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Mr. Catron's Ill-Humored Cow

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*MR. CATRON'S ILL-HUMORED COW**

August 23, 09.

Mr. M. W. Mills
Springer, N.M.

Dear Mills:

I received the cow after she had been on the car 48 hours. She was evidently loose in the car, thrown about in every direction; she was not given any water sure, because after I got her and could get her quieted down so she would drink she drank 5 bucket fulls. When she reached here she was out of humor and furious. They undertook to milk her at the depot before notifying me, and after they did so the cow broke loose and they did not get her again for more than half a day. She was in a terrible condition, did not look to me like she would live; but I watered her and fed her best way possible and now she has picked up considerably, but she is still out of humor. I have her taken out every day on to the blue grass in my yard but she will not touch it. I keep a halter on her and have her fastened to a tree. She has a range of about ten yards from it all in fine blue grass, but she will not eat blue grass. She eats alfalfa and bran and other things that we give her in the stable. She gave very little milk after we received her, but now she is doing better; she is improving, but of course we are all strange to her and the place is strange. I presume after a while she will get

*Thomas Benton Catron Collection. University of New Mexico Library. Courtesy Dr. Victor Westphall.

good natured and then she will get along better and eat the blue grass and also give probably more milk. We are getting about two gallons a day from her now. I should think that she ought to give at least three gallons or more. What do you think about that?

Enclosed I send you a check on the bank here for \$75. The Railroad Company charged me \$18 for freight. The Express Co. told me they would have charged only \$15. As I did not get any benefit from the work that your men did in making the crate, that is, because the crate was not sufficient, I hardly think I ought to pay that part of the bill; had she been properly crated, so that the express company would bring her, she would have arrived here at least 30 hours sooner, in much better condition, and the cost of transportation would have been \$3 less. As I say, I do not think I ought to pay the \$5 extra there for those reasons. If, however, you think that I ought to pay it, say so freely and I will send you a check for it and have no hard feelings, but instead of my getting any benefit from the crating which you ask me to pay for, the cow was injured in my judgment at least \$5 in value by being put in the open car, loose, and thrown all over the car so that she has not yet recovered from it, either in physical condition or in her mental condition. I paid \$3 more than I would have had to pay for the transportation and have been to other expense and trouble here to look out for her owing to the terrible condition in which she arrived. She seemed to me to be on her last legs when she got here. I think she will prove satisfactory after a while when she gets good-natured and gets to giving the full amount of her milk.

I hope you will be satisfied with the \$75.

Very truly, etc.,

T. B. CATRON

Enc. 1—\$75

August 23, 1909.

A.T. & S.F. Ry. Co.,
Santa Fe, N.M.

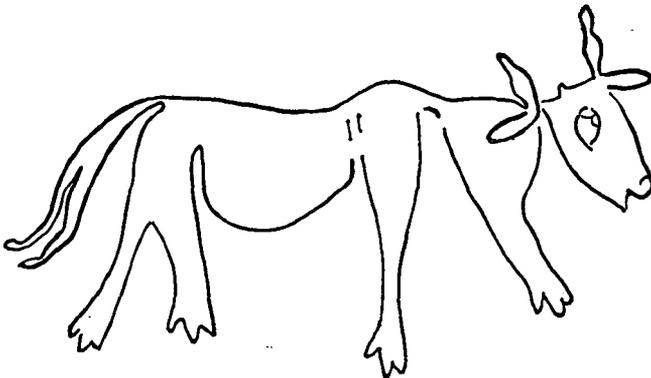
Dear Sirs:

Enclosed find check for \$18.00 for freight on a cow from Springer to Santa Fe. I protest against the amount of this bill. I think \$18 an exorbitant rate. The cow did not weight over 750 pounds, and the express company would have brought her for \$15.00 and got her here within 18 hours from the time she started, while it took your company about 48 hours or a little more to deliver her; besides she did not receive any water on the road and no other attention as far as I could learn. When she arrived here she was in a very bad condition, out of humor, almost dead. I think that bill should be cut in two. Probably you have no right to act on it, but while I pay it I pay it under protest.

Very truly, etc.,

T. B. CATRON

Enc. 1 \$18.00



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