for to-morrow. When this to-morrow will come I do not know, and as the mail goes to day I thought I would not wait any longer with the other communications I have to make.

I suppose you are aware by this time that Mr. Streeter is here, and, from my last letter, you will also see that he is taking an active part in what it even does not concern him. I wrote you that after the resistance shown to the Mexican authorities by our neighbors, we became helpless, and consequently had to do the next best, that is, to accept Mr Streeter's word that he would give security for the property we wanted to attach. This



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promise was fortunately carried out in part. I say, fortunately, for on my return to Tuxtepec I found out that the person that gave security for us, has withdrawn it, and consequently it was fortunate for us that Streeter gave the security, for, according to law, he was not obliged to do it since our own security failed us. Hence, ignorance of the above fact, and fear, made offer us \$3,000.00 in Mexican silver; and, on the other hand, the knowledge of our helplessness and fear, that we may not get another to go our security made us accept this proposition. And thus the "Santa Rosa" tract of land, lately bought by Mr. Streeter stands responsible for the \$3,000. of security he offered. Of course, there will undoubtedly be a lawsuit as to whom this land belongs, but this may delay yet, and our suit must go on. So much for that.

Now, the reason why I am not given a copy of the proceedings is, as I understand it, this: since, if the proceedings go on, Mr. Streeter, as one of the parties, would be arrested and charged with a criminal offense. This, of course, is not at all to his taste, and consequently his money and the

influence of his friends, is brought to bear upon those in whose hands the case is, to have it suppressed and forgotten. I shall wait another week or ten days and if, during that time, a copy is not given me, I will, nevertheless, write to Herrera and give him an account of what passed on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. But if I get the copy I will send you a copy of it, and keep the registered one, as I intend to have it published.

Our Ditch suit seems to be moving on. I had a talk with Mr Quinones, this morning, from this conversation I infer that we are likely to lose it. I heard the same from other sources. Two good reasons make me believe the probability of it—first, the straightened relations between Quinones and the Judge of the 1<sup>st</sup> Instance. Second, Mr Streeters money. Quinones told me that he is to meet him this evening. Streeter wants to consolidate the Companies, as he call it, and organize a new Company that would embrace the wishes and desires of all concerned. Quinones sent for Page, they intended to work upon him. In short, Streeter is bound to do something. On the 17<sup>th</sup> I was offered

\$2,000. in silver, land and other help, if I would only renounce my power of attorney. A similar offer was made to Attorney Robles, a few days later, and negotiations with him are still pending, and I am quite certain that something of the kind has been done or will be done with Quinones.

The Court at Culiacan, is about to pass sentence on the question of personality in the case of the K. S. J. Company against Mr. Rice for rescission of contract and the return of \$13,500<sup>00</sup> gold.

I just had a little talk with Judge Pena, which makes me think there is mischief breeding in Quinones. + + + + +

I will write again soon.

Yours  
Morris Free.

Extracts from Letters.

D. B. Shaw to A. K. Owen

The headgate is finished and is reported as a permanent improvement, easily operated. The boats are, I believe, ready for the irons, wings &c, which may yet be too late for the rise. There is a force of men grubbing the willows &c. out of the ditch. These have to be pulled up on the bank, and the job may be completed in time.

+ + + + +

The Platters went to Los Taster, Saturday, to see the Judge of 1<sup>st</sup> Instance, and others, turn the ditch over to Streeter. They went again last evening and this morning. It was done, today, as Mr Law reported, on his return, at 2 P. M.

These are dark days for those who came here to Cooperate. + + + + +

Topolobampo, June 27<sup>th</sup> 1895.

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Fuerte, June 29th. 1895.

Dear friend Owen;

Your open letter to the colonists is here and has been read in public meeting. I think it will have a good effect upon the Colony. The news in relation to the land and railroad negotiations will reassure the colonists and friends in the North. The adverse decision in the Ditch case will put us to several hundred dollars more costs, but of course we will come out all right in the end. Since Mr. Law finished his letter we learn that the court has accepted Streeter as security and that he is going to give him possession of the ditch. This decision is as big a piece of barefaced rascality as I ever witnessed. We have taken an appeal to the higher court at Culliacan where the decision will undoubtedly be reversed. In addition to the appeal it is the intention to have Free through his attorney to protest against the delivery of the canal to the U. S. I. alleging that Law and Page were not holding the ditch as legal representatives of Owen, and that he Free is the proper party to hold the ditch, that the suit against Law and Page was brought against the wrong parties. This course will not injure the case at Culliacan and in case it should go against us there it would put us in better fighting shape in a suit for ownership. Free thinks that the decision went against us because the judge has a spite against Quinones. I think it was because Orrantia and other men of influence here are trying to work Streeter and sell him some more land and that we are the victims of their play. It will cost us from now on until these cases are decided not less than \$200. a month, that is all the case in which the colony is interested, and what troubles us most is that we do not know where even one fourth of this <sup>sum</sup> can be raised, with the expenses on the ditch, feeding the people and the teams, debts already due in the lawsuits and no money in the treasury and no immediate prospects of any we indeed have a hard pull for it. Of course you will help us all you can. We have made all the arrangements to fight the cases and if we can only secure the "sinews of war" there is no doubt that we will come out all right. Cannot write more at present as we are starting for home.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) George L. Page.

COPY.

Fuerte, June 5 1895.

Dear friend Owen;

Your telegram of June 1st. came the evening of the same day and the telegram of June 3rd. is just here. The proceedings in the ditch case are progressing, Quinones says the case is clearly in our favor but that there is no telling what villainy Streeter may concoct here, that there is no doubt but that the final outcome will be in our favor, Quinones is continually demanding his fees saying he will have to surrender his powers if we don't pay him at least a part of what we owe him. I have put him off from time to time hoping to get assistance from N. Y. or at least a definite promise and for that reason I asked for an answer by wire. The lawyer gave me until the 2nd. of June to raise him \$200. I have been unable to raise it. I was obliged to borrow \$20. of a friend here in Fuerte to buy stamps and for other legal expenses in order to have the case go on. If the case should go against us in the court we would be in bad shape to take an appeal and if it should go in our favor, we should be prepared to fight an appeal from the enemy. The land cases seem to be abandoned by Free, probably for lack of means. The Board is ready to support Free in every way possible, but it is very little that we can do without means. The ditch is more than we can carry if we do not get help.

Sincerely your friend  
(signed) Geo. L. Page.

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NOTICE

To Albert K. Owen, President of the Credit Foncier Company situated near Topolobampo Bay in the State of Sinaloa, Mexico.

Please to take notice, that in your agreement with the Kansas-Sinaloa Investment Company of November 1st. 1890, and at the time the said Kansas-Sinaloa Investment Company contracted to construct the irrigating canal or ditch, as Trustee for The Credit Foncier Company: You agreed to transfer your water concessions to the Kansas-Sinaloa Investment Company in the following words to wit:

"Therefore in consideration of the <sup>forfeiting</sup> following, said Albert K. Owen hereby agrees to transfer to the said Kansas Sinaloa Investment Company on or before July 1st. 1895, ~~as may be required by it~~ ~~the~~ ~~water~~ ~~rights~~ obtained by virtue of said concessions on the Rivers Fuerte & Sinaloa, in the State of Sinaloa, Mexico" etc.

Now as the Agent of the Kansas Sinaloa Investment Company, I demand the transfer of your water rights according to the agreement.

They are now "required by it". The K. S. I. Company.

(Signed) A. J. Streeter Agent.

for the Kansas-Sinaloa Investment Company.

of which I am a Director also.

Extracts from Letters

Joseph Hampl to A. K. Owen

The Judge of 1<sup>st</sup> Instance is taking evidence here in the case of resistance against the Authorities on the "Plat." Some of our most important witnesses are not admitted, while the testimony of boys 14 years of age is accepted on the part of the offenders.

Streeter seems to succeed in buying the whole district, and if we attempt to remonstrate, the first question is: Have you money?

The Alcalde of Mochicahui was worked by Barboza; and cited to Truente, changed his statement, which he had signed and was sent to you, in favor of the offenders.

On the ditch I am unable to do any work now. The new head-gate needs some attention yet, the banks of the ditch should be repaired, the fences put in order and the dredging should commence the end of this month. Streeter interferes. As I cannot recognize him as a titted person, I could not come to an agreement with him. His interests

are contrary to ours. <sup>2</sup> He prefers to pump water  
and have us pay for it; instead of having the  
ditch deep enough, so that the water could  
flow freely. + + + + + + + + + + .

With the preparatory work for dredging the  
Canal I am going ahead. Within 4 or 6 weeks,  
when the time for dredging comes, there may be  
a change of circumstances and Steeple, who  
prevents me now from working, might not have  
anything to say then.

Mochicahui July 7<sup>th</sup> 1895.



32 Lafayette Place,  
New York City, July 20/95.

Friend Tree:

Your kind and full letter of June 22<sup>nd</sup> got here about 48 hours ago - with others, which I have named in mine to Friend Law, of this date. Please see letter to friends Law and Shaw, Page, Hogeland and Hampl, and then you will see what I otherwise would write you. I can see the way now to a big advance along the whole line, for the seizing of the ditch has made it possible to unite you all into one solid, determined phalanx to right your common wrongs, and therefore we will be blessed by what seemed to be a misfortune. I would sooner have you a united Colony without any ditch than a disunited Colony with a dozen ditches - it is men and women bound together in the spirit of true fellowship as co-workers for integral Cooperation that I wish to live for and with; and I ask you, my friend, to rise above all and any personal consideration of wrongs suffered and go in person and tender your allegiance to the Board, let us as one man stand

by the Board - let us put the responsibility upon the Board and we will then have a directing power whose ability will soon be seen and can be judged - and I feel that the present Board will do exceptionally well if they are encouraged by a united Colony. Do not hesitate a minute longer, my dear Fee, this is the way and the right way - there is no other. If I should have used any words more impressive you think of them - they are the ones I wish to use to advise every friend to give his and her allegiance to the Board.

Money is what we have lacked. I have been unable to get what is owing to me, and I have not gotten our new friends to put in the money promised. This is Mid-Summer and persons who have money are mostly on the Sea Shore or Mountains - the times are distressingly bad but we are close to support, and when we get it we will move with sledgehammer force to possess ourselves of our possessions - and you need have no fear that we <sup>do not</sup> know just how to proceed when we are properly

backed.

Please give Senor Robles my regards and say to him that I will see that he is paid for any service he is to you and the Colony that is not paid by the Colony itself. And that I wish him to take any and every way, within the law, to protect us all. I will send all recent letters from the Colony to Mr Rice, that he may see and judge and assist. He has already given power of Attorney to Senor Obregon in Mexico City, to look out for his Mochis lands.

Now, friend Free, try to be the first to publicly give your full allegiance to the Board. Let us be united and see what it will bring us - God bless you.

Your friend,  
A. K. Owens

P.S. I have just found among some other letters, left on my desk by friend Ball, one of June 28. from friend Kendall. This I will answer, at once. A. K. O.

Extracts from Letters.

Albert Law to A. K. Owen.

Streeter still has control of the ditch, and Hart and Sutton have moved their boiler and pump up to the head of the ditch, making arrangements to place it in position for pumping, although there is too much water to put it in at present. We have had a constant flow of water in the ditch ever since the first of July, and we have used all that we want, without asking any questions, or any protest being made. They keep the sluice gate down and let the waste water pass over. The result is that the ditch is filling up with silt and muck, and Streeter refuses to let us clear the ditch. They want it to remain as it is, so that they will have an excuse for using their pump.

Free and Robles are at Puerte now and will do all in their power to push the suits and defend our interests.

Bay Side, Topolobampo, July 24<sup>th</sup> 1895

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Extract from Letter

Joseph Hampl to A. K. Owen.

Streeter declines obstinately to let us go on with clearing the ditch, even as I hear against the will of the "Platters". It seems he wants to worry the people out of patience and make them leave. A lot of good people left last month and many propose to go after the rainy season.

Prohiculmi. Aug. 3. 1895.

58

Extract from Letter

Joseph Hampl to A. K. Owen

Streeter declines obstinately to let us go on with clearing the ditch, even as I hear against the will of the "Platters". It seems he wants to worry the people out of patience and make them leave. A lot of good people left last month and many propose to go after the rainy season.

+ + + + +

Yesterday I received a letter from Señor Ramon Obregon, Mexico City, offering me the power of attorney of the "Mochis" and the management of Mr Rice's interests. I answered him that I was willing to accept upon the condition that an adequate fixed monthly salary be connected with it for expenses and work.

I would like to be enough independent in this matter so as to pay the lawyer for his services. Besides Robles we have not one lawyer

that could be of use. He is a good lawyer and besides a personal friend of the Judge, but it would not be advisable to put him on a monthly salary on account of his periodical drinking. I could manage him all right, if he knew that he depends on me for a casual income.

Señor Quirones, whom Oregon appointed proxy is useless, or worse - dangerous. He is not competent and will never gain a point in Fuerte. I know the Judge, F. Peña, personally, he comes to my house, and from him I know that he is personally opposed to Quirones, consequently every cent spent on him is an entire loss.

Besides Quirones has left Fuerte for Cubiacan; he gave up a field he could not hold. He lost, in Fuerte, every suit entrusted to him by different parties. I wrote Oregon to that effect.

With regard to expecting rent from people living on the "Mochis", I should be at a loss and

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Consider it almost impossible so long  
as the interests of Mr. Rice and the eventual  
Co-holders are not divided and marked  
off. Please advise me on this.

Mochicahui,  
August 3<sup>rd</sup> 1895.



Copy

Topolobampo, Sinaloa, Mexico, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1895.

John H. Rice,

Sir: I take the liberty to write to you concerning some land affairs here, in Mexico. I understand you have a land suit in the Courts. Streeter, of Illinois, is jubilant these days, he has just left here for Cuerte and Culiacan, as I suppose, to attend the suit.

I am inclined to think that you will never get justice done you unless you get to know Streeter's method of transacting business. Money does almost anything here, and Streeter is using lots of it.

I have not the least doubt but what I can put you on to the Streeter racket, in such a way as will make him, and one or two others, wish they had never seen Mexico. Streeter has tried to, and is still trying, to get the N. S. J. Ditch, and the people here detest him. I am not in possession of the facts myself, but I think I know six or seven that know all about the dirty work that has been done, and two, at least, are honest men and will not swerve from the truth if they were made to

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testify. One of the others, will do anything for money. One other, I think, can be made to Confess his part in order to save himself from going to prison.

If you lose the land suit, and you think there is anything in this, make me an offer, or say what you will give to be put on to the Streeter racket. If you write me, do not put the letter in a large business envelope, for it would most likely be opened. No one here knows that I have written you.

Yours truly,  
A. Butterfield.

P.S. Before sending this I have thought to add that all the information I really have, I have gotten from hearing secret conversations, and that I do not wish to deceive you, or get you on a wild goose chase, or make one cent of money for nothing, but, that I do expect to be well paid for valuable information; also, it will do you no good to get Mr Wilber, or Free, or any of the men that are here, who set themselves up as Agents, or as Agents of Owen, to come and see me, for I will not talk with them, but, if you have an attorney here, I will give him all the information I can, for a reasonable compensation

A. B.

Topolobampo, Sinaloa, Mexico, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> 1895.

John H. Rice.

Sir: I take the liberty to write to you concerning some land affairs here in Mexico. I understand you have a land suit in the Courts. Streeter of Illinois is jubilant these days, he has just left here for Tuxtepec and Culiacan as I suppose to attend the suit.

I am inclined to think that you will never get justice done you unless you get to know Streeter's method of transacting business. Money does almost anything here and Streeter is using lots of it.

I have not the least doubt but what I can put you on to the Streeter racket in such a way as will make him and one or two others wish they had never seen Mexico. Streeter has tried to and is still trying to get the K. S. J. Ditch and the people here detest him. I am not in possession of the facts myself, but I think I know six or seven that know all about the dirty work that has been done, and two at least are honest men and will not swerve from the truth if they were

made to testify. One of the others will do anything for money. One other I think can be made to confess his part in order to save himself from going to prison.

If you lose the land suit and you think there is anything in this make me an offer, or say what you will give to be put on to the Streeter racket. If you write me do not put the letter in a large business envelope for it would most likely be opened. No one knows here that I have written you

yours truly  
A. Butterfield

Before sending this I have thought to add that all the information I really have, I have gotten from hearing secret conversations and that I do not wish to deceive you or get you on a wild goose chase, or make one cent of money for nothing, but that I do expect to be well paid for valuable information, also, it will do you no good to get Mr Wilber or Face, or any of the men that are here, who set themselves up as agents, or as agents of Owen, to come and see me, for I will not talk with them, but if you have an attorney here I will give him all the information I can for a reasonable compensation.

A. Butterfield -

Columbia Building.

No 29 Broadway.

New York, Sept. 2, 1895.

To Genl Porfirio Diaz  
President of Mexico.

Dear Sir:

As the President and representative of the Texas, Topolobampo and Pacific Railroad and Telegraph Company, (having succeeded in that capacity the late Hon. William Windom, when he assumed the duties, for the second time, of Secretary of the U. S. Treasury) and also in my individual capacity I now take the liberty to address you in respect to some surviving interests of that Company in Sinaloa in your Republic; and incidentally as to the present condition of the Colony and Colonists now located there, <sup>under</sup> ~~and~~ your Concessions to Mr. Albert K. Oiver. That Company (hereinafter referred to

as "The Company" or "the old Company") now exists for the purpose of closing up its affairs, and disposing of its lands in Sinaloa, known as "Los Mochis," for such purpose having full legal right and authority, under its Charter, Constitution and By-laws. The Company as chartered, organized and promoted contained the names of many of our highly respected and most influential Citizens and some of them possessing large financial ability, among whom I recall the names of the Hon. Frederick O. Prince, for many years, Mayor of the City of Boston, and Secretary to the Democratic National Committee; U. S. Grant Jr. and Jesse B. Grant, two of the sons of our great Soldier President; Hon. Stephen B. Elkins, late Secretary of War under Genl. Harrison, and now United States Senator from West Virginia, and nine (9) other United States Senators, to wit: Windom of Minnesota, Jones of Nevada, Brown, Hill and Gordon of Georgia,

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Yulee of Florida, Gov. Brown of Louisiana,  
 Blair of New Hampshire and Lodge of  
 Massachusetts; now Secretary of State; Geo.  
 W. Simmons, E. A. Buck, W. H. Gilson, John  
 Russell Young late U. S. Minister to China,  
 and a distinguished journalist, Genl. Benj<sup>n</sup>  
 F. Butler, late Gov. of Massachusetts, Wen-  
 ell Phillips, our great Philanthropist and  
 Orator, Hon. Chas Foster, late Secretary of  
 the Treasury, Hon. H. K. Rogers, Private Se-  
 cretary to President Hays, Gov. H. C. Warmouth  
 of Louisiana, and many others of less note  
 but equal respectability. I only recall these  
 names to you, as conclusive evidence of the  
 good faith, and earnest purpose, of the cit-  
 izens of this Country interested in the enter-  
 prise in which they engaged in association  
 with the Government of Mexico. It is needless  
 for me to dwell upon the efforts and failures  
 of the Company, as you are quite familiar with  
 them, more particularly the latter. Suffice it  
 to say, that our expenditures in the enterprise,

have aggregated nearly \$500,000. - in gold equivalent, \$100,000. - of which rightly enured to the Government of Mexico, as a forfeiture for non-performance of Contracts, and for which the Company has never uttered a complaint or asked a rebate, but does claim that your Government, should in justice and equity manifest its good will, and in so far as it reasonably can, exert its authority, to protect the remaining interests of the Company and its Creditors within your jurisdiction. All that the Company, its Stockholders and Creditors, have left to show for their outlay in Cash - saying nothing of unremunerated time and effort spent by its officers - is the "Los Mochis" tract of land in Sinaloa, purchased and paid for in 1881, as a nucleus for the settlement and development of your Pacific Coast, and as an adjunct and feeder for the contemplated railroad. Said lands are now largely occupied and improved by Colonists



settled there under Colonization and irrigation contracts with your Concessionaire, Mr. Albert K. Owen, and a contract made and executed by me for the Company and its creditors, by request of Owen, with The Kansas-Sinaloa Investment Company, as Trustee for Owen and his Colonists, for the purchase and settlement of said lands. By the terms of said last named contract, the K. S. I. Co. was to pay for the lands, one dollar (\$1.<sup>00</sup>) per acre, amounting in the aggregate to about \$55,000. U. S. Currency. After paying instalments upon the contract, amounting to about \$12,000, and after the construction of the great irrigating ditch or canal demonstrating the greatly enhanced value of the lands, the Managers of said Trustee Company, as I am informed, and in part know to be true, imported a German Jew, and with him and others entered into a conspiracy, not only to destroy the Colony, but our title to the "Los

no such  
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Mochis "lands. For that purpose, one Carlos S. Retes, from whom the Company purchased the lands (titles to which were procured by him for the Company) claimed that his deed was void or voidable for non-fulfilment of certain verbal conditions, not stated in the deed, and in fact never existed. That same claim was abandoned, and another set up, that at the time of making the deed, he (Retes) had a wife living, who had not signed the deed; and a suit or action was commenced in the Courts of Sinaloa for the recovery of the lands by the alleged wife of Retes. The title deeds to the lands are now on the files of your Department of Fomento, and show a perfect title in the Company, as I believe, and am advised by Counsel learned in the laws of Mexico. The K. S. I. Company, assuming that the contention of Mrs Retes was valid, neglected and refused to perform the remaining conditions, for the purchase and settlement of the "Los Mochis; and not

Content with that, it has commenced and is prosecuting a suit against the Old Company, in the Courts of Sinaloa, to recover back, the money paid in accordance with the terms of its contract to purchase the lands, not daring to bring its action in the Courts of the United States, where both the Plaintiff and Defendant have legal existence and domicile. The Speculators and Conspirators, through their associates and accomplices in Sinaloa, with money, have not only encouraged these suits, but as it is charged and believed instigated them, as in other suits involving the Colonists and their interests in lands and water rights, upon which they depend for subsistence; so, have stirred up discontent, and factional strife and disagreement among the Colonists, that may speedily result in their abandonment of the Country to their own detriment, and incidentally to that of Mexico. It is charged,

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and with show of truth, as developed in the proceedings, that the authorities in Sinaloa, executive and judicial, are in sympathy with the Conspirators and their Agents, so that justice cannot be obtained, other than by appeal to you, and the Federal Authorities, in your Capital City.

Quite properly, I might close this communication here, simply bespeaking your good offices, in an executive or advisory capacity, to stay the litigations and strife existing and rife in Sinaloa, against the Company I represent, and the Colonists, in the interest of equity and justice, as you may see it.

Nevertheless, as I am, and have long been largely in sympathy with Mr Owen and his Colonization efforts, though without active participation therein, and not in full accord with all his theories and methods, I trust you will pardon me in submitting a brief statement of my views upon that subject,

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as I have had quite full knowledge of his Concessions, and his proceedings thereunder, in connection with the original and subsequent railroad Concessions, each being designed as an assistant to the other, though separate. As Owen himself, has been the dominating factor and personality, in the origin, progress and present condition of the Colonization scheme, soon, I fear, to come to a disastrous end, unless some way can be speedily opened to stay the sleuth-hounds upon his track, determined to rend and destroy him and the Colony he has established. I will speak of him first, and I think about as intelligently as any living man can. You have seen and known enough of him to understand the dominating attributes of his character. He is a deep thinking indefatigable enthusiast in the theories and pursuits to which he has devoted the best years of his life with a faith and zeal as perennial and unswerving as that of a persecuted dying martyr.

He is always a self-sacrificing friend, and  
 Confiding to a fault, to those who are true  
 to him and in accord with his theories, but  
 like other such natures, he is uncompromi-  
 sing, and bordering upon the vindictive to  
 those who deceive or betray him, but not un-  
 forgiving in case the olive branch is tendered  
 in good faith. He will not purposely be quil-  
 ty of a dishonorable or mean act, and those  
 who have associated with him most intimate-  
 ly, have the greatest confidence in his integ-  
 rity. As evidence of this, I can state that I do  
 not know of any stockholder or creditor in the  
 Company I represent, who is an enemy of Owen,  
 or does not wish him well, though he was  
 the projector of the enterprise in which they  
 have all lost time and money, and who were  
 inspired to action, through his untiring zeal  
 and abiding faith in the great future of Mexico,  
 and your successful administration of its pub-  
 lic affairs.

Handwritten notes on a separate piece of paper in the top left corner, including the word "Owen" and some illegible scribbles.

In the light of past experience, and present conditions, relating to the Colony and the Colonists in Sinaloa, introduced and settled there under your Concessions to Mr. Owen, it may be claimed that better results would have been attained, had the Concessionaire given greater attention to, and personal supervision of the Colony, but that is answered in the fact, that he had taken from your Government, new railroad Concessions, to accomplish the purposes contemplated by the Old Company, and so carry forward the two enterprises as originally designed. It is doubtless true that the evils that have beset the Colony, would have been avoided, or materially neutralized, by the continued presence of the Concessionaire in Sinaloa, through the exercise of his strong personality, and the confidence and devotion of his followers, but his duties and efforts under the railroad Concessions, necessarily kept him

far away, in this City and in Europe, and both Concessions, as you know, much of his time in your Capital City. While thus far away from the place of his affections and followers, unsuspected and treacherous enemies, stole into his Eldorado, and sowed tares - i. e. money - there, with un stinted hand, corrupting the venial, discouraging the weak, threatening the timid, and now reveling in the rivalries, the treacheries, the factions, the litigations, the distress and disasters they have inaugurated and sustained. The result of this is, that the tide of immigration that was steadily flowing into Sualoa, has ceased, and the ebb tide has set in; many of the Colonists having left, and others preparing to follow, discouraged, disheartened and hopeless, from the uncertainties of their lease holds, and the warring factions, rapidly verging into confusion and Chaos.



With such conditions confronting your Concessionaire, it is quite evident that his wonderful faith and perseverance, are nearly exhausted, and he now turns with hopeful faith and confidence, as a last resort to the broadminded and chivalrous Executive of Mexico for the just vindication and Moral sustenance of the policy wisely undertaken by his Government and its Concessionaire, for the culture and development of the waste lands and places of Sinaloa.

In the existing emergency, and in a spirit of fairness and equity, Mr Owen informs me that he has, or will soon propose to you, for your consideration and advice, that all the questions, litigations and difficulties now existing in Sinaloa, and herein referred to, shall be submitted to the final hearing and award of three (3) or five (5) arbitrators, having plenary powers to notify and summon

all the persons and parties interested to appear and submit all grievances, claims and contentions to the board for conclusive and final determination; and in the meantime, that all contentions and litigations between the parties shall cease or be suspended. I may not have fully stated his proposition, not understanding it except in a general way.

I greatly doubt the practicability of Owen's suggested Arbitration, (1) Because of my belief that some of the parties will refuse to enter into such an agreement. They believe themselves too firmly entrenched in their present position, to take any chances before any upright and disinterested tribunal. (2) Because of the delay that must be incurred in the preliminary negotiations. The disease is imminent, and demands the most speedy remedy. (3) Because of the expenses

of so large a tribunal. It would estop many of the poor Colonists from being heard. (4) And most potent of all, because the report of a board of Arbitrators may be attacked in the Courts, and so not be conclusive and final upon the parties, or final judgment be indefinitely delayed, depending largely upon the financial ability of the obstructive litigants. Such would be the result in our Courts, and I assume the like tactics would avail in Mexico.

As a more speedy, less expensive and more summary procedure and remedy, to accomplish the purposes sought, I have suggested to Mr Owen, and I respectfully recommend, that one Commissioner of known ability, integrity and standing, be appointed, or recommended by you or some one of your Cabinet to take up hear and

determine all questions in Controversy growing out of said railroad, Colonization and irrigation Concessions, and for that purpose to give due and reasonable notice to all parties and persons interested therein, of times and places for hearings in the City of Mexico only, with full power to summon witnesses and punish for Contempts.

Said Commissioner to have all the powers of a Court of record as to the methods of procedure including the taking of testimony, oral or in writing, and depositions taken in due form in any Mexican State or foreign Country, and properly authenticated in accordance with Mexican Law.

The Compensation or salary of such Commissioner to be fixed by the Authority appointing him, and paid by the parties heard in such proportion, and subject to such terms of security as he may impose upon each. Such

Commissioner shall as speedily as may be consistent with the rights of parties conclude his hearings in the premises, and make full report thereof in writing to the Officer conferring his appointment, with a full statement and report of his adjudications, findings and recommendations in the premises, the same to be conclusive and binding upon the parties whether based upon hearings or on notice and default, unless the same shall be overruled, modified or set aside by the Executive authority of the Mexican Republic.

President Diaz will readily understand, that I do not submit these details of my proposition in any spirit of dictation, but simply as suggestions, in substance, as to what I deem requisite to speedily and effectually solve the questions and contentions involved. Another suggestion is, that such Commissioner, if appointed,

shall immediately give notice thereof, and request that all parties, falling within the scope of his authority, and the subjects of his investigations, abide in peace, and stay all litigations, under such rules and regulations as he may formulate and promulgate, until his adjudications shall be completed and confirmed.

I am well aware of the three (3) primary divisions of Governmental authority, existing under the Constitution and Laws of Mexico, as in this Country, and the care with which each guards its legitimate prerogatives; and the question will naturally arise, as to how far your executive authority may properly be exercised for the purposes herein suggested, or in some other ~~way~~ effective way, as you in your superior wisdom and responsibility may devise. I base my opinion

that you may take such executive action as I have suggested, upon the fact, that all the questions and contentions involved have originated in, and grown out of a broad and comprehensive undertaking on the part of the Federal Executive to settle the public lands, develop the resources and build up the waste places of your Coast possessions, under, and in accordance with legislative and Constitutional authority. And therefore, that you have and possess full power, and lawful authority to guard, foster and protect all rights and interests, emanating from, and connected with the railroad, Colonization and irrigation Concessions herein referred to.

With full knowledge and due appreciation of the power of your name, throughout Mexico, and the deference conceded to your wisdom and sense of justice

in all matters of public concern, it is quite probable, that a simple proclamation or letter of advice from you, may accomplish the results desired by Mr. Owen, and all right minded persons there and here, without the formality of official action on your part. Such action will be satisfactory to me, if it be made plain that you desire that all contentions shall cease, and the rights of your concessionaires properly respected.

With some such action on your part, as herein suggested, my belief is that the increase and stability of the Colony will be secured, and the speedy construction of the first section of the railroad completed.

I have the honor to remain

Yours most respectfully,

John H. Rice.



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32 Lafayette Place, New York City, Sept. 12/95

Miss Ida Hogeland

Ed. The Credit Foncier of Sinaloa.

Please publish the three Manifests enclosed for it is well that friends should see what others are doing towards Integral-Co-operation at this time, and what others think of persons who stand for principle against the popular heresies of their day and race.

I adjure all friends to be industrious in attending to their crops, to be patient to assist their Directors in doing what will advance harmony and the interests of our cause, and to feel sure that friends here are taking the steps necessary to protect them in all their rights under the Federal Concessions of Mexico.

Your friend

A. K. Owen