

TERMINAL  
SEATTLE, WASH.  
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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## ALASKAN ENGINEERING COMMISSION

PURCHASING DIVISION

SEATTLE, WASH.

June 2, 1922

IN REPLY REFER TO

Colonel F. Mears, Chairman,  
Alaskan Engineering Commission,  
Anchorage, Alaska.



My dear Colonel Mears:

Referring to the enclosed copy of cablegram:

I think you will be pleased with the small business car, which we forwarded on the SS "Iatouche". Before the purchase was made, I made a more thorough examination of the car than previously and found the equipment to be most complete. It has apparently a full set of dishes and china, the cooking utensils are of high grade, many of them being aluminum, and there is a good supply of silver plated ware, knives, forks, spoons, etc., being included. The car is carpeted and the beds and bunks provided with mattresses (most of them I believe are hair) and excellent woolen blankets. The linen for the dining room and the bedding is apparently more than sufficient for any ordinary use, and some can possibly be spared for use in one of the sleepers.

In addition to the dining room furniture and chairs in the observation room, there are, I believe, one or more extra tables for use between the berths, which could be used in a sleeper, and the ladders, steps and other similar articles may possibly be of service to Mr. Ferrell as patterns for making this equipment for the sleepers. The car has two tail lamps, some lanterns, a few tools, and we noticed one spare brass bearing, and there may be more tools in the tool box under the car.

The company had two pair of spare wheels on axles for this car, one pair being new solid steel and the other steel tired wheels in good condition, which I purchased for \$175.00. (The last 36-in. steel wheels purchased cost us \$69.00, each, unmounted.)

The equipment of the car I believe is worth fully \$1,000.00 to \$1,200.00. The private car offered us in Denver, which you remember was sold before we decided to purchase, was priced at \$5,000.00, and probably was without equipment. The car offered us by the Great Northern, priced at \$5,000.00, was to have no equipment of any kind, not even a kitchen range. I feel that the car shipped was fully equal to either of those offered us at double the cost, and that it is probably as well or better adapted to your needs as any car that could be obtained

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at a reasonable price.

I am sure after Mr. Ferrell has it cleaned and put in good condition it will give you most excellent service.

We only had possession of the car one day before it was shipped, and I was unable to make a complete inventory of the contents, or have it cleaned up as well as I would have liked; there was only time to have the dishes and other things that might break packed.

I am enclosing letter of May 31st from the Pacific Coast Railroad Company, asking consideration of their combination mail and baggage car. Their letter of April 8th was forwarded to you by memorandum of April 12th.

Very truly yours,

*C. E. Dole*  
General Purchasing Agent.

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