

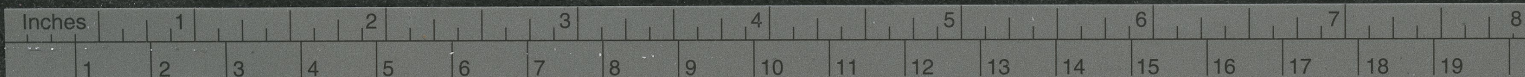
My Post Office will be
Pulla, Transylvania Co.
N.C. during the time I will
be at work up here. It
would afford me great
pleasure to hear from
you & your family.
Of course this is
a personal letter,
but you are at
liberty to use it
as you please.
Yours
W. H. H.

Balsam Grove Transylvania Co. N.C. Sept 14-93

Dear Elias

If you have not determined on whom you will appoint as Shell Fish Commissioner, I will recommend John D. Battle, provided he is eligible, of which I have doubts. From my recollection of the law it requires the appointment to be given to a person living on the coast, or what is usually spoken of as the coast, on the sounds or rivers adjacent to the oyster grounds. However you can ascertain that fact in a few minutes.

I understand John has quit drinking. He is popular in that section to my own knowledge, & I think would be acceptable to the two factions now existing as to the oyster industry. I am writing to you as a friend & a true one; I think the reappointment of Lucas would be a grave error in all respects. He & I are good personal friends ^{have been} for many years, but there is no question that he has completely destroyed the oyster culture intended by the first laws on that subject, & for which ^{and} the surveys of Lieut Winslow were made. I know from personal observation that his surveys were made with care, with good sense, & as full as could be made in the time allotted him. If he left out any natural beds it would be very difficult to find them. Whenever you push Lucas, or his assistant to indicate beds that are left out of Winslow's surveys, they reply that the entire oyster bearings



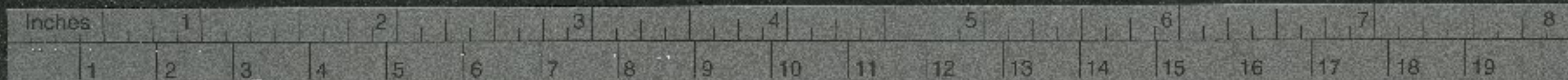
My best office will be
Bella. Transylvania Co.
I'm, during the time I'll
be at work up here. It
would afford me great
pleasure to bid you
your family.
Of course this is
a personal letter,
but you are at-
liberal to use it
as you please.
Yours
Wm. H.

Balsam Grove Transylvania Co. N.C. Sept 14-73

Dear Elias

If you have not determined on whom you will appoint as Shell Fish Commissioner, I will recommend John D. Battle, provided he is eligible, of which I have doubts. From my recollection of the law it requires the appointment to be given to a person living on the Coast, or what is usually spoken of as the Coast, on the Sounds or rivers adjacent to the oyster grounds. However you can ascertain that fact in a few minutes.

I understand John has quit drinking. He is popular in that section to my own knowledge, & I think would be acceptable to the two factions now existing as to the oyster industry. I am writing to you as a friend & a true one, I think the reappointment of Lucas would be a grave error in all respects. He & I are good personal friends, ^{and have been} for many years, but there is no question that he has completely destroyed the oyster culture intended by the first laws on that subject, & for which the surveys of Lieut Winslow were made. I know from personal observation that his surveys were made with care, with good sense, & as full as could be made in the time allotted him. If he left out any natural beds it would be very difficult to find them. Whenever you push Lucas, or his assistant to indicate beds that are left out of Winslow's surveys, they reply that the entire oyster bearings.

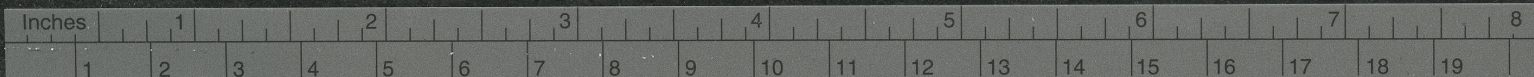


sounds & rivers should be declared natural beds, which of course means that Lucas's own bill passed by the Legislature is a farce & he got it through for his own personal benefit.

It is well known that he would not advocate it until he had the personal assurance of Gov. Fowle of the appointment as Commissioner.

The vital mistake in the law was calling for additional surveys for discovery & location of oyster beds claimed to have been left out of Winslow's surveys, but did not provide for the means to carry on these surveys. Lucas & Gov. Holt, both, urged me to make these surveys before I located the grants as oyster ground surveyor. I replied to them both in writing & verbally that I would make the surveys required by the laws provided suitable boats, & crews, & assistant surveyors were provided, & that my pay be secured & all expenses secured by reliable parties before the survey was commenced. Lucas could make no guarantee, & Gov. Holt said that he could not guarantee the payment of the expenses of the survey, as the law did not provide for such expenditure. Because these surveys could not be made the oyster ground surveys, which I was making for parties who had entered under the laws, were stopped at a loss to me individually of between twelve & fifteen hundred dollars.

The portion of the resolutions recently passed at Lucas's meeting at Dorchester which demands that the areas of the oyster grounds for which the State has issued grants to its own citizens, shall be reclaimed by the State, smacks in my opinion, very much of Communism. I am firmly convinced that Lucas has completely destroyed oyster culture in the waters of

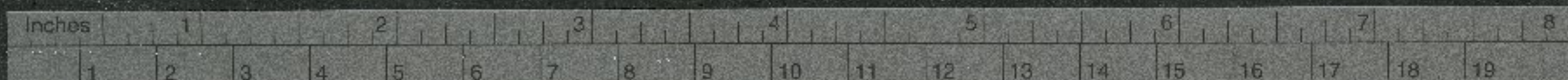


Sounds & Rivers should be declared natural beds, which of course means that Lucas's own bill passed by the Legislature is a farce & he got it through for his own personal benefit.

It is well known that he would not advocate it until he had the personal assurance of Gov. Fowle of the appointment as Commissioner.

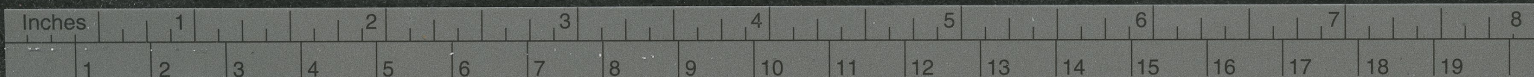
The vital mistake in the law was calling for additional surveys for discovery & location of oyster beds claimed to have been left out of Trinslow's surveys, but did not provide for the means to carry on these surveys. Lucas & Gov. Holt both urged me to make these surveys before I located the grants as oyster ground surveyor. I replied to them both in writing & verbally that I would make the surveys required by the law provided suitable boats, & crews, & assistant surveyors were provided, & that my pay be secured & all expenses secured by reliable parties before the survey was commenced. Lucas could make no guarantee, & Gov. Holt said that he could not guarantee the payment of the expenses of the survey, as the law did not provide for such expenditure. Because these surveys could not be made the oyster ground survey, which I was making for parties who had entered under the laws, were stopped at a loss to me individually of between twelve & fifteen hundred dollars.

The portion of the resolutions recently passed at Lucas's meeting at Somers which demands that the areas of the oyster grounds for which the State has issued grants to its own citizens shall be reclaimed by the State, makes in my opinion, very much of Communism. I am firmly convinced that Lucas has completely destroyed oyster culture in the waters of



our State for many years to come, & that his course as Commissioner & as a power with our Legislators, has resulted in serious loss to our oystermen, & the laborers of our seaside towns. I have been told that all the canning factories have been moved North; but of this, of course, you are better informed than I am. I have, at home, a copy of all my correspondence with Lucas & Gov. Holt and my report to Gov. H. - I also, I think, am as well posted in regard to the status of the oyster industry of the State as a whole, as anyone; I learned it by mixing with the people on the sounds, making surveys of the oyster grounds, & thoroughly making myself acquainted with Winslow's surveys. I have complete tracings of all his charts & maps, made at my own expense, and I have carefully considered the matter in all its bearings. That the cultivation of oyster as an industry in our State is absolutely dead, there is no question. The present laws provide only for the keeping off foreigners from our oyster beds, collection of taxes on the oysters placed on the home market, or shipped from the State. Please excuse me for writing so much on the oyster subject but I feel a deep interest in making oyster culture one of the main industries of the Eastern section of our State, & it can be done by intelligent & just legislation.

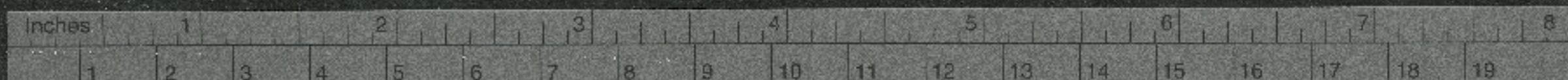
I am completing a survey of about 10000 acres of mountain land, part of an old Allison grant, & in which is included about



our State for many years to come, & that his course as Commissioner & as a power with our Legislature, has resulted in serious loss to our oystermen, & the laborers of our seaside towns. I have been told that all the canning factories have been moved North, but of this, of course, you are better informed than I am. I have, at home, a copy of all my correspondence with Lucas & Gov. Holt and my report to Gov. H. Talbot, I think, am as well posted in regard to the status of the oyster industry of the State as a whole, as anyone;

I learned it by mixing with the people on the sounds, making surveys of the oyster grounds, & thoroughly making myself acquainted with various surveys. I have complete tracings of all his charts & maps, made at my own expense, and I have carefully considered the matter in all its bearings. That the cultivation of oysters as an industry in our State is absolutely dead, there is no question. The present laws provide only for the keeping off foreigners from our oyster beds, collection of taxes on the oysters placed on the home market, or shipped from the State. Please excuse me for writing so much on the oyster subject but I feel a deep interest in making oyster culture one of the main industries of the Eastern section of our State, & it can be done by intelligent & just legislation.

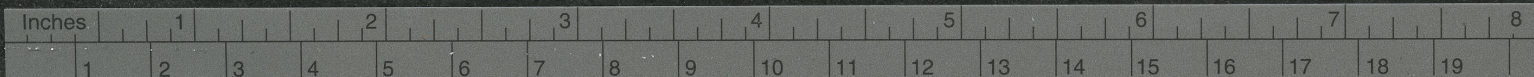
I am completing a survey of about 150000 acres of mountain land, part of an old Allison grant, & in which is included about



75000 acres claimed by settlers, all which I have had surveyed & deducted. I have had three parties of surveyors, of about 30 men in all, under my charge since the middle of May. I am at liberty to let you know now that the survey was made for Mr Geo. W. Vanderbilt. It was a secret, but he has, on my report, purchased the Comoros's half interest, which has made the matter public. I have some engineering work to do for him which I will commence in a few days. Knowing that you feel deep interest in all matters that are going on in the State, especially those which are intended to develop the resources of the State, I will write you fully after I have completed my work up here. I have kept in regular communication with Gov. Steadman in regard to the Swamp Lands, & I see him the first of every month in Asheville. I receive many letters in regard to these lands, which I answer, & then refer the letters to Gov. S. He is negotiating a trade for sale of about 20 or 25 thousand acres in Cumberland & Bladen Counties, which have not been surveyed. The parties wishing to purchase are to have the survey made at their expense, as was done in the sale of Big Swamp, Roberson Co., & Seven Creeks, in Columbus Co.

Of course I do not prep any recommendations I may make; they are made by request. While I think John Battle would make a first rate Commissioner, yet you may know reasons why he should not be appointed. Please give Cousin Ella, & the little girls my very kindest regards & well wishes. You know I am always at your service,

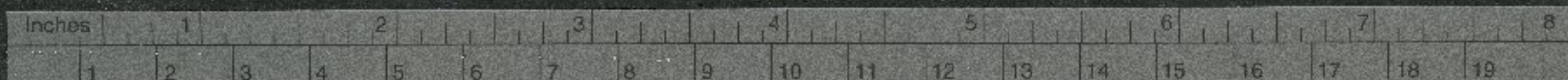
So over Your true friend W. G. Lewis.



70000 acres claimed by settlers, all which I have had surveyed & deducted. I have had three parties of surveyors, of about 30 men in all, under my charge since the middle of May. I am at liberty to let you know now that the survey was made for Mr. Geo. W. Vanderbilt. It was a secret, but he has, on my report, purchased the Comere's half interest, which has made the matter public. I have some engineering work to do for him which I will commence in a few days. Knowing that you feel deep interest in all matters that are going on in the State, especially those which are intended to develop the resources of the State, I will write you fully after I have completed my work up here. I have kept in regular communication with Gov. Hutcheson in regard to the Swamp Lands, & I see him the first of every month in Asheville. I receive many letters in regard to these lands, which I answer, & then refer the letter to Gov. S. He is negotiating a trade for sale of about 20 or 25 thousand acres in Cumberland & Polk Counties, which have not been surveyed. The parties wishing to purchase are to have the survey made at their expense, as was done in the sale of Big Swamp, Robertson Co., & Seven Leeks, in Columbus Co.

Of course I do not prep any recommendations I may make, they are made by request. While I think John Battle would make a first rate Commissioner, yet you may know reasons why he should not be appointed. Please give Cousin Ella, & the little girls my very kindest regards & well wishes. You know I am always at your service,

Ever your true friend W. G. Lewis.



If not called for indays, return to



*Very important
at home duties
Personal*

To
His Excellency Hon. Elias Carr
Governor of North Carolina
Raleigh N.C.

Inches

1

2

3

4

5

6

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

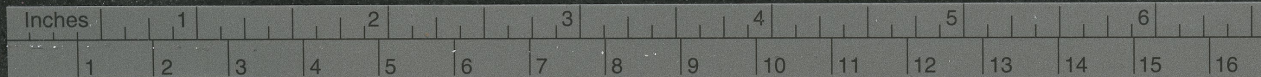
14

15

16

TIFFEN Color Control Patches

© The Tiffen Company, 2007



TIFFEN® Color Control Patches

© The Tiffen Company, 2007