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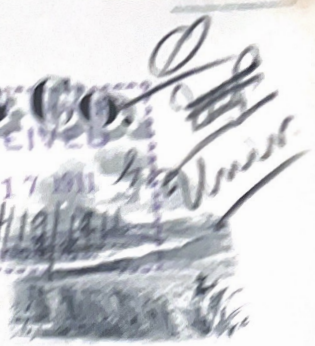
MILLS AND ELEVATORS AT JANESVILLE AND BELOIT, WISCONSIN

OLD TIMES BUCKWHEAT

ROCK RIVER RYE THE FINEST GROWN

RECEIVED APR 17 1911 Registered 4/19/11 MADISON



JANESVILLE, WIS. 4/15/11.

Hon. F. E. Mc Govern,
Governor State of Wisconsin,
Madison, Wisconsin.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to the conversation which Mr. Richardson and myself had with you yesterday, will say that we called on Mr. Brittingham and Dr. Bumpus, whom we found in consultation with Mr. Frederickson regarding this affair, and in view of the facts which were developed at this conference I feel that your personal attention should be directed toward devising some effective protection for the young ladies attending the University.

Early in February one of the Sorority Houses was entered, chaperon in charge, who occupied the only bed room on the first floor of the house, was assaulted. All of the facts in the case were given to the authorities and more or less effort was at the time directed toward the apprehension of the offender. Since that time, according to rumors, attempts have been made to enter other Sorority Houses.

About mid-night April 12th the Delta Gamma House was entered and the only thing that saved the occupants of the room entered from outrage was the fact that there were two young ladies instead of one.

It seems probable from the circumstances attending these two cases that the offender is the same.

In other words you have at large in the City of Madison a degenerate.

There can be no question as to the facts I have related above, and the question naturally arises as to what steps are being taken to investigate this matter thoroughly to secure the arrest and conviction of the criminal and to safeguard, as far as possible, the future welfare of the young ladies attending the University.

It would naturally seem that the City of Madison, the chief beneficiary of the investment of millions by the State of Wisconsin would have sufficient interest to properly police and protect, as far as police surveillance can be made to protect, the interests of

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JANESVILLE, WIS. 4/15/11.

Hon. F.E.Mc G. #2

the University and its students. But, as I understand it, the police force of Madison is insufficient to even fairly well police that City, no matter with what energy or ability the police department of that City is managed. In short, as I understand it, there is but little hope that protection for the students or the arrest or conviction of the criminal in this case can be expected from the Police Department of the City of Madison because of the insufficient amount of money appropriated for this purpose.

In view of this condition it, therefore, becomes necessary to ascertain what power or authority the University of Wisconsin has in these matters. Mr. Brittingham very courteously explained the situation to us and stated that the Regents of the University had absolutely no authority to expend any amount whatever for the protection of the students living outside of the University grounds, or to expend any sum whatever in investigating offenses of this character.

Dr. Bumpus, to whom the affair has been referred by President Van Hise, I am satisfied is doing everything within his power to develop all of the facts in these cases, but when these facts are developed it is certainly a case that should warrant the employment of the very best detective ability available.

Mr. Brittingham advised me that it was only a question of money as to whether the offender was arrested and convicted or not. In other words the only protection that parents can expect for their daughters is by individually or collectively contributing to the necessary expenses of a proper investigation.

If the situation is, as I understand it, the Regents of the State University instead of asking further appropriations or expending another dollar in buildings or equipment should have the power conferred upon them to expend whatever money is necessary in protecting the welfare of the students.

I can conceive of good reasons for keeping these matters from becoming public provided proper action is being taken by the authorities to prevent such offenses in the future. But when I am

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F. E. Mc G. #3

advised, as I have been in this case, that the City of Madison through its police department cannot properly investigate or protect in the future the University section, and am advised by Mr. Brittingham, a Regent of the University, that the University itself has no power to properly investigate, the policy of secrecy can only result in safeguarding the offender.

From a business standpoint it seems an absurd proposition that the State of Wisconsin should expend millions in providing a plant and equipment, spending other millions for the necessary expenses of operation and providing no safeguards for the students without whom the University could not exist.

The State of Wisconsin should demand and require from the City of Madison proper police protection for its interests, and if the State of Wisconsin does not make such requirements upon the City of Madison it should provide itself sufficient funds for this purpose.

I am satisfied that a proper presentation of these facts to you and a statement of the limitations of protection which are given to the students at the present time will result in some action on your part. If this matter is beyond your power and it is necessary to go to the Legislature for relief, I will very gladly take the matter up with that Body, as I believe that it is only necessary for proper publicity to these facts to arouse a popular clamor that will secure the desired result.

Yours truly,

Frank E. Blodgett