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Members & Meetings 12

March 4, 1914.

Dear Mr. Eliot:

The Trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation have thought it best to consider the question of adding to their number two or three men whose counsel and position before the public would further strengthen the Board and perhaps counterbalance, to some extent, the large number who are now so closely identified with Mr. Rockefeller's office. No immediate action is contemplated, but we have agreed to think the matter over and to make suggestions as good names occur to any of us. The names most favorably considered thus far have been those of Mr. Justice Hughes and A. Barton Hepburn of New York. Other names suggested are Mr. Ryerson of Chicago, Mr. Harry A. Wheeler, lately President of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Secretary Houston, President Van Hise and Mr. John R. Mott. I think we are all agreed that the first qualification for membership in the Board should be sound judgment and fertility in its councils, but that the standing of a man before the public may, with propriety, be considered at a time when the Rockefeller Foundation has not yet had an opportunity to secure the confidence of the public. Judge Hughes could probably not attend many meetings - indeed I doubt very much whether he could accept membership in the Foundation at all. We shall very likely postpone further consideration of Houston until he returns to Washington University. In discussing these names with Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Gates and Mr. Murphy I have confessed to a prejudice against Mr. Mott on grounds with which you are familiar, but I have felt obliged to add that this prejudice

has been somewhat lessened through actual acquaintance with Mr. Mott during the past year. The fact is that I am practically convinced of the sincerity and disinterestedness of his ultimate motives and I therefore shrink from the responsibility of condemning him for no other reason than that his conscience and mine don't act in precisely the same way. Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Gates and Mr. Murphy are all aware of this defect, though ascribing to it varying degrees of importance. Mr. Mott, as a matter of fact, seems to be the most influential figure in the missionary world and there would be advantages in having that element represented.

Will you be good enough to think this matter over from time to time and let me or Mr. Rockefeller know what you think of these suggestions, or make such other suggestions as you have to offer? On the whole, I think it would be better for you to write to Mr. Rockefeller direct.

The State Department have not released Roger by cable but have mailed him a letter saying that his record is such that they hope he will not leave the Service, but that they are not in a position to interfere with his plans if he wishes to accept other employment. I am beginning to wonder whether he may have developed, in the last twelve years, such a sense of loyalty to the Service as to make him really reluctant to leave it. I have had a cable from him saying that he would wait until he received the advice of the Department.

We have just come through the worst snow storm I have ever known - worse, I think, in damage to property than what I remember of the blizzard

of 1888. At one time or another we have been without electric light, telephone service and water and telegraph service has been completely suspended in many places. The havoc with the trees has been fearful. I had an enforced holiday on Monday and got as much enjoyment out of the snow as was compatible with the discomforts I have mentioned.

Affectionately yours,

Jerome D. Greene

President Charles W. Eliot,
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Cambridge, Mass.