

*United States Circuit Court of Appeals,*

EIGHTH CIRCUIT.

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 1, 1911.

My dear Judge:-

I have just read with interest your opinion in *Southern Railway Company v. United States*. I want to congratulate you on the conciseness and conclusiveness of it. If one follows you, as of course they must in reading the opinion, there can be no doubt of the proper conclusion reached in the case. If all of your opinions are of this style and worth you will soon achieve what I have always said you would ultimately, great renown on that bench. I am plodding along much the same old way trying to work up the grist I got at Cheyenne. I do not know of a three weeks trip that on the whole was more pleasurable to me than my trip to Cheyenne and back. The people, all the people, and especially you and Mrs. Van Devanter were so extremely kind and considerate that it was a constant pleasure to be there. If the Judges who hold the next September term of court know their business they will go to Cheyenne. I am awaiting the announcement of the opinion of your court on the constitutionality of the Employers' Liability Act of 1908 before I hand down a certain opinion which I have written. If it would not be too much trouble for you I will thank you to send me as soon after that opinion is handed down as you conveniently can, a copy of it, of the character of that which you sent me of

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the Southern Railway Company case. Please give my warmest regards to Mrs. Van Devanter and thank her again for her many kindnesses. Mrs. Adams is busy as usual getting the house in order and getting ready for the winter. I know she would join in best wishes and kindest regards for you both if she were here.

Most sincerely yours,

Elmer B. Adams

To Honorable Willis Van Devanter,  
Justice United States Supreme Court,  
Washington, D.C.