

*The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers*

taining to our race. I placed the suggestion fully and frankly before Mr. Ogden, Mr. Peabody and Dr. Frissell, and they said that they thought I ought to accede to the President's wishes.

The organizations of the Negro Conference and the Negro Business League were both started at Tuskegee and now have become national in character. I started these for the purpose of directing the attention of the race from its ills to its opportunities and from politics to a larger and more encouraging field of material development, considering this kind of work, in a large sense, educational. But I repeat that I wish the Board of Trustees would consider the whole question, broadly, and decide. Very truly yours,

Booker T. Washington

TLS Seth Low Papers NNC. A draft of this letter is in Con. 348, BTW Papers, DLC.

From Wilbur Patterson Thirkield

Center Marshfield, Mass. 7/2/07

My dear Dr. Washington: Your telegram was forwarded to this place & delayed. I promptly wired you.

I also would like to have an interview with you on one or two matters of importance. If you will not be over this way soon I might arrange to come to N. York. Let me hear from you.

You may observe that your election to our Board has stirred up the extremists. This does not disturb us & we know that you are used to it. My mail shows that it will gain to your support an element that will make your hold on the race stronger. The replies I have rec'd from influential men who have, for some reason been out of touch with you, are most gratifying. I am sure we can work together for the best interests of the race & of the Nation. Yours faithfully

W. P. Thirkield

R R Station — "Marshfield Center" — N.Y. N H & H. Ry. 30 mi. from Boston 12 mi. No. of Plymouth. Lv. Fall River 7:07 A. — Ar.