

[To: Elias Carr, Raleigh, N.C.]

W. S. FORBES, PRESIDENT.

L. W. SANDERS, VICE-PRESIDENT.

JNO. W. ARRINGTON, TREAS'R AND AGENT.

EDNA COTTON MILLS.

ALL AGREEMENTS ARE CONTINGENT UPON FIRES, STRIKES,
OR OTHER DELAYS UNAVOIDABLE OR BEYOND OUR CONTROL.

REIDSVILLE, N. C., Feb. 8th, 1896.

To His Excellency,

Elias Carr, Governor of N. C.

Dear Sir:-

A copy of the last report of the Commissioner of Labor of this state has recently come into my hands. The little I have read of it seems to me to ^{have} ~~undertake~~ a decided leaning to the interests of the operatives rather than that of the manufacturers. As I am a new comer to this state, so far as business is concerned, though, as you know I am a native of old Warrenton, and knowing that you are directly or indirectly interested in cotton manufacturing ^{and} ~~and~~ beg to ask for some information in regard to this branch of the state government. Do you agree with me that the continuance of this Bureau is calculated to bring on labor legislation more rapidly than would be the case if it were abolished? I have talked some with New England friends in the same line, who tell me that their troubles in this respect started in just the same way from the organization of such a Bureau, which was supposed to be at the time more in the interest of the manufacturer than that of the operative. Do you know whether or not there is any organization among the manufacturers of the state with the purpose of combatting unwise legislation in matters of this kind. It seems to me that the absence of it up to this time is the strongest point in favor of this state as one of much manufacturing, and I think ^{it} ~~this~~ growth in this particular line of ours would be suddenly checked by the passage of any thing detrimental to it. I saw recently a news paper article setting forth the fact that some large labor organization in the North had appropriated money for missionary work among the Textile workers of the South.

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Having come from a state that is put practically on the same footing as New England by a 10 hour labor law, and having seen on account of it the difficulty of competing with states more favored in this respect, I probably feel more strongly on the subject than others, who have had no such experience. Is the effort to get through something of this kind made at every session of the legislature or is it only occasional, and from what section of the state does it usually come? As the next session of the legislature is a long time off, you may think I am borrowing trouble to a considerable extent but I write now as it occurs to me at this time and I would like such information as you could give me.

With kind personal regards to yourself and family, I am

Yours very truly,

John W. Huntington
Treas. & Agent.