

Private

Chapel Hill, N.C.

June 22/97

Mr. Elias Cross.

My dear Sir,

Mr Caspenter is a very good man. I know nothing of his teaching ^{experience} ~~power~~, but believe what he says, because he says it, but I cannot vouch for it. He has ability, ^{integrity} ~~honesty~~ energy and acquirement necessary. Many thanks for your kind word about Harbest. We all think that it is best as it is - best to get out of an office which is made political. To be under Rossell and Chamberlain would be intolerable.

I am amused at

2
The stupidity of our Dem. editors. Read Prof. Arby's letter in the News & O. of the 18th. He shows, what I have seen all along, that the state analyses of fertilizers are now virtually controlled by a man at the head of a fertilizer establishment - Chamberlain. Being in the Ex-Cor. he has great power - has the Governor's ear. He can turn off any assistant chemist who does not give him the ~~right~~ sort of an analysis. He wishes the Dem. papers ought to be full of this in all their issues until the people understand it. Wouldn't it be a good thing for you as an ex-head of the Alliance,

To come out in a letter warning the farmers of the danger they are in? Who knows but

that Chamberlain is put forward by a Fertilizer Trust, in order

to give them control of the State Chemists. If he is not, then his company having control is an outrage on the other companies as well as on the farmers.

You have a good opportunity to do a grand favor to the farmers of the state. It would give you a wide and deserved popularity to write a note of warning. Has it ever heard of in the business world

to put those to be watched over the watchers? A Fertilizing manufacturer over the State Chemists, whose business is to control that mix!

It is admitted that Chamberlain watched the whole scheme. Read Prof. Soby's letter. Turn out a tried North Carolina Director and place the Fertilizing Control under Fertilizer Mix's control! It is monstrous.

Please regard this letter as confidential. Don't mention that I wrote you. lest prejudice should come to N. C.

Truly Yrs

Kemp T. Battle