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Letter from Sarles, ND Village Marshal Phillebaum to Langer Regarding Hiram Stepp Flight Risk, February 24, 1919

A. Phillebaum

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Best People
..On Earth..

Sarles Village

Best School
In The State

Sarles North Dakota February 24 1919.

Mr. Wm Langer,
Bismark,
North Dakota.
Dear Sir:

Mr. [redacted] and I went down to Langdon last week and hired Attorney E.E. Fletcher to get at the bottom of how that case had been settled and we found that Stepp had never been tried at all, so we went right ahead and had the girl come down and sign a new complaint so that we could get the case started and we are expecting the Sheriff over to-night or to-morrow to make service.

In the meantime we are keeping close tab on Stepp as he is ready to travel and expects to move any time.

If he should try to get out before the Sheriff comes up I intend to detain him by force if necessary in case I am able to see him in the act of leaving.

If he should be able to get away temporarily we shall do everything in our power to get him.

Mr. Fletcher does not think that he has had sufficient experience to warrant him to try to steer this case through so if you are able to either come up yourself or else send us a man that is fully competent we would appreciate it very much.

We should know in a short time now what we will expect to go up against as we hope the papers will be served by the Sheriff here to-morrow sometime.

Since I got back from Langdon I learned that Hiram Stepp was ready to leave almost any time so I phoned over to Fletcher and told him to get the Sheriff up here just as soon as possible.

Trusting my action will meet with your entire approval and assuring you that I am in on this with both feet till Justice has full sway I beg to remain

Sincerely Yours,

Abraham Phillebaum

Village Marshal