

Aug 8th 1924

Percy B. Tripp, Esq.
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Dear Percy:-

I am just in receipt of yours of the 1st from Colorado Springs and you of course had not yet received my letter notifying you of the suspension of the stone quarry operations.

I only have time to write you a hasty line this morning acknowledging receipt of your letter and copy of the stone quarry contract. I will get in touch with Mr. Dudley at once and then I think I had better turn the matter over to Mr. Rust to take such steps as he may deem necessary unless Mr. Dudley will make some satisfactory settlement. I understand that the Dudley Company has abandoned the project entirely and have no hopes of doing anything with them unless maybe on their machinery and I presume that has not been paid for and probably their equity would not amount to anything.

I saw Mr. Browning this morning and he says he would not make an offer for the land that would be attractive as he would not give more than \$150 per acre which was what he paid for the other. He signified his willingness, however, to subdividing the property and putting it on the market when the proper time arrives but of course nothing could be done until after the completion of the road and the road will probably be completed and opened by the first of October. They commenced laying the concrete at Falls Church last week and are working along very rapidly. The concrete is laid from beyond Merrifield to the Convict Camp and then they transferred the force to Falls Church and are laying from this end to meet the other and then the whole road will be opened up to beyond Merrifield and the force will be transferred to the Fairfax end commencing at Fairfax and coming this way.

Hester has paid no more rent although we have been after him continuously and I will get after him to-day. Yesterday Mr. Huddleson served notice on me for attachment of rent amounting to \$161.10 for delinquent taxes so this will have to be paid out of the first rent that is collected.

The Bank directors meet to-night and I will take up the matter of the loan you suggest but I am afraid they will do nothing about it as they have been compelled to turn down all applications for loans on account of the money used in the building in this connection I will say that in some way Mr. Mellon prevailed upon Mr. Money to advance him money on the stone and when it comes to a final settlement he advanced him nearly a \$100 more than the whole contract amounted to including royalties and as Mr. Money was responsible for this took Mr. Mellon's note for the difference which of course is no good but the point is that Mr. Money paid Mr. Mellon in full including the royalties and overpaid him to this extent and then had to go into the quarry and get out the last fifteen yards himself after Mellon had abandoned it.

As I say this is only a line to let you know all the conditions and I will write you more fully in a few days.

The weather has been very warm here, 102 day before yesterday and extremely dry. Everything is burned up. Had a shower yesterday but not enough to give us much relief.

Hope you and family keep well.

Very truly yours,
M. E. Church

Source: Special Collections
University of Virginia Library
"Papers of Merton Elbridge Church, 1866-1959"