



# ARIZONA LUMBER & TIMBER CO.

T. A. RIORDAN, Prest.

M. J. RIORDAN, Secy.

I. B. KOCH, Vice Prest-Mgr.

Flagstaff, Arizona,

March 17, 1924

My dear Mr. Hayden:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 13th. It was written on an unlucky day, the 13th, but I am answering it on the luckiest day in the year, St. Patrick's Day, which will offset the hoodoo. While I thoroughly realize the sincerity of your attitude on the trail question I must disagree with it. The more I think of it the firmer I am convinced that the Government should build at its own expense the road from Maine to the southern border of the Canyon. It is an imposition to expect this County to do anything on that road. I think further that the ownership of Bright Angel Trail should continue in this County; it is a good asset for the County and will grow in value as the years go by. It is ample for all purposes of entry into the Canyon. To attempt to build another trail and to use public money to do so, in my estimation would be an absolute waste of the public money. It might just as well be thrown in the stove and burned up. The use of the present trail costs the public no more than if it were free because if it were free the cost would simply be distributed among the tax payers instead of assessed on those who enjoy the luxury of the Canyon. It's all right to tax the general public for the necessities of the people; it is not all right to tax them for the luxuries of a few. That is perverting the function of the Government and it is exactly the thing which is creating the upset in the public mind today. It's obvious that the last amendment is simply meant to put the club to use on Coconino County in the hands of the Secretary of the Interior instead of expecting Coconino County to commit suicide, as was obviously intended by the first amendment. I think both of them are wrong. It's a perfectly simple question and the dragging in of the Cameron side issues deceives nobody with sense. Cameron has nothing to do with the case between Coconino County and the Bright Angel Trail. He is being dragged in to obscure the issue and this more than anything else condemns the whole matter in my mind. In other words, those in favor of the amendment have proved too much.

I think it is entirely unworthy for the Government to submit an amendment which will put it in the power of any man, even a Cabinet officer of the United States, to say to



the people of this County: "Unless you sell us this trail for a certain sum I will build another trail which is perfectly unnecessary and useless and destroy your property, and at the same time waste as a starter \$100,000 of the people's money". I may be just a rube from a rube town in Arizona but so far I haven't bought any gold bricks . I do hope that this amendment will not pass and that you will come to the conclusion that it is not to the advantage of this County or of this Government that it should pass. It's wrong.

With the best of good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

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

*Ab. J. Jordan*