Governor Lorenzo Lewelling, Correspondence, Box 3

Section 3, Pages 61 - 90

These folders contain correspondence subject files with Governor Lewelling, twelfth governor of the State of Kansas, 1893-1895, and the first Populist governor of the state. Subjects included are fairs, legislation, military affairs, mining operations, oil inspector, railroads, resources for Western Kansas, and tramp letters.

Creator: Kansas. Governor (1893-1895: Lewelling)

Date: 1893-1894

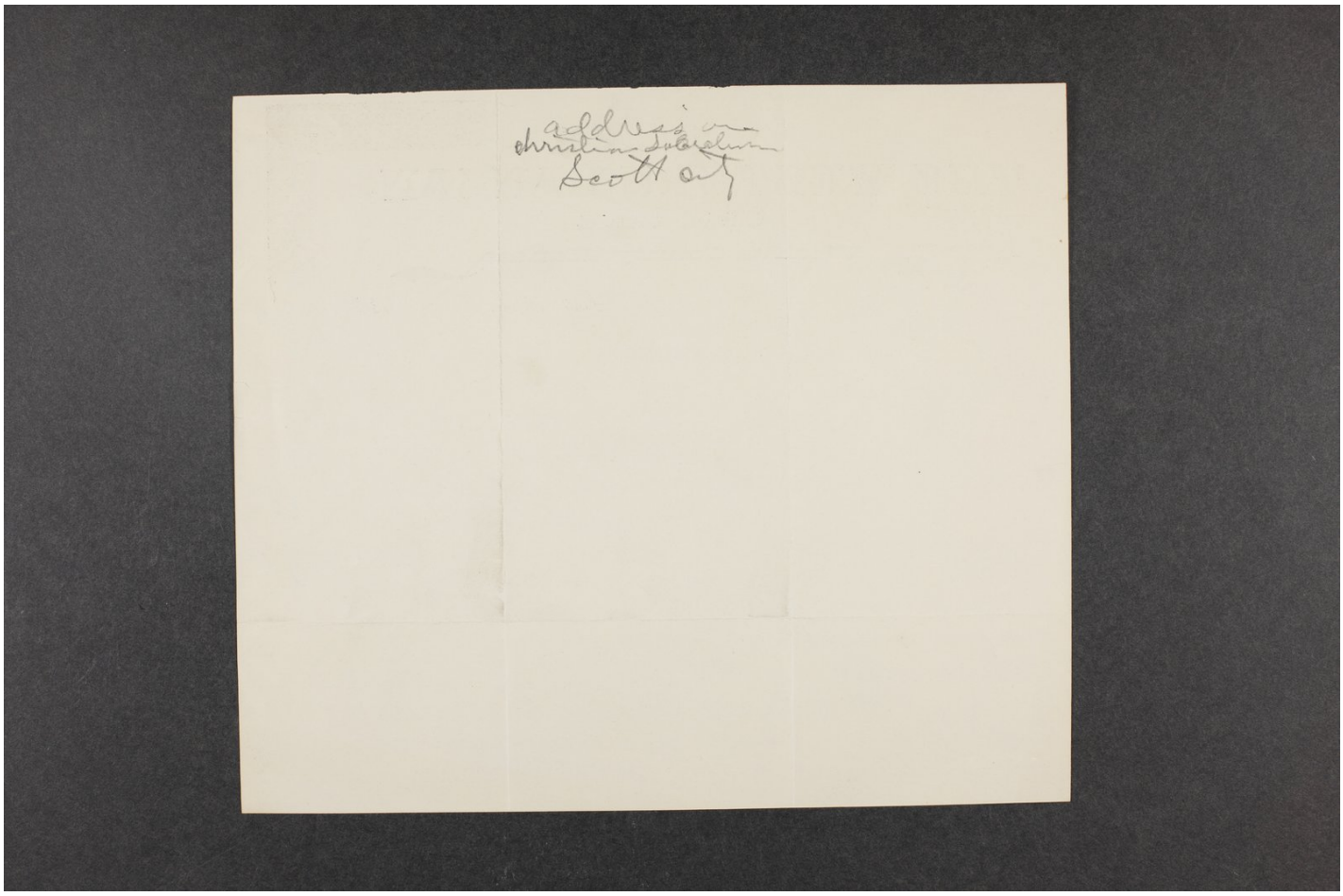
Callnumber: Governor's Office, Governor Lewelling, Correspondence, Box 3

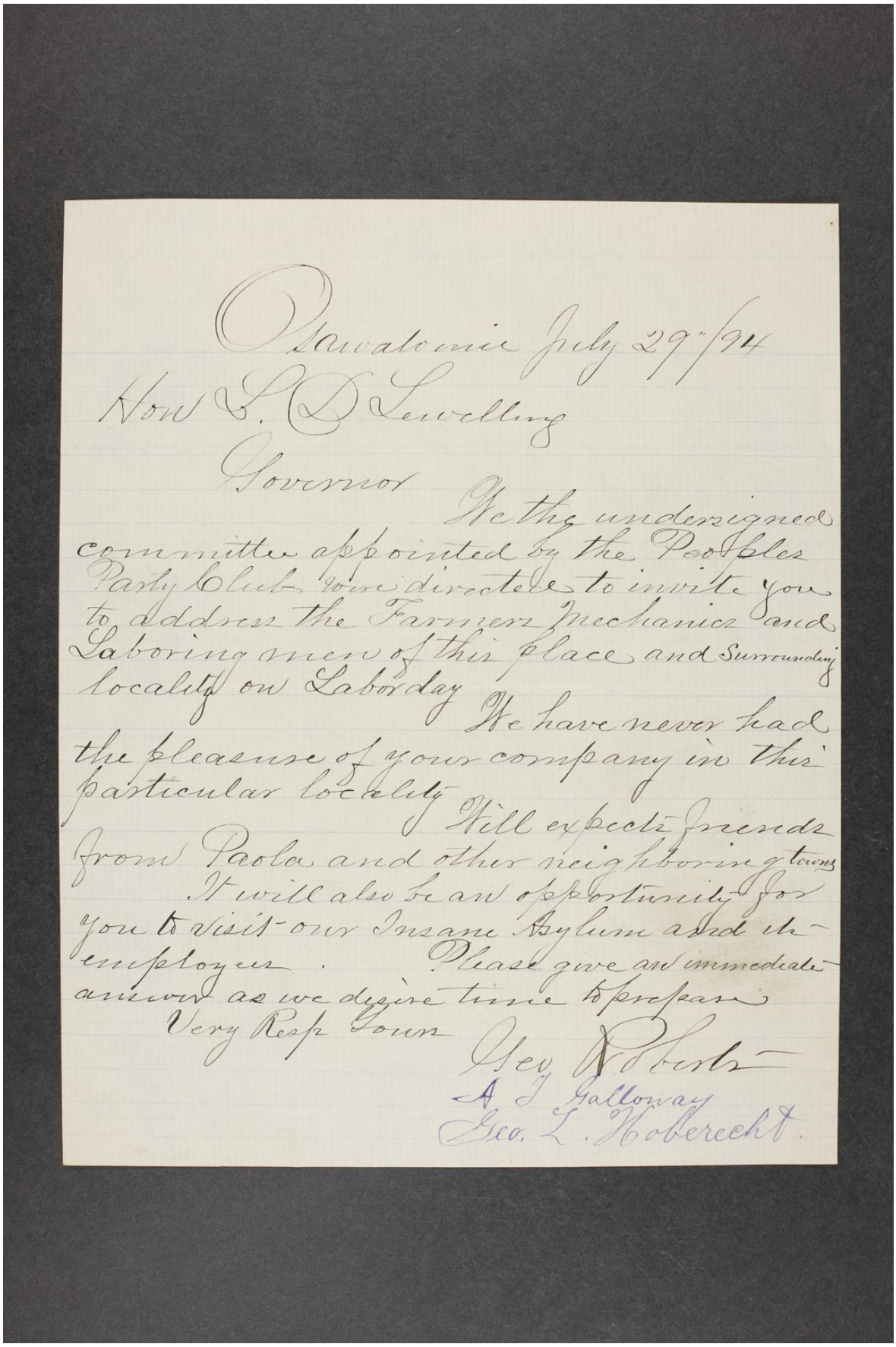
KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 309406

Item Identifier: 309406

www.kansasmemory.org/item/309406

Governor Lorenzo Lewelling, Correspondence, Box 3





Osawatomie July 29/94

Hon L. D Lewelling

Governor

We the undersigned committee appointed by the Peoples Party Club were directed to invite you to address the Farmers Mechanics and Laboring men of this place and Surrounding locality on Labor day

We have never had the pleasure of your company in this particular locality

Will expect friends from Paola and other neighboring towns

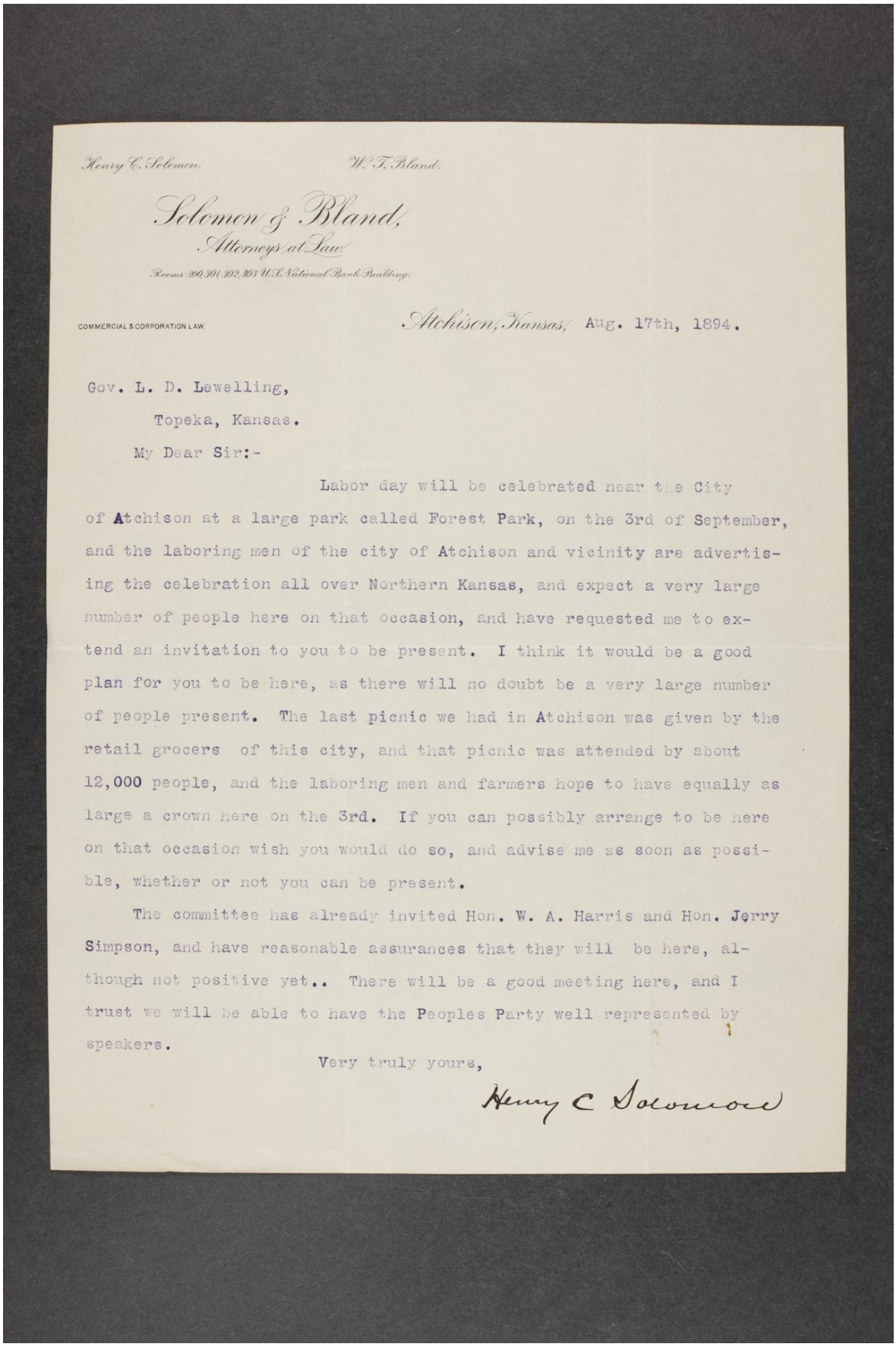
It will also be an opportunity for you to visit our Insane Asylum and its employes. Please give an immediate answer as we desire time to prepare

Very Resp Yours

Jay Roberts

A J Galloway

Geo. L. Hoberecht.



Henry C. Solomon. W. F. Bland.

Solomon & Bland,
Attorneys at Law.
Rooms 300, 301, 302, 303 U.S. National Bank Building.

COMMERCIAL & CORPORATION LAW.

Atchison, Kansas, Aug. 17th, 1894.

Gov. L. D. Lewelling,
Topeka, Kansas.

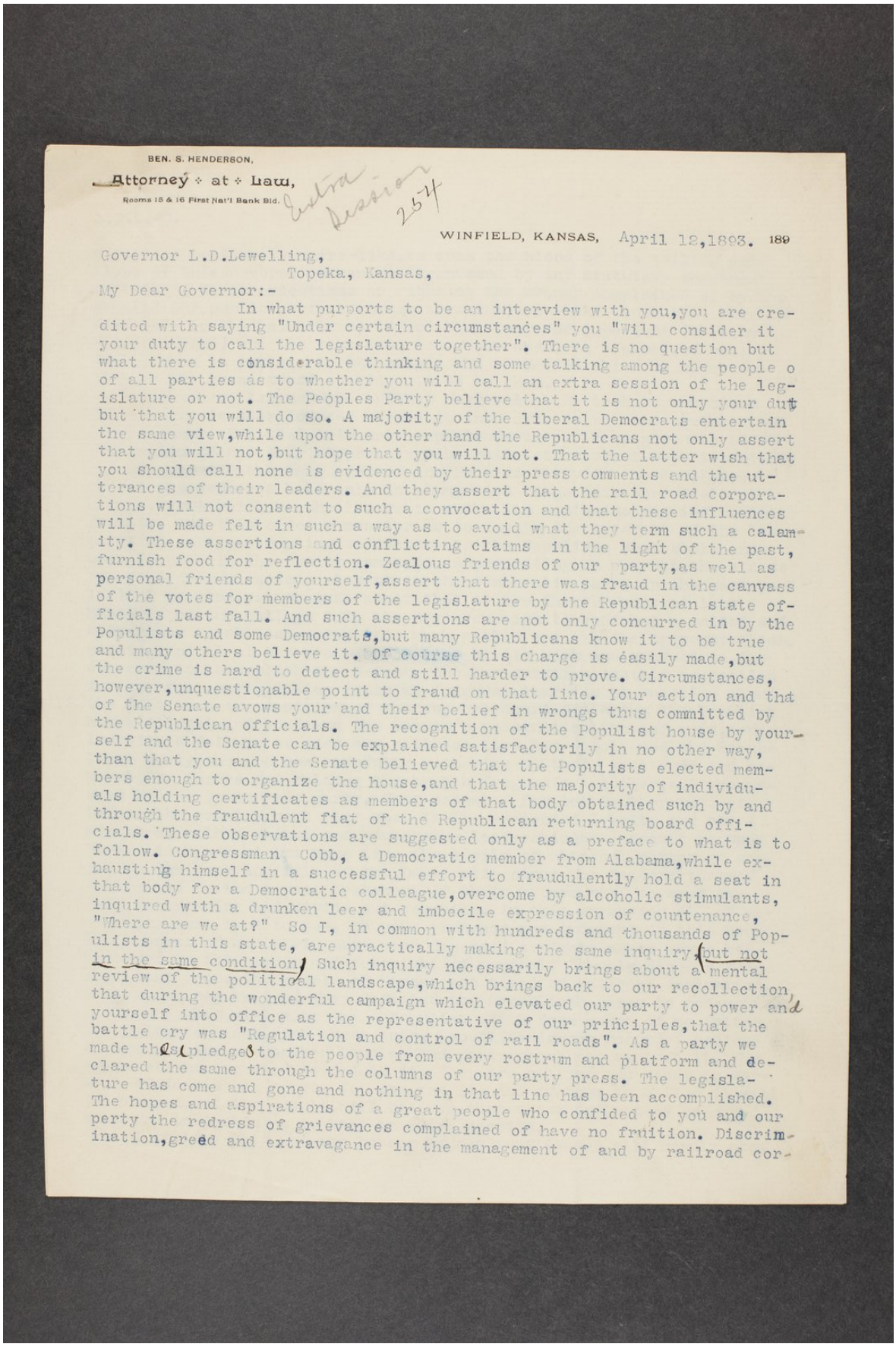
My Dear Sir:-

Labor day will be celebrated near the City of Atchison at a large park called Forest Park, on the 3rd of September, and the laboring men of the city of Atchison and vicinity are advertising the celebration all over Northern Kansas, and expect a very large number of people here on that occasion, and have requested me to extend an invitation to you to be present. I think it would be a good plan for you to be here, as there will no doubt be a very large number of people present. The last picnic we had in Atchison was given by the retail grocers of this city, and that picnic was attended by about 12,000 people, and the laboring men and farmers hope to have equally as large a crown here on the 3rd. If you can possibly arrange to be here on that occasion wish you would do so, and advise me as soon as possible, whether or not you can be present.

The committee has already invited Hon. W. A. Harris and Hon. Jerry Simpson, and have reasonable assurances that they will be here, although not positive yet.. There will be a good meeting here, and I trust we will be able to have the Peoples Party well represented by speakers.

Very truly yours,

Henry C Solomon



BEN. S. HENDERSON,
Attorney ✧ at ✧ Law,
Rooms 15 & 16 First Nat'l Bank Bld.

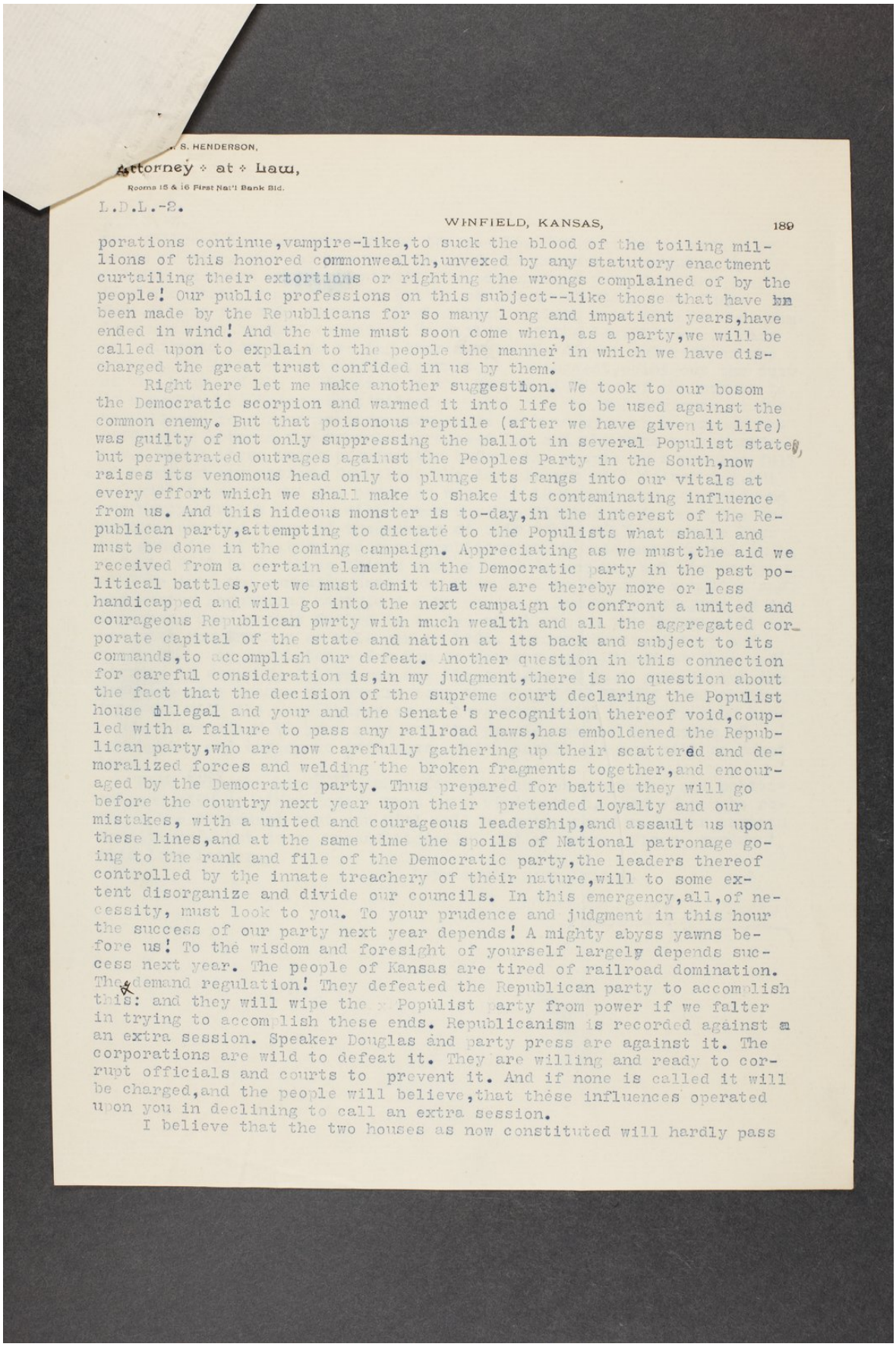
Extra Session 25-4

WINFIELD, KANSAS, April 12, 1893. 189

Governor L.D.Lewelling,
Topeka, Kansas,

My Dear Governor:-

In what purports to be an interview with you, you are credited with saying "Under certain circumstances" you "Will consider it your duty to call the legislature together". There is no question but what there is considerable thinking and some talking among the people o of all parties as to whether you will call an extra session of the legislature or not. The Peoples Party believe that it is not only your duty but that you will do so. A majority of the liberal Democrats entertain the same view, while upon the other hand the Republicans not only assert that you will not, but hope that you will not. That the latter wish that you should call none is evidenced by their press comments and the utterances of their leaders. And they assert that the rail road corporations will not consent to such a convocation and that these influences will be made felt in such a way as to avoid what they term such a calamity. These assertions and conflicting claims in the light of the past, furnish food for reflection. Zealous friends of our party, as well as personal friends of yourself, assert that there was fraud in the canvass of the votes for members of the legislature by the Republican state officials last fall. And such assertions are not only concurred in by the Populists and some Democrats, but many Republicans know it to be true and many others believe it. Of course this charge is easily made, but the crime is hard to detect and still harder to prove. Circumstances, however, unquestionable point to fraud on that line. Your action and that of the Senate avows your and their belief in wrongs thus committed by the Republican officials. The recognition of the Populist house by yourself and the Senate can be explained satisfactorily in no other way, than that you and the Senate believed that the Populists elected members enough to organize the house, and that the majority of individuals holding certificates as members of that body obtained such by and through the fraudulent fiat of the Republican returning board officials. These observations are suggested only as a preface to what is to follow. Congressman Cobb, a Democratic member from Alabama, while exhausting himself in a successful effort to fraudulently hold a seat in that body for a Democratic colleague, overcome by alcoholic stimulants, inquired with a drunken leer and imbecile expression of countenance, "Where are we at?" So I, in common with hundreds and thousands of Populists in this state, are practically making the same inquiry, but not in the same condition. Such inquiry necessarily brings about a mental review of the political landscape, which brings back to our recollection, that during the wonderful campaign which elevated our party to power and yourself into office as the representative of our principles, that the battle cry was "Regulation and control of rail roads". As a party we made these pledges to the people from every rostrum and platform and declared the same through the columns of our party press. The legislature has come and gone and nothing in that line has been accomplished. The hopes and aspirations of a great people who confided to you and our perty the redress of grievances complained of have no fruition. Discrimination, greed and extravagance in the management of and by railroad cor-



S. HENDERSON,
Attorney ✣ at ✣ Law,
Rooms 15 & 16 First Nat'l Bank Bld.

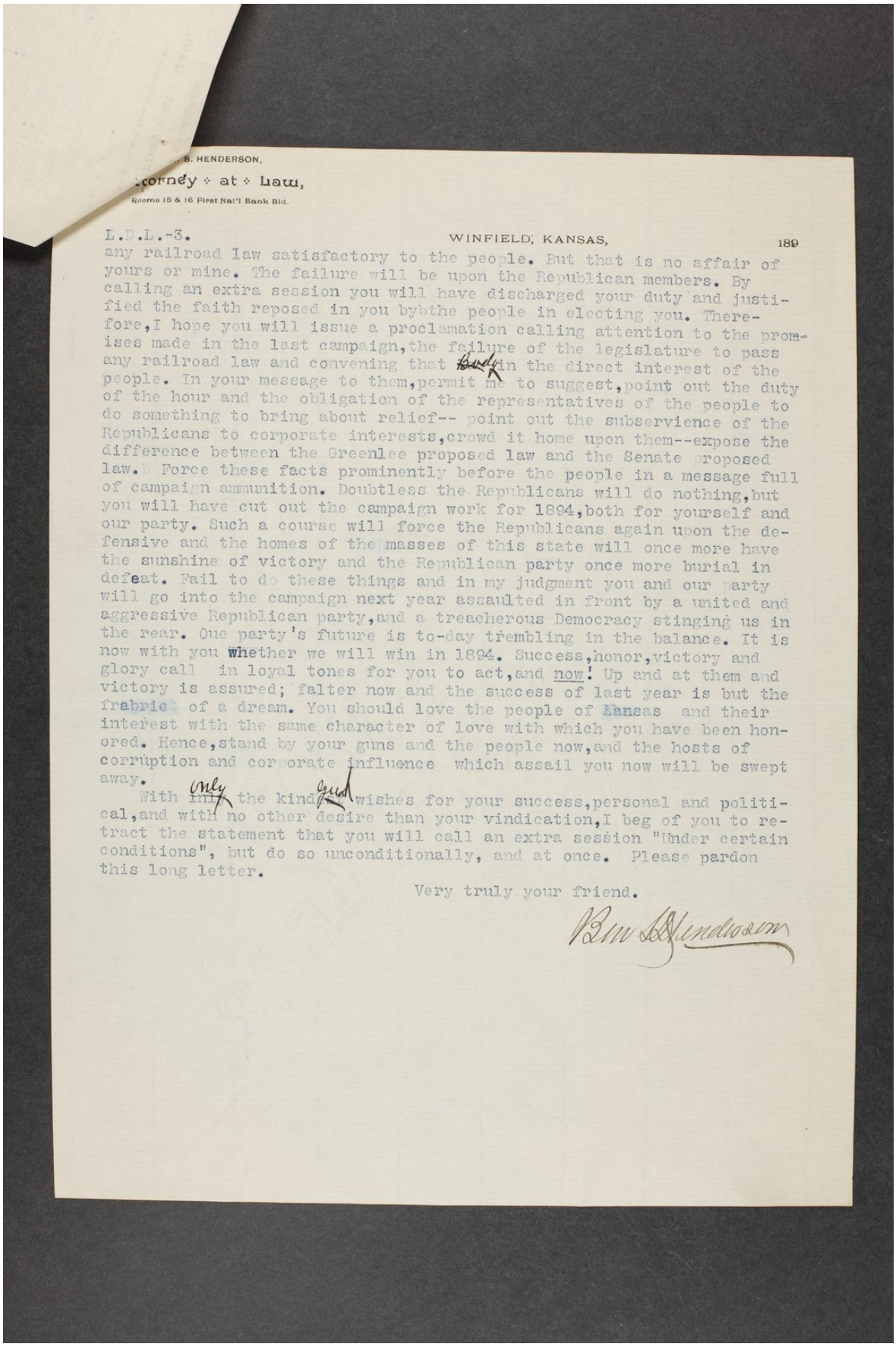
L.D.L.-8.

WINFIELD, KANSAS, 189

porations continue,vampire-like,to suck the blood of the toiling millions of this honored commonwealth,unvexed by any statutory enactment curtailing their extortions or righting the wrongs complained of by the people! Our public professions on this subject--like those that have been made by the Republicans for so many long and impatient years,have ended in wind! And the time must soon come when, as a party,we will be called upon to explain to the people the manner in which we have discharged the great trust confided in us by them.

Right here let me make another suggestion. We took to our bosom the Democratic scorpion and warmed it into life to be used against the common enemy. But that poisonous reptile (after we have given it life) was guilty of not only suppressing the ballot in several Populist states, but perpetrated outrages against the Peoples Party in the South,now raises its venomous head only to plunge its fangs into our vitals at every effort which we shall make to shake its contaminating influence from us. And this hideous monster is to-day,in the interest of the Republican party,attempting to dictate to the Populists what shall and must be done in the coming campaign. Appreciating as we must,the aid we received from a certain element in the Democratic party in the past political battles,yet we must admit that we are thereby more or less handicapped and will go into the next campaign to confront a united and courageous Republican pwrty with much wealth and all the aggregated corporate capital of the state and nation at its back and subject to its commands,to accomplish our defeat. Another question in this connection for careful consideration is,in my judgment,there is no question about the fact that the decision of the supreme court declaring the Populist house illegal and your and the Senate's recognition thereof void,coupled with a failure to pass any railroad laws,has emboldened the Republican party,who are now carefully gathering up their scattered and demoralized forces and welding the broken fragments together,and encouraged by the Democratic party. Thus prepared for battle they will go before the country next year upon their pretended loyalty and our mistakes, with a united and courageous leadership,and assault us upon these lines,and at the same time the spoils of National patronage going to the rank and file of the Democratic party,the leaders thereof controlled by the innate treachery of their nature,will to some extent disorganize and divide our councils. In this emergency,all,of necessity, must look to you. To your prudence and judgment in this hour the success of our party next year depends! A mighty abyss yawns before us! To the wisdom and foresight of yourself largely depends success next year. The people of Kansas are tired of railroad domination. They demand regulation! They defeated the Republican party to accomplish this: and they will wipe the Populist party from power if we falter in trying to accomplish these ends. Republicanism is recorded against an extra session. Speaker Douglas and party press are against it. The corporations are wild to defeat it. They are willing and ready to corrupt officials and courts to prevent it. And if none is called it will be charged,and the people will believe,that these influences operated upon you in declining to call an extra session.

I believe that the two houses as now constituted will hardly pass



S. HENDERSON,
Attorney at Law,
Rooms 15 & 16 First Nat'l Bank Bld.

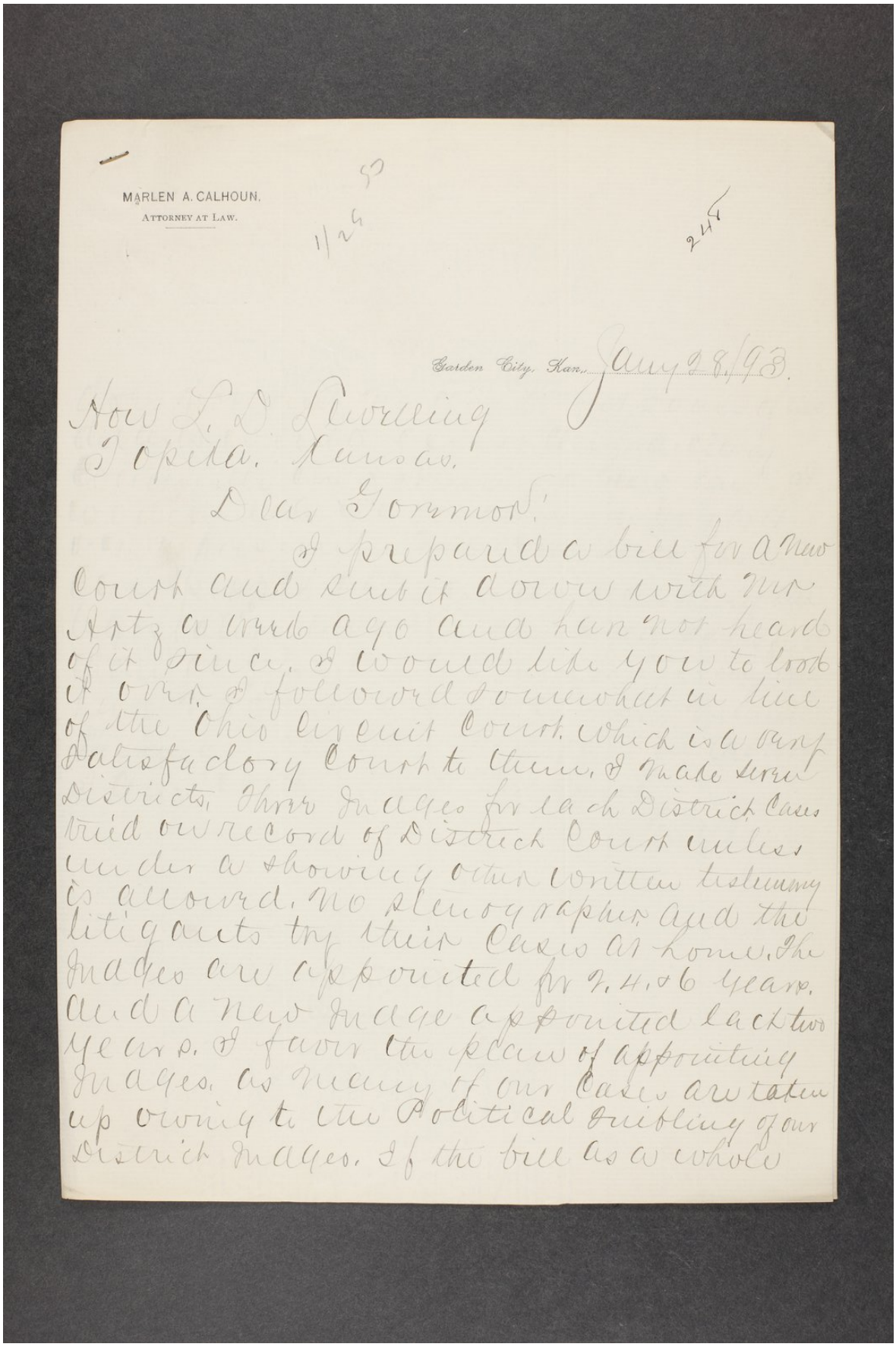
L.D.L.-3. WINFIELD, KANSAS, 189

any railroad law satisfactory to the people. But that is no affair of yours or mine. The failure will be upon the Republican members. By calling an extra session you will have discharged your duty and justified the faith reposed in you bythe people in electing you. Therefore,I hope you will issue a proclamation calling attention to the promises made in the last campaign,the failure of the legislature to pass any railroad law and convening that body in the direct interest of the people. In your message to them,permit me to suggest,point out the duty of the hour and the obligation of the representatives of the people to do something to bring about relief-- point out the subservience of the Republicans to corporate interests,crowd it home upon them--expose the difference between the Greenlee proposed law and the Senate proposed law. Force these facts prominently before the people in a message full of campaign ammunition. Doubtless the Republicans will do nothing,but you will have cut out the campaign work for 1894,both for yourself and our party. Such a course will force the Republicans again upon the defensive and the homes of the masses of this state will once more have the sunshine of victory and the Republican party once more burial in defeat. Fail to do these things and in my judgment you and our party will go into the campaign next year assaulted in front by a united and aggressive Republican party,and a treacherous Democracy stinging us in the rear. Our party's future is to-day trembling in the balance. It is now with you whether we will win in 1894. Success,honor,victory and glory call in loyal tones for you to act,and now! Up and at them and victory is assured; falter now and the success of last year is but the frabric of a dream. You should love the people of Kansas and their interest with the same character of love with which you have been honored. Hence,stand by your guns and the people now,and the hosts of corruption and corporate influence which assail you now will be swept away.

With only the kind and good wishes for your success,personal and political,and with no other desire than your vindication,I beg of you to retract the statement that you will call an extra session "Under certain conditions", but do so unconditionally, and at once. Please pardon this long letter.

Very truly your friend.

Wm S Henderson



MARLEN A. CALHOUN.
ATTORNEY AT LAW.

1/24

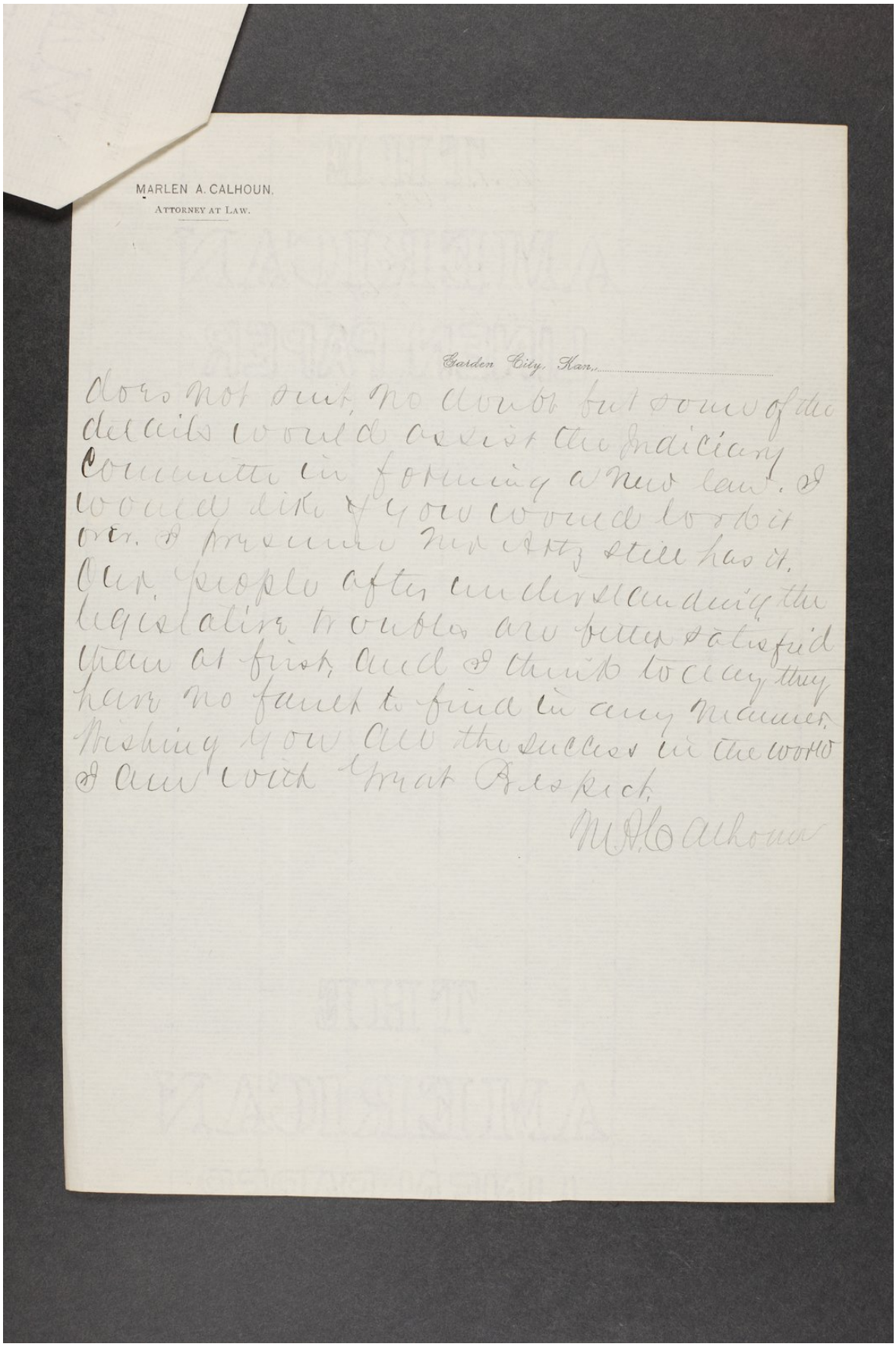
2 44

Garden City, Kan., Jany 28/93.

Hon L. D. Lewelling
Topeka. Kansas.

Dear Governor:

I prepared a bill for a new Court and sent it down with Mr Artz a week ago and have not heard of it since. I would like you to look it over. I followed somewhat in line of the Ohio Circuit Court which is a very satisfactory Court to them. I made seven Districts, three Judges for each District Cases tried on record of District Court rules under a showing other than testimony is allowed. No Stenographer and the litigants try their Cases at home. The Judges are appointed for 2, 4, & 6 years. And a new Judge appointed each two years. I favor the plan of appointing Judges. As many of our Cases are taken up owing to the Political Gambling of our District Judges. If the bill as a whole

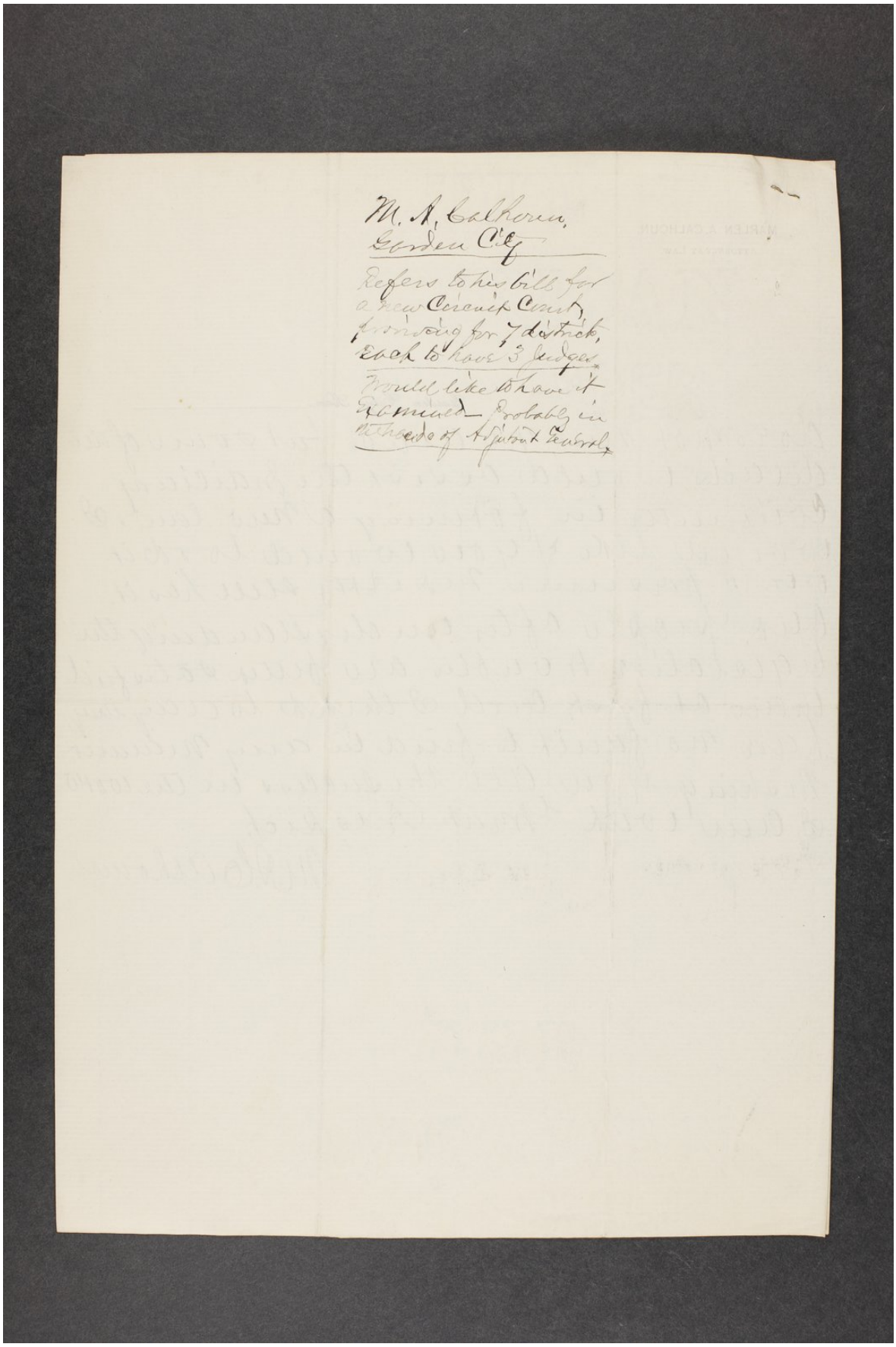


MARLEN A. CALHOUN,
ATTORNEY AT LAW.

Garden City, Kan.,

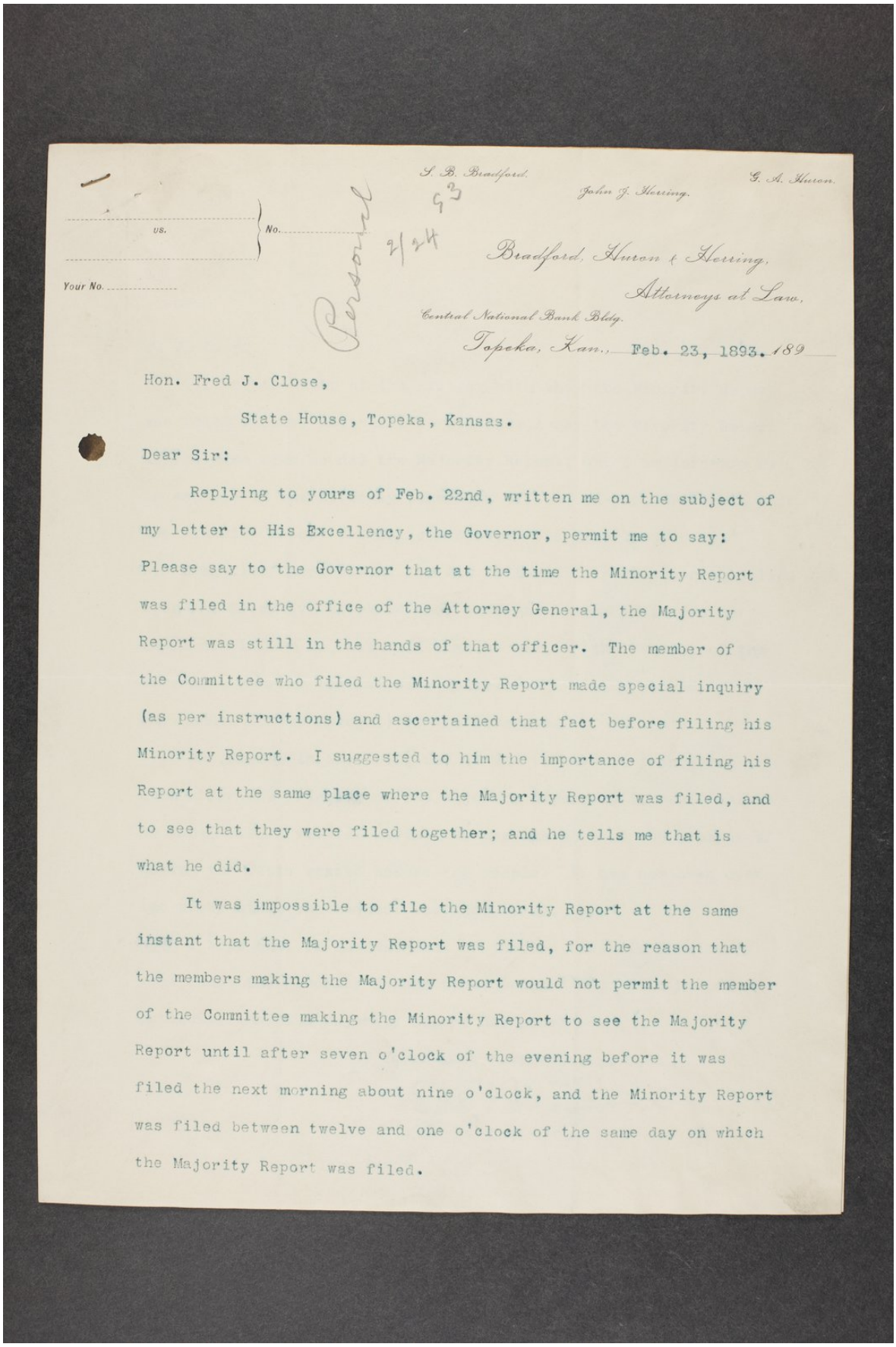
does not suit, no doubt but some of the
details would assist the Judiciary
Committee in forming a new law. I
would like if you would look it
over. I presume Mr Artz still has it.
Our people after understanding the
legislative trouble are better satisfied
than at first, and I think to any thing
have no fault to find in any manner.
Wishing you all the success in the world
I am with great Respect.

M. A. Calhoun



M. A. Calhoun,
Gordon City

Refers to his bill for a new Circuit Court, providing for 7 districts, each to have 3 judges. Would like to have it examined — probably in the hands of Attorney General.



S. B. Bradford. John J. Herring. G. A. Huron.

Bradford, Huron & Herring,
Attorneys at Law,
Central National Bank Bldg.
Topeka, Kan., Feb. 23, 1893. 189

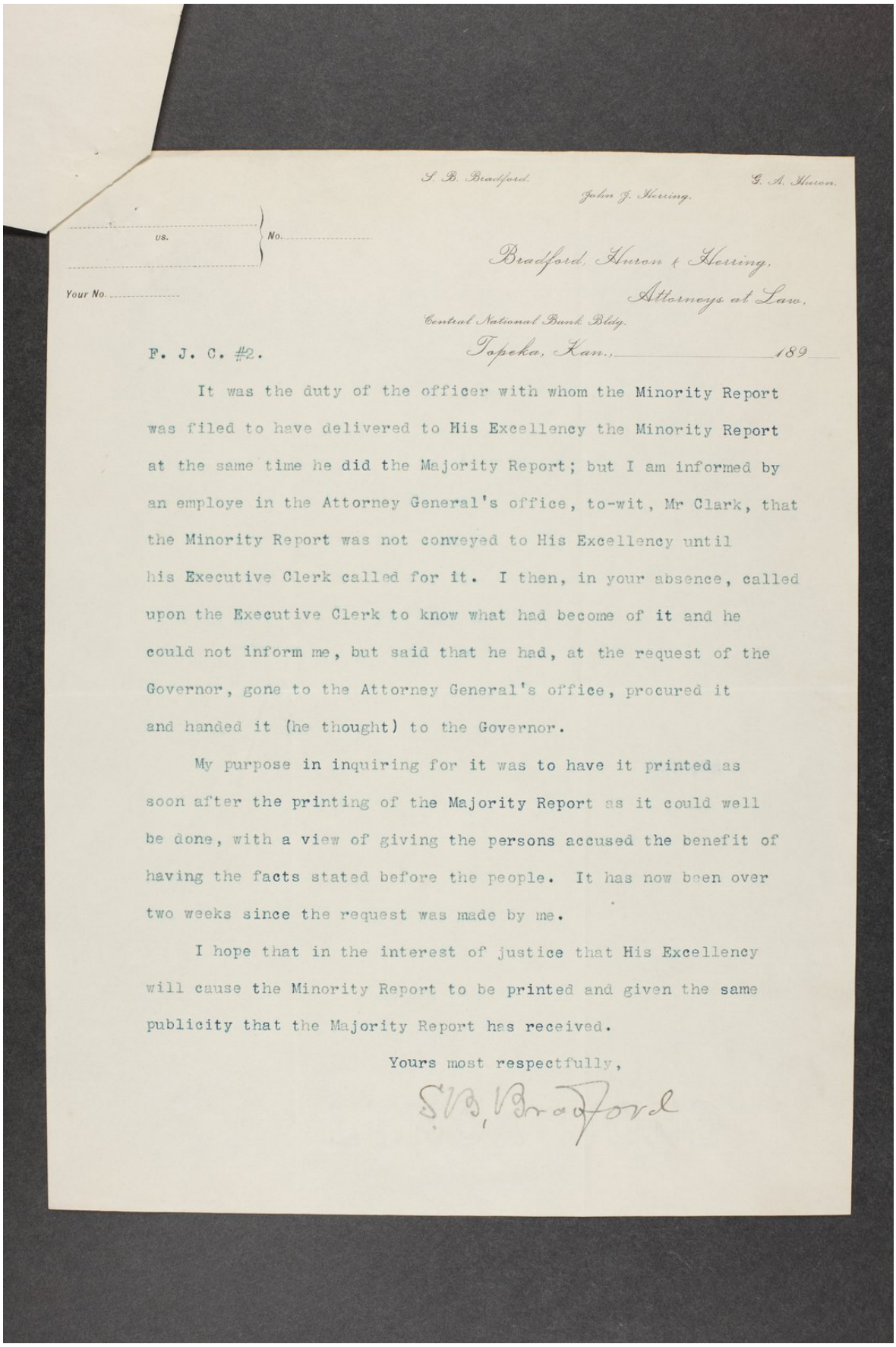
Hon. Fred J. Close,

State House, Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Replying to yours of Feb. 22nd, written me on the subject of my letter to His Excellency, the Governor, permit me to say: Please say to the Governor that at the time the Minority Report was filed in the office of the Attorney General, the Majority Report was still in the hands of that officer. The member of the Committee who filed the Minority Report made special inquiry (as per instructions) and ascertained that fact before filing his Minority Report. I suggested to him the importance of filing his Report at the same place where the Majority Report was filed, and to see that they were filed together; and he tells me that is what he did.

It was impossible to file the Minority Report at the same instant that the Majority Report was filed, for the reason that the members making the Majority Report would not permit the member of the Committee making the Minority Report to see the Majority Report until after seven o'clock of the evening before it was filed the next morning about nine o'clock, and the Minority Report was filed between twelve and one o'clock of the same day on which the Majority Report was filed.



S. B. Bradford. G. A. Huron.
John J. Herring.

vs. No.

Your No.

Bradford, Huron & Herring,
Attorneys at Law,
Central National Bank Bldg.

F. J. C. #2. Topeka, Kan., 189

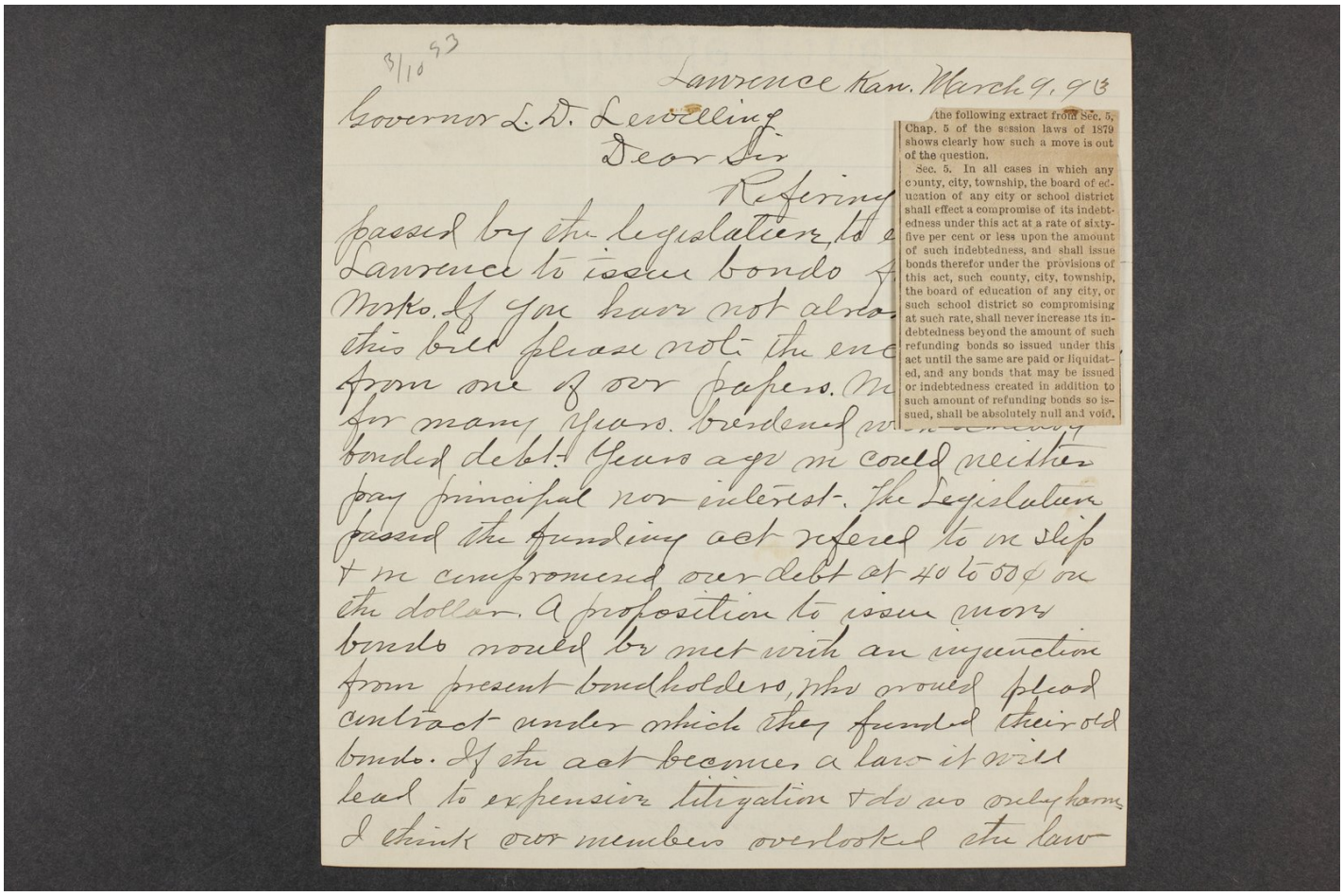
It was the duty of the officer with whom the Minority Report was filed to have delivered to His Excellency the Minority Report at the same time he did the Majority Report; but I am informed by an employe in the Attorney General's office, to-wit, Mr Clark, that the Minority Report was not conveyed to His Excellency until his Executive Clerk called for it. I then, in your absence, called upon the Executive Clerk to know what had become of it and he could not inform me, but said that he had, at the request of the Governor, gone to the Attorney General's office, procured it and handed it (he thought) to the Governor.

My purpose in inquiring for it was to have it printed as soon after the printing of the Majority Report as it could well be done, with a view of giving the persons accused the benefit of having the facts stated before the people. It has now been over two weeks since the request was made by me.

I hope that in the interest of justice that His Excellency will cause the Minority Report to be printed and given the same publicity that the Majority Report has received.

Yours most respectfully,

S. B. Bradford



3/10 93

Lawrence Kan. March 9, 93

Governor L. D. Lewelling

Dear Sir

Referring

passed by the legislature, to

Lawrence to issue bonds

Works. If you have not alre

this bill please noti the en

from one of our papers. M

for many years. burdened w

bonded debt. Years ago we could neither

pay principal nor interest. The Legislature

passed the funding act referred to we skip

& we compromised our debt at 40 to 60 ¢ on

the dollar. A proposition to issue more

bonds would be met with an injunction

from present bondholders, who would plead

contract under which they funded their old

bonds. If the act becomes a law it will

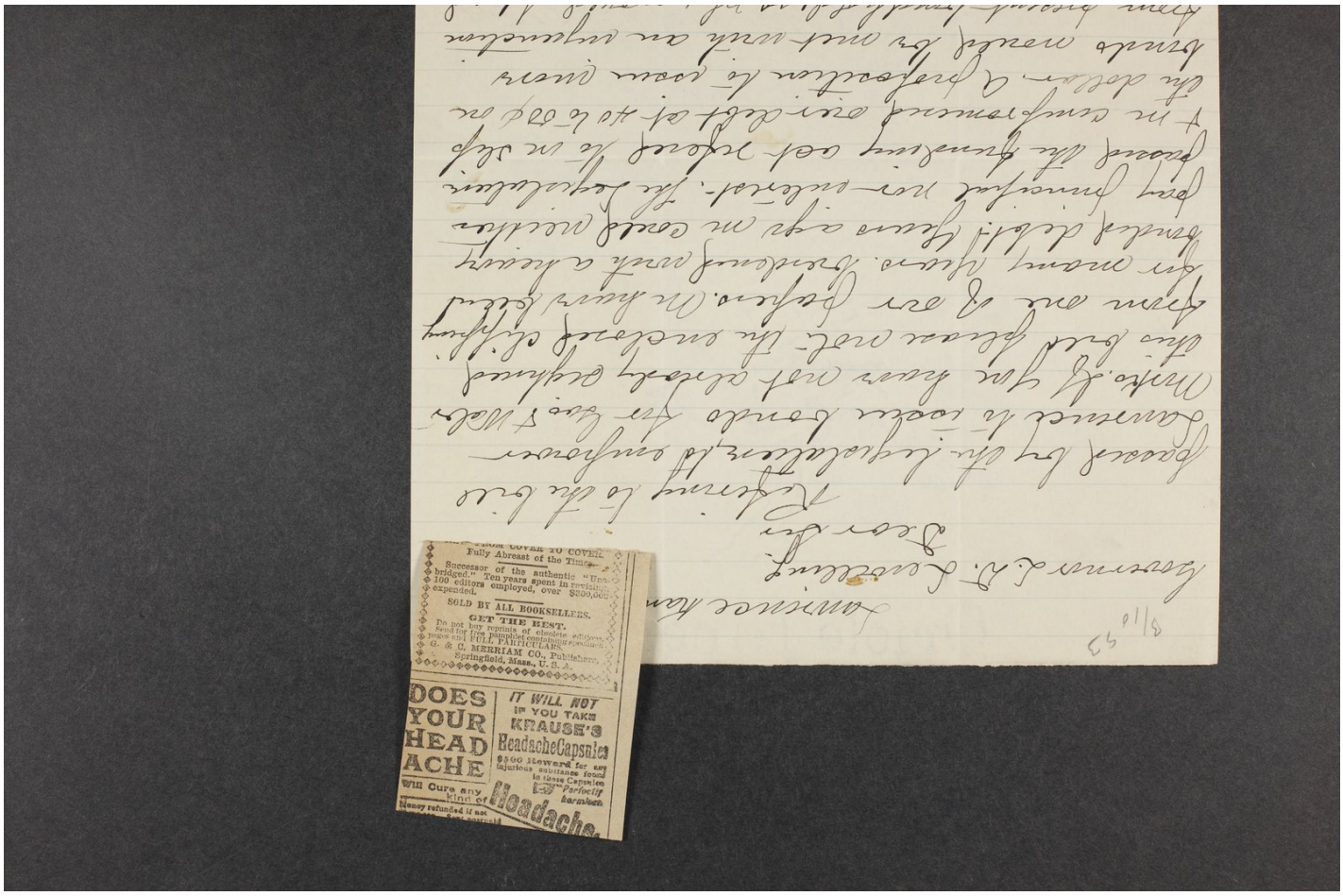
lead to expensive litigation & do no only harm

I think our members overlooked the law

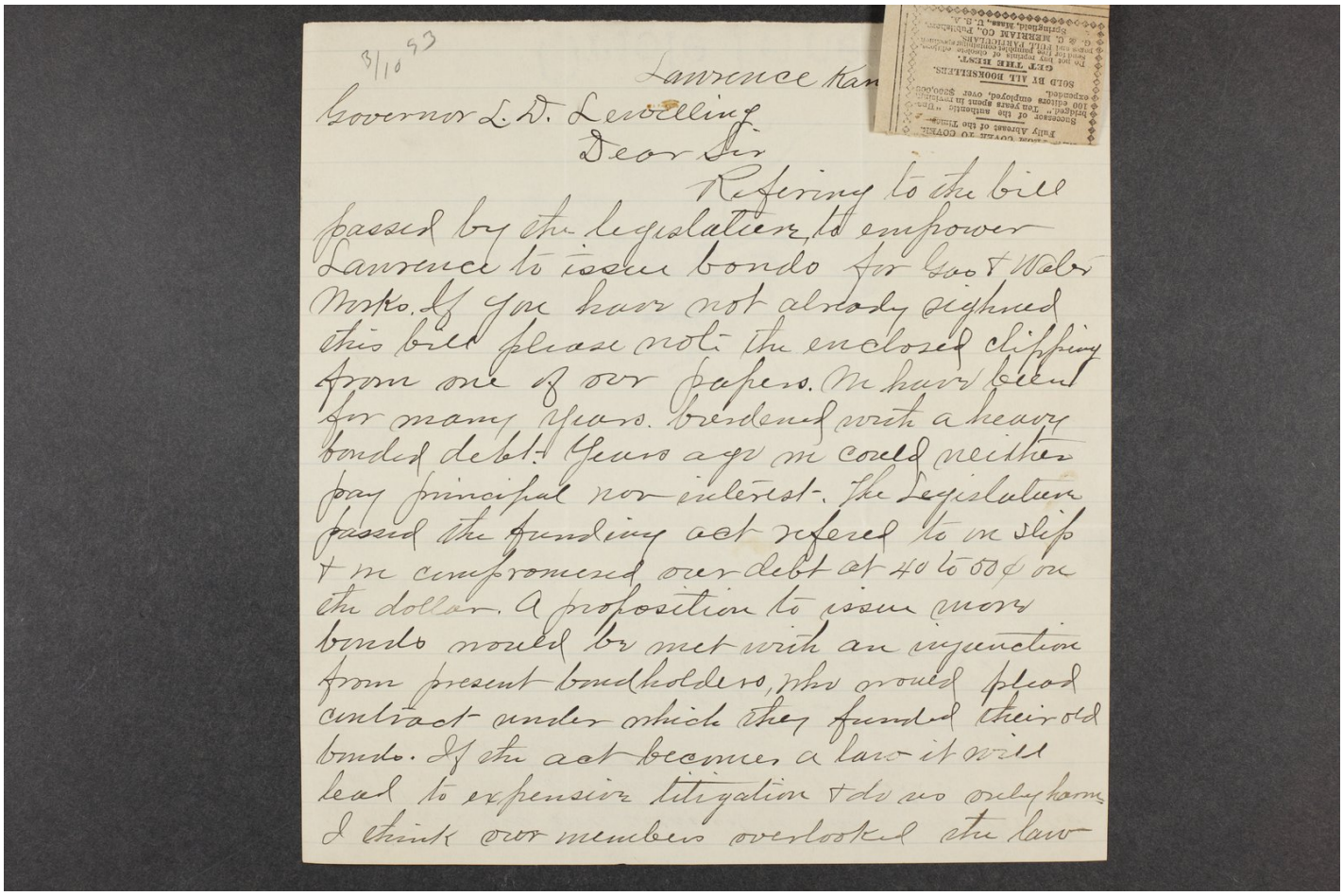
the following extract from Sec. 5, Chap. 5 of the session laws of 1879 shows clearly how such a move is out of the question.

Sec. 5. In all cases in which any county, city, township, the board of education of any city or school district shall effect a compromise of its indebtedness under this act at a rate of sixty-five per cent or less upon the amount of such indebtedness, and shall issue bonds therefor under the provisions of this act, such county, city, township, the board of education of any city, or such school district so compromising at such rate, shall never increase its indebtedness beyond the amount of such refunding bonds so issued under this act until the same are paid or liquidated, and any bonds that may be issued or indebtedness created in addition to such amount of refunding bonds so issued, shall be absolutely null and void.

Governor Lorenzo Lewelling, Correspondence, Box 3



Governor Lorenzo Lewelling, Correspondence, Box 3



3/10 93

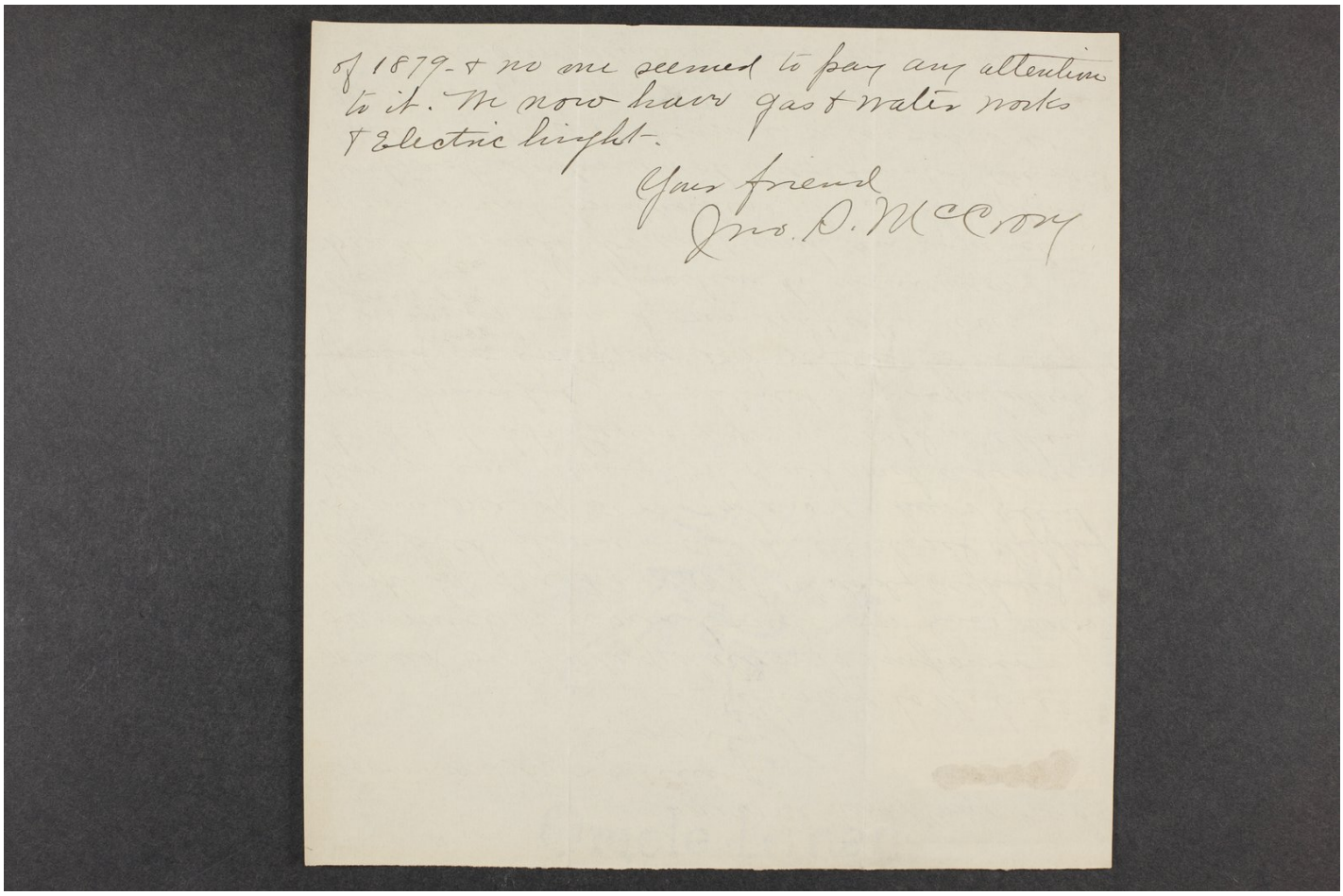
Lawrence Kan

Governor L. D. Lewelling

Dear Sir

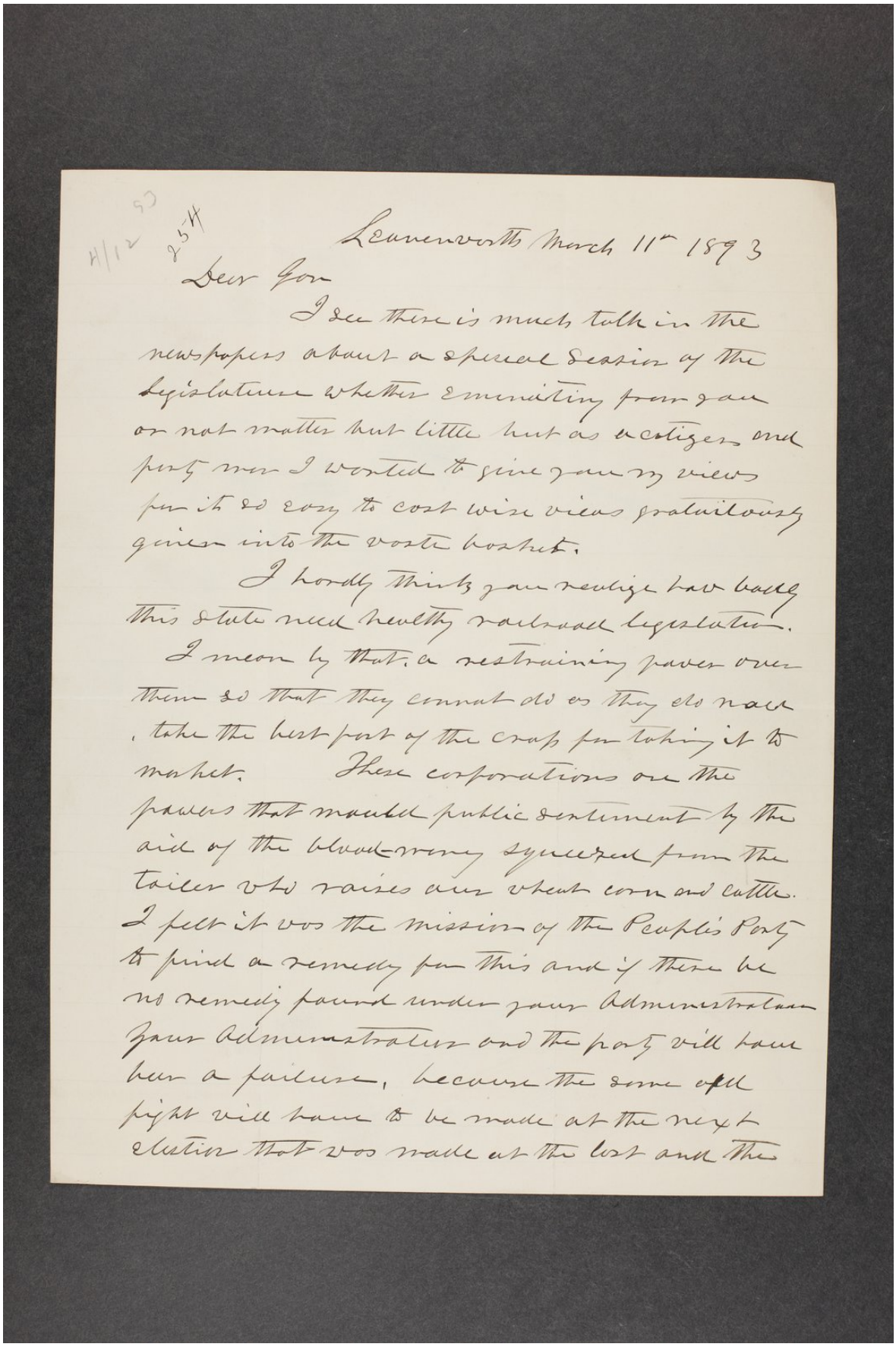
Refering to the bill passed by the legislature to empower Lawrence to issue bonds for Gas & Water Works. If you have not already signed this bill please note the enclosed clipping from one of our papers. We have been for many years burdened with a heavy bonded debt. Years ago we could neither pay principal nor interest. The Legislature passed the funding act referred to we slip & we compromised our debt at 40 to 60 ¢ on the dollar. A proposition to issue more bonds would be met with an injunction from present bondholders, who would plead contract under which they funded their old bonds. If the act becomes a law it will lead to expensive litigation & do no only harm. I think our members overlooked the law

Governor Lorenzo Lewelling, Correspondence, Box 3



of 1879 & no one seemed to pay any attention to it. We now have gas & water works & Electric light.

Yours friend
Jno. D. McCoy



H/12 93
2 5 H

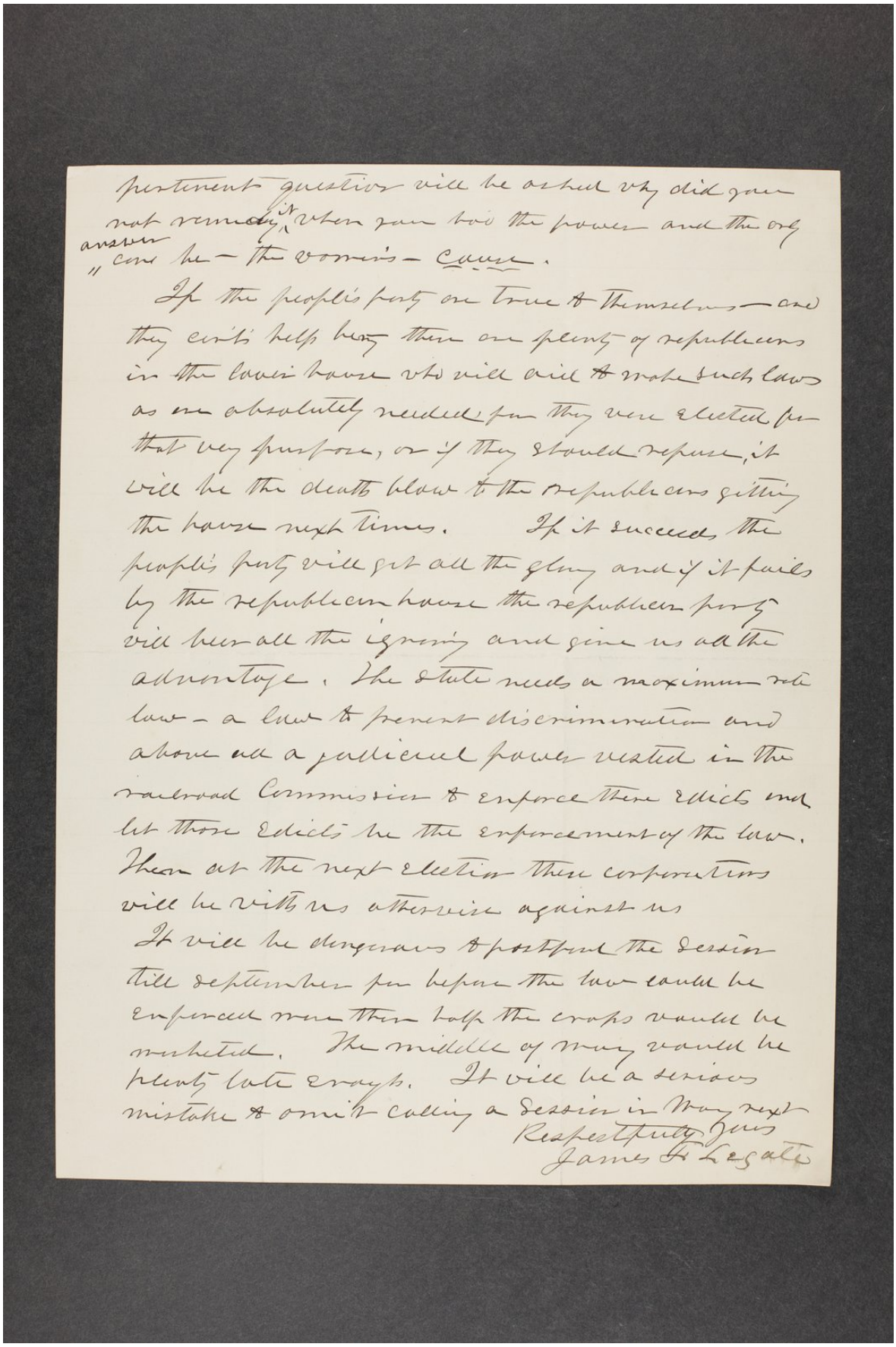
Leavenworth March 11th 1893

Dear Gov

I see there is much talk in the newspapers about a special session of the legislature whether emanating from you or not matter but little but as a citizen and party man I wanted to give you my views for it do cost me views gratuitously given into the waste basket.

I hardly think you realize how badly this state need healthy railroad legislation.

I mean by that a restraining power over them so that they cannot do as they do now, take the best part of the crop for taking it to market. These corporations are the powers that mould public sentiment by the aid of the blood-money squeezed from the toilers who raises our wheat corn and cattle. I felt it was the mission of the People's Party to find a remedy for this and if there be no remedy found under your Administration your Administration and the party will have been a failure, because the same old fight will have to be made at the next election that was made at the last and the

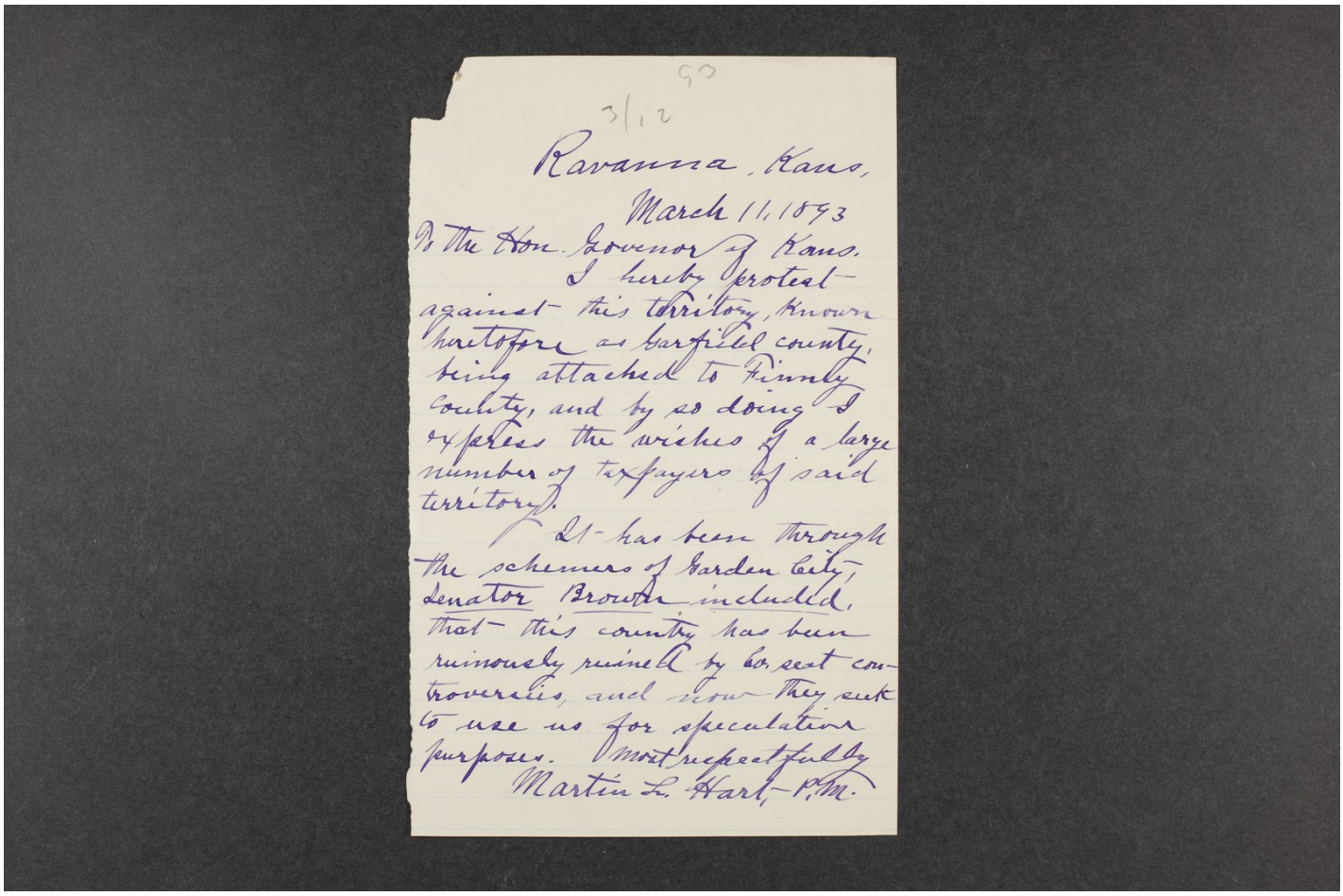


pertinent question will be asked why did you not remedy it when you had the power and the only answer can be — the Governor's — Cause.

If the people's party are true to themselves — and they can't help but there are plenty of republicans in the lower house who will aid to make such laws as are absolutely needed for they were elected for that very purpose, or if they should refuse, it will be the death blow to the republicans getting the house next times. If it succeeds the people's party will get all the glory and if it fails by the republican house the republican party will bear all the ignominy and give us all the advantage. The state needs a maximum rate law — a law to prevent discrimination and above all a judicial power vested in the railroad Commission to enforce these edicts and let those Edicts be the enforcement of the law. Then at the next election these corporations will be with us otherwise against us

It will be dangerous to postpone the Session till September for before the law could be enforced even then half the crops would be marketed. The middle of May would be plenty late enough. It will be a serious mistake to omit calling a Session in May next

Respectfully Yours
James H Legate



3/12 93

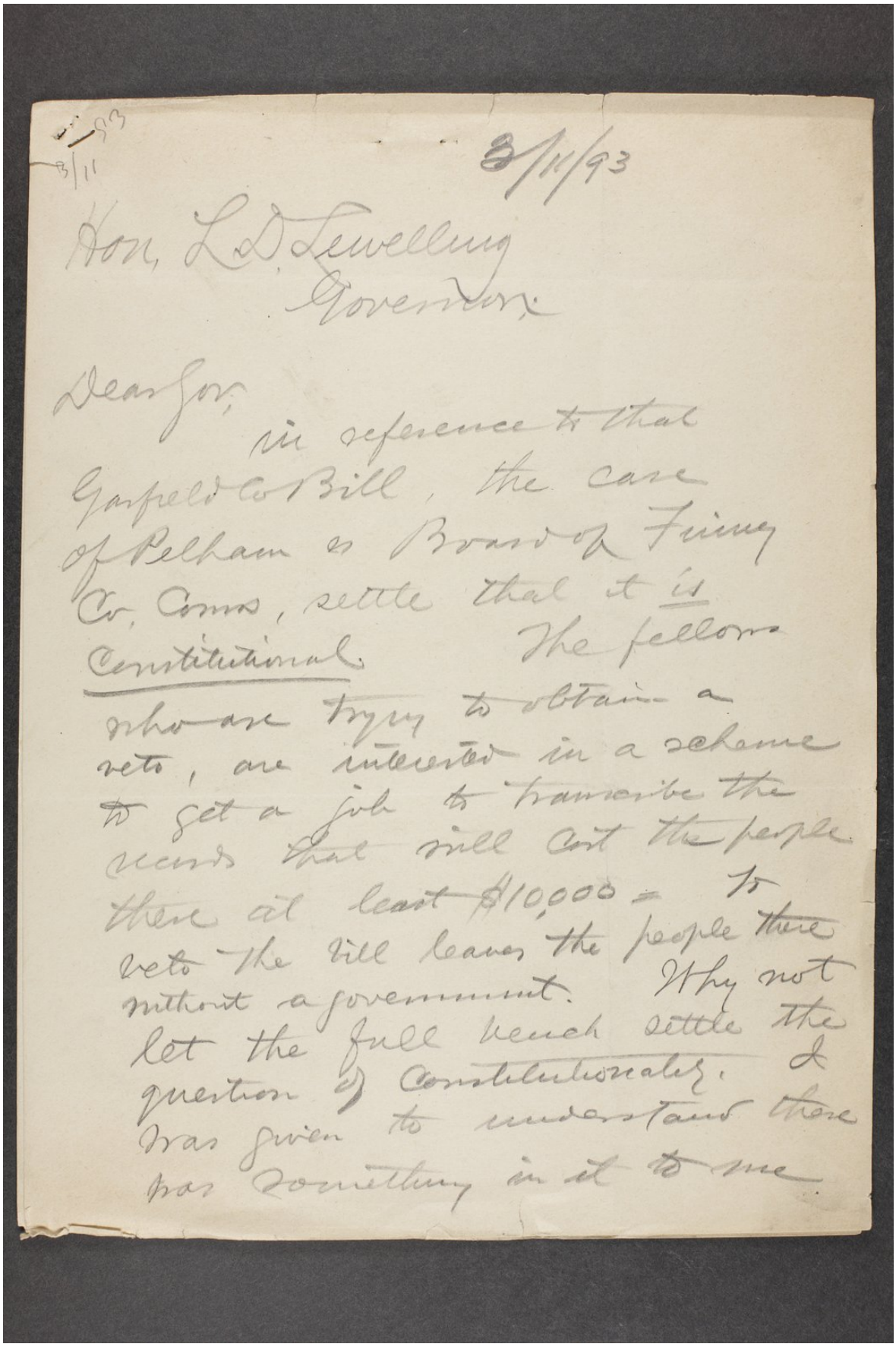
Ravanna, Kans,
March 11, 1893

To the Hon. Governor of Kans.

I hereby protest against this territory, known heretofore as Garfield county, being attached to Finney County, and by so doing I express the wishes of a large number of taxpayers of said territory.

It has been through the schemers of Garden City, Senator Brown included, that this country has been ruinously ruined by co. seat controversies, and now they seek to use us for speculation purposes. Most respectfully

Martin L. Hart, P.M.

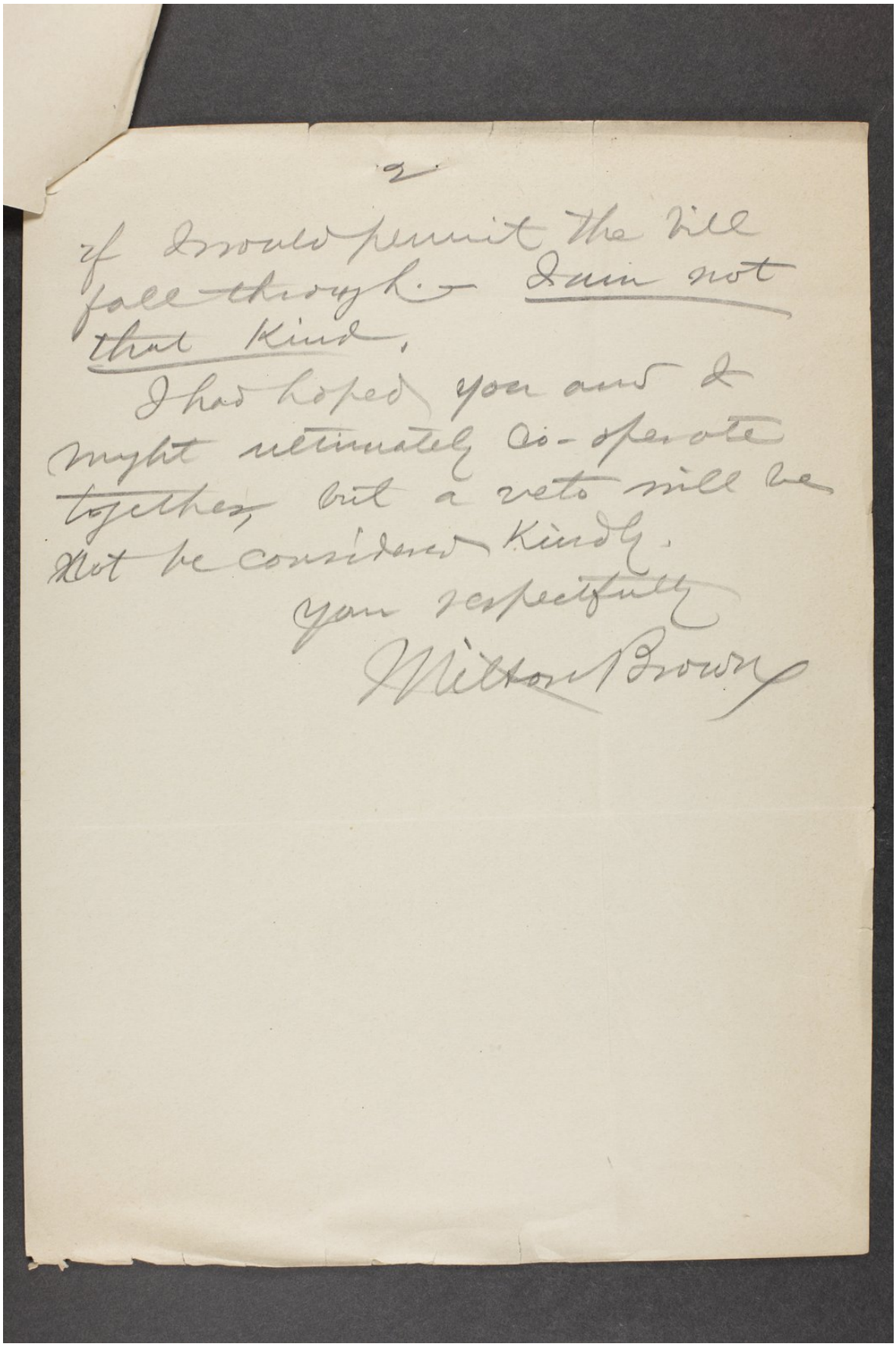


3/11/93

Hon. L. D. Lewelling
Governor.

Dear Gov.

In reference to that Garfield Co Bill, the case of Pelham vs Board of Finney Co. Comrs, settle that it is Constitutional. The fellows who are trying to obtain a veto, are interested in a scheme to get a job to transcribe the records that will cost the people there at least $10,000 = 15 veto the bill leaves the people there without a government. Why not let the full bench settle the question of Constitutionality. I was given to understand there was something in it to me.



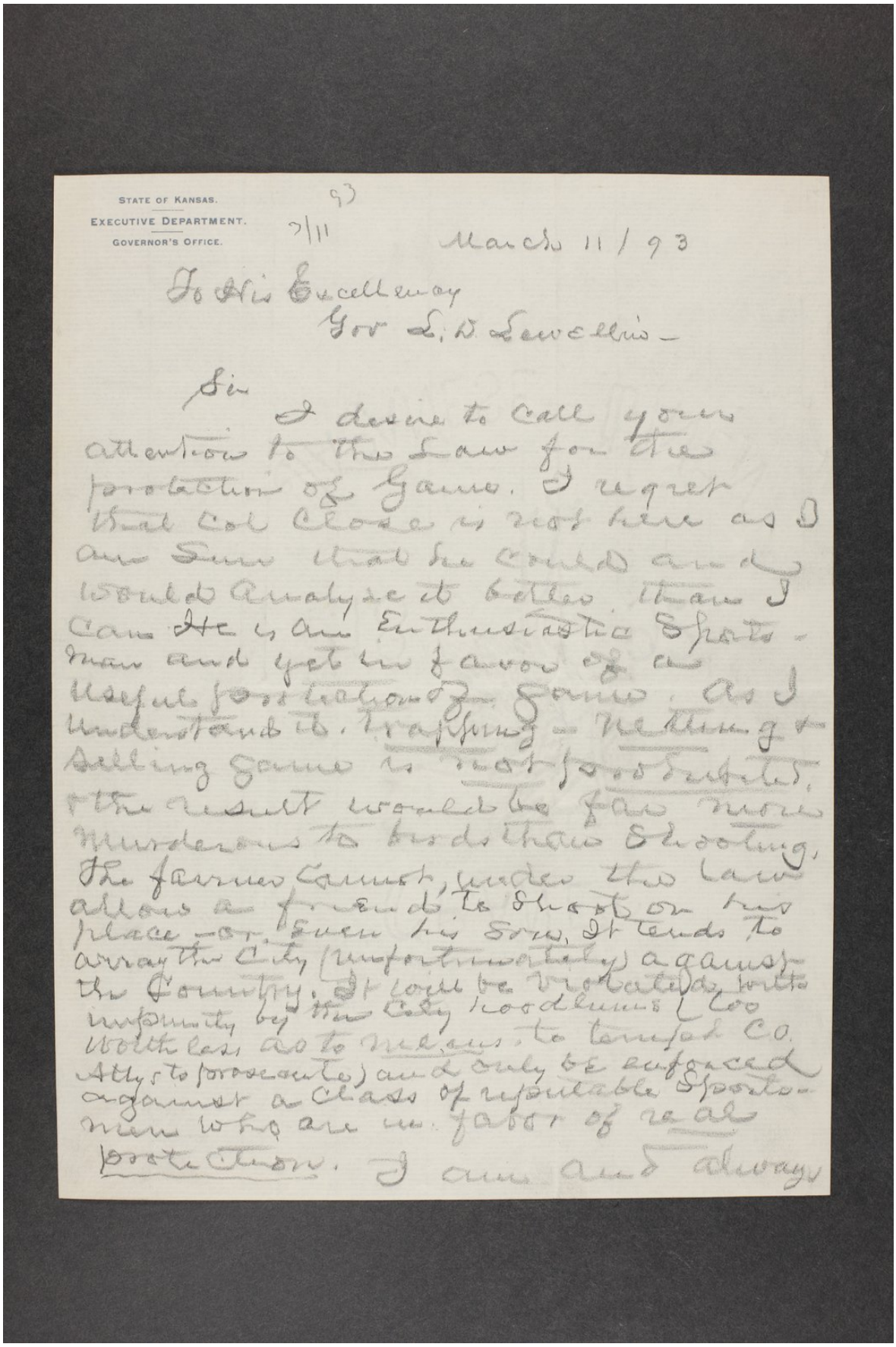
2

if I would permit the bill fall through. I am not that Kind.

I had hoped you and I might ultimately co-operate together, but a veto will be Not be considered Kindly.

Yours respectfully

J. Milton Brown



STATE OF KANSAS.
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE.

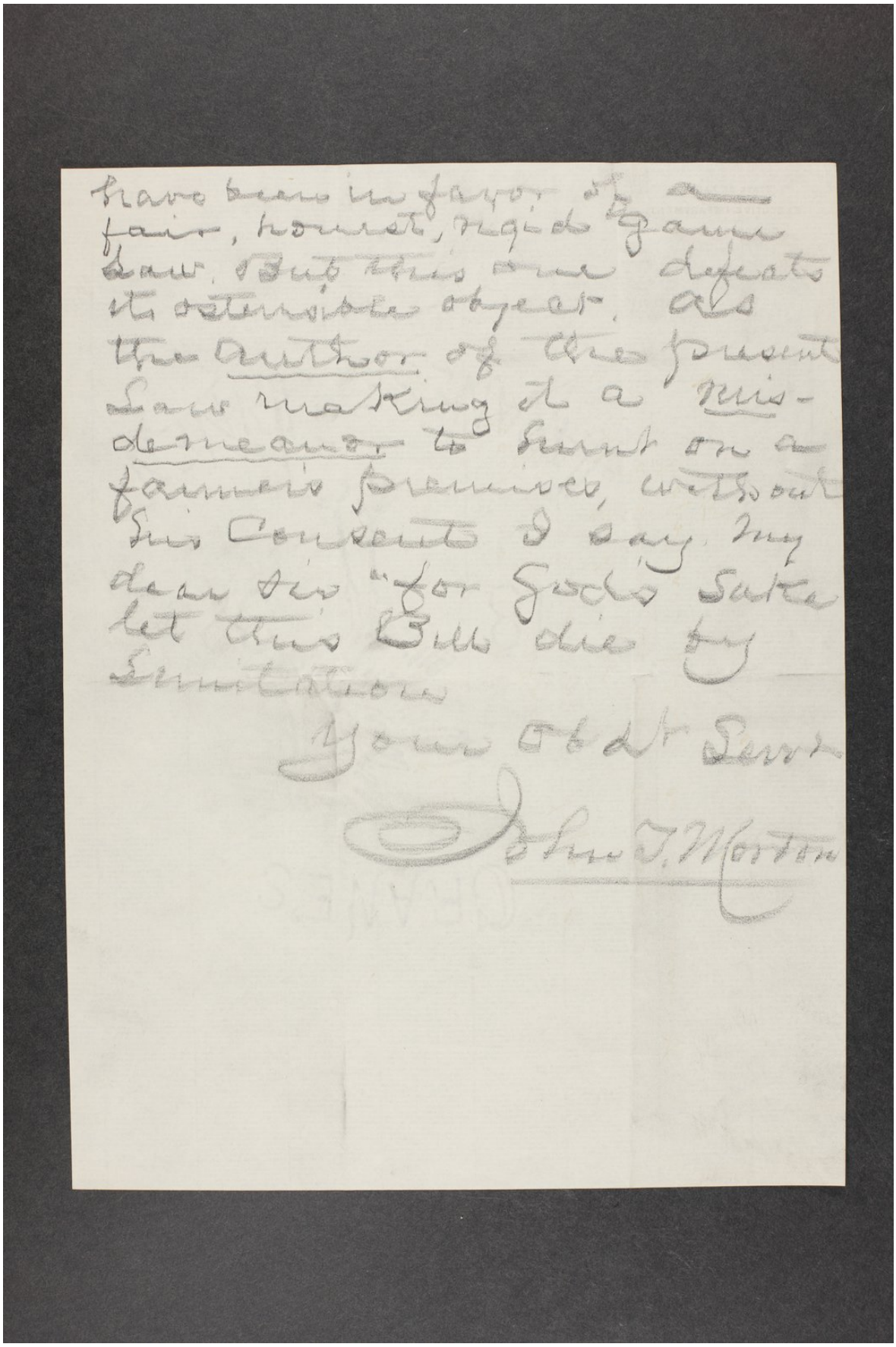
93
3/11

March 11/93

To His Excellency
Gov L. D. Lewellis –

Sir

I desire to call your attention to the Law for the protection of Game. I regret that Col Close is not here as I am sure that he could and would Analyze it better than I can. He is an Enthusiastic Sportsman and yet in favor of a useful protection of Game. As I understand it. Trapping – Netting & Selling Game is not forbidden, & the result would be far more Murderous to birds than Shooting. The farmer cannot, under the law allow a friend to shoot on his place – or even his Son. It tends to array the City (unfortunately) against the Country. It could be violated with impunity by the City hoodlums (too worthless as to means, to tempt Co. Attys to prosecute) and only be enforced against a Class of reputable Sportsmen who are in favor of real protection. I am and always

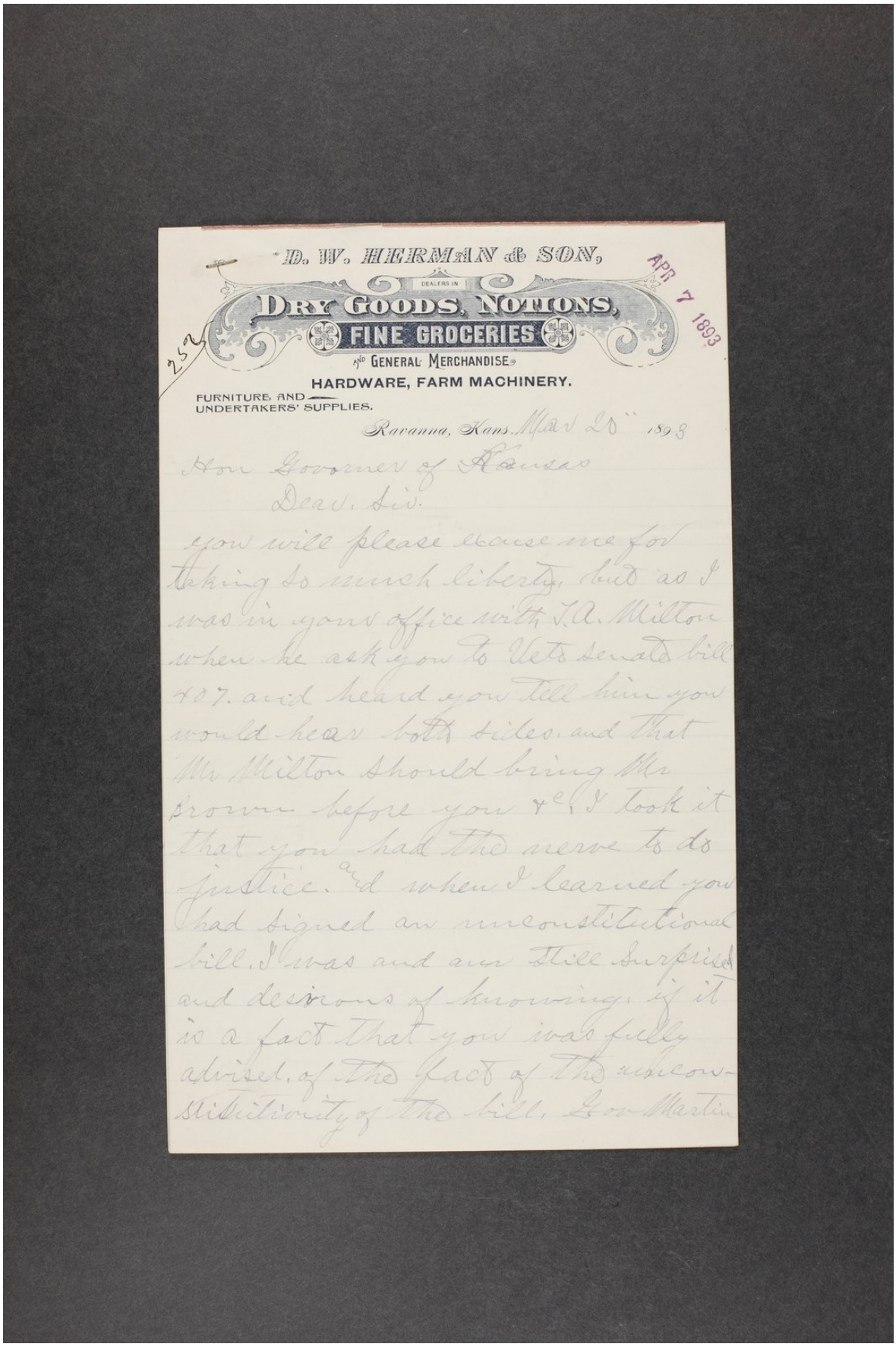


have been in favor of a
fair, honest, rigid game
law. But this one defeats
its ostensible object. As
the author of the present
law making it a mis-
demeanor to hunt on a
farmers premises, without
his consent I say, my
dear Sir "for Gods Sake
let this Bill die by
Limitation"

Yours Ob't Serv't

John T. Morton

Governor Lorenzo Lewelling, Correspondence, Box 3



D. W. HERMAN & SON,
DEALERS IN
DRY GOODS, NOTIONS,
FINE GROCERIES
AND GENERAL MERCHANDISE.
HARDWARE, FARM MACHINERY.
FURNITURE AND UNDERTAKERS' SUPPLIES.

APR 7 1893

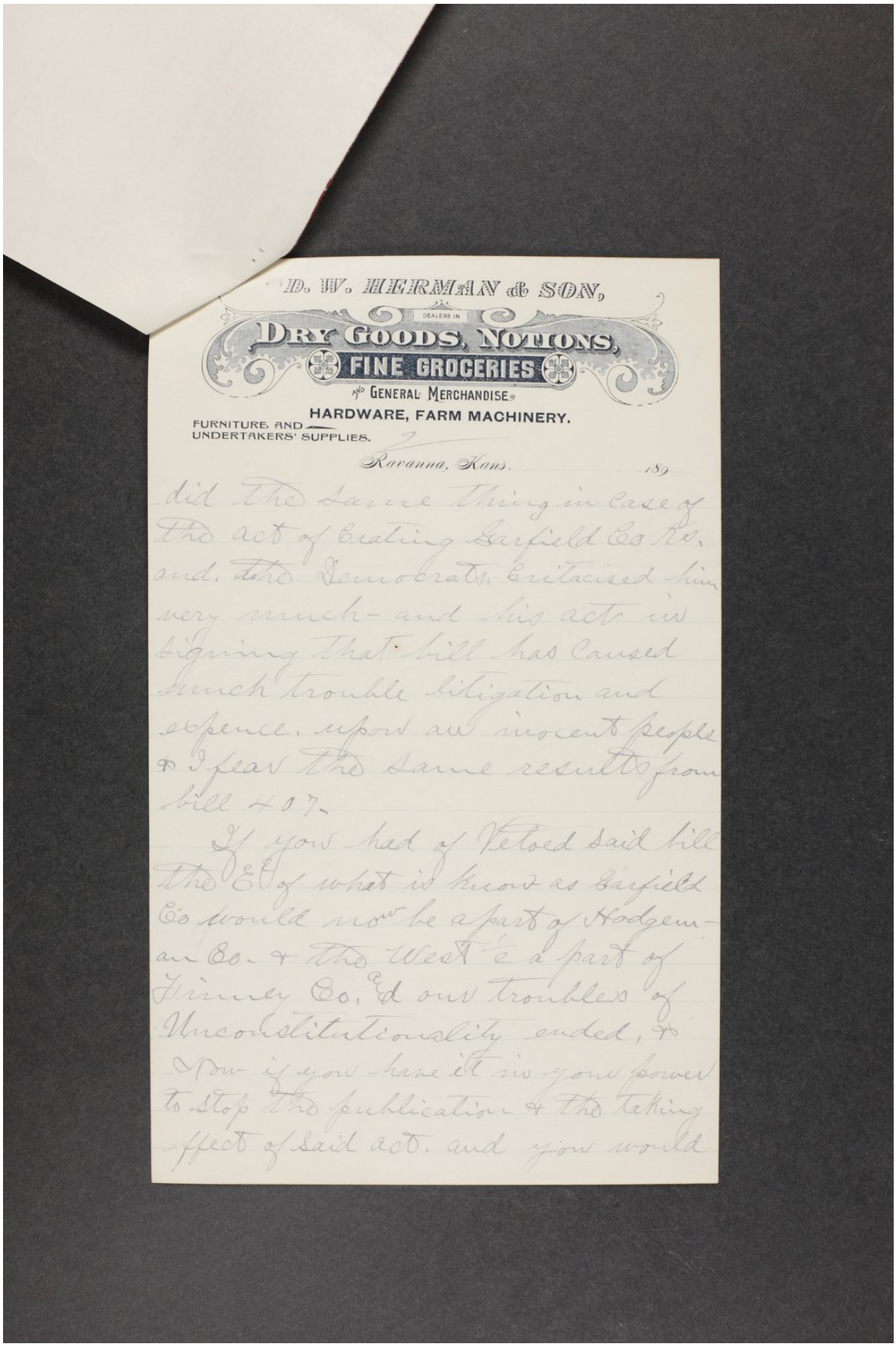
259

Ravanna, Kans. Mar 20th 1893

Hon Governer of Kansas

Dear Sir.

you will please excuse me for taking so much liberty, but as I was in your office with J.R. Milton when he ask you to Vets senate bill 207. and heard you tell him you would hear both sides. and that Mr Milton should bring Mr Brown before you &c. I took it that you had the nerve to do justice. and when I learned you had signed an unconstitutional bill. I was and am still surprised and desirous of knowing. if it is a fact that you was fully advised. of the fact of the unconstitutionality of the bill. Gov Martin



D. W. HERMAN & SON,

DEALERS IN

DRY GOODS, NOTIONS,

FINE GROCERIES

AND GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

HARDWARE, FARM MACHINERY.

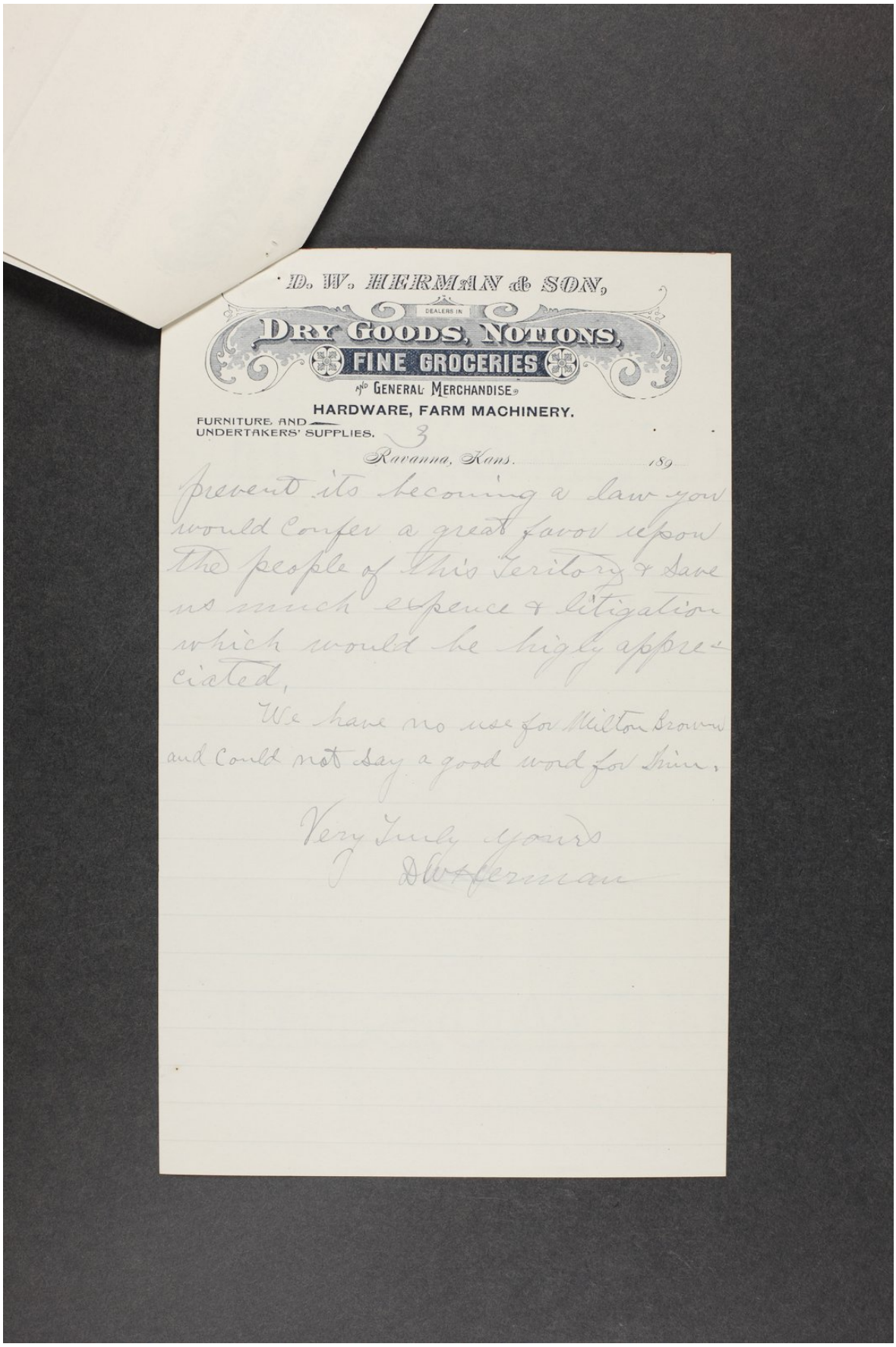
FURNITURE AND UNDERTAKERS' SUPPLIES.

Ravanna, Kans. 189

did the same thing in case of the act of Crating Garfield Co Rd. and the Democrats Criticised him very much - and his act in signing that bill has caused much trouble litigation and expence upon an innocent people & I fear the same results from bill 407.

If you had of Vetoed said bill the E of what is know as Garfield Co would now be a part of Hodgeman Co. & the West ½ a part of Finney Co. & our troubles of Unconstitutionality ended, & Now if you have it in your power to stop the publication & the taking effect of said act. and you would

Governor Lorenzo Lewelling, Correspondence, Box 3



D. W. HERMAN & SON,
DEALERS IN
DRY GOODS, NOTIONS,
FINE GROCERIES
AND GENERAL MERCHANDISE.
HARDWARE, FARM MACHINERY.
FURNITURE AND UNDERTAKERS' SUPPLIES.

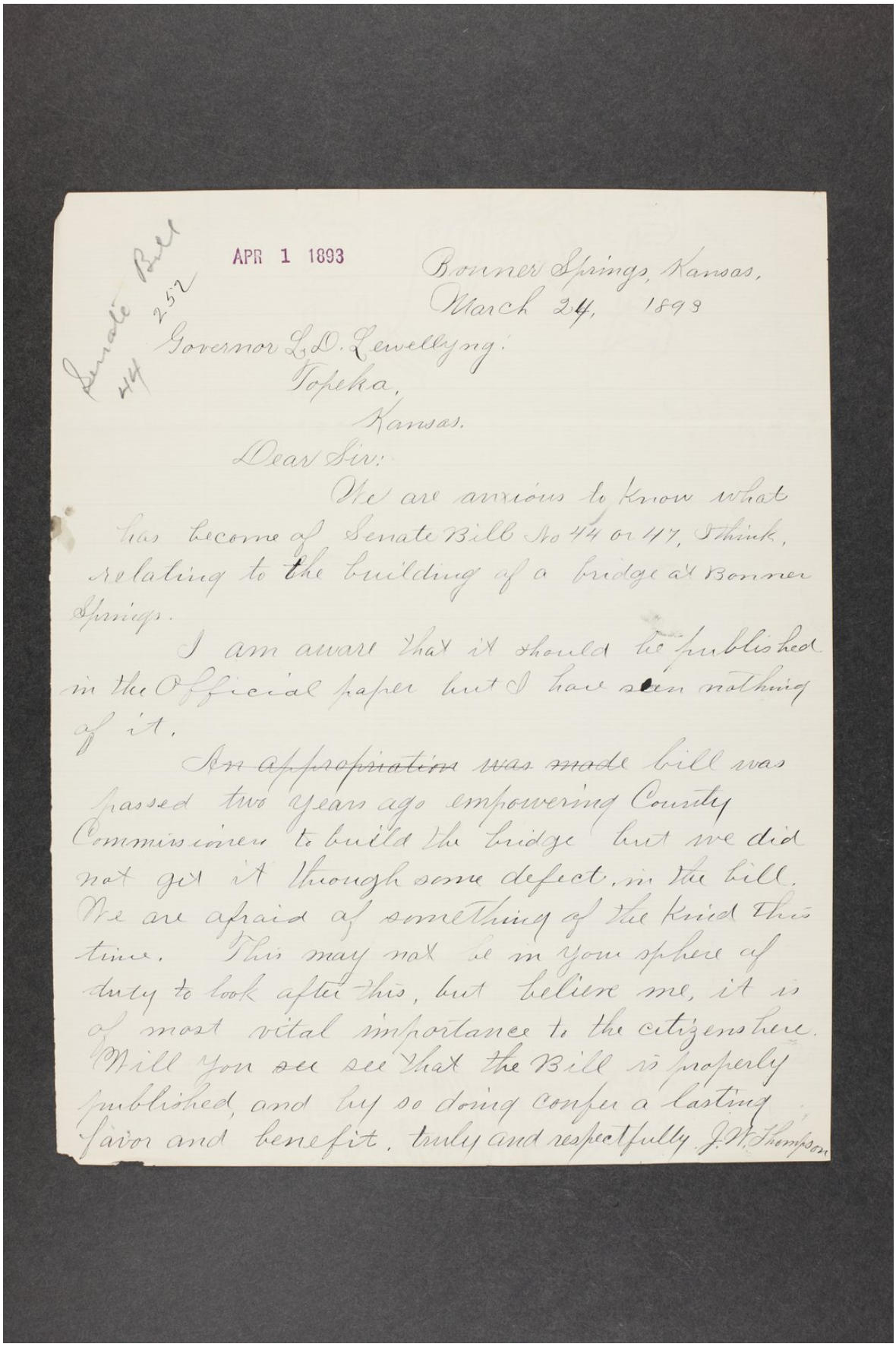
3

Ravanna, Kans. 189

prevent its becoming a law you would confer a great favor upon the people of this Territory & save us much expence & litigation which would be highly appreciated,

We have no use for Milton Brown and could not say a good word for him.

Very Truly Yours
D W Herman



Senate Bill 252 44

APR 1 1893

Bonner Springs, Kansas,
March 24, 1893

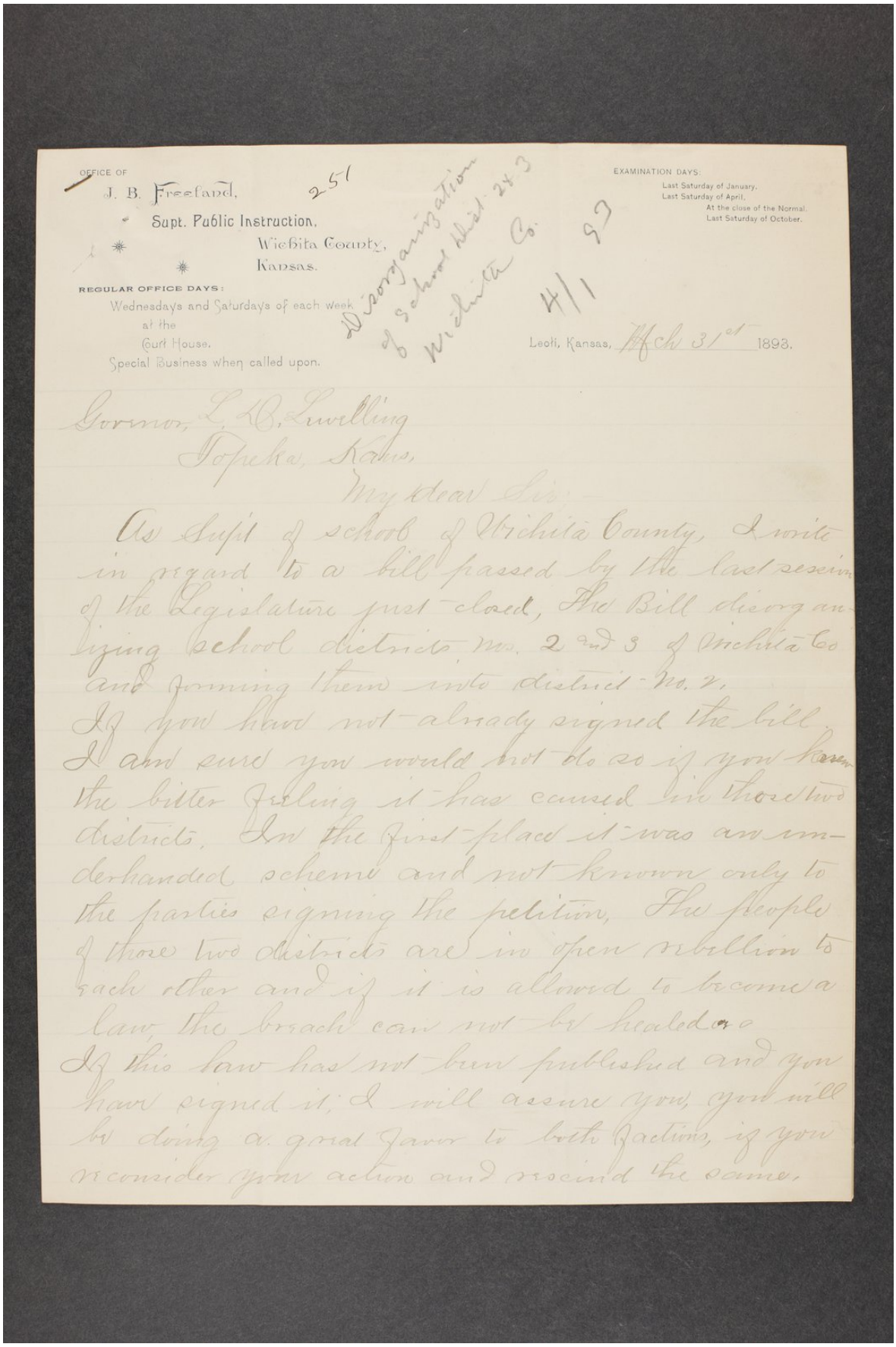
Governor L. D. Lewelling:
Topeka,
Kansas.

Dear Sir:

We are anxious to know what has become of Senate Bill No 44 or 47, I think, relating to the building of a bridge at Bonner Springs.

I am aware that it should be published in the Official paper but I have seen nothing of it.

An appropriation was made bill was passed two years ago empowering County Commissioners to build the bridge but we did not get it through some defect in the bill. We are afraid of something of the kind this time. This may not be in your sphere of duty to look after this, but believe me, it is of most vital importance to the citizens here. Will you see see that the Bill is properly published, and by so doing confer a lasting favor and benefit. truly and respectfully J. W. Thompson



OFFICE OF
J. B. Freeland,
Supt. Public Instruction,
Wichita County,
Kansas.

REGULAR OFFICE DAYS:
Wednesdays and Saturdays of each week
at the
Court House.
Special Business when called upon.

EXAMINATION DAYS:
Last Saturday of January.
Last Saturday of April.
At the close of the Normal.
Last Saturday of October.

251

Disorganization of school Dist 2 & 3 Wichita Co.

93

411

Leoti, Kansas, March 31st 1893.

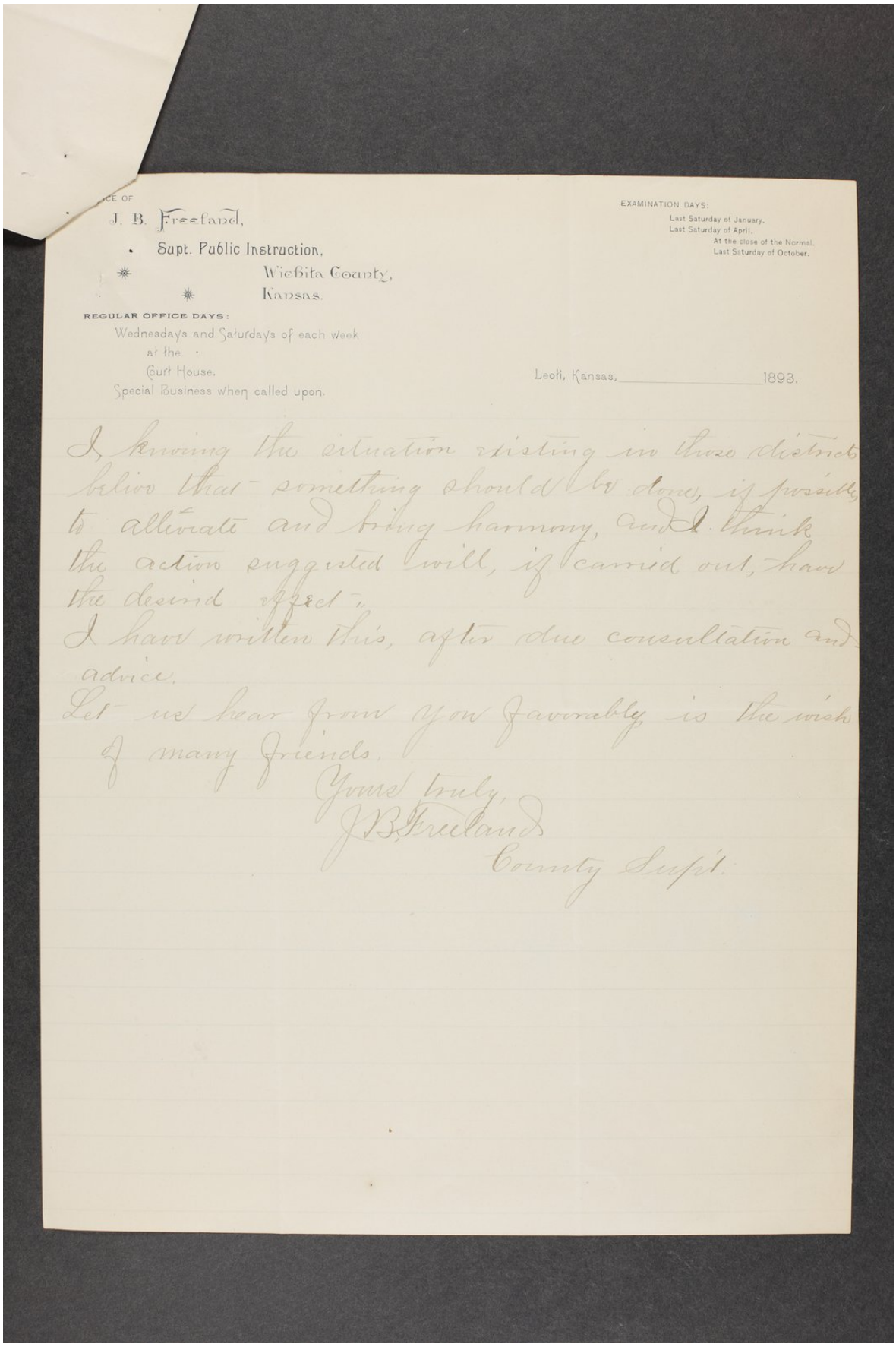
Governor L. D. Lewelling
Topeka, Kans.

My dear Sir:

As Supt of schools of Wichita County, I write in regard to a bill passed by the last session of the Legislature just closed, The Bill disorganizing school districts No. 2 and 3 of Wichita Co and forming them into district No. 2.

If you have not already signed the bill I am sure you would not do so if you knew the bitter feeling it has caused in those two districts. In the first place it was an underhanded scheme and not known only to the parties signing the petition, The people of those two districts are in open rebellion to each other and if it is allowed to become a law the breach can not be healed.

If this law has not been published and you have signed it, I will assure you, you will be doing a great favor to both factions, if you reconsider your action and rescind the same.



OFFICE OF
J. B. Freeland,
Supt. Public Instruction,
Wichita County,
Kansas.

REGULAR OFFICE DAYS:
Wednesdays and Saturdays of each week
at the
Court House.
Special Business when called upon.

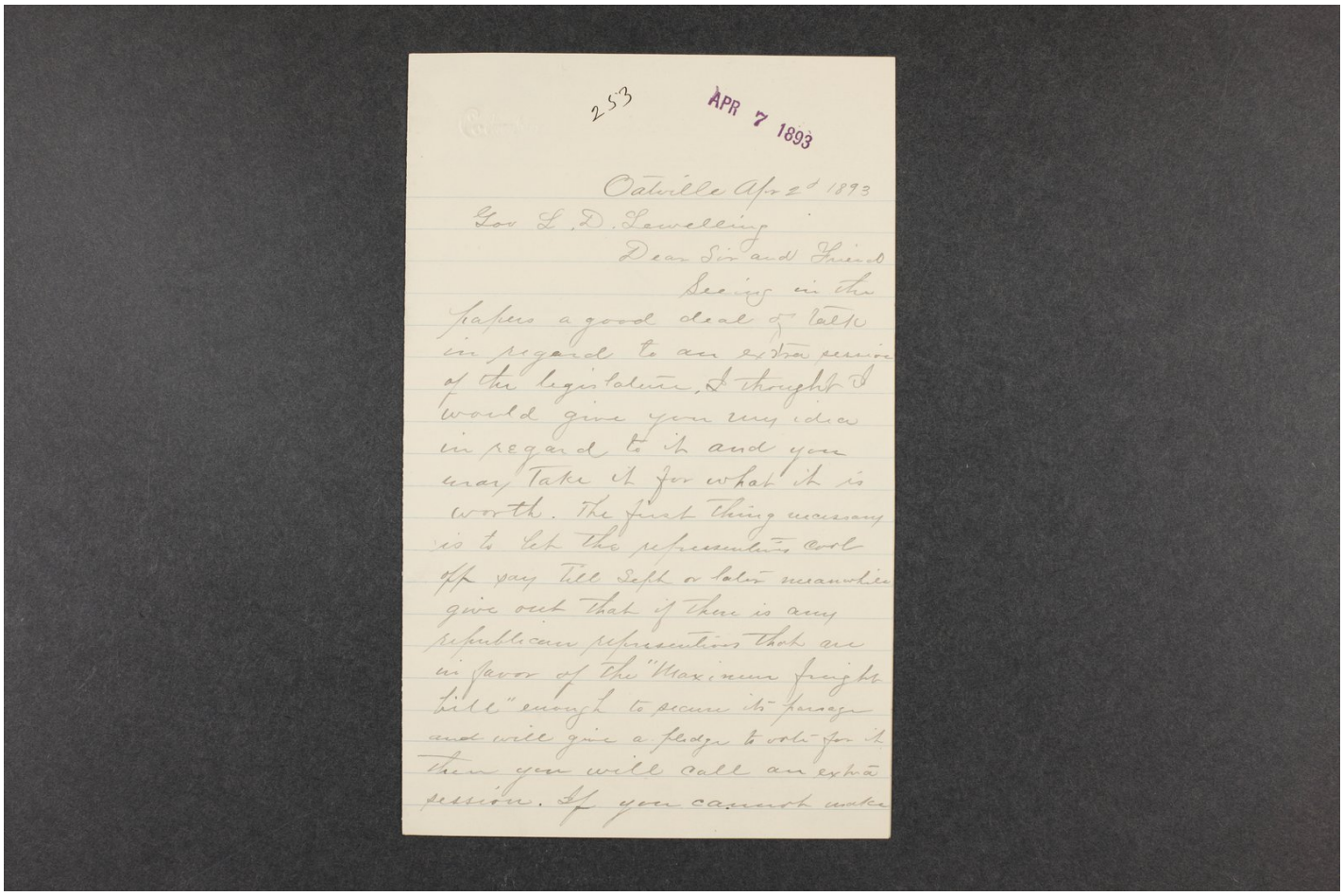
EXAMINATION DAYS:
Last Saturday of January.
Last Saturday of April.
At the close of the Normal.
Last Saturday of October.

Leoti, Kansas, _____ 1893.

I, knowing the situation existing in those districts believe that something should be done, if possible, to alleviate and bring harmony, and I think the action suggested will, if carried out, have the desired effect.
I have written this, after due consultation and advice.
Let us hear from you favorably, is the wish of many friends.

Yours truly,
J. B. Freeland
County Supt.

Governor Lorenzo Lewelling, Correspondence, Box 3



253 APR 7 1893

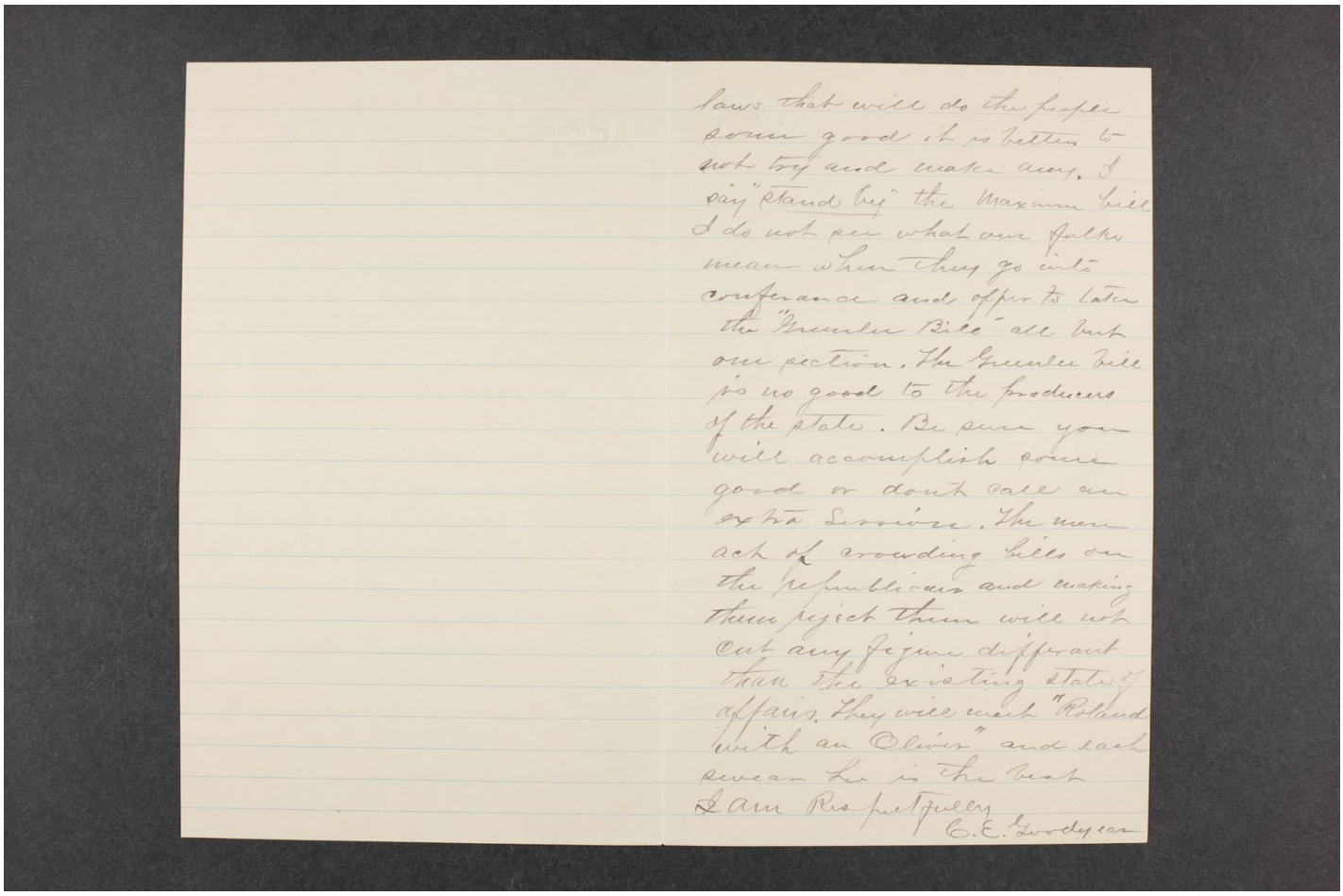
Oatville Apr 2d 1893

Gov L. D. Lewelling

Dear Sir and Friend

Seeing in the papers a good deal of talk in regard to an extra session of the legislature, I thought I would give you my idea in regard to it and you may take it for what it is worth. The first thing necessary is to let the representatives cool off pay their bills & take a vacation meanwhile give out that if there is any republican representatives that are in favor of the "Maximum freight bill" enough to secure its passage and will give a pledge to vote for it then you will call an extra session. If you cannot make

Governor Lorenzo Lewelling, Correspondence, Box 3



laws that will do the people
some good it is better to
not try and make any. I
say "stand by" the Maximum bill
I do not see what our fellows
mean when they go into
conference and offer to take
the "Grundy Bill" all but
one section. The Grundy bill
is no good to the producers
of the state. Be sure you
will accomplish some
good or don't call an
extra Session. The men
ace of crowding bills on
the Republicans and making
them reject them will not
cut any figure different
than the existing state of
affairs. They will meet "Roland
with an Oliver" and each
swear he is the best
I am Respectfully
C. E. Lovejoy