

Head Quarters Dist of the Gulf
Mobile Nov 18 1862

Mr O. M. Avery

President of the Ala & Fla R.R.C. of Fla
Pollard.

Sir.

On the 11th inst, I appealed to you, by letter to sell to the Government; the iron from three miles of your road to be taken from the Pensacola end of the tracks laid from Pollard in that direction, and I now have to inform you that I am, reluctantly, compelled to take the balance, to fill the requisition of the Engineer Department, for rail Road iron, to be used in constructing defenses for this City.

As a further necessity, and at the instance of his Excellency the Governor of this State, I must also ask you to allow the Mobile and Great Northern R.R.C., and the Ala and Fla R.R.C. of Ala, to use so much of the unemployed rolling stock of your Company as will enable those companies fully, and promptly to meet the demand for transportation over their roads.

It is necessary the rolling stock of

these roads should be increased, and I am satisfied that the Companies running the roads have, diligently, but unsuccessfully sought to obtain stock.

Your Agent informs me that you are at Tallahassee Fla, and I am compelled to have a portion of your rolling stock, and before we can complete negotiations on that subject; and have this day ordered such temporary use. This order however shall not force you to sell your stock, nor in any manner affect your claim for just compensation for such use.

I have requested the Presidents of the two companies, running the Rail Roads between this place, and Montgomery, to negotiate with you upon fair, and liberal terms, either for the purchase, or use of your stock in the manner stated. In case the terms cannot be agreed upon. I respectfully suggest, a reference, of the matter,

to the following named Superintendents of Rail Roads, who I am informed, are reliable, honest, and disinterested, namely, Messrs

George Young	Supt ^r	of the Georgia RR ^{Co}	Augusta
Geo. W. Adams	"	" Central RR ^{Co}	Savannah
G. G. Hull	"	" Atlanta & LeGrange	Atlanta
L. J. Fleming	"	" Mobile	Mobile

As I cannot, until I hear from you, know whether you will be

willing, or not to sell such stock. I shall
require the companies, on whose roads it
is to be used, to enter into an obligation,
in the case of such refusal on your part,
to return to your Company, at the close
of the war, if not sooner ordered to return
yours, engines, and cars of equal
capacity, and value to those taken from
you.

Very Respectfully
Yr Obedt Servt.

(signed) J. N. Ferry
Maj Genl. Comdg

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Presdt of the Ala & Fla RR Co of Fla
Pollard

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(signed) J. H. Forney
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