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July 12th, 1919.

Mr. L. E. Coles,
Girard, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Coles:

This morning I talked over with our Agricultural Committee the Jefferson Highway situation south of here. We find that Mr. Clarkson has ordered the road to be painted direct to Pittsburg, also they drove the Jefferson Highway tourists over the line direct from Pittsburg and that statements are being made that the line has been changed omitting Girard.

An attempt will be made, no doubt, at the Winnipeg meeting to confirm Mr. Clarkson's decision in spite of the action of the Kansas Board of Directors and if your city wants to be protected, you had better have a representative at this meeting. The men here think Mr. Ben Gaitskill will be able to handle the situation, but whoever you send, no doubt can help you a great deal.

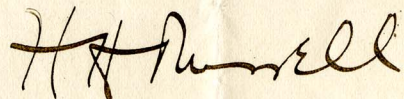
We are willing to do everything possible but unless you take the lead in the fight, you cannot expect us to give the assistance we can if you are represented on the ground.

I think the best way to meet the proposition would be if Pittsburg asks that the line go straight south from Fort Scott leaving out Girard, to start a back fire by asking that the Kansas line go straight through Columbus, this saving mileage. In this way you could put Pittsburg on the defensive.

We feel that your people will realize the outrageous way they have attempted to treat you in this proposition and will go into this fight with all energy possible. I leave here next Tuesday evening for Winnipeg, If you wish to communicate with me at any time, you can get my address from the office at Fort Scott.

Let me hear from you in regard to this matter.

Very truly yours,



Sec'y.