

South Eastern N.M. Stock Growers Association

October 17<sup>th</sup> 1895

My Dear Tommy:-

I wrote Mr Cree some two weeks since on matters of very grave importance but have had no reply. I assume that he is absent from the Ranch. Now I want to post you regarding the same matters so that you can keep a good lookout and see to it that no harm comes to him.

We have discovered that a very bad outfit in the vicinity of Tularosa has been doing considerable stock killing, the principal one is a man named Dodd, - I had Williams get on to them, Cornack also helped, and we found out that there was quite an extensive combination involving Oliver Lee and others. This thing leaked out and the outfit determined to get away with Williams, Fall is the attorney for the gang, and is, I believe, fully acquainted with all their doings, Price Moore<sup>who</sup> is also one of the gang operating on the river was arrested by Williams and indicted. Williams had the testimony to convict a number of them and it was proposed to indict them at the last term of Court. A few days before Court met Fall and Morgan had waylaid Williams, and with the assistance of Albert Ellis had attempted to assassinate him

They had two purposes in doing this, one was that ~~that~~ Williams knew all about the gang and its doings, and again, Fall and Morgan were personally afraid of Williams. The grand jury refused to do anything with regard to the shooting of Williams.

Williams was on his back suffering from his wound and the grand jury refused to take his testimony about the killing of cattle by Dodd and others. Dodd was under arrest charged with killing a cow and four witnesses were in attendance, brought at some considerable expense to myself but the grand jury refused to hear the testimony of the witnesses and returned no bill. I however succeeded in having the Court hold Dodd until the next grand jury. I propose to have Dodd and the balance of the gang arrested and brought before Florencio Luna and held over for the next grand jury, which will not be packed you may rest assured of. Fall went before the grand jury and to give them a pretence for their action, swore that he had been reliably informed that his life was in danger from the Stock Association and that they had put up money to have him killed. Of course nobody believed

any such rot as that but it gave the packed jury a pretence for acting as they did.

In the meantime the jury began to investigate everybody but the criminals, they indicted Williams for shooting the man he was trying to arrest at Colorado about a year ago and they devoted their attention to me.

You will remember that in June of 1894 Major Teel of El Paso wired me to attend to a case, something about a child claimed by a woman named Rosa Romero, and I copied the telegram and sent you with it to Amador.

Well the scoundrels actually indicted me for forgery in sending that copied telegram to Amador, of course Judge Bantz immediately dismissed the indictment and read the grand jury a severe lecture. But they didn't care for that, they had simply indulged in a little mud throwing hoping some of it would stick.

Now what I want to impress upon your mind is this: this thieving gang have made threats against Mr Cree on account of the action he has taken in suppressing stock stealing. I have it from the inside that they have threatened to "do him up" on account of his interference with their thieving operations, this may be nothing but talk,

probably is not, but knowing these men as we do, it won't do to take any chances.

You can understand the situation better than Mr Cree because you know these men better than he. I do not want to cause Mr Cree any unnecessary alarm and hence have written him very guardedly upon these matters, but I do want you to be on the watch all the time, find out all you can and keep yourself posted.

(signed) A. J. Fountain

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Williams was on his back suffering from his wound and the grand jury refused to take his testimony about the killing of cattle by Dodd and others. Dodd was under arrest charged with killing a V cow and four witnesses were in attendance, brought at some considerable expense to myself but the grand jury refused to hear the testimony of the witnesses and returned no bill. I however succeeded in having the court hold Dodd until the next grand jury. I propose to have Dodd and the balance of the gang arrested and brought before Florencio Luna and held over for the next grand jury, which will not be packed you may rest -assured of. Fall went before the grand jury and to give them a pretence of their action, swore that he had been reliably informed that his life was in danger from the Stock Association and that they had put up money to have him killed. Of course nobody believed any such rot as that but it gave the packed jury a pretence for acting as they did. In the meantime the jury began to investigate everybody but the criminals, they indicted Williams for shooting the man he was trying to arrest at Colorado about a year ago and they devoted their attention to me. You will remember that in June of 1894 Mayor Teel of El Paso wired me to attend to a case, something about a child claimed by a woman names Rose Rome? And I copied the telegram and sent you with it to Amador. Well The scoundrels actually indicted me for forgery in sending that copied telegram to Amador, of course Judge Bantz immediately dismissed the indictment and read the grand jury a severe lecture, but they didn't care for that, they had simply indulged in a little mud throwing hoping some of it would stick. Now what I want to impress upon your mind is this: this thieving gang have made threats against Mr. Cree on account of the action he has taken in surpressing stock stealing. I have it from the inside that they have threatened to "do him up" on account of his interference with their thieving operations. This may be nothing but talk probably is not, but knowing these men as we do, it wont's do to take any chances. You can understand the situation better than Mr. Cree because you know these men better than he. I do not want to cause Mr. Cree any unnecessary alarm and hence have written him very guardedly upon these matters, but I do want you to be on the watch all the time, find out all you can and keep yourself posted.

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