

COPY

November 16th, 1909.

Private

Geo. B. Burke, Esq.,
Bankers Trust Co.,
Tacoma, Wash.

Dear Sir:-

I visited young Mr. J. D. Burke, your nephew, last week, at Valparaiso, to confirm the testimony we have from other sources to the effect that a large sum of money had been paid in your bank to Edward N. Barrill, the Darby, Montana, black-smith, who, at or about the time of such payment made an affidavit to refute Dr. Cook's statement that he had reached the summit of Mt. McKinley. Mr. Burke, quite candidly related what appeared to be a truthful account of his observations when the large bills were counted out to Barrill, and his testimony agrees with the evidence we have as to when and where Barrill spent some of these large bills immediately after his return from Tacoma. Other evidence completes our trace of the funds from the time of payment to Barrill to the present.

Other persons to whom Mr. Burke and others of your bank had stated the facts, have written us and, in the interest of justice and fair play, offered to make affidavits to what your employees have said. In some instances we had availed ourselves of these offers when the writer personally visited your nephew to corroborate these affiants.

Young Mr. Burke has been generally advised that it would be well for his future and as an evidence of courage and good character, if he made an affidavit of the facts as he knows them to be, so that Dr. Cook and the public might know who sought a square deal and who did not. I am of like opinion that the public would admire a young man, on the threshold of an independent career in business, who had the courage to tell the truth in aid of a man who is being oppressed by an organized conspiracy. Your nephew felt this to be true and manifested a desire to make such an affidavit, but his youth and inexperience naturally do not qualify him to accurately estimate the consequences of his affidavit so far as you and your bank may be concerned. He therefore said he would make the affidavit if you saw no objection thereto. I advised him to write for your views and consent and stated that I would also address you.

As counsel will advise you, your bank is, of course, not involved in the payment of Barrill. You merely paid him money at the direction of your depositor. So an affidavit from young Mr. Burke should not effect your bank in the least. The only parties in interest are the person who ordered the payment and Barrill who received it. We can get this evidence by legal process effective in Tacoma: but desire if possible to avoid all inconvenience to persons whose participation in this matter is above reproach. It would seem therefore that it will avoid much inconvenience for you, your associates and employees and for us, if young Mr. Burke, at Valparaiso, may make an affidavit of the facts mentioned. I trust that your reply to him will not deter him from doing so, for such a result might have the effect of sending us into your jurisdiction for the desired evidence.