



ARIZONA LUMBER & TIMBER CO.

T. A. RIORDAN, Prest.

M. J. RIORDAN, Secy.

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Flagstaff, Arizona.

March 7, 1924.

My dear Mr. Hayden:

Perhaps you saw my letter addressed to Ralph Cameron, published in the Congressional Record of February 25, page 3138. I had not intended the letter for publication but I have not the least objection to its use. In connection with it though I thought it well to explain to you that up to the time I wrote the letter I had practically no information about the Bright Angel Trail matter; in fact I never paid any attention to it until Ralph's letter to the Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce was shown to me, and upon consideration it dawned on me that Ralph was right and I felt it my duty to tell him so. The more I think of it the more I am convinced that it would be a mistake for this County to abandon its title to the Bright Angel Trail. That title belongs to it just as my watch belongs to me. No one has a right to take it away from us and I think it would be a mistake for the County to sell it, particularly when it gets nothing in return. Under the appropriation the consideration is not to be at the disposition of Coconino County but is to be applied as a sort of dressing to a mighty wobbly road and the dressing would be so thin that it would only put a few more wobbles in the chain. It is very much the same as though some one should offer to buy my watch and apply the purchase price to the investment of a watch chain for himself. You show very clearly that the Government has absorbed practically ninety percent of this County. For God sake leave us enough ground to stand on and enough to slide down into the Canyon if by any chance we can raise enough money to get out to the rim.

Out of this whole mess it seems to me that what should be done is obviously for the Government to build the road from the southern line of the Grand Canyon to Maine and to leave the people of this County in full possession of the Bright Angel Trail. I was annoyed to see in the press that the report had gone out that Cameron had some ulterior motives in his attitude. I think this is disgraceful. So far as the people of this County are concerned and so far as Congress is concerned, the simple question is to deal with the Bright Angel Trail on the ground of its present ownership regardless of what antedated that, or regardless of side issues that may

be involved as between Cameron and other parties, including the Government. Certainly the Government ought to be able to take care of itself without attempting to trade the people of this poverty stricken County out of their last rag.

I believe that your own attitude and that of Senator Ashurst has been entirely straight-forward and above board, but I do not believe that it is in the interests of the Government to do injustice to even such a small unit of its people as that comprised within Coconino County. I am quite confident that when it is brought to your attention you will see the justice of Cameron's position.

I am with the greatest of good wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

Chas. H. Jordan

Hon. Carl Hayden
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.