

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

In connection with what I have said, you will not find Mr. McCall a disagreeable person with whom to work. He is a very pleasant man, and wants only to do what he can for the furtherance of the work.

I think what I have attempted to outline would be a good entrance wedge for you, and I believe that within a few years you will have on foot a scientific work that will be a credit to the whole race.

Your plan of spending the Summer at the University of Wisconsin is admirable. You could not find a better place for this work. I am under engagement to speak at the Summer Assembly at Madison on the 2nd of August, and in case you accept the position I shall be glad to see you there.

I am sure that this letter outlines what neither you or myself would wish, but I do think that in the end you would not regret coming to us. We have a large number of students who are enthusiastic over the scientific and industrial work. We also have plenty of land, and I think by the beginning of next term, we shall have plenty of room for the development of this department.

As to the salary we cannot offer you anything tempting or generous. It has been our policy from the very first to secure those teachers who would come for the work's sake more than for the amount of money to be received. To begin with we can give you a salary of \$48. per month and board, — board to include all expenses except traveling expenses. You will find here a congenial and pleasant set of teachers, and I am sure your life, in every way, will be pleasant and satisfactory.

It may be, however, necessary to make some slight change in the outline of your work, but in the main, I think it will remain as it is.

Please let me have an early reply. Yours very truly,

[Booker T. Washington]

TLp Con. 113 BTW Papers DLC.

¹ John Wesslay Hoffman wrote BTW that he needed a salary of at least \$50 per month plus board since he was making \$60 in his present position. He was willing, however, to take a cut in pay to be able to go to Tuskegee. He told BTW that he would make his science lessons practical "so that the students can put them into practical every day life." Hoffman wanted his scientific work to be "felt by many farmers in the State of Ala and the adjacent states." He wanted to build a science department "that will be a credit to the Race and to the entire South." (Hoffman to BTW, May 3, 1894, Con. 107, BTW Papers, DLC.) Hoffman taught agricultural chemistry and biology at Tuskegee Institute from 1894 to 1896. He later taught in other black schools at Orangeburg, S.C., and Prairie View, Tex., and helped to introduce cotton-growing in British West Africa.