

Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, Board of Agriculture

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This file includes subject correspondence relating to the Board of Agriculture from March 13, 1930 through January 5, 1931, which is part of a bigger collection of the Governor's correspondence.

Creator: Kansas. Governor (1929-1931: Reed)

Date: 1929-1930

Callnumber: Governor's Office, Governor Clyde Reed, Correspondence, Subject Files, Box 5 Folder 16

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 449889

Item Identifier: 449889

www.kansasmemory.org/item/449889

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Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, Board of Agriculture



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

HOUND CONTROL WM. HALE THOMPSON MAYOR

December 12, 1930.

Hon. Clyde H. Reed, Topeka, Kansas.

Your Excellency:

The Chicago Flood Control Conference will meet in the Gold Room of the Congress Hotel, Chicago, January 12th to 15th, inclusive, for the purposes explained in enclosure.

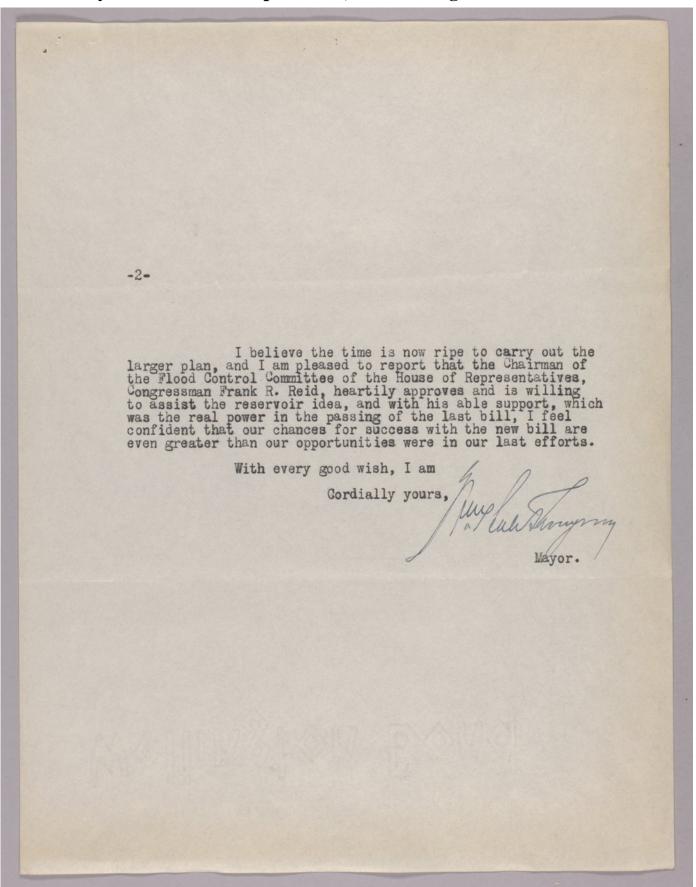
I will deeply appreciate your appointing 25 delegates from your State and sending me their names and addresses as early as possible, so that I may promptly extend to them an official invitation.

The Committee in charge invites you to address the Conference upon such subjects as may be pertinent to the interests of your State, which we may be able to assist in the enactment of Federal laws for the benefit of your people and the people of the Mississippi Valley. An advance copy of your speech for newspaper publicity will be helpful, if we may receive the same a few days before your arrival.

We will be glad to assist in the securing of such rooms as you may desire at the Congress Hotel, if you will notify us before the hotel is filled.

The Chicago Conference was helpful in securing for the Mississippi Valley the \$340,000,000.00 Federal Appropriation to help prevent damage by recurring floods. When I was assisting in the last campaign for this legislation, many of my Western friends felt that floods should be prevented by reservoiring the water at the sources of the Mississippi and its tributaries, which reservoired water would be helpful for irrigation and bring into production many millions of acres of land and through this use of the water through the Summer months would be helpful in maintaining a better stage of water in the Mississippi in the latter part of the Summer for navigable purposes. I could not meet their requests in the last campaign because I was limited to an appropriation bill a \$300,000,000.00, and the Engineers' Report on the reservoir plan stated that this plan would require an appropriation of one billion dollars, so we had to content ourselves with the \$340,000,000 appropriation which would protect the people of the Lower Valley against recurring floods.







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IN REFERENCE TO THE CHICAGO FLOOD CONTROL CONFERENCE CHICAGO, JANUARY 12TH TO 15TH, INCLUSIVE.

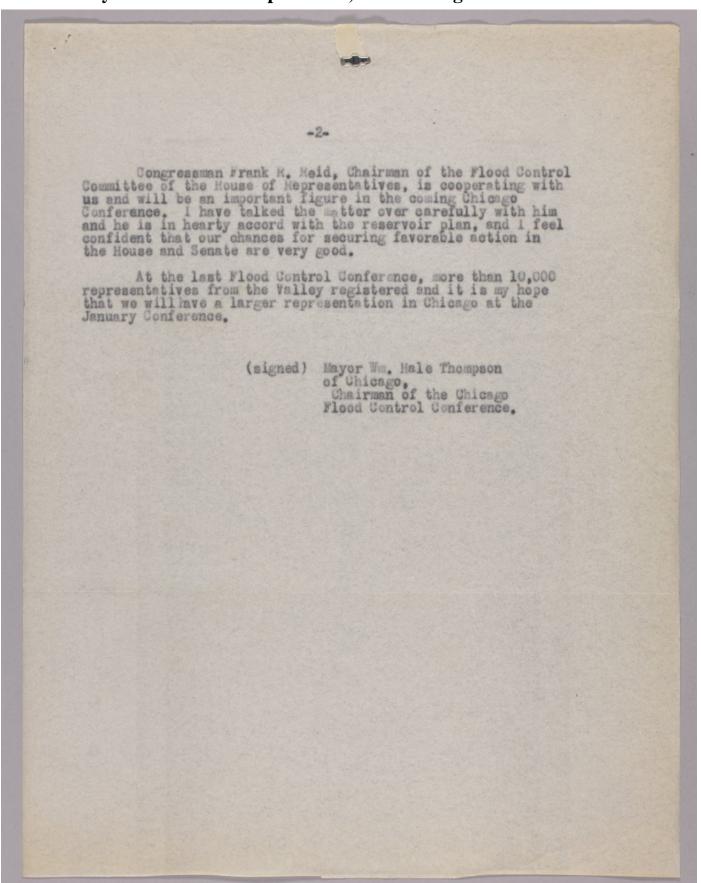
In calling a meeting of the Chicago Flood Control Conference to be held at the Congress Hotel, Chicago, from January 12th to 15th, I desire to recall to the public mind the following: This organization had much to do with securing the appropriation of \$340,000,000 for Mississippi Flood Control shortly after the last great disaster in the Valley. I regret to say that this appropriation has not been spent as rapidly as the Act of Congress permits, and it is my belief that the newly elected Congressmen and Senators, if properly encouraged, may be able to get the necessary action which will require the administration at Washington to carry out the provisions of the Flood Control Bill and the pledges and promises of President Hoover. Encouragement in this employment crisis comes from the position taken by United States Senator Nye of North Dakota - - that the strings can be cut through an amendment to the Bill so that this entire appropriation can be expended next year.

Preliminary to our endeavor to secure the passage of this Bill, I was informed by Congressman Martin B. Madden, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives that President Calvin Coolidge desired the expenditures in the Bill not to exceed \$300,000,000.

Many of my Western friends proposed the very practical plan of reservoiring the Spring run-off in the arid country, at the head waters of the Mississippi. This not only would be a guarantee against floods, but would make possible the irrigation of many millions of acres of arid land through the use of the water during the Summer months. Much of the water so held back would find its way into the river and create a head of water during the low stages in the Summer and greatly assist in the transporting of freight by barges at a price per ton that will make it possible to lay the products and manufactured goods of the Valley on the docks of the seaports of the world at \$7.00 per ton transportation. Such waterway development, in my opinion, would more than double the prosperity of the Mississippi Valley.

The reservoir system plan, according to the Army Engineers' estimates, would cost \$500,000,000 more than the last Bill provided for. Although I was strongly in favor of this plan, personally, I had to adopt the policy suggested by the Army Engineers which provided for the protection of the people of the lower Valley against recurring floods at a sum more nearly in accordance with the views of President Coolidge.



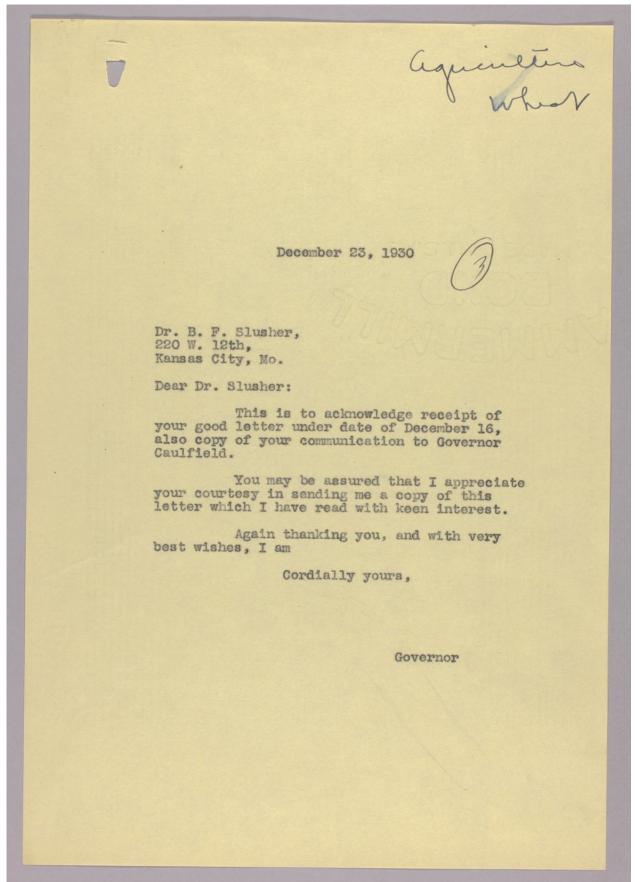




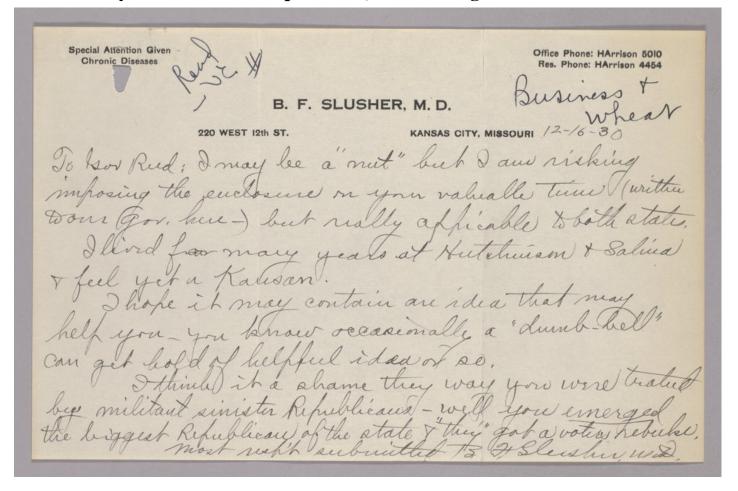
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December 23, 1930 Mr. Geo. S. Knapp, Chief Engineer Division of Water Resources, BUILDING. Dear Mr. Knapp: This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter under date of December 18 relative to Honorable Wm. Hale Thompson's proposal to call a flood control conference to meet in Chicago on January 12. Governor Reed appreciates very much your suggestions relative to the merits of this proposed conference. Thanking you, I am Very truly yours, Secretary to the Governor











Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, Board of Agriculture

Governor Caulfield.

(Copy)

Kansas City, Missouri November 25, 1930.

Honorable Sir:

I hesitate and feel that I am imposing on your valuable time, to even offer suggestions, but here are two things needing solution so badly and so profoundly affect your constituents that I offer this letter for your consideration. No one is so able to champion them as you - and as the peoples' Governor and guardian, you can command attention, impossible for the ordinary layman such as is the writer.

(1) The wheat farmer, on whom our continued progress and prosperity depends, is in great distress from over-production or underconsumption.

The public as a whole are seriously misinformed or in apathy as to the great value of whole wheat as a breakfast cereal, being vastly superior and cheaper than the "chaff" sold by eastern breakfast food companies at fancy prices.

No breakfast food can equal in palatability nor sustaining

No breakfast food can equal in palatability nor sustaining qualities, of whole wheat properly prepared - steamed (in a double boiler) by slow heat till very tender - served with cream and sugar, one has the breakfast food par-excellent - excelsior.

Professor Hartman, a German scientist in the American Medical Association Journal says, "Whole wheat properly prepared is almost a perfect food with its seven (7) wrappings. Whole wheat is a great dietetic help in gall bladder disturbances, some forms of arthritis and a boom in nervous and circulatory diseases and constination." and a boon in nervous and circulatory diseases and constipation."

Why not insist on the now needed slogan, "Buy a sack of wheat." No more useful gift could be given the average needy family than a sack of wheat - a very worthy Christmas gift.

After being taught how to prepare it, it will be eaten every meal as a matter of health and economy and thus be a boon to the sorely perplexed wheat farmer.

Governor - will you not lead the van and through the great press of this state call attention to whole wheat as the most healthful and economical, but neglected food. We can help ourselves and help the farmer by eating up (or down) the Farm Relief Problem.

Purdue University has proven wheat as hog feed is worth \$1.25 to \$1.35 per bushel.

(2) The Star has earned the profound gratitude of every gas user or home that seemingly is being profiteered on "without let or hindrance." (See clippings enclosed.)

If a Jesse James gang of bandits were preying on the people of Missouri - you undoubtedly would take most drastic steps to apprehend and stop them, yet they would not steal one one-hundredth part of what the brazen Doherty Gas Company is mulcting unjustly from its helpless

consumers. Don't you think legal (?) stealing is far more reprehensible than illegal stealing? Yes, they say Jesse James used a horse, while Doherty uses a Judicial decision or legal apathy.

If you, or you and the valiant Kansas City Star act, you surely can compel the Gas Company to do business on a "live and let live" basis - on just and fair profits, not from a 1000% and up profit, as they are now gouging we helpless gas users. You can save the State more millions than any half dozen Governors before you and that will surely be an outstanding accomplishment of your administration.

If no present law reaches them - call a special session to enact emergency law that will enable the state to compel the Doherty Gas Company or any usurious Shylock corporation from fleecing the

humble homes of the common strugglers, as most of us are.

Surely it is not complimentary to as great a state as Missouri claims to be - that they can't check this sinister gas company - you and your Attorney General and the press that is willing as the Star - to declare "open season" and "go a gunning" till justice is again restored to the helpless consumer.

To whom can we commoners turn to - if not you as our Governor

To whom can we commoners turn to - if not you as our Governor to champion the cause of justice!

Seemingly the City Management and Chamber of Commerce here have "lockjaw" and writers cramp, as they are silent or indifferent in this outrageous gouging - why? The Kansas City Star alone is exposing and trying to correct these horribly unjust prices for gas and deserves praise and profound thanks of all now being mercilessly "dry-picked" of their hard earned dollars.



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Why is Cleveland, Ohio etc., getting or do get gas that pares Kansas City's gates as it were, at less than one-third of what we be compelled to pay? Are the city "gate-keepers" so much keener business men or is the Governor of Ohio and Attorney General watching closer, these gouging corporations? Surely Missouri has laws to compel fairness! Legal subterfuges that permit such costly and grave injustices are not a compliment to any state.

Think of the distress caused in the humble homes when, owing to the high cost of gas, the family tries to economize by having only one fire - a scant one often - thus causing dozens and perhaps hundreds of the tender young or age debilitated to suffer cold and bodily privation, resulting in colds, pneumonias etc. and often death. Hundreds have and hundreds more of worthy but helpless ones of this great state will fill graves long before they would have, had they the body vigor and disease resistance they would have in homes well heated, all because of the greed of Monster Shylock corporations' desire for millions upon millions wrung from hapless consumers.

Is it possible that the great state of Missouri shall turn a deaf ear or be indifferent to their (our) pathetic plea and plight. Does any excuse justify failure to correct this?

Gas going to waste at our very doors - yet we are shivering because of almost prohibitive prices. Is this a credit to our civilization? Just prices for gas would remove much of the sting of the present depression.

(As an everyla in the sting of the present depression.

(As an example - My residence monthly bill, just received is \$31 - in winter it is around \$100 per month. I'll be gouged out of two or three hundred dollars by over-charges on gas this winter -

I have an interest in three gas wells - not received a cent from the company for almost a year - something always has to be fixed or some excuse. So they get the gas free and they pay absurdly little - a paltry mite for it at the wells (see Star clippings.) I could

- a paltry mite for it at the wells (see Star clippings.) I could tell much if space permitted - my brother-in-law being district manager of a great gas field.)

The world's greatest gas fields almost right at our doors, yet we are charged prices higher than even artificial gas should be.

Not only should our official guardians compel fair prices, but demand and compel them to disgorge and refund millions extorted from its poor gouged consumers. Why not? They refund income taxes to the "big fish", usurious insurance etc. - why should a robber gas company be immune from refunding to those they have so avariciously extorted? Were the conditions reversed they'd employ all kinds of legal talent to compel restitution. to compel restitution.

Easy money! Gas costing them from nothing to 8¢ per thousand feet and sold we compulsory users as high as \$2.00 per thousand feet - Easy money! Enough to make Kansas City have a real "Wailing Wall." Talk about Santa Claus! Doherty compels his gas consumers to be

Santa Claus to him once a month.

Again the state should test frequently their "tricky" meters which always register in their favor.

No reasonable person desires to cripple a proper industry, much less destroy - but surely a just and fair rate to all would not harm an honorable dealing company.

Public rights should always transcend corporation rights. gas company should be a useful servant of the people and merit their franchise - as they only transport - but not create - one of life's necessities - heat units, but from the clippings enclosed you

see they run "hog wild" on prices, as the Star has aptly said.

Governor, won't you be Missouri's "Patron Saint" of justice the common people's "Good Samaritan," the David to go out and slay outrageous profiteering! O, how you will endear yourself to the thousands, now the helpless victims of Doherty's colossal greed -

Help cure him or them, of their avaricious yellow (gold) fever.

If nothing can be done or will not be attempted, will you please go into the Star's columns and state why?

Profound and lasting gratitude awaits the ones who will compel justice and stop this "pick-pocketing" on gas prices of hard earned dollars and thus remove a galling yoke from the people in the ordinary walks of life.

Respectfully and hopefully submitted,

B. F. Slusher, M. D. 2626 Troost Avenue Kansas City, Missouri.







