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Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Willard Straight, November 23, 1914

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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Caracas, Venezuela, November 23, 1914.

Dear Willard:

I have just sent you through Reuben Clark a cablegram reading as follows:

Page eight line nine after perhaps insert. Quote. To currency reform and. End quote. Page six line six change ten to twenty. Period. Two remaining articles mailed today.

Herewith I enclose an article on "The Effects of the War on our Latin-American Relations", covering the economic side and containing about 2400 words, and a second article under the same heading with a few suggestive thoughts and a moral, dealing with the political side. The second article contains about 12 or 1300 words. These, if they suit you, will form, with the one on the Colombian treaty, a series of three, which is all I can find time to do now. If they do not suit you for prompt publication, please communicate fully with Reuben Clark, to whom I am writing about placing them elsewhere in such case.

From my telegram confirmed at the top of this letter you will see I made a slip in the amount paid for the Philippines. I wanted this corrected and also to include currency reform as a suitable object for Colombia's expenditure if the treaty is ratified.

In Barranquilla I had a long talk with Wisner. He told me he had written you about the possibility of a group of Americans buying a controlling interest in the Banco Comercial, I think it is called, at Bogota. That bank, I believe, owns a controlling interest in the Ferrocarril del Pacifico. I believe that railway has ambitious projects of extension north, south, and east from Cali. If all this be so, majority ownership of the

bank might open great opportunities for pushing American engineering plans, railway materials, etc., etc. Moreover, if the bank is now making, as I suppose, something like 15%, and if just the right American manager could be found for it, it seems to me it would be well worth buying and should be looked into carefully.

When you feel like dropping me a line, you would better send it in the legation pouch to San Jose, Costa Rica, to await arrival.

Yours very sincerely,

Willard Straight, Esquire,

Care of J. P. Morgan & Co.,

New York, N. Y.