

House of Representatives U. S.,

Washington, D. C.

Jan. 11 '95.

Hon. Albion W. Tourgie

Mayville N.Y.

My Dear Sir:-

Your esteemed favor in regard to H.R. Bill 7756 is at hand. Enclosed I hand you a copy of the bill. It is now being considered before a Sub-Committee of the Labor Committee. The Chairman thought that it would be well for me to note some points in favor of the bill which might be of use in the making of a report. I enclose you a copy of these points, together with a clipping containing a brief interview from me upon the bill. If you have time to glance these over I am persuaded that ^{you} will see that we do not differ very widely as to methods which should be employed to recommend the needed legislation.

You will observe that I assume that most of the facts are at hand, (as shown by notes enclosed), which you provide for collecting. I would submit these facts to a Commission of twenty-one members of the character described. You would submit them to one, ^{and} "associated with him two or three of the best minds that can be secured."

After looking over the whole field I felt that seven from each class named was not too large a number to consider the vast and varied interests. If the laborers and farmers should have equal part in enacting laws they would abide by them and business men would observe them, if the laws did not work as satisfactorily as anticipated. The laborers, for instance, would not resort to strikes and violence but would seek to amend them by legal processes. But if the three or four men you suggest should recommend the same code of laws they

House of Representatives U. S.,

Washington, D. C.

would not feel the same responsibility or take the same interest in them that that they would in their own creation. We must not forget that this is a self-government and ~~on~~ people would not submit to any laws dictated, however just they might be, and my fear would be that your plan would not be sufficiently representative of all the people.

My own idea is that such a commission as proposed will have to be made permanent. The reorganization of society cannot be worked out in two years, but if faithful work is done along the lines suggested it is my judgment that in the course of 20 or 25 years we might begin to approach perfection.

The reforms must be in accordance with Christian teaching; the positive of the new, and not the negative of the old. The golden rule will be the chief article in the constitution of future government.

You did not need to enclose a card of identification. While I never have had the pleasure of meeting you, your works of faith and labors of love have been known and appreciated by me for years. I am glad, however, that you did enclose it as I have ordered your book, "Murvale Eastman" which is so timely called to my attention.

Thanking you for your letter, I am

Very truly yours

J. M. Phillips