



Fort Fairfield Me. Sept. 11th 1848

Thos. L. Chadwick Esq

Dear Sir

Since my return from St. John this summer, I learn that the authorities of Maine + Mass. have determined to grant no permits this year for mill owners in this region to get "down stuff", as I am informed has been the custom heretofore, in consequence of which the mills here will have to suspend their operations—a result alike ruinous to mill owners, + disturbing to the people here generally, as it cuts off all the business of the country, which would give laborers employment, or furnish ~~em~~ employment a market for grain the ensuing winter. The blame of all this, as I recently learn, is by common report thrown upon me. It is stated, that while in St. John, I took it upon myself to inform you that under permits for "down stuff" lumbermen here were in the habit of cutting + hauling standing trees + of committing strip + waste to the great injury of the State; that these words sank deep into your heart, that you hastened to Augusta as soon as your official duties would permit, laid this statement before the Land Committee, who thereupon, in great wrath, were

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Date: Sept. 11, 1848

Description: Letter from George A. Nourse to Thomas L. Chadwick, Commissioner on Stumpage about tree-cutting practices in the Aroostook area around the St. John River.

about to bring the matter before the Legislature, but desisted upon the Land Agent giving his word to grant no permits. Having not the remotest recollection of such a conversation with you, & knowing common report to be a notorious liar, I can but think there is some gross misapprehension in the premises, for which belief I will give the following additional reasons. Firstly I knew not until this summer that permits were granted for "down stuff" only, our own little business being carried on upon our own land granted us by the state. Secondly I have never been near enough to any logs cut under such permits to see for myself whether they were given, so as to furnish a presumption that they were cut down by those who got them, nor have I ever been told that standing trees were cut under permits for down stuff. In fact my connexion with lumbering being confined to getting lumber to market, selling it, purchasing goods, attending to the store at home &c, I am exceedingly ignorant of the practical part of lumbering & know but little of the getting of our own logs - much less of others. This being the case, I have too high an opinion of my own veracity, to believe, without stronger evidence than common report, that I could have made the statement laid to my charge. It is barely possible that being told upon inquiry that permits were granted only for down stuff, I might have remarked that they would

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hardly be likely to haul a tree until it was down, or something like that, but if I have been understood to asperse the character of Aroostook Lumbermen there must have been some misapprehension of my remarks. Will you do me the favor to write me at your earliest convenience what your course has been in the premises, how far, if at all, it has been actuated by any remarks of mine, and if so in any degree, what the remarks were, as nearly verbatim as possible, with the time, place & occasion of their utterance

I am aware that I am troubling you more than the slight acquaintance I had the pleasure forming with yourself, or my own humble station would authorize, but still it is hard for a young man, nothing but his character to depend upon, to be seen with being the means of so much injury to his district, and without the means of disproving the charge, as a negative is hard to prove, and my own utter want of recollection is no proof in the eyes of others, and I am satisfied that you will not grudge the few minutes necessary to comply with my request

Respectfully

Your ob't serv't
Geo. A. Nourse

Received Sept 28

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I am aware that I am troubling you more than the slight acquaintance I had the pleasure forming with yourself, or my own humble station would authorize, but still it is hard for a young man, nothing but his character to depend upon, to be [paper torn] with being the means of so much injury to his district, and without the means of disproving the charge, as a negative is hard to prove, and my own utter want of recollection is no proof in the eyes of others, and I am satisfied that you will not grudge the few minutes necessary to comply with my request

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Thomas L. Chadwick Esq.
Commissioner on Stumpage
Portland
Me