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July 29, 1913.

United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C. Gentlemen:

In response to your inquiry of July 28th, File A, with reference to the application of Mr. Edward T. Gray for the position of Senior Civil Engineer in the Interstate Commerce Commission, I beg to advise:

Mr. Gray has been employed by the Cambria Steel Company since May 1905, the first four years as Civil Engineer doing the ordinary routine work. In 1909 he was made Field Engineer, his duties consisting of the location and construction of a more or less intricate system of works tracks, and in the location, supervision of construction and inspection of works additions in the way of buildings, mills, furnaces, machinery, etc. In general, he acts as the field representative of the Engineering Department, overlooking the construction of any improvements or additions to the works.

In his intercourse with the works superintendents he has shown tact and diplomacy without affecting his ability to get the work done in the way he desired. His field force has consisted of from ten to twenty-two inspectors, instrument men, etc., depending on the amount of work on hand, which force he has always been able to handle to very good advantage.

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I have personal knowledge of the value of Mr. Gray's services, having been Chief Engineer for this Company until last August at which time I entered the Executive Department of the Company. We consider Mr. Gray to be a very good man and shall be sorry to see him leave the employ of this Company, unless, of course, the position he may obtain will be better for him, both financially and in the way of prospective advancement, in which case we shall interpose no obstacle to his going.

Very truly yours. Socher

JWG/G.