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August 1st, 1917.

Mr. J. E. Ingraham,  
P r e s i d e n t,  
St. Augustine, Fla.

Dear Mr. Ingraham:

I have your letter of July 30th and return herewith letter from Mr. Cooper. I am sorry that I am able to give you but little information in regard to this matter, as this office had nothing whatever to do with the sale to Messrs. Badenoch and Whelan and knew nothing about it until after it was reported made in the newspapers. I remarked to Mr. Powers shortly after the report came out that I hoped the report was true as no doubt it would give him a nice commission, and he replied that he was afraid there wouldn't be very much coming to him after he had divided up with a number of others who were interested in the sale, but he did not state to me who these interested parties were and I have never heard further than I have had the impression ( and I hardly know now how I got it) that Mr. Butterworth was the principal promoter.

I have met Mr. Cooper and have know him in a casual way for the past two years, but have never had any business dealings with him. After making some further inquiry since receipt of your letter, my impression is that he is rather a "wild" sort of a young fellow, who, when he has money spends

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it as though he was a millionaire as long as it lasts; that he drinks to excess at times to the detriment of his business and neglect of his family; that he and his wife separated some months ago, but I hear today that they have become reconciled before he leaves for the war zone. However I have not found anyone who thinks that Mr. Cooper would be dishonest intentionally. I understand that he and Mr. Hare dissolved partnership sometime ago. Previous to this he was associated with Mr. Phillips under the firm name of Phillips & Cooper but the firm was dissolved on account of some misunderstandings.

As to Mr. Powers, I personally do not know of any dishonest dealings on his part whatever, however, as you state there have been a good many complaints of his methods, etc. Mr. Powers has not been well for the past two years or more, and in fact has been in a serious condition during the past few months, and on account of his admirable wife and two lovely children I would regret to see any calamity befall him. Of course I have not seen Mr. Powers about this matter and cannot give you his side of the story, and am unable to make very much of an investigation on such short notice without letting the motive be known, but if you desire anything further from me in the matter I shall, of course, be pleased to pursue it.

Yours very truly,