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Harris J. Chilton Esq.

Dear Sir: Your letter with enclosure is recd. for which please accept my thanks. I had already a copy of your project of law to render voting compulsory, the features of which merit my hearty approval. It seems to me very simple and practicable; but it is not at all probable that either of us will live to see its adoption.

As to the idea, I do not suppose it is either yours or mine. Seventy years ago, ~~last winter~~ ^{compulsory election} the last winter I tried to have a ~~similar~~ law passed by the Legislature of North Carolina. There would be little difficulty about it there as they have a general registration. In this state, however, there is no registration of voters except in towns and cities of over 5,000 inhabitants. I was unsuccessful in my effort though I think the measure which was offered as an amendment to a general election law, ~~was~~ passed the Senate. I have no doubt it would have caused a good deal of trouble if it had become thoroughly

established there. I am quite positive the idea was
not original with me, though whence I derived it
I cannot say.

In my opinion the only hope for its adoption is
that it may be taken up by some of the North-
western states. There is so general a performance
of this political duty in these states, however,
that I do not know as the need of it is
urgent enough to compell any specific
action.

With many thanks for your kind favor
I remain
Yours very truly