

*The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers*

ministration. On the other hand it is understood that he has done good work, and I should unhesitatingly say that he deserves re-appointment.

He is a fine man to meet; congenial, big hearted and princely in many of his ways.

Now, Mr. Washington, I have written you thus because of the nature of your letter asking for a personal and confidential reply. It is a hard thing to give a just estimate of a man when so many things are involved. Mr. Cohen is a Catholic; I am a Protestant, and he looks at life from a very different standpoint than myself. Things Protestants might think should not adhere in a leader would pass unnoticed by Catholics in general. I have never made such a statement as this before concerning Mr. Cohen in public or in private. On the other hand I have felt called upon to say whatever I could, in justice to conscience and a sense of right, to aid him in his political plans.

With very best wishes, I am, Yours truly,

Robert E. Jones

TLS Con. 44 BTW Papers DLC. A copy is in Con. 392, BTW Papers, DLC.

<sup>1</sup> Robert Elijah Jones, born in Greensboro, N.C., in 1872, was a Methodist Episcopal clergyman and, beginning in 1904, editor of the *Southwestern Christian Advocate*. He served as president of the black YMCAs in New Orleans, and was a trustee of Bennett College and Gammon Theological Seminary. Jones was also an officer of the National Negro Press Association and the NNBL.

To Walter L. Cohen

New York. June 4, 1909

*Personal*

My dear Mr. Cohen: I telegraphed you today as follows: "Saw our friend yesterday. Your case seems to be held up because waiting for decision to be reached regarding consolidating land offices and where they will be located. Am writing."

I had a talk with the Secretary of the Interior,<sup>1</sup> also with the President. The only matter that now seems to be holding up your case