

Middleton N. C.  
 March 28<sup>th</sup> / 893.

Gov. Elias Carr

My Dear Sir

I was appointed  
 Chief Shell Fish Commissioner by Gov. Carr two  
 years ago. I was appointed for two years from the 21<sup>st</sup>  
 of April 1891 to April 21<sup>st</sup> / 1893. My appointment  
 will expire on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April / 1893. Through the law of  
 1891 forming the Shell Fish Commission says that  
 the first Shell Fish Com. appointed under  
 act shall hold his office until the 30<sup>th</sup>  
 of April. I simply call your attention to it. You  
 have so many things to attend to that I  
 looked over. I would feel very highly honored  
 if you would give me the appointment again for the  
 next two years. I have tried to do my full duty though  
 I have been spoken of very harshly by some people but  
 I can truthfully say that such treatment has come  
 only from those who have tried to get possession of  
 large areas of the States public oyster grounds and  
 I have prevented them from doing so. I can send you  
 petitions signed by 99 oyster men out of every 100 in  
 the four Counties of Currituck, Pamlico, Hert & Dare  
 asking my reappointment. And the above four Counties  
 just about compose the entire district that comes  
 under the law of 1891. I would not have you do (if I were  
 in my power) anything that would in any way embarrass

Your administration, and if you think it best not  
to reappoint me, I assure you I shall not think at all  
hard of you. For I should know that you did it for what  
you thought was for the best interest of the State. I have  
been all day of asking the last Legislature to increase  
my salary from 1,200 to 1,400 because I would not have the  
Office vacant. I would not want the Com: who succeeded  
me, to get enough to justify a good man in accepting it.  
Under the circumstances I thought 1,200 per year was too  
low, and being such to be the case, I so stated in  
my "Address". I will accept the place as quiet  
and as I was in 1,200. I feel very  
satisfied especially in our poor opticians who  
rely entirely for support for themselves and  
their families from fishing and oystering, and Gov: they  
need and need protection. I have been all through the  
optical sections of Virginia and Maryland since I  
have held my present position, and the poorest most  
distressed people I ever saw, are the opticians of  
Virginia and Maryland. Our opticians are far above  
them in every respect. I hope you may visit the optical  
grounds of the above named States while you are here.  
You will see great wealth in these optical sections, but  
it is in the hands of large corporations, and the opticians  
are nothing more than slaves, in the employ of said large  
syndicates. Our opticians are good, honest upright  
honorable men, and generally true democrats. I must  
close for my Associate Com: Capt Adam Harris

I do hope you will reappointhim. I tell you Governor he  
is the best man I know of in N.C. for the place and I  
refer you to every good reliable Citizen of Washington  
N.C. he is a high toned, upright Christian gentleman  
I have noticed him in myself and  
associated together. I have also  
been a man in every way. Now by all the  
any one. he has done his full duty as  
Governor. You must excuse me. In  
the best of the circumstances  
much shall wish but wishes for your  
every success. I am with my great respect.

Yours Obediently,  
W. H. Lewis

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I shall first Com.