

dup

March 6th.

9

Mr. Alfredo Chavero,

My Dear Mr. Chavero:-

At last, I am able to say positively to you that I have succeeded in interesting capitalists to finance The Mexican Pacific Railroad, and in confirmation of this I enclose letters.

Soon after I reached this City, in April, from Mexico, I learned that Mr. Ferguson was financially embarrassed, owing to Western contracts he was engaged in; and in June he was frank to tell me that he could not put up any money to continue the construction of the railroad or to make necessary deposits in Mexico City, and that I would have to look up other persons for this enterprise. However, it was impossible to get even the attention of enterprising persons with means owing to the war and unprecedented hotness of the weather until October. After the failure of several promising negotiations which almost closed the business satisfactorily, I met E. Kenyon Stow, a distinguished Englishman whom I interested in the railroad, and he introduced it to his brother-in-law, Mr. Henry Woods in London, who is represented to be one of the largest railroad contractors in South America, and he after several letters had been exchanged, sent over a written proposition to *close the business with me, which Mr. Henry A. Blake and Mr. Joseph*

Hampel hearing of, and wishing to blackmail me, deliberately went to the persons who represented these English gentlemen here and broke off the business by representing that Ferguson & Company held my concession by virtue of a contract with Mr. Valesco; and I refer you to Mr. Mallet Prevost, the attorney for the Venezuela Boundary Commission in proof of what I say; and as to Mr. Blake's blackmailing purposes, after I got to working with the capitalists here, I refer you to Mr. John Scott, # 44 Wall Street, who, as the representative of Holland investors, examined my papers, maps etc, and reported to Holland favorably upon the same; and, also, to Mr. Noblett who was approached by the Ferguson party, with a view of discouraging him from taking any interest in Mexican enterprise; and, I tell you this to show what an uphill struggle I have had to make headway among capitalists in Wall Street. I wish to say that Blake's object was simply to compel me to demand that the capitalists should carry him and Ferguson in any contract that I should make; and Hampel's object was spite because I would not pay his board bill for longer than three months, and after I had found out that he had no intention of going back to Sinaloa; hence, if you and others, in Mexico, have received letters damaging to me from Joseph Hampel you may know that

March 5th.

9

#8.
he carried out what he threatened to do, to damage me in Mexico and elsewhere all that he possibly could; and you can put his former and last letters together and judge for yourself in which he most likely told the truth.

I beg your pardon, Mr. Chavero, for speaking of blackmailing and of such creatures as Blake and Hampl; but I cannot show you why I have been so long in closing this business, without making the brief statement that I have.

I wish to further assure you that at this time there are syndicates of investors both in Holland and in Belgium who have been fully advised by their respective agents in this city, upon the importance of The Mexican Pacific Railroad as an investment, and who have now the papers under advisement, so that as soon as Mr. Noblett deposits the money for Mexico City, takes out a charter for the company, and begins construction in Sinaloa, we are likely to have a combination of capital at the back of this enterprise, second to no other in Mexico.
Mr. E. L. Corthell left for Mexico City yesterday, but expected to stop in New Orleans one day.

Respectfully,

Albert H. Owen,

27
9
6
A. K. Owen

to
Alfredo Chaves

March 6 - 1899

A. K. Owen, Esq.

Dear Sir:

The Chihuahua and Pacific Railroad Company is the owner of a concession from the Mexican Government for a railroad from the City of Chihuahua in the state of Chihuahua, southwesterly to the coast of the Gulf of California. This concession is divided into three parts of about 200 kilometers each. The first section is under construction by this company. As to the two other sections of about 200 kilometers each, this Company has a period of years in which to construct the road and conform to the other conditions of the concession.

We are willing to sell to you the concession for 400 kilometers, or that part reaching from the Gulf of California to the terminus of our first 200 kilometers, provided that the concession can be divided into two parts, the one covering our 200 kilometers, and the other covering your 400 or more kilometers, and that each will be allowed to stand upon its own bottom, we remaining responsible only for the performance of the conditions as to our section of 200 kilometers, and you becoming responsible for the performance of the condition as to the remainder.

Of course this proposition is made upon the condition, also, that the division of the concession is agreeable to the Mexican authorities, and that by proper legislation you shall succeed in having the concession amended as aforesaid.

You are to deposit with us upon the acceptance of this proposition the sum of \$25,000 (gold), and are to pay^y us out of the subsidy which you receive under your concession, subsidy bonds to the amount of \$2,000 per kilometer, for that portion of the concession which we transfer to you; which shall be payable to us on and at the time you receive your subsidy bonds under your concession, and if necessary, you are to deliver to us an assignment of this amount of your subsidy bonds so that they shall be deliverable as the remainder of your subsidy bonds are deliverable to you under your concession.

(A. K. Owen, p. 2.)

If you prefer, you can deposit as a guarantee of your performance of this agreement in the Banco Minero of Chihuahua, Mexico, a sum in Mexican money equivalent to \$25,000 (gold), and arrange with Mr. Creel, the President of said bank, upon such terms and rate of interest as may be agreeable to him.

In case you fail to get authority from the Mexican Government for the amendment and transfer of this concession as above referred to within three months from this date, this proposition terminates and you shall be entitled to the return of the \$25,000 deposited as a guarantee.

If, however, you succeed in getting the concession amended so as to effect the transfer under this proposition, then, in case you fail to comply with the terms of your concession, or fail to complete the construction of the 400 kilometers within the time allowed to us for such construction under the terms of our concession, the \$25,000 so deposited shall be forfeited and become the property of this Company.

Accepted May 31, '99.

May 31, 1899. Letter dictated by Mr. Terrell,-- in the presence of Mr. Schley, Mr. Paget and Mr. Owen, to Mr. Brennan the Secretary of The Chihuahua & Pacific Railroad Company.

VS
dup

Chihuahua, Mexico,

June 12, 1899.

Mr. Albert K. Owen,
Baldwinsville, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 3rd inst., duly received.

I was very glad to hear from you, as on account of Mr. Paget's absence from the New York office, I have not received any reply to my letters and the first news about our project has come in your letter. I hope that everything will go through successfully and that I will soon receive your confirmation.

Very truly yours,

Enrique C. Creel.

J. M. W.

Letter
to
Owen.

Mexico, August 5th 1899.

Mr. A. K. Owen,
Baldwinsville, N. Y.

(6)

My dear Mr Owen:

I am just in receipt of yours of the 21st ult. and have taken due notice of its contents.

I am sorry to say that I never received the letter you refer to being addressed to me No. 34 Pine St. New York, because it is likely that it was not addressed care of Mr Johnston.

I did not go to New York as I expected because my parties came down to arrange the pending matters. I never heard from Mr. Noble so I did not receive the money you refer to and I was wondering why it did not come. I expect therefore that you will upon your arrival in New York try to arrange the matter with your parties and send me a draft as promised.

I was in Chihuahua about a month ago and Mr Creel had not received the \$25,000. which should have been paid to him according to his Contracts. He was surprised to hear that you had left for London without advising him or me of your departure, but I told him that it was likely you went on a quick errand to fix your matters so he is yet waiting for you to carry out the contract which I expect you will be able to do.

Hoping to hear from you with good news,
I am,

Yours very truly,

J. M. Ortiz

Mexico, Sept. 11, 1899.

Mr. A. K. Owen,
New York.

My dear Sir:

I am glad that you have returned from London and I expect that you were altogether successful in your arrangements across the ocean.

Mr. Creel is in this City and I will show him your letter and we shall expect your explanation in regard to the payments that were to be made to him and to myself and according to our agreements. Mr. Creel was somewhat disgusted because you left for London without saying a word and I now understand that the letter to him was enclosed in mine which was sent over to Pine street which letter never reached me and I suppose it was returned to you in due course of time. I requested Mr. Creel to kindly wait until you would return from London to make the payment agreed upon and I hope to make him keep his contract if you would comply with ~~the~~ terms very soon.

Enclosed you will find the draft for the letter that Mr. Henry has to sign and in the organization of the syndicate which I have already formed for the keeping up of the San Rafael and Annexas mines I shall reserve the interest promised to Mrs. Owen.

I am going out of town this afternoon and shall be back tomorrow.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Owen, I am,

Very truly yours,

Jose M. Ortiz.

Office
to
Owen

Mexico, Sept 11th, 1899

Mr A. K. Owen,
New York

(7)

My dear Sir;
I am glad that you have returned from London and I expect that you were altogether successful in your arrangements across the Ocean.

Mr Creel is in this City and I will show him your letter and we shall expect your explanations in regard to the payments that were to be made to him and to myself and according to our agreements. Mr Creel was somewhat disgusted because you left for London without saying a word and I now understand that the letter to him was enclosed in mine which was sent over to Pine Street which letter never reached me and I suppose it was returned to you in due course of time. I requested Mr Creel to kindly wait until you would return from London to make the payment agreed upon and I hope to make him. Keep

his contract if you would comply with the terms very soon.

Enclosed you will find the draft for the letter that Mr Henry has to sign and in the organization of the syndicate which I have already formed for the keeping up of the San Rafael and Anneyas mines I shall reserve the interest promised to Mrs Owen.

I am going out of town this afternoon and shall be back tomorrow. Will write you more after having conversed with Mr. Breele who is also out of town but will be back tomorrow.

With kindest regards to Mrs Owen,
I am,

Yours very truly,
Jose M. Cortiz.

Mexico October 19, 1899.

A. K. OWEN, ESQ.,
BALDWINVILLE, N. Y.

My dear friend:

Since your letter, written on your return from England, I have heard nothing from you, and this gives me to understand that you have encountered many difficulties in New York with your old parties. Still, I think you should write me a few words advising me of the changes that may have taken place from the original departure. Mr. Creel left this city about a fortnight ago, and he promised to wait a short time more for decision from your parties. He advised me to write to you to have your parties meet his friends of his railway, to whom you have letters of introduction. It may be possible to get them to have an understanding, and that they may help each other to carry out the programme as set out by you to Mr. Creel.

With my kind regards for Mrs. Owen, and hoping to soon hear from you, I am,

Yours very truly,

Jose M. Ortiz.

Oct. 19-1899.

Ortiz to Owen.

Mexico, Oct. 19. 1899.

A. K. Owen, Esq.
Baldwinsville, N.Y.

(8)

My dear Friend:

Since your letter, written on your return from England, I have heard nothing from you, and this gives me to understand that you have encountered many difficulties in New York with your old parties.

Still, I think you should write me a few words advising me of the changes that may have taken place from the original departure.

Mr. Creel left this City about a fortnight ago, and he promised to wait a short time more for decisions from your parties. He advised me to write to you to have your parties meet his friends of this railway, to whom you have letters of introduction. It may be possible to get them to have an understanding, and that they may help each other to carry out the programme as set out by you to Mr. Creel.

With my kind regards for Mrs. Owen and hoping to soon hear from you, I am Yours very truly, José M. Ortiz.