

July 1, 1917
Coahoma, TX

Mr. Frank Gotham
Chamal, Mex

Dear Sir and Friend Yours of the 21stwas glad to hear from you. It was the first I had heard since I left there. Frank use your own judgment if you want to leave handle my property just like you would your own. The mules & horses that are there - dispose of them just like they were yoursto leavethem there for they

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will sure be gone if you don't leave. Use your own judgment about the things on my place. Frank, I am yet weak & puny, don't know that I will ever be able to return to Mexico. Will be there this fall if I am able to go. Frank, if you can do any thing to save sire for me be sure and do so and I assure you it will be appreciated very much. Take pay for your trouble for time out of any thing on the place you can get the money out of.

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Frank, if you don't leave keep the place, but if you do go and can have the wire rolled up and moved to Joneses or any where in your judgment it will be safe at Joneses. Tell the Mexican I will pay him for seeing after the wire I have some wire already there Now Frank, I am making these suggestions but will say above all this be sure and

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use your on judgment in every thing. You know conditions better than I do and what ever you do will be in every way all right with me. I am very sorry to hear of Mr. Pilgrim's death but you know we told him the was he got along with the Mex. The way he did could expect nothing better. I hate to hear of things being in such bad shape down there, but that is something over which we have no control. There is nothing left

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for us but to bow to the inevitable. Frank, I heard nothing from Ben since Feb. Write me again as soon as possible. I think I will stay here until fall. If you can hear let me know if Ben is yet alive.

Frank, keep you gun at hand and your powder dry.

I am as ever you friend, FMB McElroy