

SIXTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

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House of Representatives U. S.,

Committee on Patents,

Washington, D. C.,

March 17, 1914.

My dear Sir and Friend:

On January 8th, last, I wrote you and told you what the Democratic party had done up to that time. Since writing you we have enacted other legislation which is of great importance to the people. We have recently passed a bill known as the "Smith-Lever" bill, the purpose of which is to diffuse among the people of the United States useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture and home economics. We have also included in the agricultural appropriation bill an item of \$200,000 for the establishment in the Department of Agriculture of a Bureau of Markets for investigating the methods by which farm products are marketed with a view of greatly aiding the farmers of the country in getting the real value of their products when taken to market. We have also passed a bill in the House and it will soon pass the Senate, appropriating twenty-five million dollars to aid the people in building good roads throughout the country. We have also just passed through both the House and Senate a bill known as the "Alaskan" railway appropriation bill, which is another great piece of constructive legislation in the interest of the people. This bill appropriates thirty-five million dollars and authorizes the President to construct a thousand miles of railroad in Alaska to provide transportation for the vast stores of wealth now locked in the interior of this great Territory and to develop Alaska in the interest of the people instead of in the interest of the Morgan-Guggenheim Syndicate and other special interests. Every dollar appropriated by the Alaskan railway bill will be returned to the United States Treasury through the sale of products from Alaska marketed over this railroad; hence, the construction of this railroad will not cost the people of this country one penny. I gladly supported this legislation and the President, Secretary Bryan, Postmaster General Burleson, Secretary Lane and every other member of the Cabinet, as well as Senator La Follette, and every member of the Progressive party in Congress, together with all the leaders of the Democratic party in both Houses strongly supported this legislation, as did most of the Republican members of Congress, including James R. Mann, the Republican floor leader in the house. This bill is clearly in the interest of all the people and against the special interests and monopolies of the country which would like to gobble up the vast resources of this rich Territory. I shall be glad to have you advise with me at any time concerning any matter of legislation in which you feel an interest.

With best wishes for you always and trusting that you will not hesitate to command me whenever I can be of service, I am,

Your friend,

W. A. Oldfield