

NOVEMBER · 1911

The effects of prohibition upon crime among the people of my race has in many cases been remarkable. In my own county in Alabama crime has been reduced sixty per cent since prohibition went into effect in the county four years ago. In many other counties in the state there has been a like reduction in the amount of crime since the advent of prohibition. When everything, therefore, is considered it appears that prohibition is an excellent thing for the Negro.

Tmp Con. 52 BTW Papers DLC. Enclosed in E. J. Scott to Charles Banks, Oct. 31, 1911.

¹ Prepared for Mrs. Eliza Paterson of Texarkana, Tex., a national organizer among blacks for the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

² Walter Clark (1846-1924), a Confederate veteran of planter background, was one of North Carolina's leading spokesmen for progressivism. He became a justice of the state supreme court in 1888 and was chief justice from 1903 until his death. He used his position on the bench to attack child labor and corporate power, and to support labor welfare and education. (Brooks, *Walter Clark*; Woodward, *Origins of the New South*, 469.)

To J. S. B. Seale¹

[Tuskegee, Ala.] November Second 1911

Dear Sir: I have your letter of some days ago.

If anybody in your neighborhood is canvassing stock of a silver mine in Mexico and has connected my name with the scheme in any way, it is a gross misrepresentation.

I am in no way connected with any mining venture. It is simply a scheme on the part of a dishonest man to secure funds from the ignorant colored men and women. Yours very truly,

Booker T. Washington

TLpSr Con. 439 BTW Papers DLC. Signature initialed by Charles H. Fearing.

¹ Seale wrote from Philadelphia, Miss., on Oct. 30, 1911, that a white man was there trying to sell shares in a silver mine by stating that BTW was interested in it. He asked for BTW's advice. (Con. 439, BTW Papers, DLC.)