

M.534-TRAFFIC MATTERS,
Poor Fork-Benham.

December 8, 1911.

Mr. A. R. Smith, 3rd V.P.,
Louisville & Nashville R.R.,
Louisville, Ky.

Dear Sir:-

This will acknowledge your letter of the fifth instant.

The Superintendent of our operations at Benham is here and I have just had a conference with him and Mr. Perkins, President of the Wisconsin Steel Company.

There seems to be some misunderstanding on the part of your Superintendent regarding the service needed and performed. For example, your passenger train, of course, will be of no material benefit to us, as you state, in handling our construction material, though we are thoroughly appreciative of the late change which will permit interested parties to come to Benham, transact business for an hour and get away on your train the same day. We take it for granted a little later on when the track is in good shape you can well lengthen this lay-over in Benham, which will be an advantage to us and those with whom we do business.

Now, the freight train service works poorly for us. The train leaves Benham in the morning and comes back there in the evening, which means that during the entire day we are without any service between Benham and Poor Fork so far as our construction material is concerned, and it is because of this our people have been asking for and insisting upon a trackage arrangement.

The five dollar charge for the haul between Poor Fork and Benham when the service is performed by our engine will be entirely satisfactory to us and we are very appreciative of your extending the courtesy to us.

Now, on the question of this \$5.00 rate; our Sup't. advises that this rate as named by your Sup't. simply applied to handling of logs and stone from several small docks we had constructed alongside of or right near your side tracks at Benham proper, meaning a service of probably half a mile at the outside, and our people naturally felt that with our own engine performing the work, for this amount of service over your track five dollars was a high rate. I believe you will agree with this; certainly with a five dollar rate to Poor Fork we should be entitled to \$2.50 at least for the traffic we are now referring to.

In connection with your complaint regarding the amount of business we have furnished you so far having been very disappointing; you could hardly expect us to do very much business except in construction material and supplies. As our understanding with your Company clearly stipulates, we were to be given twelve months time between the completion of your Railroad and the beginning of our shipping of coke. To