

May 27, 1914

Hon Thomas Martin

The Benedick

Washington D C

Dear Sir:

I notice from the Associated Press account that there has been introduced a measure in the United States Senate depriving the South of the services of the General Education Board in respect to farm demonstration work, also another measure has been introduced endeavoring to revoke the Charter of the General Education Board.

I have been most intimately connected with the work of the General Education Board in the South for the past ten years and I wish to bear testimony that no organization, no individual, has done as much for the building up of our higher education, of our secondary school systems; for the improvement of rural education, for the wonderful advancement of improved methods of agriculture in the South as has this organization and its representatives.

Many of them are Southern men, and I wish to assert, without fear of successful contradiction, that they have worked through our Southern people exclusively, have not even imposed their own suggestions, except when requested to do so, and have left it to the wisdom and good sense of

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our good people to spend for social uplift any donations made.

Furthermore, there have been literally thousands of boys and girls in the Boys' Corn Clubs, and the Girls' Canning Clubs, whose lives have been made richer, whose earning capacity has been increased, whose outlook upon their own futures has become more thrilling, because of the work carried on by the Southern people, whose salaries have been paid, and whose traveling expenses have been furnished by the General Education Board. The Southern representatives of this Board created our High School systems.

No greater calamity could happen to the educational interests of the South and the one hundred and forty eight thousand teachers engaged therein, than the revoking of the Charter of the General Education Board. It will be a great calamity if these men should be divorced from the Farm Demonstration Work which they inaugurated of their own free will and accord without the assistance, (and sometimes without the encouragement of the Government). Their accumulated experience can not be duplicated by others. Their personal interest in our people is a matter of tender regard.

Every man and woman in the South and every representative of the best interests of our people owes a debt of deep gratitude and sincere appreciation to the General Education Board and its representatives. Whatever is done

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in this matter should be done in a spirit of gratitude. But I hope that nothing will be done that will deprive the eight million children of the South, the citizens of to-morrow, of the services of these men who have given so much of their lives and of their time.

I beg therefore, to urge upon you in representing us, the grateful beneficiaries of the first and greatest and most liberal philanthropical organization in America, not to interfere with their endeavors, for in so doing you will throw the most appalling hindrance before us who are fighting on the firing line for the economic, intellectual and moral freedom of the South.

Sincerely yours

(Signed) Bruce R Payne

BRP-T