

Greenville, Jan: 30th 1891.

My dear Mr. Can

Yours of the 28th came to hand last night and in reply thank you & wish to speak and I am going to speak with the utmost frankness and sincerity.

I was firm in my conviction that I had no special fitness for the Presidency of the A. M. Coyle and it was on that account that I declined to go into the work. I believe I was right in the course I took.

I know I am the steadfast friend of the farmer and I am in accord with their efforts for a higher and better life and for better legislation which they are demanding through their great organization - The Alliance. I will not say that I endorse all the schemes put forth by some of the thoughtless members of the order but I will say I stand with them in their great undertaking and I am ready to help them work them out. I have been active in the Rail Road Commission, I have been told now that I do not desire a position and I have never said that I have some fitness for the position of the Governor of the State who are

going to be held responsible for the business
ask me to accept a position on it & it is
different to what I did when they asked
Charge of their business. If I know myself I
grateful to the people of my state for what they
have done for me and I would not feel at liberty
to decline to serve them if called to a position
in which I felt I had capacity for that kind of
work. I believe the members of a Rail Road Com-
mission would be glad to see the Commission made
up of unfit and incompetent men for nothing
would give them more pleasure than to see the
Commission a failure so they might point to it
and say "I told you so." The friends of the Commis-
sion must not take any chance on this line.
It is absolutely imperative that it start out in
life under the care of first class men. The brunt of
the fight with the Rail Roads will fall upon the first
Commission and this ought to be composed of able
men who have both the ability and the will to
force the law in justice and equity.
I would say there ought to be
The first Commission and
of the lawyer I would
Mr. Cook of Indiana
berland. These are

I do not mean to say there not other just as good but
these two names occur to me as I write.

The Alliance count upon the people de-
manding a Rail Road Commission and the people
joined them in the demand. The passage of the law
and the creation of the Commission will be their work
and the organization will be held responsible for
it. If it shall be a success the Alliance will
get the credit. If it shall be a failure the Al-
liance will get the cursing for it. If I were a
member of the Alliance and in a position to be
held responsible for its acts I would be in favor
of calling the Alliance members of the General As-
sembly together and selecting three first class
men for the Commission and then nominating
them in the Democratic Caucus and then let the
members take the responsibility of declining.
I would not care if not one of the men
belonged to the order so that I knew
the first class men. I believe such an
unpolitical course as that would go far
to winning the confidence of all the people of the State

If it should turn out that I was chosen
I would not feel at liberty to decline and doubt if other
would.

Now the sum and substance of this letter is so far
as I am concerned is this: I do not desire a place on the
Commission and I prefer not to be called upon to take
a place but if the friends of the Commission of their
own accord call upon me to undertake the work
I will not refuse them. I have all along had it in
my mind that I would not be an advocate of a Com-
mission and advise the farmers to undertake it and
then refuse to help them if they desired my help. But
I have also desired that the call to the work should
come from them. If I desired a place on the Com-
mission I would not hesitate to say so. but as I do
not I have said so.

Now my dear Mr. Carr I have turned myself
inside to you and have kept nothing back on the matter
in correspondence but I beg that what I have said as to my
action in the event I should be chosen one of the Com-
mission should not be used to bring about the re-
sult.

With high regard and

I am sincerely
Yours

Wm. J. F.