



*State of Minnesota,
Executive Department
St. Paul,*

To His Excellency,

The Governor of

Dear Sir:—

I have the honor to submit to you the enclosed copy of a Joint Resolution of the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, in reference to a proposed Inter-State Conference touching wide-spread evils resulting from the unlawful combination or combinations, whereby the owners of coal lands, acting in conjunction with certain railroad corporations, have put up the price of coal, precluded competition, monopolized the markets and inflicted great injuries upon the consumers of this article, either for domestic use or manufacturing purposes. These evils have reached such proportions that no one State is able successfully to grapple with them; and the State of Minnesota and, I may say, its whole people are earnestly in favor of such a meeting of delegates at some central and convenient point, to consider the whole subject and suggest remedial measures to the Legislatures of the respective States and to the Congress of the United States.

I would therefore respectfully urge the matter upon your attention, and earnestly request that you will, as soon as convenient, designate ten commissioners from and on behalf of your State, to meet with the ten commissioners of Minnesota on the first Monday of June next, at such place as may be mutually satisfactory to the Governors of the different States. While our people will feel honored if the Capitol of this State should be agreed upon,-- and the question of climate and temperature at that time of the year is worth considering,--nevertheless, any other point will be satisfactory to me and the Commissioners of this State.



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If you do not feel at liberty, for any cause, to appoint ten commissioners a smaller number might represent your State and cast an equal vote with the rest. In case you do not think you have the power to make any such appointments, I have no doubt the Conference would be most happy to have you attend, in person, on behalf of your State. It has been suggested that if there are any objections to St. Paul, the Conference might be held at Chicago, as many citizens of your State will doubtless desire to be present at that time at the World's Fair, and you will therefore have no trouble in obtaining, if necessary, the voluntary service of delegates satisfactory to you.

There can be no doubt that if a Conference of four hundred and forty delegates assembled for the purpose herein proposed, representing all the States of the Union, its deliberations and conclusions will attract the attention of the whole World, and it will do a great deal to break down the gigantic coal combination which is now bringing suffering to a million firesides in our land; besides arousing a concerted public sentiment upon all other trusts and rings which oppress the people.

I sincerely trust that in such a great Inter-state Conference your State will be represented by some of your best, most prominent and most honorable citizens.

I beg leave to subscribe myself,

Yours very respectfully,

Governor of Minnesota.