J. L. Witinger to Governor John St. John

A letter to Kansas Governor John St. John from J. L. Witinger, a Connecticut newspaper man and temperance worker. In the letter, Witinger requests details of the prohibition amendment vote; specifically, how it played out along party lines and when it will be implemented.

Creator: Witinger, J. L.

Date: November 17, 1880

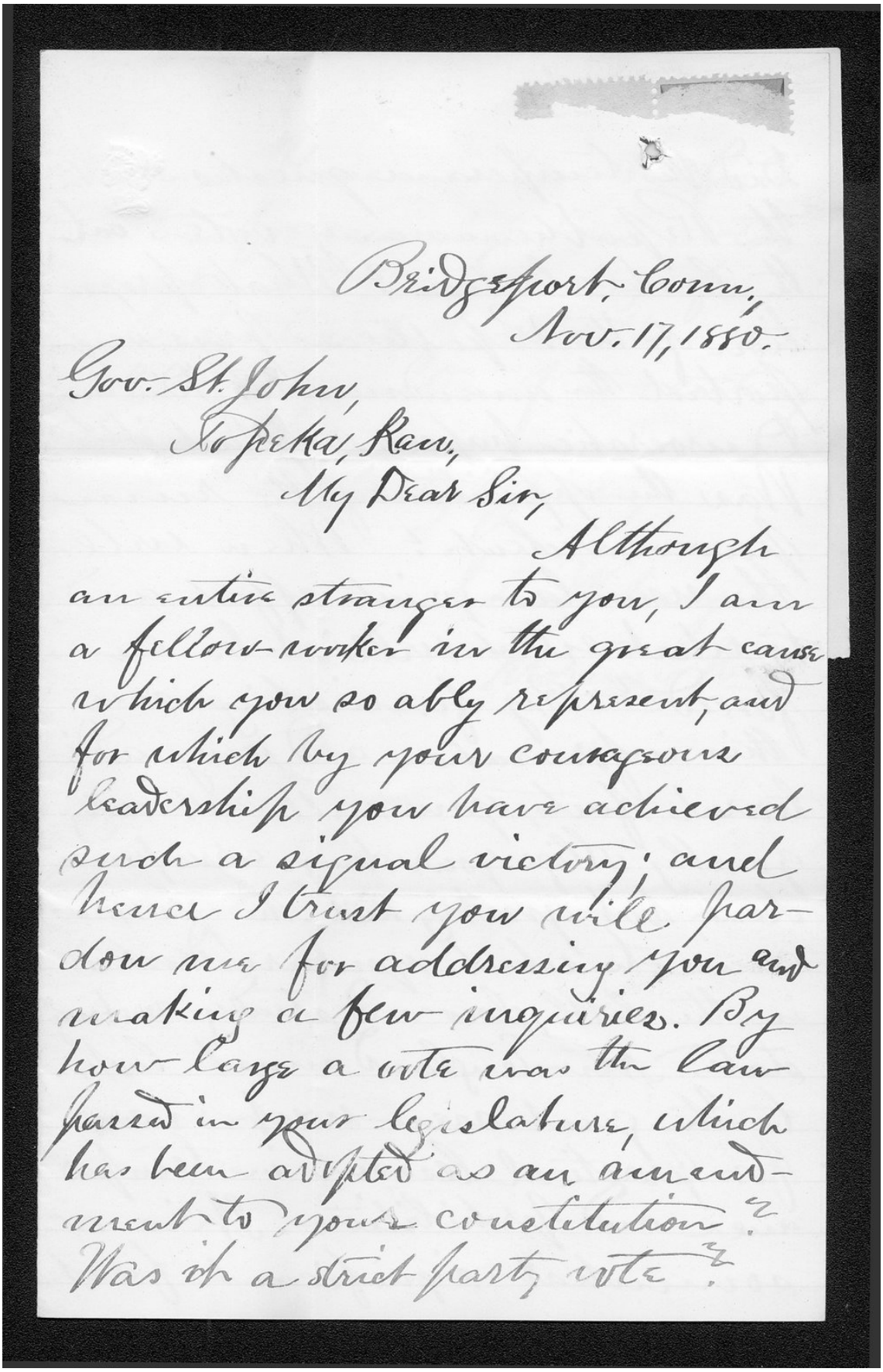
Callnumber: Governor's Office, St. John, Correspondence Received-Subject File, Box 20

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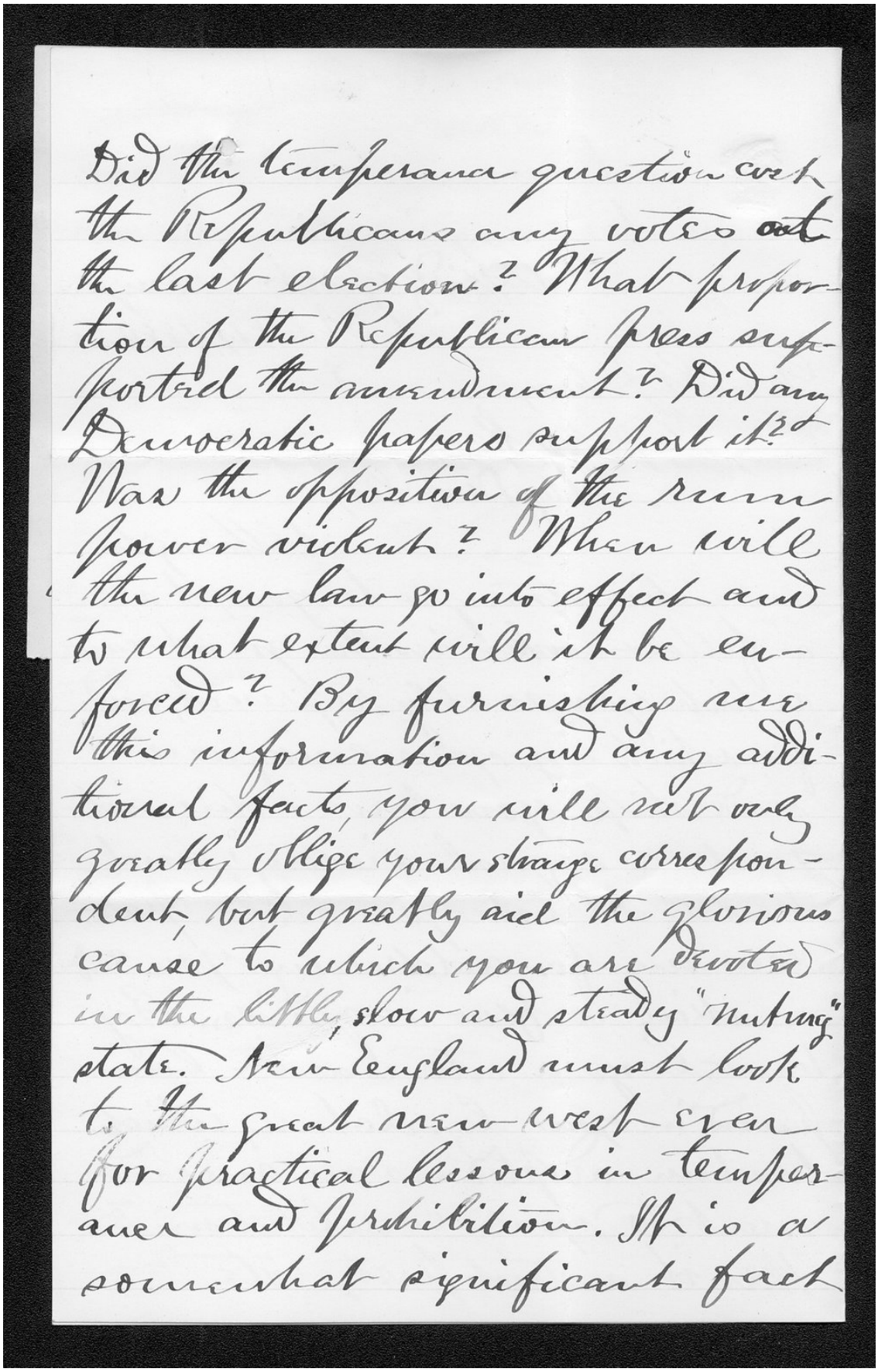


Bridgeport, Conn.,
Nov. 17, 1880.

Gov. St. John,
Topeka, Kan.,
My Dear Sir,

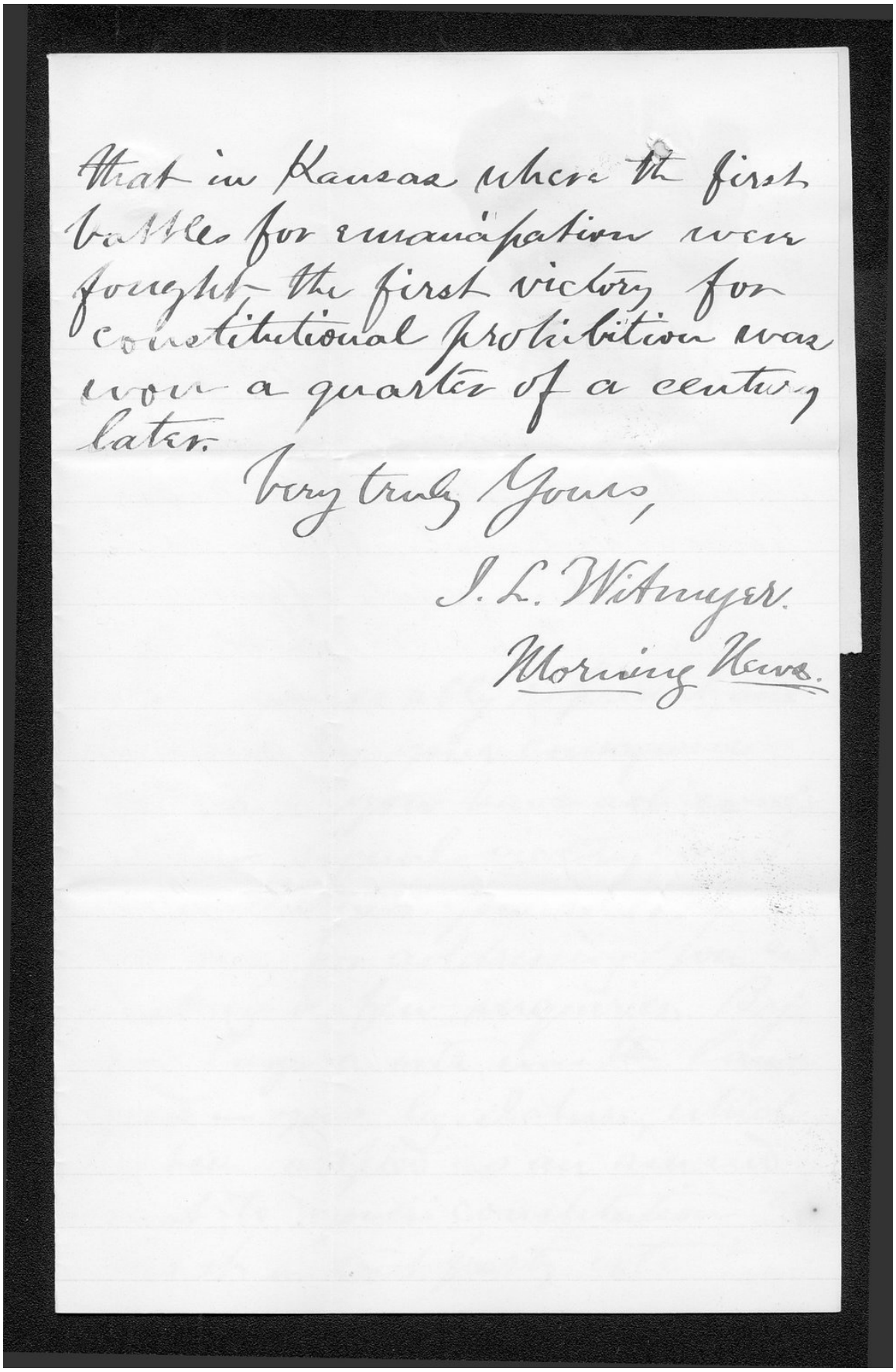
Although an entire stranger to you, I am a fellow-worker in the great cause which you so ably represent, and for which by your courageous leadership you have achieved such a signal victory; and hence I trust you will pardon me for addressing you and making a few inquiries. By how large a vote was the law passed in your legislature, which has been adopted as an amendment to your constitution? Was it a strict party vote?

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Did the temperance question cost the Republicans any votes at the last election? What proportion of the Republican press supported the amendment? Did any Democratic papers support it? Was the opposition of the rum power violent? When will the new law go into effect and to what extent will it be enforced? By furnishing me this information and any additional facts, you will not only greatly oblige your strange correspondent, but greatly aid the glorious cause to which you are devoted in the little, slow and steady "nutmeg" state. New England must look to the great new west even for practical lessons in temperance and prohibition. It is a somewhat significant fact

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that in Kansas where the first battles for emancipation were fought the first victory for constitutional prohibition was won a quarter of a century later.

Very truly Yours,

J. L. Witinger.

Morning News.