

May 9th
 April

A. B. Moore Esq.

Dear Sir

If there is any one thing in this world that I desire more than another, it is the ability to pay my honest debts.

When I was in Amesbury in 1873-4 I owned real estate which if sold at the prices then prevailing would have netted me twenty five or thirty thousand dollars, perhaps more, and which upon the completion of the Texas Pacific Railroad, then in course of construction would have increased more than tenfold.

I was well posted upon the railroad situation, and so confident of its success that had I received a cash offer of \$100,000. for my San Diego real estate it would have been refused without a moment's hesitation.

The "Panic" combined with the efforts of the Central Pacific R.R. (the latter have admitted in court that they spent millions of dollars at Washington and otherwise in efforts to prevent the building of the Texas & Pacific) caused the business of the Texas & Pacific R.R. to be suspended.

and as a consequence, real estate in San Diego fell to almost nothing, all kinds of business was greatly depressed many failures took place, and the town lost more than half its population. I suffered with the rest. The bank with which I was connected lost heavily. It finally went into liquidation. I had a few thousand dollars of trust funds in my hands, so small that my single check for the amount would have been honored, at any time, previous to '76 or '76, but since then they have hung like a millstone about my neck.

With the help of a noble wife I have struggled on hoping for the reaction, which was sure to come sooner or later, in part at least.

We have lived in the most economical manner in a small, inconvenient, cloth & papered, one story house, without a chimney, stove pipe sticking through the roof, old bonnets and dresses fixed over year after year &c. Of course we are thought stingy & mean, people wonder why we spend so little and live so meanly and think we like it.

Fortunately Californians are very independent about their dress and living and peculiarities attract less attention than they would east.

In order to save as much as possible from the wreck, the other bank here which was considerably worse off than ours, proposed a consolidation of interests which was accepted, and I was elected

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as one of the directors to represent our interests in the new bank, which position I still hold. This gives me more credit than I deserve, and also has made it imprudent for me to write freely about my affairs, as an impairment of my credit would affect others.

After the failure of the Texas & Pacific became certain, the citizens of San Diego, those of us who remained, determined to make another effort to secure transcontinental railroad connection; Mass meetings were held and an executive committee of 9 appointed with power to offer any company who would build the road a large amount of money and land, - I was one of that committee and we made a contract a Boston party by which we were to give them \$200000 cash and about 10000 acres of land and several hundred city lots; all of which had to be raised by voluntary subscriptions. By persistent hard work the committee succeeded in raising the amount and closing the contract.

The road was to have been finished according to contract four years ago, but our evil genius the Central, Southern Pacific R.R. again blocked the way. 180 miles from San Diego the track of the California Southern (our road) crosses the Southern Pacific R.R. and for months and months the latter Co. prevented the crossing, using

every legal quibble that their lawyers, (and they have the ablest money can procure) could find, in some cases getting decisions in their favor from judges who were as much in their pay as any clerk in their office. They spent about 5 millions in building a road from Mojave to the Needles, for the sole purpose of heading off the Atlantic & Pacific R.R. and preventing the connection with our San Diego road.

At last however after over four years of desperate fighting, the bulldog persistence of the Boston men have won - they laid their track across the Southern Pacific, they have obtained possession of the road built by the Southern Pacific, from Mojave to the Needles, and they now have a force of nearly 2000 men working from both ends to close the gap of 90 miles, which is to give San Diego a Transcontinental Railroad.

This gap will be closed by December next and we confidently expect we shall then receive a great increase of population and a great advance in the values of real estate. We are already feeling the influence; never before since 1873 was the town so full of people, never so few unoccupied houses to rent, never was business so good generally and never so many buildings in course of erection at same time. Real estate, however, has advanced but very little so far, there were too many parties who had held for years waiting for a purchaser unable to sell at any price and ready to take the first offer, but when these are

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out of the way the advance will surely come and the prosperity we have so long looked for be here at last. Unfortunately too late to save many who from time to time have fallen by the wayside.

I have no property unincumbered, in fact my interest in it is saved through the kindness of a friend, but that interest is in so large an amount of property that if the "boom" comes, as even the most conservative among us now believe is certain, within the next ten or twelve months, I shall not only have sufficient to relieve myself of all liabilities, but enough to satisfy my reasonable ambition for a competence.

I have managed always, to keep my credit here good. My interests were so interwoven with others it was absolutely necessary.

I dared not write you plainly, I would not write you falsely, so I wrote nothing, hoping year after year that the good time was near at hand that would make me once more a free man.

I knew the time must come, sooner or later, when this harbor, closed to commerce by the selfish greed and corrupt manipulations of the Central Pacific, would be opened by a competing line, and, thank God, that time is almost here, will be here this fall, and

then will San Diego be the one most
 prosperous, and most rapidly growing
 places on the pacific coast. The long dark
 night is nearly past the daylight is almost
 breaking, have patience for a little longer
 and all will be well.

I know my eastern friends must think very
 hard of me, but I could not help it, do not
 think I did not feel it - I could bear the loss
 of wealth but it was harder to bear the loss of
 my friends good opinion, but I was hoping
 day after day for the time when all could
 be explained satisfactorily and safely.

Though that time is not quite here, it seems
 best now to trust you.

I think you will now understand
 me, but I hope and trust we shall
 all meet again at the old home
 where we can talk more freely and
 fully than by letter

yours truly
 E. W. Morse

Copy of Letter to
A. B. Morse

May 9. 1845