

Colonel A. B. Campbell to Governor John Martin

Kansas adjutant general Colonel A. B. Campbell writes to Kansas governor John Martin concerning striking railroad workers. The state militia had been called into service as a result of disruption of train service and alleged threats to public safety. Campbell explains that the "statements in the telegrams of the Mayor and Sheriff are not overdrawn. The sheriff was slapped in the face and spit upon. The mob undertook to drag Kimball from the engine and but for the timely arrival of the train of passengers and mail, there would have been a furious assault." Railroad strikers refused to allow freight trains to run following information received from Texas where several striking workers had not been rehired in that state, thus violating conditions of the strike. Federal and state law prohibited interruption of passenger and mail cars leaving freight cars vulnerable during the strike.

Creator: Campbell, A. B.

Date: March 31, 1886

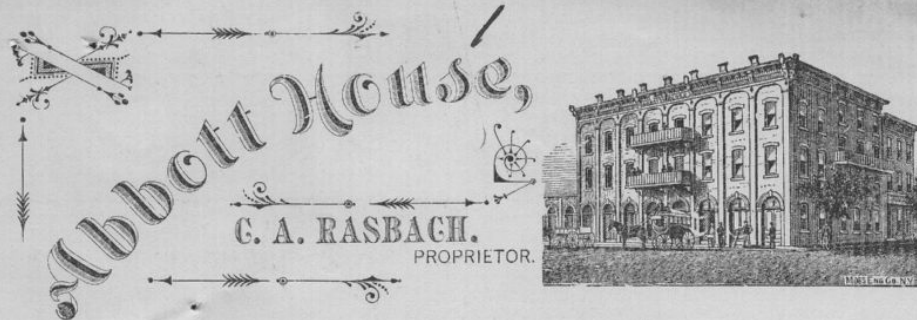
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Colonel A. B. Campbell to Governor John Martin



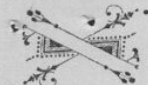

Parsons, Kansas. March 31 1886


Gov. John A. Martin
Dear Sir,

After a days ex-
-perience in Parsons I am compelled
to report to you a very bad state of
affairs here. The despotism of the
local committee of the Knights of Labor
is absolute. It could not be more
so, and their men from two to three
hundred strong under their control
are absolutely defying all authority.
The statements in the telegrams of
the Mayor & Sheriff are not overdrawn.
The Sheriff was slapped in the face
and spit upon. The mob undertook
to drag Kimball from the engine and
bet for the timely arrival of the train
of passengers & mail there would have
been a furious assault. There are
facts from at least 25 of the best

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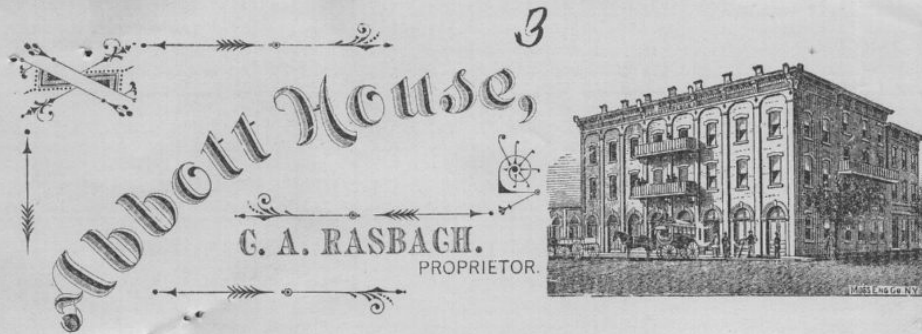
 **Abbott House,** 
C. A. RASBACH.
PROPRIETOR.



Parsons, Kansas. _____ 1888

citizens of Parsons, who called on me this morning, I went to the strikers committee and talked with them and they deny all acts of violence and seem utterly regardless of truth. They refuse to believe your telegram or to accept Irons statement without having it confirmed by another. At seven o'clock this morning before I was up the Company tried to get out a train to run down to the wreck to clear it up, and the engine was killed and badly crippled. After my talk with the strikers committee I thought they would allow trains to run and so wired you. They let one train go without hindrance but the next engine was taken possession of and killed. I was present but did not get onto the engine as I wanted it to go without

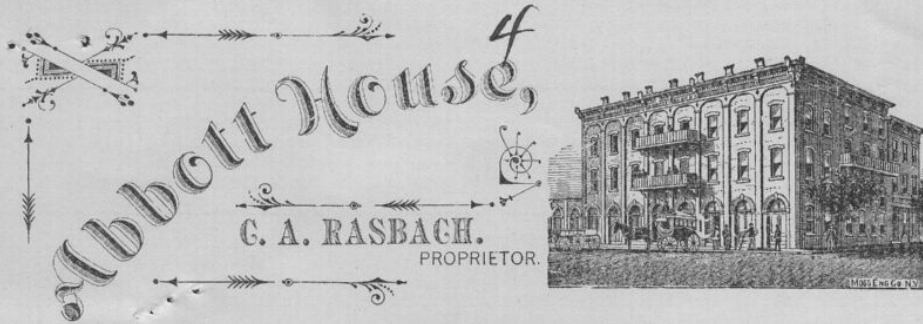
Colonel A. B. Campbell to Governor John Martin



Barrows, Kansas. 1888

appearance of force. When this was done I got upon another killed engine standing there and addressed the people and urged them for the sake of good government and peace & order to cease that kind of business and stated to them that tomorrow morning according to the Co's plan at 9 o'clock trains would move and by the authority of the state by virtue of your proclamation I warned them not to interfere in any way with trains I spoke kindly but with firmness and they seemed to take what I said in the right spirit and I still have hope that they will yield tomorrow. We had intended to make another trial at noon but at the request of the strikers gave them until tomorrow, in the hope that wiser

Colonel A. B. Campbell to Governor John Martin



Barson's, Kansas. 1888

council would prevail. But the
men see the end of the strike
approaching and think that they
will lose their places and they
are desperate. The Company cannot
move trains the civil officers and
citizens cannot help them and
God only knows what the end will
be. If they continue to defy all
law and authority I can see no
other course than the use of
military power. I fear they are de-
termined to drive us to that extremity.
I will telegraph and write to you
each day while I remain here. Please
write me -

Truly Yours,
A. B. Campbell

Colonel A. B. Campbell to Governor John Martin

Adj. Gen.

R. H. Starnes *Lab*

No. *531* Book *7* Page *221*

From *A. B. Campbell,*

Place *Parsons,*

Date *March 31*

Rec'd *April 1.*

Ans'd

ABSTRACT.

*Violence at
Parsons. Military
necessary.*

1892