Toledo May 13th 1855

My Dear Mary Ann.

I expected to have written you from Albion to-day after enjoying the perusal of one from you, but circumstances has deprived me of that pleasure, thus;

I started from Adrian yesterday P. M for Albion via a branch RR from Ad to Manchester 12 Miles from Chelsea on the Central RR, on arriving at Manchester I found that I had made a mistake, in having my baggage checked for Clinton instead of Manchester under the impression for the moment that Clinton was at the end of RR. I again found that we should not get to Chelsea in time for Evening train and that I would not get to Al before mid night. so I gave it up retraced my steps and came here; arriving at 8.30. and lay over Sunday. In the morning I think I shall go to Cleveland & thence to Pitts.

I wrote you of being sick at Ottawa. Well from that time till the 10th I had a sight of work to do. it being the time within which the Southern Mich Matters had to be arranged. I called about, and scarcely crawled, but the work had to be done & I had to do it, and on the P.M. night of the

truth. I had to give in, and send for an old School Doctor, after learning all about my predilections & prejudices. he promised not to give me any calomel. I told him he might make me a prescription. He said he would leave me some powders to quiet my Stomach, and in the morning give me a genteel cathartic that would act upon the liver. I had been vomiting though the aid of warm water and the fore finger of my left hand. pretty thoroughly, when I took the first powder to "settle my stomach". it had not been down an hour when my stomach indicated a willingness to "settle" by paying over, and at it I went, and made a large deposit on the first instalment I took 2nd powder in 2 hours after the first, and soon after followed several deposits more, well after vomiting most profusely, without any relief to my distress I concluded that there must be something back, and that my stomach had better "settle" in full. so I took the 3rd & last powder which to my surprise did not cause any more vomiting, and soon after taking it the pain subsided away, and I felt easy and got to sleep, and in the morning. I felt better, and different from what I had felt

for a month, I took 3 of the pills, and a little gruel for brakefast, and felt quite comfortable for the day, the pills operating in P.M. I felt better yesterday also, but last night I took 3 more of the pills which seems to work kindly, and I have got 3 more left, which I think I shall take to night,

Homeopathy seems to do verry well when there is nothing the matter, it is so nice to take but when I am sick it seems to require the old ugly doses of the "old butchers" to cure me,

I am still weak, and unable to do more than 4 mens work, so I push by everything in the shape of work I can and shall continue to do so till I can get my strength recruited,

I have just got a telegram from Al saying that my medicine has arrived from Ithaca, that there is half a bushel of letters for me, among which is the one from My Dear Wife that I anticipated the pleasure of reading to day,

Business matters are assuming a verry satisfactory shape, I have got S. M. line fixed beyond the possibility of Housefolks controll, and I own 1/6 of the new stock, the

the stock having been forfeited for non payment of assessment and sold, and is now in the hands of ½ a dozen of us, who will manage it to suit ourselves,

They had suffered the line to get out of order some, and we have not yet got it working through Chicago works ~~west~~ East to White Pigeon & Monroe West to Cold Water. There is a place broke down at sturges, by a runaway team that prevents working through, that will be OK monday when we shall work through I trust,

The weather is lovely here and I have no doubt it is there also, and I could enjoy a ramble with you over the pleasant hills that environ our pleasant village very much, I must either get home soon or you must come out here as I am quite homesick to see you,

I should be glad if I knew to day how you all do, and especially how my letter invited May does. You must tell Emma that she must be a good girl, and when Mary shoots her arrow, she must get it for her, and do all she can to amuse her poor sister, and if she is a good girl I shall buy something nice for her,

The morning I left Al, the authorities got frightened at not seeing Orson about and put up the small pox sign, Phibe out of humour about it, All right I guess by this time. Yours Affectionately

E Cornell

Mary Ann,

Knightstown May 14th 1855

E. Cornell.

Indianapolis.

Dear Sir.

Enclosed you will please find Boarding account of Telegraph hands at Mrs Burt. She is a widow and it is very wrong that she should loose it if it can be prevented.

I would have sent it sooner but have not been here to get the bill.

Please remit what is coming to me by mail at as early a day as convenient

Yours &c

Chas. D. Morgan

Utica May 15 1855

E. Cornell

Dear Sir

I forgot to mention in regard to our Co running the Tariff I do not know what they will do but am inclind to think they will do it to take effect about the first of July We want to get every thing ready first. - Our Board wanted to know of me if you would make any reduction over your lines as it would no doubt increase your business I am quite sure we shall do it by the first of July You telegraphed me yesterday to know if I could meet you at once at Cleveland to make arrangements with National Line I had made ingagements to go to Burlington Vt to see O. S. Wood otherwise I would have met you I should like to meet you & them on that business. We must make some arangments for doing our Wash Balt & Phil business otherwise Caton will hold that as an excuse to give the Maine Co his business. When is the meeting to Choose Directors of Ohio and Ill Co Cannot the arangment be attended to at same time of that meeting and then I could do all that business in one journey Let me know when

and where the meeting is to be held for Choosing Directors of Ohio Ind & Ill Co. You will be sure & get the Proxy for the Stock belonging to Mr Creighton. I would advise you to take especial pains to see Mr Wilkinson

Do not delay putting a Stop to the House Co using Morse instruments on their South M. Tel line – it is very important that they be stopped

Yours in haste

Geo Curtis

Geo Curtis, Esq, 1870

Crawfordsville Ind
15th May 1885

Mr Cornel

Dear Sir

In accordance with the orders rec'd herewith send you the amount of the indebtness of my office. If you remember a year ago this spring I did but little business, not near enough to pay expenses, So the payment of the Livery Bill & Rent was postponed for the want of the necessary funds wherewith to pay. I am liquidating these debts as fast as my means will enable me to do so. & think it will not be long before my Office will be square with the world.

Yours Respectfully
L. J. Moore

Rent (unpaid)	$18.00
Livery Bill "	28.00
Acid & Lights "	6.00
	$52.00

Debts Due Crawfordsville
May 55

E. Cornel Esqr.
Lafayette
Ind.

Office of the New York, Albany & Buffalo Electro Magnetic Telegraph Company,

Utica, May 15th 1855.

Mr. E. Cornell

Dear Sir

On my arrival home I found that Judge Cutler was in the City, I learned from him after I arrived that he came part of the way with Mr. Edwood The Judge said to me that he had told Edwood that We were after them (that is you & our Co) and that they would have to hurry us their Cakes & have their line in good order through this State or they would loose his business in his talk of this kind he did not even intimate that he intended to give us his business but the idea Conveyed was that unless they was careful to have their line in good order & was able to do up his business promptly they would loose it after he had got through running on in that way I said to him that as I understood the vote of his Board We were to have this business if We needed equal facilities to the other line but in reply he talked as non Committal as he has done all along & said it was not his business to know any thing about any particular line Hance or Morse but he must take care of the interests of his Co & give the business to the line that done it the most prompt & thoroughly

to talk about the bad management of your lines that you needed a good efficient manager & one that could command the confidence of your operators &c & that you had not their confidence &c I said to him that so far as I could learn in my recent trip I could not discover that such was the case. I think I understand all this slang of Eaton, he has heard it from the House men Cobb & others who have got up all sorts of mud dog stories in order to justify themselves in their blackleging & robbing schemes & he wanting some excuse to justify him in his course adopts the same kind of mud dog cry. I told him that in future you would have time to attend to your lines & putting every thing in shape to do all the business more prompt than the other line as you would have three times the facilities & would not have to spend your time to subvert the schemes of those blacklegs who had determined upon your ruin

I went with him to NY & saw him there more or less for two or three days I took every opportunity to give him to understand that he should very soon submit his business to be given to you at Chicago but he kept himself as non committal as when he saw him at Ottawa, the first day he was in NY it rained hard all day & the House Co did not send a message from Buffalo to NY. in the afternoon Eaton came into our office in NY & enquired for a message for himself I then said to him that I [illegible]

his line did not have any business such days as that was or on the days the House co were down for they had him down all day & none of his messages had come by our line. He said he did not understand it I told him I understood it & that his messages went by Rail Road he said he should call at Rochester on his way home & find out why they did not hand the business over to us when they were down he seems to type every way to continue his business with them You know my opinion of him & my opinion is that he shall not get his business till he maybe him Self through a new Board of directors

I learned that his business to NY was to type to get contracts for building Tel lines on Rail Roads Must he went on to Providence from NY for what purpose I do not know I think he has not yet returned

I saw Mr. Kendall in NY & talked with him about doing the business of Catons Line for Washington & Balt he did not give me much encouragement said his arrangements with other lines was such that he did not know as he could do it I tried to have him see that he should aid us in this business of rendering facilities to help us get Catons business

I went to see you in regard to making some arrangement for this business, I also conversed with Mr. Kendall in regard to the

the House Co using the Morse Patent on S. M. Line he said that if they nor you had the right then it was still in Prof Morse & if so he would give the S. M. Line the right to Prosecute in his or Mr. Morse name he said he did not know but the S. M. Line was one of the lines that they reserved in granting the right to O. Riley he said that in O. Rileys rights they reserved the right on lines already built said he would enquire into it he said he thought they should be enjoined without delay I hope this will not be delayed as the House co should not be allowed to use the Morse instruments a single day. I saw Mr. Wilkinson yesterday Prest. S. M. Rail Road co & conversed with him about granting you facilities for repairs running hand cars &c he expressed himself friendly and appeared much pleased on learning of our success over House co. Nest Mr. Wilkinson is one of our Directors said he should start to day to go to Mich & should spend some time on the Road and would like to see you & the Directors of S. M. Tel. co he enquired who they were I think Mr. Munroe Murphy & the other Directors had best see him Wilkinson is acquainted with Munroes Brother in Syracuse - You had best see him & ask him if I called on him &c he will probably not want to take any part with S. M. Tel. co or House co but will no doubt grant you all you wish

Mr. Walker has returned to day & We have endorsed the Note for Ohio Ind. & Ill. Stock & sent it on as you directed Yours Geo Curtiss

Detroit May 16. 55

E. Cornell Esq.

Dear Sir —

I enclose a letter from Wm. Sadler — What the object of this meeting is to be I do not know, but think it had better be called, unless it can be so arranged as to notify Wm. Smith of the regular meeting in July, which I presume would be equally satisfactory to them. — Think you had better write Wm. S. to that effect

Yours truly

J. M. Morrow

J. H. Reistad
May 16th 1855

Dayton May 16. 1855

E Cornell Esq

Dr Sir

About 2 weeks ago I rec'd some intimations that Mr Haas was trying to find some one to take Charge of the Dayton office. That he had fixed the Salary at $600 &c — Never having heard a single word of Complaint against either Mr Griswold or myself. I was very much surprized that Mr Haas should act in so unfair & underhanded manner towards us. To send an operator here to supplant us without a note of warning, was not doing the thing very honorably. As Mr Griswold & Myself are perhaps the oldest operators on the line. & always took the greatest interest in its welfare. we think we are entitled to better treatment. I wrote to Mr Haas to give me some

reasons for the proposed change, but as yet have rec'd no reply. Griswold told me that H had an old grudge agt him & had threatened to remove him soon as he got the power. This may & may not be the secret. I will not be so unchantable as to believe that Mr H would use the power you give him, to subserve the ends of private Malice. In regard to Mr Griswold. he is one of the best & most attentive operators on the line. With him & myself as joint operators the business moves on like clock work. & the sending a new man to occupy an independent position would destroy the harmony which now makes the business go off so pleasantly 2 heads to an office can only result in mischief. An Union office should have but One responsible head to give anything like efficiency to the business. One receiver & cashier & one to stand responsible to the public for the proper attention to their business. You can yourself imagine many other evils that would necessarily result from two independent heads. So I will say no more on that score. As for as my own interest is concerned I would care but little. but Griswold has a mother dependent upon him for support & I would rather give you my services gratis than to see him turned out of employment.

You & I. McConnell, have not been always on the most harmonious terms, the Cause whereof you know as well as myself. but nevertheless I do not think you can have any just cause to say. that your business here has not been honestly & faithfully done. I Challenge the closest scrutiny both as to My books and to the interest I take in the welfare of your line. As the balances here are always against you I take every method to induce business over your line & to send local business when you can do it. for the purpose of making the balances as light as possible

There is one thing I had almost forgotten to
mention. The local receipts at this office have
not averaged since I am over $30 per
month. Not enough to support an independent
man. Viewed in that light it would be an
unwise movement in you to place an
independent man here.

Upon the supposition that you have
confidence in me - I will make you an offer
either to take the office at one hundred
less on my own salary or to take the
office at $65 per month & stand responsible
for all office expenses (repairs to lens
& machinery excepted) This is a
considerable personal sacrifice on
my part, but I had rather do it than
have Ensworth suffer, & to have
my office arrangements disturbed
by a new man, If either of these
propositions suit I would be glad to
hear your decision immediately. Or if you
think a personal interview necessary
would it not be well to telegraph Hass
to make no arrangements abt this office
until further advised by you. Please
acknowledge receipt of this by telegraph

Resp Yours
J. H. Kiersted

Corning May 16th 1855

E Cornell Esq
Albion

Dear sir

I have made such arrangements Now that I think We can work from Buffalo to Philadelphia Direct via Elmira and Williams port by Oct or Nov. the B C & N Y RR Co will help us build a Line this full or summer. the Cattowissa RR Co will build or contract with me the Reading RR Co are desirous of helping us to go over the Line I think We can Cut some with you at the West and me east I should like to see you I would go to West to do so in a few days

S W Skinner

Mapledon May 16th 55

Mr Cornell

Dr Sir

Yours
recd & I was in hopes that you
would send me some money.
I have left the Office & am
Clerking in a Boot & Shoe
Store in town my reasons for
leaving is this I was not making
anything & more than that was
not paying my way was getting
into debt & am now. I like
the business very well. The
Persons that the Company or Lin
ons are grumbling. I wish you
would remit me the amt
I spoke of in my last letter
($9.66) so I could pay them off
I owe Messrs L & S Rawson $6.66c
for the two months of January &
February. Now if you will be
so kind as to remit me
that money so I can pay
the claims of three persons

You would oblige me very
much, I dont think you can
blame for resigning the
office because I did not
pay me. Now I will close
you know my reasons for
leaving and also my request
do not fail to oblige

Mr E Cornell
Albion
Michigan

Yours in Haste
W. Atwater
Mapillon

P. S. Please direct to W. Atwater
Care Burke & Minshall Mapillon
Ohio

W. A.

Lafayette May 17, 85

O P & I Teleg line

To Expense A/c pr Haas Dr

To Trip over line to Mich city

	Gave Frt agt at Mudges to hire Man to put wire & Insulator up in pole	1.00
	Gave Engineer for stopping to let me test line	1.00
18	Nails & wire	20
	Breakfast at crossing	25
	Dinner for hands & Self	50
	Assistance	75
	Expenses at Mich city	30
	" Paid hands for Putting hand car on Frt train to be taken to M city	.50
		$4,50
	Supper at crossing	25
		$4.75

I left here on an extra Engine tested the line in great many places found it all right to San Pierre. we then went above crossing & found no ckt it was then late. went on to M city engaged hand car & was off with a hand before 5 o clock next mng breakfasted at crossing fixed several bad places kept going on down repairing every few miles until we got to San Pierre 36 miles this side of the city missed trouble Jumped on express

went back to crossing & went on foot
to Mich city - while we were gone below
those who were cutting timber off the land
at crossing fell tree on line & broke it
we repaired that & went on & found
the trouble about half way between crossing
& M city. there were 2 trees close together
& on each a block on inside of each
block a connection that would not pass
through Insulator between those trees
it was broken & connections would not let wire slacken
anyo we might have ridden over line on
cars 50 times & would not have seen it,
we repaired it & got into the city about
9 o clock that night

H

475
27.55
940
41.70

Elmira May 17. 1855.

E. Cornell Esq

Dr Sir.

Yours of 14th inst. was received this morning — With regard to Justin S. Brefey I would say he is an impostor & not worthy of employment — He worked on this line under the name of J. B. Smith & was disgracefully dismissed last fall — About 2 months ago he made an application under the name of Brefey & I engaged him — As soon as I saw him, however, I discovered who he was — He even then endeavored to persuade me that he was not the Smith who was formerly on the line —

I have been "laid up" in this place for over 3 weeks with billious fever — Am now recovering slowly —

Am happy to hear of your success regarding the Southern Mich. line — What you say in connection with that is true, But would it not be better for you to convert some of these lines into cash?

Yours Truly

S. G. Tillotson

Uhrichsville May 18th/55

A. B. Cornell

Dear Sir,

I should have written to you before this, but concluding from what I learned of Mr Smith of New Philadelphia that he had put you in possession of all material information sought of me, in a letter, of the same tenor as that, sent to him I thot it unnecessary. He being an older optr than I, (having bn on line since its erection) I thought him better posted on all matters appertaining to the line (except repairs) & consequently cld give you all the necessary information better than myself ——————

From the best information I can gather I do not think this line has ever been managed

in a true business-like manner
I think there was mismanage
ment in its construction &
controll ever since, but do not
attempt to define the source
being to little acquainted
with parties in power & their limits
——— I think if the line
was put in an ordinary substantial
condition & made reliable for all
foreign as well as local business
& that too under a responsible
& efficient head that it would
pay as well as any line in the country
——— Ive hd office 18 Mos
& the entire proceeds have not
paid repairs by several dollars
If line is put in order again
I wish to be placed on the same
footing as the rest of the boys —
line nearly all down below
here & scattered in the country

If you wish to save wire
it necessary to attend to
reeling up wire in many or
there will be none to reel
up, — I will lend assistance
in collecting if attended
to immediately

Yours truly
P. Wade
Opt. Goffer

Burlington Vt May 19 1855

My Dear Sir I Came to this place to arrange
our Connection with the Ogd & Bus Lake line
folks and Close up the Junction Line business
which has been hanging along for 3 months
& is finally settled — I learn from Mr
Curtis that your health still Continues
very poor and judging from what I get
from him and from Gen Dwight — I think
it indispensable for the Succes of your enterprise
to employ a Competent man to take the
Supt of your line. You Cannot make or
save money with business managed as loosely
as it has been managed upon your line hitherto
and it would be much to your advantage
in my opinion to employ a man worth $2000
and give him absolute Control at least
over the operations & with the office management
of the line — Get a reliable man and give
him the power to employ his own operators &
at any price that he pleases & the same
power to dismiss them when necessary —
When you do this your line will get the
lions share of the business and will pay
dividends as regularly as ours has done and
it will not do it without — We started with
550 miles of line have paid 8. 9 or 10 per cent
dividends every year since we opened and
with our revenue funds have increased the
length of our line to 1600 miles & are now
buying building lots in the most central places
where we cannot hire them & building to suit
our own purposes -

A. Moon May 19 1855

I know I could never have accomplished this trade I been crippled in the management. You have had & always will have too many irons in the fire to attend to the management of a telegraph and if you have decided not to sell out I hope you will put some one in charge who will give it proper attention — I scarcely know who to recommend but if you do not know a better man I would give L C Dodge formerly of Burlington a trial as I find that he is just closing his marble business at Manchester —
He would be faithful and not betray your interests at any rate, and would be popular with Operators, and a man whom they would all respect — Pray don't try to hire a man who is worth $2000 for $1500 rather pay him his price and let your efforts be to try to have him earn all that you pay him. I think Uncle M.B. is a first rate out-of door man and is probably able by this time to look a good deal after the Operators but you have 3 times as much line as he can attend to properly —
I will request Dodge to write to you on the subject if he is willing to undertake the management of such a business —
Our line is full this Spring receipts 50 per Cent larger than last year —
I sent M B W 40 Copies of the tariff to all of our Stations in Canada a few days since — We number 90 Stations now —
I return home this P.M. should be glad to hear from you whenever you are able & have time to write

Yours Very Truly
O. Wood

1

5/21/1855

This indenture & lease made this second day of May A.D. 1855 between the Southern Michigan Telegraph Company of the first part and Ezra Cornell of the second part witnesseth as follows. Viz:

The Southern Michigan Telegraph Company hereby lease unto the said Ezra Cornell their telegraph line with the registers relays & batteries and all other property belonging thereto extending from Chicago in the State of Illinois to Monroe in the State of Michigan, and to be extended to Toledo Ohio as hereinafter mentioned for the term of five years from and after this date: in Consideration of the following covenants and agreements to be performed by the said Cornell and upon the conditions hereinafter mentioned.

The said Cornell is to advance to the said Southern Michigan Telegraph Company on the delivery of these presents the sum of six thousand ninety seven 94/100 Dollars for the purpose of enabling said Company to discharge certain incumbrances existing upon said Line by virtue of three mortgages executed to J.H. Read.

The said Cornell is to take possession of said line, to put the same in working order and to keep the same in good repair & and to supply all necessary Operators and to keep them such Officers as shall be for the interest of said Company.

The said Cornell is also to extend said line of Telegraph from Monroe to Toledo within one year from this date & the eastern terminus of said line to be considered to be at Toledo. All necessary repairs of said line

and one half of the expense of finding and extending said line from Monroe to Toledo to be paid out of the earnings of said line upon the lines herein after named.

The said Cornell also agrees to give to said Company and allow for as the earnings of said line, one third part ~~part~~ of all the receipts and business done on the said line and also over the Erie and Michigan line and also of the Ohio, Indiana and Illinois line of Telegraph, which originates at Chicago for Toledo, and any other points Eastwardly ~~thereof~~ thereof, and also to give to and account for to said Company one third part of all receipts for business done over either of said lines originating at Toledo for Chicago and any point westward thereof to which either of said lines extend.

The said Cornell is also to pay to said Company and said Company are to have the exclusive avails and receipts of all Business done over said line which is sent from or to any office on said line between Chicago and Toledo ~~and Monroe~~ (excepting the local business between Toledo and Monroe) including all business done for Rail Road Companies and Full usual rates or tariff are to be charged for all business done over said line, unless it is done under a contract here after to be made by and with the Directors of said Southern Michigan Telegraph Company and said Cornell.

out of the receipts for business done and belonging to said Company. Said Cornell is to pay one fourth part of all necessary expences of the offices at Toledo and Chicago, and also to pay the expences of local offices along the line between Monroe and Chicago and one half part of the expences of the Monroe Office, and Five hundred Dollars towards

the salary or compensation of a Superintendant for said line, and said line is also to pay one hundred dollars to the Treasurer of said Company annually towards incidental xpences

After dedicating the abovd name expences the said Cornell is to apply all the receipts for busines belonging to said line at the end of each and every month towards the repayment to said Cornell of the said sums of $6.097 94/100 advanced as above mentioned with interest thereon at the rate of eight per ~~cent annum~~ per annum payable Semi annually.

After said sum of $6.097 94/100 is paid or realized by said Cornell over and above the above mentioned expences - then all the receipts and income belonging and to belong to said Company in virtue of this agreement are at the end of each and every month to be paid over to the Treasure of said Company at his office in Michigan

The said Cornell is to keep or cause to be keep a record of all the business done over each and all of said lines and is to make a full and accurate report of the same on or before the 20th day of each succeding month to the President of the said Southern Michigan Telegraph Company.

In case the said Cornell neglects or refuses to make the reports above mentioned and to account for and apply towards the payment of said sum of $6.097 94/100 as advanced as aforesaid at the end of twenty days from and after the expiration of each and every month all monies and receipts belonging to said Southern Michigan Telegraph Company. or in case said Cornell

neglects or refuses to pay over to the Treasure of said Company, after the said sume of $609-99/100 has been refunded, all moneys and receipts belonging to said Southern Michigan Telegraphic Company according to the terms of this loan at the expiration of one moth from and after the 20th day of each and every months report or when said report should be made or in case the said Cornell neglects for one moth after said twenty days to make the report above mentioned as is above provided, then and in either of the above ~~Contingent~~ cases, the rights of the said Cornell by virture of this Lease to be, and the same shall in such can be come forfeited and the said Southern and Michigan Telegraph Company to take immediate possession of said line and property connected therewith without any notice to the said Cornell and without let or hinderance

It is also agreed that the said Cornell shall in no event sub-let said line or any part or portion thereof under the penalty of forfeiture of this lease.

It is also agreed that the said Cornell shall in no event sub-let said line or any portion thereof under the penalty of forfeiting this lease unless the consent of the said Southern Michigan Telegraph Company be first obtained.

It is also agreed that the books and papers and records belonging to each and all of the above mentioned lines of Telegraph shall be open to the inspection and examination of said Southern Michigan Telegraph Company their offices attorneys or agents

Said Cornell also agrees to keep offices open upon said line at all points where it shall be to the interest of said line so to do—

At the full end and term of this lease, the said Cornell is to quit said line and to surrender and deliver into the entire control and possession of said Southern Michigan Telegraph Company the said line and all the property books and papers belonging thereto or connected therewith in good condition and in working order

In case any differences shall arise between the said Company and the said Cornell touching the neglect or refusal by said Cornell to keep said line in good working order, or in regard to said Cornells neglect or refusal to use his skill exertions and influence in promoting the interest of the said Southern Michigan Telegraph Company then and in such case, the same shall be referred to three referees who shall be appointed as follows: one by the said Southern Michigan Telegraph Company, one by said Cornell and the third by the President of the New York Albany & Buffalo electro magnetic Telegraph Company, whose decission shall be binding upon the parties and by whose decision the said parties shall be governed, and the observance of same whose decission in writing shall become a condition of the lease Said referees shall after there appointment be notified by a notice of the time at least ten days of the meeting to take the subject into consideration which shall be held at Dansville in Michigan

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And the expenses thereof be equally borne by said Cornell and by said Telegraph Company

~~And~~ A failure or refusal to abide by said decision may be deemed to be a forfeiture of this lease or agreement.

In ~~witness~~ witness whereof the said Southern Michigan Telegraph Company have caused this instrument by a Resolution of the Board of Directors held at Adrian on the 2 of may 1853- to be executed by their President & Secretary, and ~~the said Board~~ their seal to be affixed. and the said Cornell has also signed and sealed the same ~~as his~~ own act and deed on the same day and year aforesaid.

E. Cornell
Geo. C. Munro Pres
Jno. G. Parkhurst. Sec

Rec'd on within lease the sum of six Thousand and ninety seven 94/100 Dollars. Adrian May 2d 1853
W. W. Murfey
Treas Southern Michigan Tel Co

C. Bassett 21 May 55

Rascal, May 21, 1855

C. Cornell, Esq.

Dr. Sir:

Yours of a late date came duly to hand, As the Dresden Operator had in the mean time put up the line from that place to Adams' Mills, I deemed it unnecessary to do any thing further for the present.

But I would advise that something should be done east of this place. The wire is nearly all down, and of course being taken possession of by any one who may fancy a few hundred yards. I would suggest that you see, or correspond with W. B. Hubbard, Esq, of Columbus O. who is now President of the Steubenville & Indiana R. R. Co. He has been spoken to on the subject of entering into an arrangement to put the line along their Road, and I think very probably an arrangement can be entered into with them which will

be mutually advantageous — If not, I would say, that what wire there is left should be taken up, soon as practicable, or else, notice given, that the public could dispose of it as they saw proper, It is a nuisance, in its present condition

Respectfully,
Yours &c
C. P. Bassett

Albion May 21st 1855

Dear Brother

Yours of 16th from Cleveland came to hand and I am verry sorry to hear that your health is so bad that you must stop a while, but it no doubt is actually necessary, There is much to do here and if the writing and corespondence is neglected things get out of joint fast. The writing up of the book is not much be-hind athough the monthly account of some of the men on the line is not entered for 2 months – I am dunned on all sides for money and a more hungrey set of fellows I never saw than those who got out the poles for us last winter and it is time they had their pay. I sent the instruments to Fremont for Bitman to go to work there and he telegraphes me that Hall has attached them and he cannot do any thing untill I come down and settle the matter. I Shall start for there to day and see if I can bring the fellow to any fair terms. I sent Boyer with tools & money to examine the line from M. city to Lafayette and told him to go on foot and examine every pole & tree and joint and not leave it till it got to work. He has been gone all the week and I cant learn that it is at work yet. I had a chance of getting six racks to load at Jackson and it has taken me near all last week to get them out and scattered where we want them. Such kind of work comes to a perfect stand still if I am not right in it to push it along

There has no more money came in since you left though I have got nearly all the reports. Some of the offices are out of blanks and write me to send them as they dont know how to make a form with common paper. I have sent out all we have on hand and have another thousand in the printing office underway. I am solicited for material of some discription almost every hour in the day, when I am here, I have recieved a letter from Jones informing me of the offer you made him to go to S.y. He says he is ambitious and wants to earn all he can. still he does not like the idea of leaving De where he is so well acquainted and pleasantly situated, He cannot reconcile his concience to a neglect of your offer and to leave De and his associates and his prospect there sets him half. crazy. The poor fellow is badly troubled, I answered his letter and advised him not to get excited but take it coolly & consider well the steps he was about to take. I can discover that C. E. Wendell is loosing his helthh and if he is too closly confined he cannot stand it, Jones is so well acquainted with the place he can carry the business right on when Wendell is not there and I should dislike to see him leave. I know it will be difficult to fill the Sy office when Downs leaves and it will not answer to put a stranger there. We want a good accountant, and a worker, faithful and honest, and true to our interest

5/21/1865

your remark that Tubbs is clever but lazy is true to the letter, and Fred, is reckless & unsteady and take it all in all Cleveland office is not well and efficiently managed. There is another one close by in the same fix which is Painesville The lazy scamp sent in his report about half made out without any remittance when there was some six or seven dollars due us and he tried to fix it so blind as for us not to see it. I was so vexed about it I wrote him a discharge to take effect on the 31 May inst, It is no use keeping him there any longer. He does not attend to the business and it is running down fast I wrote immediately to Tompson Mosier a young man living in the place to take charge of it till I could come & make further arrangements about it. He writes that he will do so & pay all expences except fixing line and give us ¼ of rec'pts and all rec'd for other lines, This is a high handed piece of business but the spirit of Gen. Jackson came over me and I took the responsibility, Hucker in writing says he kept back over $80, but does not say what for, Perhaps it is not collected yet from customers I have not recieved A office report yet. I suppose Hucker should see to this also, I had a favourable report from Dunkirk and think the office will pay expences from now on. Smith at De Dock has been hard crowded since 1st May and has been sueing for help. I thought it was right he should have some

between the blocks, This piece of wire broke and the joints catched in each glass and stopped its rendering back so it left the ends of the wire [redacted] not over a foot a part and difficult to see. Thus ends the first long interruption in that quarter, We shall have pretty close times for a month yet to bring up the arrears of debts and satisfy all our creditors. The offices ought to send in at least $1000, to make matters easy, During the month of June that $500. draft must be met, and I want to reduce the note in Penensular bank $100, so I send you blank to fill up at sixty days for $300. This makes $600 paid it will take $100, or more to settle matters at Fremont, & $100, at Maume and another hundred at Monroe for the last 4 months expences, leaving only $100, to pay hands & carry on the work on the line, and all from the receips of this month, If I do not get the $1000, from the offices, what is to be done, Why I will simply tell them to go to the D—L and get their pay when they can, They may and probably will turn and ask me if you are that gentleman I allude to. I feel that our expences are heavy and we are paying big salleries for help, yet still we need more efficient help in the rebuilding and repairs, If I could be relieved a little from this I could attend to the operating department and supply them with more economy than is now use and more especial relief if we could once get rid

of those cursed old debts, and constant
duns from sources I have formerly known
nothing of and dont know what is right
in settling them. I hope things are getting in
some better shape and if the business prospers as
it promises now we shall soon stop this howling
I have neglected every thing about my house and
yard, and am constantly being "blown up" by
"mine nevvou" for my heathan propensities, I shall
have to do something soon or be turned into the
commons, The old fence is just ready to tumble down
There has been a terrible ferment here about the
Small pox and a deal of talk and pretended scare
No doubt some have been honest while it gave some
an opertunity to gratify some petty jealousy to make
us as much trouble as they could, but I have been
able to turn the tables upon them pretty well.
I ask them if a man can be sick with the small
pox and not expected to live as the story was about
me and get up well and go to work in the garden
as I did in three days. This is rather a stumper.
I have a letter from E. B. C. asking about employment
on the line this season which I will answer as
promptly and fully as I can. That draft from Cal.
came down with the report as paid and which
took all the money on hand there. I hope you
will recover soon and be among us, for there are
a thousand things to say & do which cant well be done except
by the "unruly member" Yours truly M B Wood

M B Wood May 21, 1887

Lafayette May 21. 55

O. I & I Teleg Line

To Expense a/c per Haas Dr

To	RR fare to Indpls	2.00
"	Bkfast	50
"	Dinner C	15
"	bill at Union	75
"	" " Dayton	2.75
"	" " Union	25
"	" " Indpls	100
"	Fare to Lafayette	2.00
		$9.40

I overhauled all repeated business for nearly year past & very carefully & according to orders from other line — they are indebted to us $17.30 up to 19th inst. went to Dayton arranged with Kiested to give his personal attention to our Instrument at $62 per month he pays rent — Messenger — battery — fuel — stationery — He pays all expenses except repairs — which is from $150. to $200, better than former arrangement.

I also told Operators at Hamilton & Piqua that their offices must not be an Expense to us in time to come. Operator at Hamilton has a very good

Instrument Magnet & Key to sell asks $20.00 for whole If you want it then I Expect he would take $20.

I saw Mr Taylor Supt of Greenville R R & he has consented to have poles got out immediately & will have an Engine & men ready for me to go over line in person next month, as soon as I can make arrangements to go. It is indispensably necessary to our welfare to have that portion of our line in good order About 50 poles will put it in good order. We then can get a great deal of through business from P C & L line

H

Troy & Canada Junction Telegraph Co.,

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

Burlington Vt May 23 1855.

E Connell Esq

Dear Sir

Mr O S Wood was here last week. Says you are in want of help in your Telegraph Operations West

Am now out of business & have thot of going West in June & would like to settle upon some business before going

Can I make any arrangement with you to take charge of a part or all of your lines?

From Mr Vt acct I judge you have enough to keep one man decently busy

I regret to hear of your ill health Hope it is nothing more than what proper care & "rolling in Wet Sheets" will cure

The affairs of this Co are in good shape now - & I think the Line will eventually pays us something It is all rebuilt from here to Troy with good Cedar poles on the RR. & will be rebuilt north this season Presume you feel an interest in it as a Stockholder -

I left it a year & half ago & went into the Marble business - but not liking that

am now (as you see) seeking other business

An early reply to this will oblige

Yours truly

L. C. Dodge

L. C. Dodge
May 25 1853

Sunday May 24 35.00 part 8 - A M

All just in - Barsett was up last Eve'g nearly 11 o'clock with report. Some calls this morning - Some business lost tick-tick-tick - for more than an hour - our Copeist (Weir) says they are ~~frequent~~ calls ch-ch-ch - he is too busy reading to answer - one of the Messenger boys just come as Matters then



5/24/1855

2 is no occasion for him until about 10 A.M. Robt. is bring in just now good deal business from the East Suppose X & De have been waiting an hour to get it here — Robout generally leaves Evenings about 15 Minutes part 9 — He is a good young Man but lazy to get to his business in the Morning Confidentially yours S

Friday Mor^g 25" 18 Minutes to 9 am

Robt just in - Barret been in about 10 or 11 Min=utes both at their instruments now

All three of the instruments have been ticking since 7 or 15 Minutes part 7 this Morning — 13 calls to leave Messages & Make inquiries - 4 received Most of the others were passengers who

2 have Ere left on Cars and Boats
our Cossirut is quite engaged reading News
Papers — Mennonyee boys playing
tag — Our Battery Man is generally
quick and early on hand — with both
feet over the Window Sill intensely
engaged looking at the Moving pictures
in the Streets Clock Now Striking 10
Strickly Confidential S

Saturday Mor^g 26th May 18 Minutes past
8 Robt just in Barrett came about
5 Minutes before 8 the Northern line being down therefore
Barrett had plenty sleep - his excuse has
been heretofore why he could not get here
Earlier, was that he had the report to
get off which took about to the time
of ten o'clock some times later one
night few minutes before 11 - - Messenger
Boys as usual have the pile of Messages before them

With the directory finding names —
to the copist as usual both feet stuck
at the window busy with news paper which
he enjoys Every Morning from about up to the
hours of 9 to 9½ am
Continues to make a very good figure head at
the Window, with both feet over the window
sill as he is Easily seen from the streets
a telegraph sign board on his hat might
be seen to invite Customers —
Yrs Confidential
J.

Ithaca May 26, 1855

This is a specimen of paper made from basswood, by Mr the inventor at Troy New York.

On the 21 May inst the Albany Evg Journald announced that the entire edition of that paper was printed on paper made out of basswood.

E Cornell

Utica May 26th 1855

E. Cassell, Esq

Dear Sir

"When will Warren Crace?"

I have this moment Learnt that you are hovering about Rochester - and becoming the Mouth piece of the Same parties that had the Rope around your Neck Not 30. Days Since - and but for the assistance you Got from the "Moore Co." Would have hung you higher than Haman Would the Jew

And here my remark at the beginning of this Letter - a few Days Since it was Said the Home folks had Got Such advantages over this Co that it Could not Stand against it, What has brought about this Change? Now they are willing to Sell or Rent on better Terms than they afford the "Moore Co." and you advocating the Measure - it is a Matter that I have but a Small Intrest in and Can Make but Little differs with me as to what is done - but really after what has been done for the Last 3. years by the Home Co to break down the "Moore Co." Seems to me Now that they have the thing in their own Way

Why not Let well Enough alone — a Cossmitten from the Moen Co. to Meet at Buffalo Wood be one of the wonders of the world and if the present Board of Directors adopt any such Measure, they are a different Lett of Men from what I have Ever found them to be thus far — and in my opinion can Employ their time much better by attending to the Interest of the Co in putting all things in order in their own department for doing the business which from their present position must flow through their Channel —

What is Caton doing with his business at this time?

I had Supposed from the anxiety you had Manifested and the Measures taken by the Moen Co. to arrest you, that you was now in a Very flattering & Satisfactory position, and hoped before Long to hear that all the Lines over which you have any Contract were in first rate condition and your business Largely increasing — in my opinion the Moen Co. Men has been in any thing Like the Comman=ding position before that it now is — and why should they Change front? —

Respectfully yours, J. J. Paxton

Office of the New York, Albany & Buffalo Electro Magnetic Telegraph Company,

Utica, May 26 1855.

E. Cornell Esq.

D. Sir

Your Comm.n and letter relating to a proposition made to you by the House Co have been shown to a majority of our Directors (all that were in town), and I am instructed to say that in the absence of any direct communication from the House Co they deem it inexpedient to send a Committee to Buffalo, — If the Directors of that Company think proper to make any definite proposition to our Board it will have consideration, and that promptly, —

The reasons you urge on the attention of our Board are such as have been given repeatedly before, and may be entitled to grave consideration, altho' I am prepared to say that the Directors of this Company do not yet see that the question of a business connection with the House Line, in any way, is presented to them in any more favorable light than heretofore. We have a line of over 300 miles length; and Nine years experience has shown us, that to manage it well and profitably is about as much as one company can do; and you also

have intimate west of Buffalo requiring all the time and attention of the most efficient telegraph Manager — and how could the additional lines west of Buffalo be attended to, had you time to care for in addition to your present load.

The present impression of your Board is that our best policy is to go on alone and independent, mind our own business well, and confidently look for its making us a profitable return; The dark prophecies that some months ago seemed to point at our signal defeat and your utter annihilation have failed completely, and "the tables are turned", so that we have better reason now than ever before to make any entangling alliances, and this was the course always advocated by you, what can have occasioned so great a change in your views is not so clear.

I expect Mr Carter will be at Buffalo on Monday or Tuesday next, cannot you wait and see him then, I expect him home tonight and I will telegraph you early on Monday morning.

Yours Respectfully
Ed. Chapman
Sec'y

Monday Morning 8 + 35 May 28 05

Robt just in — It seems — Sabbath & Sabbath
Evg. leasure — does not facilitate Robert
to his post Monday morning any Earlier than other Mornings
He is determined to have his Way — I dont
Know of more than 4 or 5 times of his arriving
before 8 Barrett had his leasure all
day Saturday & yesterday — arrived about
8 a.m. Robt Barrett & Geo with three

2 of their Cronies are enjoying a story and a hearty horse laugh at the open Window few more Cronies might in the opinion of some - think it very Clever to break off in business hours = particularly, if they were inside of our railing in the Strictly confidential part of the office —

I am giving ~~the~~ facts just about the Moments of opening or Commencing of business or commencing making this Notes the Moment when

3 Robt arrives he being generally the last one
to his post When you come you
can inquire and learn —

With Good discipline and order business.
Most generally become proposers — Without
Confusion — Swearing — With Sour ~~[illegible]~~
Countenances Enough now
Clock striking 9 A.M.
Confidential S.

(Copy)

State of Michigan
In Circuit Court for the County } The fifth Judicial Circuit
Of Calhoun
(In Chancery) } In the name of the people of the State
of Michigan

L.S.

Injunction

To The Common Council of the Village Of Albion, Samuel Hufford Chester H White William Bothwell William Howard Township Clerk of the Township of Albion Job Spencer William H Brockway Richard G Hall Martin V B Wood Gilbert Knapp Henry Haling Samuel Parker Alanson Hannahs Leander Handy Charles Ames George Hannahs William S Lewis Rufus Barr William Brittain George S Phipany Isaac Church and to their Counsellors Attorneys and Agents and Each and every of them Greeting.

Whereas it has been represented in the Circuit Court for the County of Calhoun in Chancery on the part of William S Monroe and Stephen Cornell Complainants, that they have lately exhibited their Bill of Complaint in the said Court against you the said persons to be relieved touching the matters therein Complained of, in which Bill it is Stated Amongst other things that you are Combining And Confederating with others to injure the said Complainants, touching the matters set forth in the said Bill And your Actings and doings are Contrary to Equity and Good Conscience

In Consideration thereof, and of the particular matters in said Bill set forth, you the said, the Common Council of the Village of Albion, Samuel Hufford Chester H White William Bothwell, William Howard Township Clerk Of the Township of Albion, Job Spencer William H Brockway, Richard G Hall, Martin V B Wood Gilbert Knapp Henry Haling

Samuel Parker Marvin Hannahs Leander Handy
Charles Ames George Hannahs William S Lennis
Rufus Barr William Brittain, George S Stephens
Isaac Church, And the persons before mentioned
And each and every of you are Commanded, under
the penalty of Ten thousand dollars to be levied
on your lands Goods Chattels to the use of the said
William T Mennion and Isfe Crowell, Absolutely
to desist and refrain from entering upon or depositing
or hauling any Gravel or other Earth or thing upon
the following described premises or any part thereof
to-wit That Certain piece or parcel of Land situated
in the Village of Albion County of Calhoun and State
of Michigan known as the reputed ground on the
South and West side of the Kalamazoo River and
designated in the Original Plat of said Village as being
Reserved for Saw and Grist Mill and other purposes
bounded as follows to-wit On the North and East by the
Kalamazoo River on the South by Erie Street and on the
West by Superior Street, Excepting therefrom Certain
parcels of Land heretofore conveyed by Isfe Crowell
And others to Champion Elsworth Lyman Mennion
And James Monroe.
And Also from in any manner interfering with the
possession thereof in the said Isfe Crowell and William
T Mennion until the further order of this Court
Witness the Hon Abner Pratt Circuit Judge of
said Court at Marshall this 29th day of May
A.D. 1855

Hughes Moseley
Solr for Complt

Samuel P Lacey
Register

Copy

STATE OF MICHIGAN,
THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE COUNTY OF CALHOUN, } TO WIT.

IN CHANCERY, FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT.

SUBPŒNA.

To The Common Council Of the Village Of Albion, Samuel Huxford Chester H White William Bothwell William Howard Township Clerk Of the Township Of Albion, Job Spencer William H Brockway Richard G Hall, Martin B Wood Gilbert Knapp Henry Paling Samuel Parker Marvin Hannahs Leander Handy Charles Ames ~~DEFENDANT GREETING.~~ George Hannahs William S Loomis Rufus Barr William Brittain George J Phipany & Isaac Church

Defendants Greeting

In the Name of the People of the State of Michigan:

You are commanded personally to be and appear before the Circuit Court for the County of Calhoun, in Chancery, of the State of Michigan, for the *Fifth* Judicial Circuit, at the Court House, in the village of Marshall, in said county, on the twelfth day Of June next

then and there to answer to a Bill of Complaint exhibited in said Court against you by Jesse Crowell and William V Morrison complainants and further to do and receive what may be considered by the Court in that behalf: and this you are not to omit under penalty of one thousand dollars.

WITNESS, The *Hon. Abner Pratt*, Circuit Judge of the said Circuit, this twenty ninth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty five

Hughes & Woolley for Complts *Solicitors*

Samuel S Lacey *Register.*

Adrian, Mich,
May 30th 55,

E. Cornell, Esq.
Utica.

Dear Sir!

I recv'd your despatch this morning, and answered it. It told me where you was, a fact of which I was before ignorant. I have waited some days to hear of you, or hereabouts, to write you.

I got the line ready to work, by the co-operation of the operators & men a day or two after you left, but could get no circuit from Chicago. I went to Pigeon, found the wires running into the Depot there were disperated, & hung loose in the window. The operator said he did not think anything about it, so he let them hang. After hutching them together the line worked nicely. Whether he did it purposely or not I dont Know, but think he did. About a week ago, upon

the earnest recommendation of Beach at Toledo, I went with two men & commenced stringing the wire from Toledo to Monroe. We strung 3 miles, when I was taken sick & had to return home, with a high fever.

Beach kept one man distributing the wire, & I believe it all ready to go up now. Mr. Wood will be in Toledo tonight with men & tools to put it up at once. We need it badly.

A few days since, our lines got crossed at Hudson & Mr Caleb ordered the operator at Pigeon & the one at Adrian depot, to open our line. Mr. Kline at the depot here remonstrated, and finally opened it & wrote me a note. I was sick in bed, but sent word to him to close it. He did so & after that opened & closed occasionally. The operator at Pigeon, however, opened & did not close again. I sent my boy here, to Pigeon, to close it & wrote the operator that the next performance of that kind, we should put the law in force

Mr. Newell saw Kline & told him the same thing. The Pigeon man sent my letter to Mr. Cobb, who talked me on the subject, Mr Newell also talked Cobb in relation to it. Cobb disclaimed any intention or wish ~~of~~ to injure us in our business &c, but said his orders were for the circuit to be opened and closed alternately, However true that may be, it was not done, and we were deprived of the use of our wire most all day, & most of the day, for the entire length of the line.

I received a very impertinent letter from Pigeon ofs, in answer to mine, which Mr. Newell to show Mr. Moore, the Supt of the R. Road, & Mr Wilkinson, the Pres't. Mr. Newell left for N.Y. early on Monday morning, so I did not see him, but his partner Mr. Robinson said that they told Mr. Newell, the Pigeon ofs should be straightened, and our line be used jointly. The operator at Pigeon being paid by the R. R. Co., is under Mr Moore's control & as soon as Mr Moore returns from Toledo, I shall see him. If he wants an ofs on

C. H. Haskins May 30. 55

our line, at that place I shall put the instruments on our line, as they belong to us. I shall, of course be careful, and endeavor to prevent all trouble with House folks. At the same time I cannot surrender any rights belonging to you, or the S. W. Co. By advice of Mr. Newell, I drew $25. from the Treasurer, W. H. Murphy, for expenses on construction of extension wire, and afterwards $16. to pay off ~~one~~ the man, whom you hired in Toledo, with the frenchman. The frenchman, would do nothing he was told to, so I let him go. I borrowed from Newell $13. to pay him off. Business is dull, rather, here, at present, but the wool season will soon commence & that will make business good again. We are doing the most of the business here. The newspapers are both in our favor, & want to bargain for Reports. I give them occasionally a N. Y. market &c, and they are both friendly. Most of the business men will patronize my offs, thinking to benefit me thereby. So I think the ~~Co~~ here, will do first rate. Jermain of the Expositor says you spoke to him, about reports. What arrangement can be made? The House operator is trying to induce them to write, to the agt of the associated Press, at Buffalo, to procure reports. Please write me at once.

Yours Respectfully

Ch. H. Haskins

Portland May 31/55

E. Cornell Esq

To his yours of 28th
unit is at hand.

I have to meet
Commissioners on Rail
Road matters through all
the early part of July.
If you do not call a spe-
cial meeting in June, the
July meeting, which comes
on the (4th) must be post-
poned until say 18th of July
but we if it shall be so
done, & I will then meet
the Stockholders.

In haste,

Yours ever truly

F. D. Smith

and set Bancroft to help him at the rate of $400, per year as long as we wanted him, I have no confidence in his honesty or integrity, but Smith says he will stand sposer for any malconduct so I think we shall not suffer through him, We have got the 36 long poles for Ch. peeled and ready to load at Decatur unless we dress them there which we can do cheaper than in Ch, I think to dress them round would leave them stronger than to square them and cost much less, for the hands can jack plane them and smoothe them round I hear of no move on the Lake Shore road yet and cant get to Ch. to find out what has been done if anything, Our line here has worked well and I have stuck with the hands in getting out the poles so I am not well posted in matters afar off. I received a letter from C. C. Haskins of Monroe asking me about the arrangements of checks for the 3 lines and says the Honso line will owe us all the time and wishes to know who will settle & pay him, Under the arrangement I made with him his salleny will be rather light unless he gets prompt pay from other line, Boyer is just in from Ty, says line is working. He went three times over the first 20 miles before he found the first trouble, He mended 3 breakes and set up several poles and thought it would work, went up to city & found Hass and line not working Started again & found the break. Two trees stood near together and blocks on both, and a short piece of wire