

San Antonio, Texas,  
February 4th, 1922

Dear Harral:-

Yours of the 2nd; Colonel Crecelius' report on Ft. Bend County was \$30000 per mile for concrete and \$16,500 for Uvalde Rock ~~and~~ *ov* Pithulithic.

The connection between here and Jim Wells County is still in the air. I am to have a conference Monday afternoon at 2:30 at Jourdanton with Judge Beurmaster and others with reference to the Tilden route. I have been holding off, giving Judge Beurmaster time to work out a plan whereby he could get Senator Parr to join. He is not altogether satisfied at the present time but hopes to have something more definite by Monday.

As to Baird's work here in San Antonio, I will say that this town has taken quite a decided step backward since you left here. It seems like the first of the year completely changed up everything. Men that you would think had ample money for their actual needs just come out flat-footed and say that they haven't a dollar for their own affairs much less other projects. Even Colonel Pryor said he simply couldn't pay a dollar at present, we would have to give him a little time on ~~us~~ *us*. A number of other "supposed-to-be well-to-do" men are in the same condition. Of course, I was afraid of this all the time because I knew the first of the year would bring about a more economic condition on account of tax-paying and other things and January always is a hard month in this county to secure money for anything. And for that reason Dr. Johnston and myself think we had better hold down our expenses trying to help Baird to get in enough to pay salaries and ease up some of the more urgent bills, and a little later on start our campaign for the border proposition and the Houston and Valley connection.

Mr. McDonald, Chief Director of the Office of Public Roads, wired the other day that on account of illness he wouldn't be able to make the trip south at this time, so the big entertainment that was to have taken place in San Antonio has been called off as the other men will not be here either.

Colonel Crecelius was offered the place of division engineer at San Antonio but he has three good jobs in sight and has asked them to hold the proposition open for him until some time next week. I certainly hope he will accept it.

I succeeded in getting the Jim Wells County proposition lined up I think to the entire satisfaction of those people down there; see copies of letters herewith enclosed which are self-explanatory. We expect the Jim Wells court to employ an engineer Monday at their regular meeting and advertise their bonds for sale, and get busy with their work at once. I hope they won't be disappointed.

The Highway Department cancelled \$70,000 aid in Nueces County and will give this to Jim Wells County at their next meeting. I claim this is handing it to those fellows about right. If Karnes County don't look out I may get a small portion of their's cancelled, too,