

THE CENTRE REPORTER.

FRED KURTZ, Editor.

CENTRE HALL, PA., Sept. 24, 1894

BLAINE'S RECORD.

PORTIONS OF THE MULLIGAN LETTERS NEVER BEFORE GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC.

The Damning Story of Dishonesty, Corruption and Sycophancy Which They Tell.

Boston, September 14.—The Mulligan letters hitherto unpublished will be printed in all the Boston papers to-morrow. The reason Mr. Fisher gives for having the letters printed is that he considered it a duty to have them published for the benefit of the people of the United States.

In introducing the correspondence, Fisher and Mulligan say: To the People of the United States: Believing that it is our duty to lay before our fellow-countrymen the following documents, which have been in our possession, we have placed the original for safe keeping in the hands of Messrs. Sohier & Welch, counselors of Boston, and herewith submit the contents without comment.

The letters from Mr. Fisher are letter press copies of the originals. The first letter from Blaine to Fisher is dated August, Oct. 4, 1873, addressed, "My dear Mr. Fisher," and says: Inclosed find \$10,000 check in payment A. and D. Coburn's subscription. I presume you will receive by same mail the 20 per cent. due on all subscriptions already forwarded to you. This makes \$125,000 in all I have disposed of. No one will ever know from me that I have disposed of a single dollar in Maine; so there need be no embarrassment talking with Caldwell.

In a letter written the following day, Blaine says: I inclose \$2,000 payment on F. Morrill's installment; \$1,000 in payment Lot F. Morrill's installment. This makes \$130,000. There may be \$20,000 more, but \$150,000 will be my limit.

Under date of August, Nov. 18, 1869, Blaine writes: My dear Mr. Fisher.—It is quite evident to my mind that at the approaching session of Congress there will be an expansion of the currency to the amount of 50 or 75 millions of dollars. The form it will take I think will be an addition to the national bank circulation west and south. My object in writing is to ask in season if your friends would desire to establish a bank in Little Rock? It will be to some extent a matter of favoritism as to who gets the banks in the several localities, and it will be in my power to "cast an anchor to the windward" in your behalf, if you desire it. Please think over the matter and confer with Mr. Caldwell and let me know your desire as soon as you reach any conclusion. There is of course no special hurry, but I thought I would suggest the matter in order that you might mature your thoughts in good time. It would be well to determine the amount to which you might wish to go. I suppose it might be practicable to secure a \$500,000 bank; but in that locality you would hardly wish to go so deep, but they are very profitable institutions. Say \$250,000.

Writing under date of the House of Representatives, Dec. 1870, Blaine says to Fisher: I have written Mr. Caldwell about the bank. No trouble in securing a bank of \$500,000. The Secretary of War will not allow the use of the Arsenal at Little Rock. Says it is impossible.

In a long letter dated two days later to Fisher, Blaine gives further details about the National Bank and 10-40 bonds to deposit to secure circulation. He advises taking the 10-40s. From Augusta, Dec. 29, 1870, Blaine writing about that now famous loan of \$25,000, says: He hopes now that I shall secure \$25,000 or nearly that. Money is tight. I have seen most of the parties to whom bonds are due. I would be glad to have the coupon I promised them individually to make it right in the future. I did not in any way use the name of the company nor commit you to anything—nor myself—I will make it all right with you. What I want, then, is \$25,000 (\$25,000 first mortgage bonds, \$50,000 land bonds) and also for collateral to the notes for \$25,000, an additional \$50,000 of land bonds.

On January 27, 1871, writing to Fisher from the House, Blaine tells him he has written to Caldwell suggesting a meeting with Colonel Thomas A. Scott, and then adds: I have some reason for believing that a very advantageous arrangement may be made for taking \$300,000. Let me have an accurate and reliable statement of your financial condition, and I can do something. I feel very sanguine with Thomas A. Scott. I think you will not deem me unreasonable when I again and persistently urge that I ought to have good notes for the \$25,000, and that I ought also to have \$25,000 bonds, which were made by yourself and Mr. Caldwell on the express basis of the \$25,000 loan. I do not believe your company has a stronger or more equitable and legal claim than mine, while my personal hardships to me are bitter and burning, and humiliating to the last degree.

On April 21, 1871, Blaine writes to Jos. Caldwell: My dear Mr. Caldwell.—On 29 inst. the second note of the loan I negotiated in December falls due. The first for \$2,032.50, which fell due March 1-4. I was compelled to meet at the gravest possible inconvenience to myself. I drew on Mr. Fisher for the amount but he declined to note the draft. The note which falls due on the 29th instant is for \$2,578.56. It seems extremely hard and unjust that I should be compelled to pay this money. It is no more my debt than the debt of President Grant or Queen Victoria, and I cannot believe that you and Fisher, both or either, intend to leave this burden on me. If you do it will crush me. I have no possible means wherewith to meet these notes, and I beg of you and Mr. Fisher, either or both, to come to my relief.

In a letter from Fisher, under date of Jan. 4, he writes as follows: In regard to the \$25,000 which you borrowed and loaned to Mr. Caldwell, or rather Mr. Pratt, as it was assumed by Mr. Pratt because you received from him \$50,000 land bonds for the amount, upon my visiting the office for the first time after you left the city, Mr. Pratt said he and Mr. Farrington gave to you their individual bonds and they kept the money, and in order to obtain the money and get it out of Mr. Pratt's hands, I obtained \$50,000 land bonds, and took what I supposed to be money, but it was not there. Part of it had been misapplied to

other matters, \$15,000 of it loaned to Mr. Caldwell, the balance given into a bank at Little Rock without my knowledge or consent, and Fulman cars, etc., etc." Now, my dear sir, if this be a correct statement may I not hope you will relieve me to the extent of the \$15,000 and Mr. Fisher will surely pay the other \$10,000. As a wholly innocent third party, doing my best to act as a sincere and steadfast friend to both of you, I ought not to be left exposed to financial ruin and personal humiliation. Please read this to Mr. Fisher. I have advised my writing to you.

Mr. Caldwell sent the above letter to Mr. Fisher saying: Boston, April 25, 71. Dear Fisher.—I inclose letters from Mr. Blaine. I forgot to speak to you about them when I saw you this afternoon. I hope you can help him. I would if I had any power. Blaine is an important man for us to have feel all right toward us, and I only wish that I was so situated that I could help him. Very truly yours, J. CALDWELL.

June 14, '72, Blaine writes to Fisher, saying among other things: I am in a very painful and embarrassed situation growing out of my connection with the Fort Smith enterprise. I have paid and caused to be paid into the treasury about \$250,000, and the only result to me is the most painful perplexity. The most painful of all, the most oppressive, is the \$25,000 which I paid to Mr. Pratt for you January 2, which I borrowed here on my own faith and credit on the distinct understanding with you that it was to be repaid and that I was also to receive a certain proportion of the bonds, the larger part, not a dollar of money. \* \* \* If you will look at a copy of our agreement in your hands you will find there is still due some \$70,000 of land bonds and \$30,000 of first mortgage. In order to square myself with my friends, I need and must have \$30,000 land bonds and \$9,000 first mortgage—\$45,000 in all, still leaving \$25,000 of mine in your hands. Now, if you will take up these \$100,000 of company money, the cash therefore and give me the \$45,000 of bonds, I will let all the remainder of your matters stand until you are perfectly at ease and ready to open correspondence on the subject yourself. In other words, I will leave the matter in your hands until the Fort Smith enterprise is out of the woods and its tangled affairs well smoothed out."

From Boston, Sept. 30, 1873, Fisher writes to Blaine telling him that it is important that: Parties owning the \$25,000 and invested by them in the Northern Pacific railroad should receive what is due them, and unless something is done about it I shall be forced to turn the document over to them and let you settle direct with them. I constantly reminded them about it and all they say: Why don't Blaine deliver to you our interest? Mr. Caldwell tells me he has paid you his note due, and gave you the \$50,000 land bonds in addition. I should judge it was for your interest to settle the matter at once and have no further delay. You must be your own judge in the matter, but my advice is to settle it at once.

Mr. Fisher wrote again, Oct. 24, 1871, to Blaine, saying: I have heretofore advised you that I had been frequently importuned for the securities of the Northern Pacific road, and as a last resort I had to surrender your obligation for the benefit of the parties in interest, who now say that after so long delay they will take the securities, but require you to refund the money.

Blaine wrote to Fisher from Augusta, Nov. 5, '71, in reference to his \$25,000 loan, and complaining of delay in settlement. Fisher in his reply says: You have had more bonds than you state in your letter. If you have given any to parties at Washington or disposed of them to others, it is no concern of mine, and of course must be accounted for in any settlement hereafter.

Blaine again writes Fisher, Nov. 8, '71, about settlement: I am ready to receive any kind of reasonable proposition you may make. It is not a question of money making with me. It is simply a question of saving my word with others. I will sacrifice a great deal to get a settlement. I feel assured of your friendly disposition toward me, and therefore I do not wish to seem importunate and troublesome, but if you know the agonies I have suffered in the matter during the past six months you would pity me I am sure, and make great efforts to relieve me. Pray let me know what I am to expect.

On Nov. 10 Fisher wrote to Blaine saying that he (Fisher) had carried out all contracts strictly, concluding thus: I know but little of your obligations to deliver bonds to others, but taking into account the \$100,000 you sold to Tom Scott, and the amount you received on the Eastern contract, our relative positions financially in the Little Rock & Ft. Smith road bear a wide contrast.

In reply to Blaine's of April 13, '72, already published, Fisher writes as follows: My dear Blaine.—Your letter of 13th instant reached me this morning. I am surprised at its contents. I have loaned you at various times, when you were comparatively poor, very large sums of money and never have you paid me one dollar from your own pocket, either principal or interest. I have paid sundry amounts to others to whom you were indebted and these debts you have allowed to stand unpaid, like the notes I hold. I have placed you in a position whereby you have received very large sums of money without one dollar of expense to you, and you ought not to forget to act on my part. Of all the parties connected with the Little Rock and Fort Smith road no one has been so fortunate as yourself in obtaining money out of it. You obtained subscriptions from your friends in Maine for the building of the Little Rock and Fort Smith road. Out of their subscriptions you obtained a large amount both of bonds and money free of cost to you. I have your own figures and know the amount. Owing to your political position you were able to work off all your bonds at a very high price, and the fact is well known to others as well as myself. Would your friends in Maine be satisfied if they knew the facts? Are my associates satisfied to have you obtain \$25,000 for the Northern Pacific railroad, and you not make the investment as per agreement? By the course you have thought proper to take in regard to my request is rather a poor one, taking your relations with me, and I again ask you to consider it and grant it. You will find it much easier to pay it by obtaining the credit, and I selected that course thinking it to be the best. If you again decline I shall be obliged to use the notes or sell them to outside purchasers. Necessity knows no law.

The expression "obtaining the credit" in the above letter, refers to a request by Fisher that Blaine should give him a let-

ter of credit, to be drawn against Fisher during a proposed European trip, Blaine being at the time indebted to Fisher for borrowed money, for which Fisher held Blaine's demand promissory note. From Washington, April 16, 1875, Blaine wrote to Fisher, marked confidential: You can do me a very great favor, and I know it will give you pleasure to do so, just as I would do for you under similar circumstances. Certain persons and papers are trying to throw mud at me to injure my candidacy before the Cincinnati Convention, and you may observe they are trying it in connection with the Little Rock and Fort Smith matter. I want you to send me a letter, such as the inclosed draft. You will receive this to-morrow (Monday) evening and it will be a favor I shall never forget if you will at once write me the letter and mail it the same evening. The letter is strictly true; in honorable to you and to me and will regard the mouths of slanderers at once. Retard the letter as strictly confidential; do not show it to any one. The draft is in the hands of my clerk, who is as trustworthy as any man can be. If you can't get the letter written in season for the 9 o'clock mail to New York, please be sure to mail it during the night so that it will start first thing Tuesday morning.

But if possible, I pray you to get it in the 9 o'clock mail Monday evening. Kind regards to Mrs. Fisher. Sincerely, J. G. B.

Burn this letter. The following is the inclosure referred to in the preceding letter: Boston, April 1876.—To Hon. James G. Blaine, Washington, D. C. Dear Sir— I observe that the certain newspapers are making or rather insinuating the absurd charge that you own or had owned \$150,000 of Little Rock and Fort Smith railroad bonds, and that you had in some way obtained them as a gratuity. The enterprise of building the Little Rock and Fort Smith railroad was undertaken in 1869 by a company of Boston gentlemen, of whom I was myself one. The bonds of the road were put on market in this city, on what was common, very advantageous terms to the purchasers. They were sold largely through myself. You became the purchaser of about \$30,000 of the bonds on precisely the same terms that every other buyer received, paying for them in installments running over a considerable period just as others did. The transaction was perfectly open and there was no more secrecy in regard to it than if I had been buying flour or sugar. I am sure you never owned a bond on the road that you did not pay for at the market rate. Indeed, I am sure that no one received bonds on any other terms. When the road got into financial difficulty and the loss fell upon you, you still retained your bonds and you held them clear through to the re-organization of the company in 1874, exchanging them for stock and bonds of the new company. You acquired also some demands against the new company by reason of your having joined with others in raising some money when the company was in pressing need. For the recovery of that money proceedings are now pending in the United States Circuit Court in Arkansas, to which you are openly a party of record. Concealment of the investment and everything connected with it would have been very easy had concealment been desirable, but your action in the whole matter was as open and as fair as the day. When the original enterprise failed I knew with what severity the pecuniary loss fell upon you, and with what integrity and nerve you met it. Years have since elapsed. It seems rather hard at this late day to be compelled to meet a slander in a matter where your conduct was in the highest degree honorable and straightforward. You may use this letter in any way that will be of service to you. Very sincerely yours, W. F. Jr.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.—Philadelphia and Erie Division—on and after May 11, 1888.

Table with columns for station names and times. Includes Erie Mail, Niagara Exp., Sea Shore Exp., Day Express, Erie Mail, Whipt Acn, Erie Mail West, Niagara Express West, and Day Express.

LEWISBURG AND TYONE RAILROAD TIME TABLE.

Table with columns for direction (Westward, Eastward) and times for stations like Spring Mills, Coburn, Laureldale, Millburg, and Vicksburg.

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Cards—Attorneys.

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