

San Antonio, Texas
February 14, 1946.

Duell, Sloan & Pearce, Inc.,
270 Madison Ave.,
New York City.

Gentlemen:-

Here is the material for "Follow the Rio Grande" as far as it has been gathered to date. You will recall that I was very doubtful regarding our deadline of April 1st when the project was begun. I have worked hard and continuously, but the factors of delay are many. First, and most important is the fact that this is turning out to be a Year of unprecedented drought- the lowest water level since the measure has been taken. The snowfall of last winter was the lightest on record, and this year it is the same, so far. It is causing grave concern among the farmers in all this western region. You have doubtless read of real dust storms again occurring as in 1935-38. Second- the territory to be covered on the entire undertaking is far beyond my own realization, and beyond the possibility of coverage in any adequate way in this length of time. First beginning in war time with limited and insufficient gasoline, next with the tire situation and an old car. So far, I have gotten by, but it has taken care and slower going than would have been the case were my equipment normal. I have a new car ordered but when I will get, is still an unknown date. Third, the necessity for seasonal pictures to give an adequate picture of the whole river. The proper "Source" pictures are snow pictures, and I foresee now the probability of having to make the long trip from Texas to the Colorado mountains to get these if and when the snow comes. It did not seem possible that I could fail to get these by now, but there still is so little snow on the water shed that the getting of these pictures has not been possible.

I wish that more text were in shape to send in to you. A great deal is still in very rough draft only. Getting the prints done came first, and I have done all that I have had the time to do so far. The necessary research has taken much time, and will take still more, though I work on it in all spare moments. It is my hope that the quality of the work accomplished to-gether with the general plan and idea of the book will make it possible to extend the time for its successful conclusion.

Many people have spoken to me of their satisfaction with one point in my "Pueblo" book- that of having the text with the picture, avoiding the necessity of turning forward or back to find the accompanying text. I have always felt it desirable to design picture and text to-gether as a unit, and for this reason I shall want to re-write much to fit the given space when the final selection of pictures is made. None of this is final. The text needs work, many prints are not satisfactory for reproduction. Here I have been handicapped by the photographic paper situation. I hope the whole final series will tell the story, and that

the text will embellish and give the necessary historical

background. I have written many temporary captions for your benefit only so that you will carry the sequence.

I shall anxiously await your comments and suggestions, and I want to know just how the whole strikes you as far as it has gone. I realize that I have set my sights high. I want this book first to be a fine job of photography--each separate picture,--second to reveal the character of landscape, of river, and of people. Third, to create a united whole with interest that will hold throughout.

I shall soon begin on the "Border" section of the book. Just what lies ahead for me, I do not know, but as this is all ~~unknown~~ ^{unexplored} territory the difficulties may be great or small. But before I begin this section, I am taking two weeks in Yucatan, flying down, to secure the negatives for the Chichen Itza book for Hastings House, which I had underway before I first saw you about the Rio Grande. If I felt that this would interfere or delay the Rio Grande book, I should not be doing this, but as I shall only get my negatives now, then get back on the Rio Grande and stay with it until it is finished, I cannot see that it can in any way delay my project with you. My dead line on this for Mr. Freese is next November and I have already most of the material done some years ago, and I need only time enough to complete the series. Just as soon as I get back, I shall go to the mouth of the river and work up stream. I shall be in the citrus fruit belt at blossom time. Since arriving here yesterday, I find many difficulties that lie ahead, the problem of finding any place to stay, the difficulty of Gasoline in Old Mexico, and lack of accommodations everywhere, but I trust that these problems will resolve themselves as they arise.

After your careful consideration I hope you will express yourselves freely as I welcome suggestions and criticism. My desire is to make this an outstanding book that we will all be proud of, and you may see quickly some weakness from a distance that I am overlooking at close range.

I give you herewith addresses when I can be reached in the next few weeks, and I hope to hear from you while I am in Yucatan.

Most sincerely yours,

from Feb. 20th to
March 8th.
% Barbachano Travel
Service, Box 90.
Merida, Yucatan
Mexico.

Permanent address
from which mail will
be forwarded.
P.O. Box 443, Colo.
Springs, Colorado