

Washington, D.C.,
Sept. 11/09.

My dear Mr. Gates:

For several days past I have been thinking seriously of laying before you for your consideration a suggestion regarding certain preliminary work which would, I believe, be very valuable. Finally I have decided to ~~put~~ present the facts before you, feeling that your decision will be based upon premises which you can judge better than I can, namely, whether the matter has reached a stage where you feel that circumstances would justify any action. If they have reached such a stage, in your judgement, then I would recommend the plan. If in your judgement they have not reached such stage, my suggestion naturally falls.

It is particularly on the country schools and the press that reliance can be based for success in a campaign. Many of the country schools run only about four months, beginning in October. If, therefore, we are to have full benefit of this winter session, it will be necessary to have matters prepared so that the least possible delay will occur in putting the machinery into action.

Two points in particular arise in my mind as valuable:

First: To have a public school bulletin ready which will be acceptable to the Superintendent of Instruction and as a basis for instruction, and a popular illustrated manuscript in untechnical language.

Secondly: Assuming that the work starts in North Carolina, it would be of very great value to make, say, 2000 microscopic examinations, ~~now~~ divided as follows: 1000 whites and 1000 negroes, covering 50 of each race for each age 6 to 25 inclusive. Personally, I can foresee rather definitely from a theoretical point of view about what the results would be, but the actual statistics based upon actual examinations in North Carolina would be a much clearer argument ^{to people in that state} than any amount of theoretical deductions I might draw.

Would you feel that circumstances have reached a point where your office would be justified in placing at my disposal about \$1000. ^{to \$1500.} to prepare matters in this way, or do you think it would be wiser not to take any preliminary steps of any kind?

In spending the money, my plan would be the following:

Microscopic Examination: I would try to obtain the services of Dr. David G. Willette (pathologist of the Georgia State Hospital for the Insane). The Philippine Bureau of Science is trying for him, but he would rather remain in this country. He was with me about four years and is thoroughly competent to take charge of the work. I should offer him not less than \$125 per month (\$1500 per year) nor more than \$150 per month (\$1800 per year). In case plans materialize, I should keep him one year at least, as field agent.

As assistants in the work I would try to obtain leave of absence without pay for two of my present assistants and send them down immediately. Mr. Crane should receive \$100 per month, Mr. Leonard \$75 per month. Both of these men are reliable men who in addition to their laboratory work

with me are preparing, outside of office hours, to take a medical degree, taking five years instead of four for the course. Both are college graduates.

These three men could start in at the laboratory of the State Board of Health at Raleigh, or at one of the colleges there, to make the examinations of all the ^{male} students of the State Agricultural College, Fiske University, supplementing these persons with cotton mill people. I could go down to Raleigh and obtain the courtesies of the laboratory for them and arrange for the work.

In general, 10 examinations per day per man form a good average.

It would be necessary to purchase slides and towels, but I could probably borrow the microscopes.

Bulletins: It is my custom here to work more than the regular government hours. I could confine my official work to government hours and put my extra time in on the preparation of the proposed bulletins, so that (assuming that plans materialize) I could have the bulletins nearly or entirely ready for press by the time we are ready to begin work. This would enable us to distribute them promptly so as not to lose the benefit of the winter schools. I have drawings from which we could make the plates.

In this work, and also in preparing other material which it would be wise to take along, I ought to have a good clerk who could be trusted to keep quiet. For this purpose I should prefer Miss Marion Barber (at say \$75 per month) or Miss Deeble (at say \$30 or \$60 per month) in case I

can obtain one of them.

It would be necessary to purchase a type writing machine, paper, and other supplies.

From the foregoing you will see that the underlying thought in my mind in this matter is to gain time so as to utilize the schools this winter. If we miss this winter's session, we miss a valuable asset.

Should you consider that matters have not yet reached a stage in which this plan seems justified in your mind, kindly consider that the foregoing suggestions have not been made. On the other hand, if you feel that the work would be justified, permit me to emphasize the fact that because of the school term, every day between now and January is worth two days after January, in respect to starting the machinery.

Frankly, I have held back these suggestions because I do not wish even to have the appearance of being forward in any way. I more than appreciate the great moral encouragement you have given me. But I am persuaded that you understand me sufficiently to feel assured that it is only because of the opportunity I see in such preliminary work that I am bold enough to lay the matter before you.

With best regards, Very sincerely yours
C. W. Stiles.