

dup

The Engineers en route from
London to Topolobampo, Jan-
uary, 1897.

J. G. L. Stephenson.

Kinsley D. Doyle.

A. Krauss.

E. J. Moon.

S. Jackson.

Copy

City of Paris, France,
Jan. 8 - 1897.

Dear Mr Owen:

I received here this morning yours of 29th ult., with the photographs. I trust that you received the \$960. odd which was transmitted to you through Brown, Shipley & Co. of London; also that you have had the pleasure of meeting Messrs Stephenson and Doyle and party and that they are all on their way to Topolobampo before this. I hope that the amount of money transmitted to you will prove sufficient for your present needs, and that everything will go smoothly and as we want it to go in the City of Mexico. I am glad to hear that Mr Jays is with the San José Garcia mine, because that is from all I hear a very fine property. I hope Mr Stephenson will get to see Mr Jays as he can give him much valuable information, not only about the Railway but

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about mining interests along the line and generally in Sonora and Sinaloa. I expect to come to New York in February, provided I succeed in closing up certain business I am now on in time. I have to go to Berlin this month - probably in 10 days, and to be between London, Paris and Berlin for the next 30 days. Meantime it will be very advisable for you to lose no time in getting to the City of Mexico and making things solid there. I do not doubt that with the cooperation of Mr Higgins and Mr Stephenson, everything can be arranged satisfactorily. With a favorable report from Mr Stephenson on the Railway route and the resources of the region to be developed there will be no difficulty ahead. The subsidy for the Mountain region I do not doubt will be given when the President sees that the undertaking is backed by responsible Capitalists. Mr Stephenson estimated that it would require 3 months hard work to complete the surveys and examination of the country and

another month in going to and getting through with the things to be done in the City of Mexico. I am engaged on a very important business which when in proper shape will necessitate my coming to the States and spending some time there and will probably require me to go to Mexico City also. It is in good shape and will make me a very large fortune when carried out in all its details. I have been at work on it for two years and it is now in the way of realizing.

Wishing you a most prosperous New-Year and the greatest success and with kind regards to Mr Lovell, I remain

Yours truly

A. M. Gibson

2
Lords Court Building,
40 Exchange Place,
New York Jan'y-16. 1897.

Col. A. K. Owen -

City -
My Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of
your favor of yesterday, and in reply,
say: that I will use my best endeavors
to negotiate for and consummate, a con-
tract with the owners or representatives of
"Carmen interests" in Sinaloa, Mexico,
referred to in your letter, and as near
as practicable upon the terms therein
named.

Very respectfully yours,

John H. Rice.

Copy

Nogales, Arizona, Jan. 24 - 1897.

My dear Mr Owen:
On my arrival here this morning I was surprised to have Mr Moon come to the Car and say they had been here four days and had not yet got through the Customs.

Just what the hitch has been I cannot find out. Stephenson first said Herrera had done nothing and no word had come to the Custom House at all. Then he said word came from the Department to the Collector to pass the goods, and on the Collector replying to know if that meant everything the answer was: "No!, only necessities." Stephenson then telegraphed Higgins, the President, and I think the Department again, and received an answer from the President that he would do what he could if he had a list of the goods. The upshot of it all is, he tells me, that he is now paying about \$1,000 (Mexican) for duties, and hopes to get it back when he goes to Mexico. He is not politic. He had

a poor man of a Mexican arrested here yesterday for charging him \$300 Mexican for moving some baggage when he found afterwards the charge should have been \$100. If he was fool enough to pay the \$300 he should have let it go at that. As it is he employed a lawyer and will have to pay five or ten times the amount and only stir up ill will. He is in mortal dread that he is to be attacked by Indians in the Mountains and has paid duties on 8,000 rounds of ammunition rather than pass in 500 rounds free as the Custom House offered. He employed Sandoval as his broker, and I expect will have to pay him a pretty big bill. As it is now he expects to get off tomorrow morning, and may hire a sail boat Monday to take us down if he can find a suitable one. Mr Freissinier is in Guaymas today, and Mr Naugle is there also, so I could not present your letter. I have had to pay duty on Kneeland's photographic materials.

Your friend John Maxwell.

Copy

Guaymas, Mexico. Jan 25-1897.

My dear Mr Owen:

We arrived here last night, and found a steam vessel sails for Agiabampo this afternoon. The Captain will take us to Topolobampo, so we will arrive there on Wednesday.

Mr Stephenson has just called me aside to say that he wants me to write you that he intends to call on you for the £200 he gave Gibson for you, as soon as he reaches Guerrero, and if you do not pay it that he will decline to go to Mexico City. He also says he will expect you to pay for expenses and telegrams occasioned by detention at Nogales in addition to the £200, as he claims your not being in Mexico City to respond to his telegrams was the cause. The sum paid the Custom House he says he will get back when he reaches Mexico City if he goes and you have not interfered in the meantime.

I write you as near as possible his words. I have told him I would write and that it was possible you would meet him at Quer-
 rero on your way back. He will be there about March 1st according to his present calculations. While holding that in no way was he justified in calling on you for this £200, that if was unwilling to have it paid you he never should have left England. I have not answered further.

My advice would be for you to write Mr Gibson and get his reply & Chihuahua to show Stephenson. + + + +.

Stephenson ridicules the idea that you can hold the Railway Concession unless he goes to Mexico to see the President, and that is where he thinks he has you. He says so very plainly and wished me to tell you so. He does not belong to our world of business dealings; but I will do what I can to have everything to make things pleasant. + + + + Your friend John Powell.

Extract from letter, dated New York, Jan'y-
30th 1897, from John H. Rice to A. K. Owen.

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"I have not seen Mr Kellogg since you left until today, having been somewhat indisposed and detained at my rooms. I called to see him to ascertain whether he was informed as to the offer I was to make to Snow for the Carmen interests. - I understood from you the amount that was to be finally paid, but did not understand the amount of the first payment; and also I understood the amount of Commissions to K. & J. - Can I offer Snow \$1000 for option, and can that be had before you or Mr Lovell returns? and if so, how? I wrote to Ex Mayor Prince as I promised and you have doubtless before this, heard from him, as he wrote to me that he would write to you and Minister Ransom. I inclose to you a Character letter received from him, as it may serve to amuse you, as it has me, and maybe your wife."

Westend Hotel,

Berlin March 7th, 1897

Dear Mr Owen:

I received yours of the 14th,
and 17th ult. here, yesterday, I am indeed
greatly surprised and annoyed at the inex-
plicable conduct of Mr Stephenson, that any
intelligent man could act in such a senseless
and utterly foolish, not to say dishonest man-
ner passes my comprehension. He comes of
a very good family. His father is the Rector
and squire of a large Parish in the West
of England, and the family is an old one
and very highly connected. Stephenson
himself stands very well with some strong
people in London, and Doyle, who is
very respectable, satisfied himself that
Stephenson was a man of character and
good standing. But all this in the face of what
you report, on the authority of Mr Lovell, amounts
to nothing. Actions speak for themselves, and

Stephenson is undoubtedly an ass, if not a knave. The foolishness of it all is what puzzles me. He has simply gone to work either willingly or unwittingly to break his own neck. His talk about your robbing him is such damned rot that I can't comprehend it. What he has done with £1,800 is more than I can understand. Of course two guns and a revolver ~~each~~ each did not cost a great deal, for such things are cheap in London. I protested against the useless expenditure when I heard of it from his Clerk, and told Stephenson himself that it was a criminal waste of money. But he has been lying about his money all the way through. He received, so he told me, £600 for Krauss and Jackson to cover their expenses. That would make £2,400 and he must have left England with, at least, £1,400.

You, however, must leave me to deal with the fellow. He entered into Contract with

Mr Down, as your Attorney, to make the survey and report for £1. 800, and the contract is enforceable in England, and we will see to it that we get the report. I hope you will not have left Mexico until you get the Concession renewed and everything copperfastened. The only thing I can imagine is, that Higgins may have entered into some deal with Stephenson, by which the two are to try and get your Concession away from you. I know nothing of Higgins. He may have been fooled by Stephenson. But it does not matter. Stephenson cannot do anything in England with Down and myself to checkmate him. Krauss will not go into any rascally scheme. Doyle will have to go straight, even if he was disposed to go crooked. I cannot get away for about another month and it is not advisable, under the circumstances, for me to leave until Stephenson returns. I think that the fellow will make a

good report. Both Doyle and Moon are good men, so far as their experience goes. I hope that the man Mr Lovell speaks of, who was going to get up a map showing the Mines and the business they will bring to the Railway, will do the work and let you have it. From what I hear President Diaz is determined to have the Railway from Topolobampo built. I do not doubt that all the material assistance required can be got from the Government.

There never was a man who had such an opportunity as Stephenson had, and if he had taken my advice and acted like a sensible man, his fortune would have been made.

When he returns to New York, which he will do in the course of time, treat him in a dignified way, but give him clearly to understand that I know everything and that you have entire confidence in me; and that I will see to it that he is not allowed to go otherwise than straight in London, or I will damn him professionally.

and in every other way.

I am writing to Mr Lovell by this mail also. I will also write to Mr Higgins guardedly. After Stephenson left here I have had to save him from being made a Bankrupt for £50. and costs, on a judgment which was obtained before he sailed. I can have him made a bankrupt any day that I choose to do it. - I have only to say the word and it will be done. When the party returns, you take Doyle apart and tell him that if he does not want to lose his £2,000. outright he must not join Stephenson in rascally attempts to wrong you. Unless Mr Higgins plays you false, Stephenson will be powerless to do anything, and I do not believe he will, but if he attempts to, thinking he can profit through the perfidy with Stephenson, they will both discover that they have made a great mistake. I can block any game of that kind on this side

Yours truly
J. M. Gibson

Westend Hotel

Berlin, March 19th 1897

Dear Mr Owen:

I have yours of 1st inst this morning and congratulate you on your success. Of course I cannot speak definitely until I receive the copy of your new concession. I cannot come to New York until my business here is completed and at the present writing this is far from settlement.

I strongly urge upon you, since you are complete master of the situation, to simply give Stephenson a cool reception when he arrives in New York. He has only one thing to do and had only one thing entrusted to him - to examine and report on the line of railway and the resources of the country traversed and contiguous thereto. He had nothing & has nothing to do with the business part of the undertaking.

The fellow evidently lost his head and he undoubtedly made an ass of himself, but that

does not matter. I want his report.

You will have observed that political aspects in Europe are critical. No one can tell what will be the outcome of the complications in the eastern Mediterranean. There is no telling what may happen there any day. The Powers do not want war but the Greeks may precipitate war any moment and once the conflict between Greece and Turkey begins there is no telling how it may speed.

I am greatly disturbed about the situation because I have such immense interests at stake which would be very seriously imperilled by war in Europe. I am straining every nerve to get my business forward and out of danger.

The difficulty with your undertaking is its magnitude. The practical part of the thing is to get a basis for financing the line from Topolobampo to the Mountains and the branch to Batopilas. In connection with this, of course, the El Paso

and Corralitos end is of importance, provided you can depend on Higgins. The lines to Guaymas and on to Presidio del Norte, from Concepcion are in the air.

The practicable thing is the one to look at. The Colonization part will not help on this side. Capitalists will only look at the rail-way. Will it pay from the start?

If Stephenson's Report on the port from Topobampo to the Mountains and the branch to Batopilas is good, and the Mountain sections are treated in the proper way, the money to build the western end can be had.

Of course your Amore propez has been greatly touched by Stephenson's foolish and ~~times~~ unjustifiable conduct. But the way to get even with such fools is to make use of them and laugh at them afterwards.

Yours truly

A. M. Gibson

Copied

Washington, D.C. March 27-1897.

Sir: The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of March 13th, requesting information regarding the survey of the harbor of Topolobampo. The matter of this survey has been discussed but no further steps have been taken.

At the stations in the region of the Gulf of California, the variation of the Compass was nearly stationary or slightly increasing from year to year at the time of the Narragansett's survey. It is now decreasing. The amount of decrease for different stations is stated on the Charts and in the later Hydrographic Office publications relating to this subject. There is sent by this mail a copy of the Chart of Lines of Equal Magnetic Variation and Dip recently issued by this Office.

Very respectfully

J. Sigbee

Commander, U.S. Navy,
Hydrographer.

Mr Joseph Hampl, C.E.
West Mexican R.R. Co.,
Topolobampo, Mexico.

Boconoia

April 12th 1897.

Dear Mr Doyle:

Your second letter has just reached me. I know nothing of your being without funds until your first arrived, and wrote you at once by post. The reply is I believe here now.

Please return here at once. All the arrangements are altered - awaiting you here. I remain

Sincerely yours,

J. Gordon L. Stephenson.

dup.
Copy of Telegram

Chimipas, Chihuahua, Mexico,
April 22nd 1897.

To Col. A. K. Owen,
Care of President Diaz-

"Have examined all possible routes between Topolobampo and Chihuahua. Meet me Hotel Robinson, Chihuahua, May first."
Stephenson.

Copy.

City of Mexico, April 22nd 1897.

"House Committee has reported that your Railway Concession be approved.

I think that it will pass next week, being sent at once to the Senate.

I have mailed to you a Copy of the "Diario Oficial."

Yours,
Ed. S. Herrera.

To A. K. Owen
New York City }

Copy

3 Popes Head Alley Lombard St.
London E.C. April 24th 1897.

Dear Mr Owen:

I received on Thursday the cable of Mr Jackson saying he was alone at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, had been swindled by Stephenson, and requesting me to see Mr Ironson and have cabled credit for \$100⁰⁰. I was not able to see Mr Ironson yesterday, or to learn whether he had returned and am now endeavoring to ascertain the address of Mr Jackson's people to communicate with them.

I leave for Germany on Monday and will be absent at least a fortnight; on my return here I will take up negotiations which have been begun with a view to obtain the money to construct the Railway from Topolobampo to the Mountains and the Batopilas Branch, and also to purchase all the lands about Topolobampo and at Los Mochis and to ~~take~~ make the necessary improvements and developments.

There is a fair prospect of success in this undertaking provided the war in the East does not develop beyond its present scope between Turkey and Greece.

From the best information I can obtain, it is probable that the conflict will be localized by the Powers and that the result ultimately will be that Greece will not lose any territory, but she will be neutralized as Belgium is, and thus being without the necessity of maintaining an expensive armament in an Army and Navy, she can in the course of time pay off her indebtedness to her bondholders. If this scheme succeeds, it will be a fortunate thing for her Creditors and will create a good feeling in financial circles.

At the same time Turkey will be practically placed under the Powers and reforms provided for which will protect her Christian population and relieve her Moslem subjects of great exactions and while guaranteeing the

The integrity of the Ottoman Empire, will restore her credit also.

These are undertakings of vast magnitude and it remains to be seen if there is Statesmanship in the Cabinets of the Six Great Powers with the calibre to compass the same. If Greece should by some unexpected Generalship on the part of the leaders of her army be able to do the Turks up in Thessaly and Epirus, and if her Navy should effect some grand coup, the calculations of the Great Powers would be upset and no one can say what then might happen. There is also the chance that England may by the force of public sentiment at home be compelled to withdraw from the Concert. It is within the bounds of probability that there may be an understanding brought about between England, France and Italy, in which event the destinies of all countries giving on the Mediter-

-ranean would be determined irrespective of Russia, Germany and Austria. This is what the Liberals of England desire, and but for the reluctance of the Englishmen to enter into definite alliances Gladstone might even at his great age step to the front now and compel it.

Stephenson's Clerk came to see me yesterday and said he had a cable saying the party would be at Chihuahua May 1st. The Clerk told me he had received from Stephenson, copy of his diary up to March 19. The last entry was made at Agua Caliente. They had been over the line to Batopilas, and Doyle was examining the Septentrion. The Clerk said that Stephenson spoke of the wonderful mineral resources of the Country and the great field there was for business. The party had a fine reception by Shepherd. A man named Lane of Fuerte, had been steering them. I am to have the

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Diary to read.

I suppose Jackson has reported everything to you, as I take it he has been with you and through you obtained my cable address. He is the nephew of Mr. Ironson, and I understand a nice young man. Of course I am keeping my own counsel, and pursuing my own course irrespective of Stephenson, and what he may do or say when he returns. My policy is to get a Report from him without committing myself in any way to him. He can do nothing and will be powerless as against me. My present negotiations are wholly independent of him and of any report he may make, or not make.

My advice to you is to have, if any, only the most formal intercourse with Stephenson on his return to New York. You, under the circumstances, cannot have any social or business relations with him. You should

simply decline to discuss anything with him and persist in referring him to your London Agent. And be Careful not to commit yourself in words or in writing as to who your London Agent is, i.e., do not specify me as your London Agent.

Under no circumstances will Stephenson be allowed to have anything to do with the business and no contractor put forward by him will be allowed to do any work.

My plan is to raise £300,000 before Stephenson returns, and I think I can do it.

Yours truly
A. M. Gibson

Col. A. K. Owen
Room 8, 38 Wall St.
New York City

copy

Mochicahui, Sinaloa, Mexico,
April 29th 1897.

Friend Owen:

The following letter I received to-day from Bocayne, April 10th 1897:

"Dear Sir:"

"A difference of opinion is likely to arise between me and Mr Stephenson, respecting the conduct of this expedition, the funds for which I provided, I should be obliged, if you would forward to me an account of your dealings with him, expressed in such terms, that I could lay it before the Agent of the Capitalists, if necessary."

Yours faithfully,
Kinsley C. Doyle.

J. Hampl Esq. "

I gave a full account of my dealings, observations and experiences, some parts perhaps in the bustling terms of the West, but to the point.

Mr Doyle will send you a copy, at least I asked him to do so. Another copy, I requested sent to Mr Stephenson.
Yours, J. Hampl.

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Mochicahui Mexico.
May 19th. 1897.

Friend Owen: I am here again assist-
ing L. Green in the Court, he being accused
by J. Scally for stealing water. Hart and
Scally did not consent to give him water
to irrigate with, unless he would pay
in advance; as his Cane needed water,
he opened the gate of his lateral and
drew the necessary water from the main
lateral. The charges for water are 66 ²/₃
cents per acre, which is an exceedingly
high tax, as every settler needs from three
to four irrigations per season.

Taking into account the prejudice of
the Judge, Green had to end and pay for
the water used. The accusation for steal-
ing was suppressed.

The Colonists cannot but pay Scally's
demands or be cited before the Judge. That
like proceedings will dissatisfy people more
and estrange and repulse your few friends,

you will understand; and if urgent measures are taken, to get possession of the Canal and secure the service of the pump, as long as we might need it, other severe troubles will arise.

Your Concession alone is not sufficient to protect your friends in such and many other cases, if no decisive measures are taken.

Sally produced in the Court, among other documents, an agreement between the N. S. J. Co. and the former holders of the Canal (George Page signed as such), that the former Company should run the pump for the general benefit and under certain rules, compiled by the same, and that every settler, not abiding by said rules should get no water.

So we are appearing at the mercy of those usurpaters.

When we had the Canal in charge, an order from Gen. Carrido from the Government

Compelled us to give water to all, no matter whether they paid for it or not. Now it is quite different, and we are abused in the face of new Concessions.

The taxing by the Collector of Contributions for killing or rogs and for making panocha, is going on too, as if there was no Concession at all.

Please take notice of all this and bring a change about.

Yours as ever,

Jos. Hampl.

City of Mexico, July 1st, 1897.

A. K. Owen Esq.
Mexico City

Dear Sir:

In representation of Messrs. Komatzubara & Co. of Japan, I take the liberty of writing you regarding your Colonization Railroad Concessions on the West Coast of Mexico.

The above named Company, was formed for the express purpose of bringing out Japanese Colonists to Mexico and Central America, who would be willing to work at any and all kinds of work, and in time with the proceeds of their labor, purchase land and farm the same.

The Japanese are a very industrious and law-abiding people and I am sure they would make the most desirable Colonists you could introduce.

Nearly all the Western Railroads of the United States, are employing them on railroad work, and have found them to be very satisfactory.

As there is an abundance of fish in the Ocean waters adjoining your Colony, I should advise the organization of a fishery Company and have the same operated by Japanese fishermen, as these are Japanese very skilled at that business,

it being one of the principal industries on the Japanese Coasts, I am sure it would be a good paying investment, as there would be an unlimited home market here in the Republic for all the fish that could be packed.

The terms under which we could arrange the labor part would be as follows:

- I. That you furnish the Japanese work immediately on their arrival, they to receive (\$15⁰⁰) fifteen dollars Mexican money per month of 26 working days, of 8 hours each.
- II That you pay the said Komatzbard & Co. the full amount of the fares necessary for the transportation of said Japanese arriving.
- III That you furnish each family without cost a suitable house or quarters to live in.

Komatzbard & Co. would agree as follows:

- I To generally supervise the said Japanese and settle all differences at any time.
- II To replace any Japanese who may leave and keep the number up to the full quota, so far as the same can be done.
- III To repay you the amount of money advanced

by you for the fares of said Japanese, and also for the quarters, lands or houses you should furnish them, at the rate of not less than \$5.00 per month for and on account of each working Japanese.

IV. If any Japanese should have owing you any money, which were paid on the order of Komatzbara & Co. The said firm would agree to repay said amount.

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Referring to the cost of transportation from Japan to Mexico, the Pacific Mail S. S. Co. would make a rate of \$50.00 gold for each adult from Japan to their destination; contracted for at one time, a steamer could be chartered in Japan, and the fare for each one would be only nominal.

I am writing Mr. E. J. Komatzbara whose address is No 28 Yedogawacho, Koishikawa, Tokio, Japan, G. N. Takahashi, to write me what a steamer can be chartered for, and other details, which on receipt of same, I will submit to you.

Yours very respectfully,
R. R. Bridger.

1^a Calle Humboldt 436.
Mexico

Mexico City, August 8th 1897.

Col. A. R. Owen,
Hotel Coliseo,
Mexico.

Dear Sir: On my return from the interior a few days since, I found several letters awaiting me from the Japanese representatives at San Francisco.

They are very anxious to know, as to when you will be ready to commence operations and make agreements.

They have asked me to keep in quick communication with them and yourself, regarding the business, and that they can meet you either here or at New York, to talk the matter over in detail, and come to some understanding.

The Attorney for the Japanese at San Francisco is John A. Wall Esq. 203 Speckels Building, who will write you to New York on the subject.

Yours very truly,
B. R. Bridger.

Translation

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Culiacan, 21st Oct. 1897.

Mr. Albert R. Owen.
City of Mexico.

Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your favor of 21st September, the contents of which have had my particular attention. It affords me great pleasure to state that I am well disposed to help anything depending from me in your colony of Topolobampo.

Please inform your attorney, Mr. J. Hampl, that he has but to apply to the authorities in the El Fuerte District, whenever he has to apply to them, assuring him that whenever justice may be on his side, he will have it.

This opportunity affords me, once more, the pleasure of assuring you of my friendship.
(Signed) = Francisco Cinedo.

Translation

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City of Mexico.

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of 21st September, the contents of which have
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J. Hampl, that he has but to apply to the
authorities in the El Fuerte District, when-
ever he has to apply to them, assuring him
that whenever justice may be on his side,
he will have it.

This opportunity affords me, once more,
the pleasure of assuring you of my friendship.
(Signed) = Francisco Canedo.

Copy
Translation

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City of Mexico.

Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your favor

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It affords me great pleasure to state that I am well disposed to help any thing depending from me in your ^{more} ~~long~~ ~~to~~ Topolobampo.

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This opportunity affords me, once more, the pleasure of assuring you of my friendship.

(Signed) = Francisco Cárdenas.

Translation Teleg.No.1

Mexico March 31, 1897.

Lic.A.Zazueta

Culiacan

Please have certified copy of Court's sentence in favor of Mr Owen, on the ownership of irrigation Canal at Mochis, and forward it to Mr Edw.Herrera, No.415.Avenida Balderas

Francisco Cañedo

Translation Teleg.No.2

Culiacan 2.nd April 1897

Sr Gobernador Francisco Cañedo

Mexico, City

By to day's mail I forward to Herrera certified Copy of decision on Irrigation Canal

Eriberto Zazueta