NATIONAL TELEGRAPH

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE

NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA,
PITTSBURGH, CINCINNATI & LOUISVILLE,
THE UNITED NEW ORLEANS & OHIO & PEOPLE'S
St. LOUIS, INDIANA & LAKE ERIE
TELEGRAPH LINES.

NORTH EAST CORNER MAIN AND THIRD STREETS,

DAYTON, O.

Dated Troy Ohio 185

Received August 1st

To E Cornell

Yours of twenty eighth at hand this morning I accept and will take possession Friday or Saturday am engaged until then have you received my letter of twenty ninth = will Friday do -

Yours

Jos. F. Culbertson

He went to Hamilton Monday Aug 4th 1853.

C C

Erie and Michigan Telegraph Office,
DETROIT, August 1st, 1853.

TO THE MANAGER OF OFFICE

An improvement in the system of keeping and reporting the accounts of your office, is desirable. To effect this some change has been made in the form of the monthly report. Promptness in forwarding them is also necessary; and I am directed by the Executive Committee, to see that there be no delay hereafter in furnishing them, I am also especially required to submit them to a rigid examination, and to allow no payments not strictly required by the ordinary wants of business. Any other expenditures incurred without the sanction of the President or Superintendent, will not be allowed.

Vouchers are also to be taken in all cases where practicable, and returned with the reports to the Treasurer.

These are but reasonable requirements, and I trust there will be no want of disposition or effort on the part of the managers of the different offices, to aid in carrying them out.

In the column headed "Expenditures" in the reports, you will please enter as nearly as possible, a copy of your day book, with the date of payments and items, with any explanations necessary to make them fully understood. In all cases take vouchers for your payments when practicable, as livery bills, acids, rent, etc., to correspond with the entries. Those offices which have a portion of the receipts for the services of the operator are also desired to do the same.

Receipts should be taken by the managers from the operators, and messengers in his charge, for all salaries paid them, to be forwarded, with their report and their own receipt for payments to themselves. The monthly reports should be filled out with checks, as formerly, and great care taken in having them correct, as they will undergo a strict examination.

The weekly reports must also be promptly forwarded. I regret that some managers have not been as prompt as desirable in making them out. All expenditures for the week are to be entered on the first page.

With the largely increasing business of the line, comes the greater necessity of promptness and efficiency in the transaction of the business entrusted to us. To save the operators and managers themselves much annoyance, it is desirable that more especial attention should be given to the delivery of messages, return of answers, and replying to messages of inquiry. Much time can be saved, when answers cannot be obtained, or messages be delivered, by notifying the office sending, of that fact, and the reason, if any can be given, why no answer is returned.

The following alteration in the manner of checking will be adopted by all offices at once.

To all paid messages, going off this line, add to the usual check the amount to be paid other lines. Messages to collect, received from other lines, should state the amount paid on such message in addition to the ordinary check. When such messages cannot be collected, great care must be taken to report back immediately to the office where such message came on this line the fact, and the reason why not collected. Copies of all such messages uncollected, with reasons, are to be enclosed in the weekly report.

Yours, very truly,

J. HAVILAND, Superintendent.

Delphi Ia Aug 1st 53

Dear Sir

I send you my report for July by this days mail in your letter of 27th you say that Telegraphers should do up their business with speed in this I have uniformly tried to do so and would have sent my report for some much sooner had I have known where to send it. according to the proposition you made me when you was here there is a balance due of you $2.12 for July which I send with report you may be assured Sir that I will do all that I can to make receipts amount to as much as possible the Receipts for July ~~month~~ are some thing more than last month as you

will see by report they amount
to $37.94 expenses $35.82
my salary amounting to $27.12 leaving
balance of $2.12 I expect to make
the receipts amount to more than $3.00
until the winter months then I
suppose they will not be so much
hoping that the report I send will
be satisfactory

I am Respectfully yours
E R Davis

Richmond Aug. 1st 1853

E. Cornell Esq

Dear Sir,

Yours of 21st duly recd,

Have delayed answering until now, to enable report & corrections to go together.

By referring to my Cash book for May, & comparing my Cr. here, with those you forwarded from that rept, I see I neglected to Cr. myself with Postage 6 cents, which will balance rept, for that Month, It was an oversight in copying off of Cash book,

With regard to total amt, checked to other Stations, My check book has but very few of the Offices mentioned, being the first book issued on Line, C. D. U. B. G. S. & Z. are all the offices I have headings for, When mess. are recd. from other points I dot Col. to N. & if pay here, put down the amt, If not, sett it down in total column,

If this rept, & explanation is not satisfactory, would be pleased to hear from you again,

Very Respy

N. S. Leeds

Franville Augt 1" 53

E. Cornelle Esqr
Indianapolis

Dr Sir.

Your letter of 21st ult to which you alluded when I saw you is before me. I find as I then supposed that it will be very difficult to give you such a report as you desire. We can easily give you the daily Dr & Cr for O.I.&I. Line but situated as we are, it would involve more labor to give you the checks for & against each office on O.I.&I. Line than we can consistently perform. To do it our register of Messages must be changed, we must lay aside a valuable register not half filled & procure one adapted to the purpose. The items of expense paid for your line by us will always appear in your report from Vincennes & if you wish to have statement of daily Dr & Cr with O.I.&I. we will render them to you monthly. Mr Alvord is now in Vincennes, I shall converse with him in a day or two & will write you if any matter of note occurs affecting our mutual interests. Yours truly.

W. Hubbell

Account of Poles rcvd
by V.B. Jones by Chicago to Plymouth
May & June. To Resetting, 400 poles — 87 — $200.

The above is an Estimate of the number of poles rcvd by Jones and his party, which I arrive at after questioning him & his men. he having neglected to keep his account, I, am satisfied that the above is far short of the amount, but as this line will have to be rebuilt on a new route, and as I shall have to advance largely above the $3000 per mi to rebuild the line it matters little if the estimate is not exactly correct,

Indianapolis Aug 1, 1858 — Respectfully
E. Cornell

L. Barbour Esq
Asst

Auburn August 1 1853

E Cornell Esq Supt

Dear Sir

Allow me to introduce to you Mr Morgan Boyce of this city who is desirous of obtaining a situation on some of the western lines. I can recommend him to you as a faithful, honest and upright young man One who would satisfy you and be of service to the Line wherever he may be situated. He has a telegraphic experience of over two years and was most of that time with me in the Bain Office in this City If you should wish any help you can do no better than give him a try.

If you are not acquainted with me I will refer you to Jno M Kinney Esq Supt Home Line between N.Y. and Boston He will substantiate what I say as Mr Carson Stager Supt Home Line from N.Y. West he is acquainted with me—

Yours Respectfully

Chas L Jerome

Defiance O Augt 1st 1853

E Cornell Esq

Dear Sir

Yours very acceptable communication of the 27th ult. was this day rec'd. for which please accept my thanks. The letter with its contents has given me a confidence in relation to keeping this Office that I have not felt before since having charge of it. As I may have before stated to you - my recpts over expenses for the last year, or at least the last six months, have not averaged over 10 dollars per month: and while it continued to cost so much to keep up the line and I had no assurance that I should receive ~~any~~ funds aside from what I might get from Ofrs. I began to get discouraged & had serious thoughts of giving up the Office. Though I well knew it was for the interest of the whole line that an Office should be well sustained here even if its recpts were nothing. I had grown somewhat indifferent in relation to repairing line promptly. and in fact was compelled to delay sometimes for actual want of funds. I like the business very much when it pays, & this together with the hope that better times were coming, or that I might get a better situation have induced me to retain charge of the Office till the present time. You can rely upon the exercise of my best endeavors to keep the line in order. and for the proper management of affairs here. so long as I remain.

I have not heretofore been particular in making out rept to give single items of expense. and have in fact wholly omitted many items. such as horse hire. expenses when out myself &c. as the recpts uniformly fell much below expenses, with Salary. and not expecting the balance would be made up to me. have not been careful in that respect. as well also as in sending vouchers. I will endeavor to give satisfaction in reference to both matters in future.

You will see by Rept. that my recpts for July together with the $11.33 left of the 20 dollars after balancing June acct, & which you told me to apply to July acct, leaves a bal" over expendtrs. of three dolls & 67¢ which with your leave I will ~~credit over~~ carry over to recpts for August. If I had been particular in giving every item of expense for last month I think no balance would have remained against me for July. but it is my fault. The two items I have reported as "refunded" one 88¢ & 85¢. I dont know as will meet your approval. the messages were sent East. and the delay was not between ~~Def~~ here & Toledo. but they required answers. to make them of any use. which did not come. so I did not charge for the messages. if it is incorrect you can charge it to me. It seems as if something should be done to secure a greater degree of certainty in the transmission of despatches. Especialy where they have to be repeated. I am often vexed and embarrassed in this way - frequently the entire value of a despatch depends upon an immediate reply and when ~~such~~ replies are deluged so as to defeat the object of despatching; people do not fell like paying for

them when they do come. and so Notorious has the uncertainty of messages being promptly recd. become, that it deters people in many instances from risking their money to pay for a despatch: could the public have the same confidence in the Telegraph for the prompt transmission of intelligence that they have in the Mail, I believe it would vastly increase the business of the Lines. If Operators would be careful always to give the cause of no ans" being recd, as instructed to do in your note on tariff Bills it would save some misunderstanding

Respectfully Your Obdnt Servt

S A Strong
Op. "DC"

To E Cornell Esq

367
270
97

Laporte, August 2d, 1853

Dear Sir.

I recd yours. Saturday morning & must say that I am sorry to have given you the trouble to correct my blundering reports I believe that my figures have generally been correct. at last I have never had my reports corrected by any former administration

In relation to the Monroe line, I learn that they are now operating from Monroe to South Bend. They reached South Bend with their wires yesterday. I also learn that the poles are all set between Laporte & S. Bend & some 15 miles west of here. They say they will connect Laporte with Monroe in ten days.

They are putting up good poles & insulators — I send a quantity of them were at the R.R. depot here — it is rather small — but I presume it will be a good line — I understand that the Rail Road advances no funds — but assists them in the way of hand cars & engines to distribute poles &c The R.R. is to keep the line in repair & the Company to do their telegraphing for one third usual rates — This is not official information, but I presume it is about correct. This line is costing them much more than they anticipated — but now their funds hold out — I cannot say, ~~but~~ the line I suppose will be finished to Chicago in about one month.

I presume I can make an arrangement to take this instrument. I am now instructing my message boy to operate. It is too confining for me to be in the office all the time & every day Yours &c John Mullen

Mr. C Cornell

P.S. My balance for July is 21.39 - I will mail report to-morrow. I find it difficult to keep the check report, as many messages come to one reckoned only with the No of words & fee.

Yours &c
L Millikan

for Chas Millikan
Lobster Aug 2, 1893

Eugene Aug 2d 1853.

Dear Sir

I received yours, and in reply have to say that this place has very little business at this season of the year with the East or South having no canal within shiping range only as waggons haul the grain five to seven miles & the Wabash River not being navigable. But we are trying to get a Rail Road, & if we succeed the office here will pay. As long as I continue to give satisfaction I will try to keep the office open here. not having the fear of starvation before my eyes & having a salary independant of all contingencies except some great calamity, which will support myself & family. I will do the best I can for the line until you wish a change. when I will cheerfully give it up to some one who will do better. my best ?? to you

Your Truly
R. M. Waterman

E. Cornell Esq.
Indianapolis In.

Layan Aug 1853
2 Tuesday

Dear Sir

Yours of July 31st from B received this morning From here to X I see no Reason why a horse cannot be used on Canal. It is hard work for a man to Draw a boat all Day Especially where he has to pull it up an Embankment to get it through the Locks & as we will have to use a horse on this End Rather than let him Lay idle & in Expense = he could be used to tow the boat to advantage. The men would not be tired out

When they came to work
to be done & I think to
would do double the
work of work as well
as get along as fast
as he would on the
Road. Vanney the old
old Repairer says they
never used a boat
on canal but used to
Drive Team right through
on Tow path. Ball the
man that was sick at D
came here this morning
by canal & thinks he
will be able to go to work
again next week.

Had Team not better be
divided it seems as if it
was a useless Expense two
horses together when if
divided they would do
double the work &
at no more Expense for
keeping there is some
trouble between here &
Delphi I went over line
But could find nothing
~~that~~ in sight that would
give us that trouble
I am now waiting
for a Relay to test
with shall go over it &
test every few miles
It is some nail in green
tree or some thing of
the kind = In going over
line I find Palmer & his
man did not do more than
~~half~~ half the work that
should be done, It
will take two men a
week nearly to go from
here to Laf & fix it
as it should be. He
left more than 300 limbs

C. H. Speed Aug 2. 53

Touching the wire from here to Delphi, I see no other way but to go with the men myself & then can have it done right = Shall start with Palmer on Line when he gets up to Laf & go through the whole Line. The men will not do the work as it should be unless some one is with them that understands & what would effect the working on Line & what not. There are a great many bad connections in Line all of which I shall take out & while going through can see to each office is put in shape - Have you ordered Insulators = Where get some To begin with = 75.

Yours &c C H Speed

Piqua Aug 8th/33

Dear Sir

Please find enclosed twenty two Dollars ~~and~~ twenty six cents ---- $22.26 Balance for July, and two dollars additional in favor of June. I regret very much that an error occured in June report, as such mistakes are sometimes unpleasant, and shall endeavor to be a little more carefull in future.

I have said nothing as yet to our business men in regard to the extension of the Line to Defiance; but shall at an early day, and write you their feeling upon the subject and the prospects of aid in this quarter.

You speak of Visiting Troy & Piqua. Well we should be very happy indeed see you and sincerely hope you may come for then you can learn more definately the prospects of the proposed extension of the Line.

Very Respectfully

Ed W Brownell

D. M. C. Letter Vincennes Aug 3. 53

Vincennes Aug 5th 53

Mr Cornell

Dr Sir

Enclosed please find enclosed #43.97/100 being balance from O & M. Line and P. office. Also a Receipt from O & M Line for #4.56/100 bal due them, for Salary

If Report not right- pls inform me in what particular and will keep trying until I get her "O.K." Am

In checking amount against offices I have included amount that went on and from the Ohio & Mississippi Line but not of the O & M Line as the books are kept at Evansville he should furnish you with them- Mr Alvord is here, and he talked about my taking eastern business, he claims it all, the Vincennes local business I have reference to and said if I took eastern business I would be compelled to move the office, I politely told him I should continue to take it until ordered by Mr Cornell to stop. But he said hold on little while would make a compromise, As it has been two or three days since I had the above confab with Alvord and nothing been said since I think he has caved. But if anything further transpires will keep you

posted. Those Insulators charged in account I got them from Mr Mass the O & M Operator here for ~~your~~ the man you sent down to repair Line, but first consuling with Mr Wade of Terre Haute, I would have paid for them before now but neither of us knew what they cost and Mr Alvord was in New York at the time I got them, and had forgotton all about them until Mr A came here when we ascertained price and settled for them. Have you any suggestions? 7³ to Mr Chapin & Lady also to yourself,

Resp

Yours

D M Sellers

N B - When you send Envelopes advise by Teleg how sent also some Zincs

Clint Sellers

$20 Northern Bk Ky June 1. 1846 No 1915
10 State Bk of A. Mch 8. 1848 A. 981 - A 980
10 N. Bk Ky Jan 1 1850 A 179
1 Ex Bk Bu May 1853 4877
1 Fms & Mchs Bk Hdfd 1 Jany 1852 No 12869
1 Atlantic Bk Boston Jany. 1852
1 State Bk Ind Evansville A 869 - 16569 A

Telegraph Office, Richmond
Augst. 5th 1853

Mr. E. Cornell

Dear Sir:

Yours of Augst. 4th dated Dayton O. was received last evening.

By reference to my check book I find on May 3rd I forwarded a message to D. for C. C. Dennis N. Y. 26 Wds 189 cents pd. at N. 126. for forwarding from D. 53 cents. from N. to D. makes 179. It appears I charged Mr. D. ten cents too much Dont remember at present how that error occurred.

How Richmond Office came to be checked 237 at D. I am unable to say. Mr. Dennis only paid me 189.

On that day I sent & received ten Mess. One from B. & sent Ans. both pd. there. One from W. & returned Ans. pd. at W. Received two from D. pd. there. Sent D. two, one pd at N. Mr. Dennis Rec'd. one from C. pd. Mess. & sent him another pay in D. & sent one to Hamilton pd. here. 20 cents which added to 189. make the 209 cents I reported in May last.

That is the amt. of business done at N. on that day. Where from, & where to. Trusting that is will prove satisfactory I am

Truly &c

H. S. Leeds Opr. N.

Mr. E. Cornell
Indianapolis
Indiana

Ithaca Aug 6. 1853.

My Dear Father.

Mr Love told me today that your suit with Holmes would come off in the court which commences here on the 15th inst. unless you are here to attend to it. He says that they will try their best to bring it on and it cannot be prevented unless you are here to attend to it. The case is pretty well up on the calendar and it will be called it early in the Session.

In haste Very Truly Yours.

A. B. Cornell

E. Cornell Esq
Indianapolis

Mr Cornell

"B"

I sent a mess the 26th of July from P. W. Payne to I Weston Lowell Mass, It cost Payne 175, the mess was delivered to Weston without stating from what state it was ~~from~~ sent, merely saying from Crawfordsville. This error caused great disappointment to Payne & caused him to receive no benefit whatever from the despatch he now calls upon me to refund what must I do?

44 Moore

Crawfordsville
6th Aug 1853

Dear Sir,

Yours of 4th inst has just this moment been recd. and read, and I will take this opportunity to explain the Brook business together with what you have just inquired about = I recd your message a few days since from "B" but you had then left they said for the Country & so I had no opportunity of answering by telegraph = Mr. Brooks has not sent any business from my office for several months that I have any recollection of, but on the 4th of July last the R. Road men sent a message to him at N. Albany I tried all day to get Cin, and asked Chapin why he could not be had, & he said that their Operators east of Indianapolis were not at work that day, I told the men so and they appeared to be satisfied, I got it off the next morning as early as possible, If there were any sent on the 4th from Lof they must have went via Terre Haute, I send Mr B's business alike all with other business as soon after it is left in my office as I can

raise the office which is usually but a few minutes when the line is up. Beside that message I dont remember of any thing being sent him for some time past. There was a D H mess left here on saturday evening late, I think between 2 & 3 months ago from Mr. B. to his wife at New Albany I could not get it to C but believe I sent it to "B" that evening, he perhaps may have reference to that one, If so, he might have started one in the early part of the day from Lafayette & it got through same day & the one he left here late in the evening not till monday morning.

With regard to the last inquiry you make I will explain to you in full. There is no mistake at to the amounts of my receits but it is in the date, they have = My daily ~~receipts~~ business has always been so little that I have been in the habit, of hanging my messages away on a hook & registering at the end of each month, Sometimes I forget to put in the right date & sometimes my rects amounts to scarcely any thing for a week or ten days, then I put it down on my Cash Book, for instance, May 2d to 7th 290, that includes all I have taken in during that time, That is the way the mistake you speak of has occured, & if you will look over July report you will notice I have the business of the 25th & 26th all under date of 25th, The rects you see that I have given to that day are $4,54 but, That is the amount of both days = The date between them

got misplaced or was never put on I dont know which, The way I have been registering dont seem to be a very dovetailed manner of doing business, So I have be gun this month to register every day, so when a day has nothing to count it will stand 0000 in my reports. There may be an error or 2 in my last report with respect to charging other offices, for instance, a mess is sent from here to Evansville to pay there, I check it 60 cts the price from here but I only charge 40 cts of that to Vincennes, I suppose that is right, for 40 is due our line & 20 to "N S". I am sorry I have caused you the trouble you have been to by my mistakes, but I shall try to avoid them in future, Hoping these explanations will prove satisfactory

I remain Yours Very truly

L. S. Moore

A. Cornell Esq.
Indianapolis Ind.

P. S. I enclose a dispatch to you which please answer by telegraph at your convenience

M

Cincinnatti Monday eve Aug 7th 55

My Dear Mary Ann

I have no doubt that my hailing from this city, will be a disappointment to you, as I presume you expected and looked for me home last evening,

I could have so shaped my business as to have met such expectations, but I saw same business at Dayton & this City that was suffering for the want of attention, and the weather remained so excessive hot that I thought it more prudent to have you defer coming west for a few days until we got a change of weather, I therefor turned my attention to this business before going home I went to Marion on Monday and made a Contract with the Ind & Bell Tel RR Co to build a Telegraph from Union to Indianapolis, and left on tuesday for Dayton, I remained at D. two days and came down to Hamilton & Stayed over night, and came on here friday morning, and shall probably get away from here tomorrow Evening again for Indianapolis—

I think that I shall work around home in about ten days— say so as to devote myself to your happiness by about the first of September—

It is true that the heat of summer is the fashionable time for the denizens of the cities to start for the watering places, and cooling shades of the various summer retreats, and without reflection you might ask, why? delay starting on account of the heat, I answer that yours is, a different case, you are now enjoying, what, to a pent up slave of of fashion in N.Y. would be the most delightful country life, Your journey will to some extent, carry you from country to City, which with the fatigue of traveling, and the care of the little girls will, make this extreme heat quite embarrassing, You would be likely to exclaim "O! carry me back, O!! Carry be back" — to the cooling shades, and rippling brooks, of "home, Sweet, sweet home" —

Again, September is the preferable month on account of the health of the children, the fruits, are more mature at that season and have a less pernicious effect upon the bowels of children, than they would a month earlier, and bring less anxiety about the children with you, and those at home,

Such is my reasoning on the subject and I doubt not it will commend itself to your excellent judgement,

I dont know what, program to mark out for the journey, but there are two points, at least which I have never visited that I want to bring within the compass of the "journada" viz; Galena and St Louis I could make busines, and want to go to St Pauls, but I doubt if I shall be able to abstract the necessary time from my business - Say from Ithaca to Dunkirk, across Lake Erie to Detroit, from Detroit by Steamer around by the Straights of Mackinaw & through Lake Michigan to Chicago, From Ch you can go to Albion & make a visit while take a look at my business. Then we will take the cars and return to Detroit, Chicago, thence by RR to Rockford and I hope the cars will run to Freeport by that time, by Stage to Galena and Dubuque, thence by Steam down the Miss River to St Louis, and up to Ill to LaSalle, from LaSalle over the Ill Central RR down to Bloomington, thence by Stage across the Prairies to Lafayette Ind. thence By RR to Ind and here a resting spell for a week, or more while I take a look at my business - thence to Cleveland, and spend what time with Em and Johns wife, you wish - and home, say about the middle of October.

I meanly sketch this program off subject to any improvements you may suggest

Then, after this is finished, the Worlds fair will be pressing for attention, We must visit the Chrystal Palace, and we must give the children a chance, Mamie and Ellen will want to go, and I want to take an opportunity to take Frank down if not Perry - and I should like to treat Jane with a visit to the Palace, if I can possibly spare the amount of expense - This fall seems to be so crouded with important events in prospective, as to make it a memorable Era

I should be glad of your father & Mothers company to Michagan, but I hardly dare flatter myself with such an expectation If I should realize it, it will be so much clear gain -

I want very much to hear from home and trust I shall when I get back to Indianapolis, when I hope to find letters - The heat is so oppressive, and the Musquitoes are so troublesome that it is quite a task to write, I have a good net around my bed to keep the "varmants" away from - if it wasnt for that I should have a bad show, I will now bid you good night

Affectionately
E Cordell

Mary Ann Ithaca Ny

Binghamton Aug 7th 1853

E Cornell

Dear Sir

I have just returned from NY, & from the manner business is conducted in reference to this line, in Paxton's Office then, as well as in general, I have determined to inform you. although it is acting the part of a spy — But it is so palpable and plain, that any one doing business over the line cannot fail to observe it — But to commence. You are aware that the NY A & B Tel Co. have divided their lines at Utica and every thing is separated there by operators, not by connections — From UR to Buffalo the two old wires work well — The others are abandoned or partially so — From NY to UR they do not attempt to work but two wires, & from what I have been doing in the NY Office, & been credibly informed by word & letters, besides our last experience in sending business that way — these two wires work most miserably — In fact there is not half the time, that these two wires are in working order — One of the Bain wires is kept up most of the time between NY & Albany — with which at

Newburgh we are expected to connect and do the business of this line - But here again we are brought to a stand - I have very little difficulty in keeping the line at work to Newburgh - But this said Bain wire from Albany to NY is not attended to in the New York office for want of help - If NY takes a message from us it is with the understanding that he will get it off if an operator comes to the key in NY to take it in turn - two or three times a day is as often as he ever gets my & most of the time no one touches the NY key for the whole day on that wire - This is confirmed by the Book Keeper in the my ops. who told me last Friday that he had taken messages for Rondout & Newburgh, which had lain on the desk by the west for a whole week - He also says he tells all the customers for this line that there is no certainty of messages getting through to us, if he takes them, & he did tell two or three customers so while I was in the office - & they went away with their messages - Such is the state of affairs Via W - If we send Via Jefferson & Canandaigua We seldom ever get an answer & have no confidence in the messages getting through in one day - owing probably to the line working

so bad between UK & NY - If the NY Recor takes a message for us, he is sure to charge tariff in full via canandaigua, and the message is rushed off to utica with the other business, to come in that way with 3 repetitions when the line is up via W & might come in 5 mins instead of 5 hours - With all these obstacles in the way of the business of this line it naturally falls off instead of increasing, & will be te totally killed in less than six months - All we can depend upon now is the local business between the offices - But you appear to think the secret of the line's not paying, lies in the ithaca office - because Spencer was permitted to go away for one day, & you happened in the office a few minutes while Jas Tichenor was out - I thought at the time, it was a very unkind on your part towards me - to make such an item the subject of a letter to Mr Faxton - If it had have been written to me - it would have been very different - I have given you the facts and you can draw your own conclusions -

Please inform me who are the patentees for morses patent now for this state, for side lines & on what terms patents are granted for the same -

There are one or two short lines to build in this section soon - and with a letter from you & speed to the patentees, I am confident I could do something - And if your knowledge of my character & abilities for such work would warrant it - I should be extremely thankful for the favor, & could then try the experiment of getting a small contract -

I understand that Faxton has been notified by the Patentees, not to pay any dues for rent, of this line -

Please let me hear from you on the subject of recommendation at your earliest convenience & much oblige an old friend & servant

Yours truly

P. A. Hopkins

P. A. Hopkins
Rm
Aug 7 53

Columbus August 7/58

Mr Speed

Dear Sir

I received the note enclosing ten dollars with permission to send to you when I was in need of money, since my husband left I have changed my boarding house for board in a private family, I am obliged to furnish my own room, for that purpose I sent to you a week ago for 25 dollars I have not received it and I presume you thought the demand rather large and taking the advantage of the privelege you gave in your note, I admit there are some ladies ~~who~~ would if possible draw to the full extent of their husbands salary that however is not my case, I cannot have my husband with me to tend to our wants and am therefore obliged to have money to tend to our own wants, I do not know where to telegraph to my husband and would be obliged to you if you would telegraph to him to send me

the amount before mentioned as speedily as possible as the things have been sent home and I wish very much to discharge the debt, Yours with respect

Sarah Palmer

Aug 10. 1853. Rec'd this letter to day and wrote Mrs Palmer care Wade, Telegraphing Columbus enclosing $25. also this day E. Corell

Aub Aug 7th 1853

Mr Cornell
Dear Sir

Yours of the 26 July came duly at hand & I assure you I was right glad to hear you should soon be in want of Opes. I hope I may answer for one & if so I shall spare no exertion to make myself as usefull as possible. Please excuse me for ereglecting to mention my age. I am Sir in my 20th year & feel pretty old at that my capability is I trust sufficient to fill an ordinary Situation. I think two Year or more ought to be long enough to give one quite an insight. it is I know a business that needs strict application or steady practice in order to be a good Ope. & am happy to refer you To C.S. Jerome's Intro. & will if I come bring letters of reccommendation from this City that will be satisfactory to you. in regard to my reputaton here. The cocktails & Mint juleps I know & care nothing about & using bad language. I am very happy to say I have learned is a very wicked habbit & one I do not indulge in. I do ~~Coaly~~ realy hope My dear sir. I can make it appear & also prove I am one who is trying to mak a living by honest means. & am willing to leave all so dear to me here. for the sake of it. & if you will take me in your employ I will do all I can. On receipt of this you can Telegraph if you wish me to come or if you wish write

I have delayed writing to see mr Wood, but have not yet seen him although if it is ipt I can go & see him i think such things make very ltl difference &c
I was highly plsd to hear you speak so well of your western country, by your instrumentality, I hope to see it soon

I wish to hear from you soon by ltr or Telg

PS I have had an offer of the situation at Hornellville by C M Smith Supt of Bu with sallary $3.00 & as he wanted an immy I told him cd not accept! also ahr ~~at~~ on Syracuse & Watertown Line Sallary not Mentioned & now if I should fail to get one west I should be badly off indeed. But as I am not what you described you did not want I live in hopes. I thought best to hear from you before I started & now if you want me I am redy by hearing from you

Yours most Respectfully
Morgan Boyce
Opr

E Cornell Esq
Indianapolis

Fall River Aug 8/83

E Cornell Esq
Indianapolis

Dear Sir

Seeing one of your Tariff cards in our office and your name signed to it as Supt I thought I would write you to Enquire if you have any chance on your line for me as I am out of a job just now. if so please inform me by next mail and let me know what Salary you pay for a good Operator I should be very happy to have a chance if you have one and will try my utmost to please if I have the honour to be in your employ please answer soon as convenient

Yours Respectfully

A. P. Palmer
Formerly of the Newport R I
Line Fall River

Hutsonville Aug 6 1862

Mr Cornell

Dear Sir

according to your request I have procured the blanks & made out my report which still makes but a poor show- but as you say when our hogs get fat corn gets ripe River Rises &c I think I will do better- I should have forwarded my Rept before now but was waiting for the blanks which did not reach me till Saturday & as we have had no Mail leave here since it has been afloat till today-

The Citizens of Palestine requested me to ascertain if there could be an Office established there or not- if so on what terms &c- The line from here to Vincennes passes directly through Palestine & is situated ten miles South of here & twenty five miles North of Vincennes & no Office between here & Vincennes- Palestine is a Small Place & I think its Receipts would not more than Pay the the expences of the Office- They Propose to furnish their own Instrument & Pay all expences of fitting it up &c- Please write me on this subject so I may give them an answer- as I have frequently been asked the question by them

E. Cornell

J. S. Wilhite

Coming Aug 8th 1853

E Cornell

Dear Sir

I have Telegra-phed you five or six times but dont get any Reply - I have been at work as much of the time as I could since I saw you. Things looke better now — I have worked with some of the people in Elmira, Hornellsville, Cuba, Olean Olean I get very little encouragment Cuba will do $800 so says one of the best men there Hornellsville has Done $1000 Painted Post $700 I shall get $100 more there Elmira will give us at least $2000. I have the Right men at work there I think I am drawing the Right strings I have a Man Who Lives in at Almond a very rich and Influential Man at work there and thinks $1000 can be raised there - I want a Copy of the Contract ~~with~~ between the N Y & E R R Co and N Y & W U Telegraph Co to use at RA - I am now out of funds Entirely and Cannot stir till I get some from some source Now What shall I do I have Borrowed all I dare to —

I Did not hear from Smith and Wrot-
Kendall he Arke $7,50 per mile for
his & 3/4th Intrest in the Routs we
spoke of—

Now When shall I see you
or hear from you Wright soon
for somthing I must do either ~~give up~~
get money to go on or Let fail

Plan find some slips from the
Elmira paper and let me hear
soon

Yours &c
G W Skinner

Aug 8. 1853

OHIO, INDIANA, AND ILLINOIS TELEGRAPH:

O'REILLY LINE.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

The following Dispatch was received at this Office.

From Middletown Ohio

Dated, Aug 9th 1853.

To Mr E Cornell, Esqr

Indianapolis Ind

your Dispatch of Today Rec'd & I thank you kindly - for important information contained therein — I had already sent Rept for July but check Columns - was not yet correctly filled — It should have been filled as follows Cincinnati $4.58 — Hamilton $1.65 — Dayton $2.00 — Piqua " 50 cts — and Eaton " 25 cts — is the amount of business to & from this office collected at other offices — will you please correct the Errors in check Column for July — I hope hereafter

Ledman [illegible]
Aug 9 1883

To be able to give satisfaction in reports — and I am sorry that I was not so instructed by the former Supt — it would have saved my present mortiforcation for I confess I feel mortified after being on line nearly two years — not to be able to make correct report —

Please accept my Regard

J. G. W. Ledman

[illegible]

Springfield Illinois
Sept. 10. 1853

J. F. Speed Esq
Chicago.

Dear Sir,

Please inform me if it will be necessary for me to secure from you the right to build 22 miles of Telg. Line from Jacksonville to Naples, Illinois, or will permission from the Illinois & Mississippi Telg. Co. be all that is necessary. I wish to put it up immediately but desire to go ahead on sure principles. What would be the price if we have to buy of you. & Terms.

Refer to D. L. Wilson for information respecting matter or myself.

Respy

Wm G. Whitehurst
Supt

M. G - Whitehurst

Dayton Aug 10. 1853

E. Cornell. Esq.

Dr Sir

Yrs despatch abt the Mil line just recd. As the line is down I hasten to reply by mail

As that line is sold to the Illinois Co they must stand all such fire. just as Bryant & I did. We defeated all their claims at law None of them are liens upon the line & they cannot stand for a moment - We look to the Company for our $1200 without any draw back, The debts on that line are all of a personal nature & are good only against the orginal Contractor — If Bryant assumed any of them it was without my knowledge or

Consent — If we commence paying claims ~~that~~ ~~[illegible]~~ the line. it would not take long to absorb all our rent money in that way — I must protest against our rent being applied that way. I would prefer fighting all such claims at once.

As Bryant is better acquainted with the nature of these claims I refer you to him. We will have to examine into the case. at all events, before we can authorize any payment — Fleshman of Chicago has acted as our Atty ~~in [illegible]~~ cases & he can tell you all about the claims. I think they can be easily defeated unless Bryant was foolish enough to assume them. I will write to Bryant immy — Yours Truly

J H Kiersted

Delaware Aug 10th/53

E Cornell Esq

Dr Sir

Please mail
my balance to this
place (Delaware Ohio -)
I need it much.
With best wishes for
your prosperity
I remain Yours truly
J. F Lawder

Perrysville Aug 12/53

Mr Wade

Sir

Here is a proposition which one of our citizens John A Minshall has made in reference to the office in this place, it is that if you will have the office moved into his Shop which is nearly 200 yard & Send an operator to stay with him in till he is proficient he will take it & he is willing for the operater to have the proceeds of it Without Chage for office room & if he finds by experience that he cannot get along he will let the office remain in his Shop long enough to pay you the expence of mooveing it

Yours With Respect
W. P. Johnson
John A Minshall

Mr Wade

Dear Sir

I think Mr Minshall will make a steady operater he is at his buisness all the time which is strictly necessary in an operater you know & if he succeeds the office will be permanent (from what he says) which is desirable I will render him all the assistance I can, I have had him at it already & I believe he will learn in two weeks or less to do buisness, he appears to be verry certain of success himself (Please Write to Mr Minshall & let him know)

Yours &c

W. P. Johnson

Mr A Wade

John F Minshall
Aug 12, 1853
Perrysville

Evansville Augt 14th 1853

E. Vonnelle Esqr.

Dr Sir

Yours of 11th is just at hand. I will first explain how our account is kept with your line & how the balance paid to Mr Sellers for July is produced.

The a/c with your line is kept under one head "O.S. & L. Dr & Cr" without regard to offices. Upon messages paid here we credit you the amt less our tariff 20¢ upon messages not paid we charge you 20 cts. The footing of this account for July is Cr - $13.22

Dr 25.80

$37.42

Less refunded 1.24 $36.18

Not unfrequently messages are rec'd here for boats or passengers upon boats to be collected here. & the boat having passed we immediately ordered them destroyed stating the reason, such messages will not appear in our a/c either this must be done, or they must appear in a refunded a/c at each settlement. I have thought the former the better way, as the office & the party interested would be immediately advised & might if he wished telegraph to some other point

I can see no necessary entry dispensed with.

The original messages from the establishment of this office are on file, and the postings are made daily and always checked & proven before closing. It is not easy where such care is taken that errors should occur. To repeat all our business at Vincennes would be very troublesome and cause much delay, & would on many accounts be objectionable. I am disposed to do all in my power to accomplish your wishes & will after 1st Sept next make the experiment, but I feel assured that it will involve more labour than you now think —

My own opinion is that most of the errors on our lines arise from carelessness ~~&~~ a want of knowledge as to the proper method of keeping our accounts or a want of uniformity in the method,

I am glad to hear of your arrangement with the Bellfontaine R.R. and shall act upon your suggestion in the rebuilding of this line —

Yours respectfully —

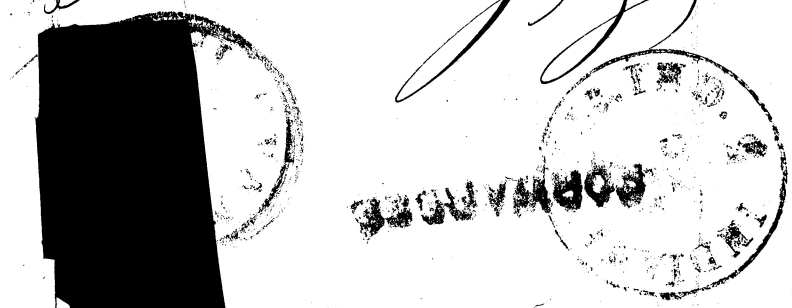
W. Hubbell

FORWARDED

E. Cornelle Esqr.
Ithica New York
~~Indianapolis~~
~~Ind.~~

I I

Mr. Hubbell
Evens Tille
Aug 14. 1853



Telegraph Office. Defiance O Aug" 14th 53

E Connell Esqr

Dear Sir.

I deem it my duty at this time to acquaint you with the condition of things in relation to the Telegraph line in this vicinity at present. On Wednesday night a tree fell across the wire about 15 miles above here and broke it in two places. I went up and repaired it Thursday. and found wire on the ground in two places from the falling of poles: poles have fallen in several other places, but leaves the wire several feet above the ground. On returning to the Office yesterday Friday I had no Circuit to Toledo. and I have sent a man down to see & repair what is wrong that way. A pole fell this morning several miles above here. carrying the wire into the Canal. No wind blowing, nor no boat snubbed to it. I had a man putting it up where it was on ground. & he fixed it. I mention this to show the rotten condition of the poles and their liability to fall at any time. particularly in Stormy weather. They decay at the surface of the ground. & when it rains it softens them as to render them extremely liable to fall. No one can fail to see from the posts that they are nearly all of the same kind of timber & stand in the same kind of soil. and that the hundreds that have already fallen. & of the number that almost

dily fall. are found to be decayed entirely through
that the majority now standing are in a most precarious
condition. & more or less of them sure to come down every week
Boots are constantly snubbing to them. & pull over some
while many others fall with no such aid. The interruption
of business caused by this state of the Line is constant. &
I fear will increase unless something more efficient
is done to prevent them. My object in writing at this time
is to suggest the propriety of employing a man by the month
to give his whole attention to keeping the Line in repair
between Ft Wayne & Toledo. It appears to me that the
actual expense ~~per~~ for employing a good hand at
fair wages per month cannot exceed, or even equal
the monthly outlays of these three Offices in repairing:
while the employment of a man by the month, would have
the advantage of improving the condition of the Line by
thoroughly resetting every fallen pole; and of rendering
us much less liable to interruptions from breaks, which
alone would amply compensate for the whole expense
attendent on his employment. Should this sug-
gestion meet your approbation, I would say that there
is a man living in this Town. that I employ to
repair and whom I consider extremely well qualified
for the business. He is industrious. economical, in expenses.
trustworthy. and understands how it should be done.
He will devote his time and labor to the repairing &
keeping Line in repair for 20. dollars per month
besides Expenses.

I have already expended over half that amt in repairing since the commencement of the present month. and considerable interruption of business has been occasioned by "freshes".

Please write me immy in reference to this subject— any instructions, you may please to send. will be cheerfully complied with.

Very Respectfully

Your Servt

S. A. Storey

E Cornell Esq

Vincennes Aug 15th 1853

E. Cornell Esq
Indianapolis

Dr Sir

Yours of the tenth inst, at hand, In answer to your enquiry about the Evansville checks, I would say the only way I can see to keep them, is for Evansville to send me his checks every morning of the business done the day before, it is some extra trouble but can be done, and if you think this will do, I will commence next month, then all will be right. What think you? I have always treated Mr Alvord with respect, he has said nothing more upon the subject, the reason he ~~did~~ mentioned it was this, he was looking over our receipts and seeing mine larger than 'Mass' (his opr) he asked how that was, I remarked that I got nearly all the eastern business, when our line was up. Wanted to know how that was? Had not Mass as good chance to get business as I? I remarked that I did not choose to answer that question, but by enquiring

he found that his Opr was not liked by the business men, as he was a spreeing kind of a fellow when his (Alvords) dander riz" But all right- No one hurt.

I have a favor to ask of you, it is to make my salary $25 per mo on your Line, for this reason, ~~for~~ You cannot get boarding here for less than three and half per week- Making $15 per Month- and other expenses (Washing) at the least- $5 per Month- Making $20= At the end of a month you will see what I have left.- I think when you look on the right side of things you will raise my ~~sal~~ salary- And my remittances can be increased ~~by~~ I think.

Reply soon

Yours Truly

Clint Sellers

84 John St New York
August 15th 1853

Mr. E. Cornell
New York

Dear Sir

We agree to furnish you with 24,000 lb of No 10 Annealed Telegraph Wire jointed & soldered in bundles of one mile Each Price 6 7/8 cts per lb. Cash on delivery

The Wire to be of best quality ~~[illegible]~~ ready for delivery not later than the 15th September, or we may ship it in lots of about 3 Tons Each so soon as it may be ready after the 1st Proxo. to be forwarded as follows

20,000 to Galion Ohio marked E Cornell
2,000 " Covington Indiana via Toledo marked E. Cornell
2,000 " Corning New York " G. W. Skinner

Yours truly
James Cockerell
J. J. Eagleton

24000
6 7/8
144000
14000
7000
3500
$1685.00

$400
1685
3715

Burlington August 15th 1853

Dr Sir

Yours of the 11th is recd.
I have written to Mr Chester
about your matter with Gro
& Canada Junction Rt. Co but he
recd no answer. The suit is in
such condition that the Pltffs will
probably have to apply for a
continuance at the next term.
I shall want when, the case is
tried, a copy of the record of transfer
of the patent to you by Morse & the
papers executed by you to the
Telegraph Co. The important
question is in regard to the alleged
breach of contract in sending Comm
to Montreal by Buffalo and the
damage consequents thereon. I
think I understood from you
that the lines to Buffalo and
Montreal were under contract

or completed previous to the executing of contract with E & C J Ret. Co. If so it would be an important fact to show. It would be important to show that you had not been paid in full for your services which was a condition precedent to their receiving the deed. How or by what testimony they will undertake to show the damages consequent upon Commd's being sent by Buffalo I do not know, if the Court will allow them to go into any such showing. If you should prefer that the case be tried this term in Sept, I will endeavor to so have it, but the other party cannot without my consent as they have failed to comply with the rules. There are many difficulties about this case, which seem almost

insuperable, still if they succeed on the first trial, we are entitled to a service, which will enable us to try it the second time understandingly. Knowing as we should all the facts upon which they rely Expecting to hear from you soon I am very truly

L. B. Englesby

E. Cornell Esq.
Ithaca

Lafayette Aug 16. 53

Dear Sir

Arrived here yesterday morning Have come with Palmer over Line from Logan To this place Shall go with him Through to Cin - Toledo Line does not work hardly one Day in a week Have Engaged a man to go on it & Repair - Dont forget platinas & say about 75 good porous cups if you can get Them Thick with Thick Rims at Top = will Be about To Dayton by The Time You get back. Wade & our Line are both Down east of B as usual.

Shall Have ours in Some shape So it will work soon as I can get To it = The Item Extra Expenses is for Two Shirts for Palmer & man They came in here on Saturday night Dirty & Ragged with not a clean Shirt to their backs So I made Them a present of a Cheap Shirt Each. C C Pierce is man that worked with Palmer & to whom There

Was Due Some 15.00 He is going to work on Toledo Line again at 6/- per day Can you get a good man for Repairer East = We will need Palmer Pierce & all hands we have at present to Keep Line working. It will not do To Take Them off To build new Line =

~~Write~~ Telegraph me at ~~Ind~~ B if you Return via X or B & When Respects To Alonzo & Your Family

Yours Truly
C. H. Speed

Aug. 16th 1853

Suppose Chapin has or will send you The Reports To Ia

New York Tuesday Morning
Aug 16th 1853

Dear Sir

I have just arrived in this city, and will write you a line befor the time arrives at which I can attend to other busines.

I left Indianapolis friday morning, and arrived at Ithaca Saturday P.M., remained till Monday 10. A.M. when I found I could be spared to come to N.Y. Before leaving Ind. I made a contract with the ~~Bellefontaine~~ Indianapolis & Bellefontaine RR Co to build a Tel & do their telegraphing on same cash terms that made agreed to in Ohio securing some little additional advantages from the A in working the line, also secured by a provision of the Contract the aid of the Co to extend the same arrangement from Indianapolis to St Louis as soon as the Road is finished from Terre Haute to St Louis known as Brough's road,

I expect to buy wire while I am here,

On my way down I fell in with Cobb who is now at Dryden on a visit, He said Tubbs informed him at somebody was now building a telegraph on the RR from Cleveland to Toledo, and I fear that the E will line will

suffer from a neglect of her interest in that quarter, I am convinced that the Co. had better borrow money & build the line on the RR from Cleveland to Adrian and do RR business free than to allow a hostile interest to occupy the ground, I wish you would give this subject some attention,

It is yet questionable what I can do with Brooks on N.A. & Salem RR. He will pay a small price for the patent for that road untrammeled, but as half of the distance is already occupied by the O. I & I Tel. Co, we could not sell it him if we wished to do so, His RR Co would take stock in a Tel. Co to extend from N.A to Crawfordsville, where the jurisdiction of the O I & I Co commences calling Capital of Tel Co the actual cost of line and an allowance of 10 per ct for patent, and says balance of stock could be got along the line, I offered to organize such a Co with him, charging 20 per ct for patent, RR Co to pay for doing their business - and O I & I ~~line~~ Co to move their line on RR from Crawfordsville to Mich City, & charge the RR for their business - I have no answer yet from this proposition

I got notice from Chester a fortnight ago the the N.Y. A & Bu Tel Co had notified him that they should not pay the 1/2 years rent when due and I had to set myself to work to raise a $1000 to meet our draft that we had got discounted to pay our debts in anticipation of the rent, I raised the thousand and had it in N.Y. in time, so no harm would have come of it, after which I got word that they did pay the rent under the threat of a suit, but as I have seen no one since I arrived I dont know any particulars —

The heat of the weather has been such here as to be verry destructive to life, but this morning a change has come, and it is now cool enough, and a fine rain is cleansing the streets, so the city health will improve —

On returning to Ithaca, I shall go to Michagan and take my family along — or at least my wife and a pair of my baby's — I want a family pass from Dr to Albion —

Yours Respectfully
E. Cornell

J J Speed Jr Esq