

OFFICE

E. G. MACLAY & CO.,



TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTORS.

HELENA, MONTANA, Jan'y 19th 1878

Capt Ed Gruchette

Sub Inspector, U. S. M. R.

Fort Walsh,

Captain!

Your favor at hand enclosing List of articles lost by you on the Cow Island road and also Power of atty. to me to make claim and collect same for your %c. Herewith enclosed I return the papers mentioned above with the following suggestions.

Major Weston of the U. S. Army has a case nearly identical with yours & I have consulted with him in relation to the proper steps to be taken by you and have concluded that you would have a better chance to collect the amount by making claim as you suggest through your Secy. of State, as our Government would beyond doubt feel kinder to a claim originating with a Foreign Power and backed by such influence as you could bring to bear, than they would to a

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claim brought by one of our citizens and particularly as in the latter case it would establish a precedent to pay for Indian depredations that would never end.

I ~~did~~ think you had better forward the enclosed list to your Secy. first having made oath to its correctness and value of the articles, and also forward at some time the order under which you were travelling in this country to show that you were pursuing legitimate business in being on the Crow Island road. Another thing rather essential to establishing your claim is a copy of the B/L of the train upon which ~~it~~ was your baggage was shipped.

We think you can procure this if not already in your possession. By writing to J. G. Baker & Co. as the trucks were probably consigned to them, if no B/L was issued advise us and we will endeavor to get affidavit from Frank Farmer to cover the case.

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If at any time I can be of service
to you in this matter have no hesitancy
in commanding, Regretting exceedingly
that I cant do more in this case and
hoping you will succeed I am

Very Truly
E. G. MacLay

Remember me to Major Walsh