

May 11, 1917.

J. J. Donohue, Esq.,
Asst. Dist. Atty., L&N RR Co.,
Louisville, Kentucky.

My dear Mr. Donohue:

Referring to Mr. Brady's letter of April 25th, and your notation thereon of the 8th instant, regarding Engineer James Donovan, I have to say that the best I could ever get out of Mr. Seargeant on this subject was a sort of "negative pregnant." In other words, Mr. Seargeant would not say that Mr. Donovan would be re-employed by the Company in any capacity. Furthermore, he said that Mr. Donovan could not expect to be reinstated - i.e. re-employed in the same grade of seniority in the service he occupied when discharged, that if re-employed he would have to take rank below other men whose records have been clear. Beyond this, Mr. Seargeant said that if Mr. Donovan let liquor alone and his conduct justified it, he might hope for re-employment by the Company, if, at any time, an opening should occur where his services could be made available.

Mr. Seargeant agreed with me that Donovan is a straightforward, truthful man, in fact exceptionally so, but in spite of this he could not be taken into the service or kept in the service unless he could refrain from the use of intoxicating liquors. My interviews and correspondence with Mr. Seargeant on this subject impressed me with the fact that he is a rigid disciplinarian and is utterly impervious to those appeals which are ordinarily supposed to produce a change of heart in one occupying a position of authority such as his. I wish it were possible for the Company to do something