

The Brown Palace Hotel, Denver, Colorado - Absolutely Fireproof
Sunday, August 30, 1925

My dear George:

Can you imagine your simple little sister down here in Denver for two days presiding over a Conference of three masculine Governors, U.S. Senators, Congressmen etc? It's very strange -

The object of the conference was to determine upon procedure to protect the imperiled water rights of Colo., Wyo. & Utah & New Mexico.

I was at once made presiding officer over the Conference. I hope I ac__ted myself all right.

You can't imagine the courtliness & the consideration with which I am treated by all these officials. When you stop to think how unique my position is perhaps you can imagine something of the honors that go with it - I'm not forgetting at any time that its the position more than me, personally they seek to honor - At the same time I have had too much proof of warm personal friendship to underestimate that - You know all those good friends with whom you & I discussed my candidacy? I wish I could convey to you something of the extent of the friendship & support & approval they have given me - and their expressions of pride & satisfaction in the way I am conducting my office.

I know how fickle public opinion is & that any time it may turn against me but there is no doubt that at the present time the public is with me - I hear it directly & indirectly from many quarters - I'm afraid to give expression to such assurance - Even tomorrow it may change -

I have had to do such drastic things since I've been in office. My political friends say that so many serious problems have never, in years, confronted any Governor. For instance, a few months ago, I had to remove the Game Commissioner, which in this state is a big & important position - He resisted & employed counsel - Well, I removed him all right - & just the other day (4 or 5 months later) he was adjudged insane - so that action is vindicated.

And then just last week I had to remove the Law Enforcement Commissioner & completely reorganize that department, because, after a thorough & searching investigation I was convinced that corruption had crept into it. You can't imagine how painful to me that necessity was.

It means repudiating William's appointees & men who helped elect him & me - The line of least resistance would be to let things drift along - But I can not betray my great trust - And with the example of courage that William set for me, I am nerved to do what I know is my duty.

Knowing as you do how high-strung & nervous I have always been I think you could hardly believe how cool I have been able to keep so far in the face of such serious responsibilities. Something entirely new seems to have been given me.

At times I do get so tired and so harassed that I feel my burden is almost too great but I get restored & go on.

Perhaps you all wonder that I don't write you oftener & more in detail - If you only knew how unrelenting is the pressure upon me all the time you would understand. The way I happen to have time to write this long letter is because I had to work in that Conference last night till 3 o'clock & missed my train home & have to stay here today (Sunday).

The greatest tax upon my vitality is the continuous demand for speeches in the state & out of it (I'm not going out except where I must) For in-
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stance I have now hanging over me seven or eight speeches - Isn't it awful for one who never said a word in public till a few months ago? I'm to be in Casper Labor Day & the day after-I'm scheduled for three speeches while there and am assured there'll be 12 or 15 hundred people at one of them. Then I'm to go on and speak at a country fair - after that to the Womens Fed of Clubs - the State W.C.T.U. etc. etc & so it goes! All this in addition to the requirements of the office that relate strictly to administration. Now you know how it is that the office takes all my time & energy.

I started to tell you some of the unusual & difficult problems with which I have ~~xxxx~~ been confronted since I've been Governor & find I've recited only the least of them - I can't go further into details, but I can assure you its a real job I have whether I meet the requirements creditably or not, nobody has charged yet that I've been a figurehead or that anybody else is filling the office (as was predicted). I want to tell you though, that I have my advisors & wonderful ones they are, too - And as loyal to me as you, my brothers could possibly be.

When ever I have before me decisions that involve complicated legal points (as many of them do) I call one or two of my good Gen. lawyer friends & upon occasions a dozen of them together to bring out every possible view point bearing upon the situation, such as Mr Howell (Atty Gen), Mr. O'Mahone (smartest of them all), Mr. Haggard, Mr. Rigdon, Mr. Lee, Leslie Miller, Mr. Hopkins, Tom Hunter - Every man of them outstanding in ability - I'm cautious as I can be that I make no move without knowing just what I'm doing - and am wary that I shall not be tripped up. Don't think I'm bragging - "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." I may any day make some terrible ~~xxxx~~ blunder - I told that to Senator Kendrick yesterday in a heart to heart talk I was having with him - He said that is not at all unlikely, but he said my record & conduct so far have won from the state such unqualified support & such confidence in me that the people would be very tolerant of a mistake I might make & would say "Yes, she's made a mistake but everybody makes them" - I wish you knew what a rock of strength Sen. Kendrick is - Nobody in this Conference compared with him & they all acknowledged it.

I've written pages & pages about myself but I'm in an unusual position & I'm assuming that you all want to know these things of which I haven't for months had time to write you. Before I close the subject, the girls might be interested to know that a very charming dinner was given our party here at the Brown & yesterday a luncheon at the Denver Club where a woman's appearance is against the rules & almost unheard of. (A theater party afterwards friday & last night the Orpheus__.

We three Governors & some of our state officials are going to have to appear in Washington before a Commission of Cabinet officers on Oct. 20th to urge our states claims in regard to water rights. It makes me quite dizzy to think of the program ahead of me. While I think of it I must tell you I'm being literally begged to go to New York City (upon any terms) to address a political education organization headed by Gov Smith Taft & such men. They want to set the time of meeting to suit my convenience, give a big dinner in my honor etc. I think I never can find time to go & the Rep papers have started a propoganda that I am spending most of the time out of the state. They have even charged that I have gone to Tennessee & Texas at state expense.

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All three of my boys are out in the state - even my little Bradford has been up on a dude ranch in the Jackson Hole country & Mollie & I have been alone for sometime. Mollie is almost too good to be true. She keeps everything going at home without a ripple & her smiling face greets me every time I come in at the door. If only she can last through my term.

I've never thanked you one & all adequately for your kindness to Ambrose & never can. I know you did everything possible for him - He has been out on that dude ranch ever since he came home - I don't know how long he will stay. I'm just hoping he will work out his problem all right. One mind can only hold so much - The cares upon mine are all I can hold - so I can't fret about Ambrose. I have a good deal of confidence in him too. It's his love affair chiefly that's kept him so unsettled & I suppose it still will.

Now I must tell you something about Bro. Sam & Alfred- You know they are still out here. They are up at Thermopolis where Alfred is taking the hot baths. I'm expecting Bro Sam to come back by Cheyenne on his way home any day (He may be there today). I think Alfred is going to make him leave him up in this country with a man to look after him - which I'm hoping he won't do for I think Alfred is in too serious a condition to be that far from his father - And since I can not look after him. I'll tell you that just to look at Alfred's condition & see Bro Sam's despair took more out of me than all my work while they were here - Its just terrible - the whole situation - Alfred is on crutches, his legs shrunken & his face pale - and his disposition worse - stubborn & self willed & exacting - Poor Bro Sam! He (Alfred) is now taking baths, which are expensive & staying in an expensive hotel where he has to have a masseur etc. (Bro. Sam camping out). Bro. S told me with tears running down his cheeks how nobly you boys had come to his aid - and yet he had to sell some property to meet the demands of this trip & of the family at home.

He wrote me from Thermopolis sending a check for \$75.00 asking me to send exchange - which I did but tore his check up. I'll tell you now there is no money I could give to the church or to indigent strangers that I feel X could be more acceptable to the Lord than assistance to my poor brother who is almost maddened and in despair over the burdens which are heavier than he can bear alone - He can not help the worthlessness of his dependents. Of course he will not knowingly take a cent from me. And ~~then~~ I'm hoping he will overlook that that check doesn't get back to him cancelled. I tell you all this because I know something of the extent of your interest in him & your sympathy for him.

Lois is going to be married to a young, ~~an~~ unestablished fellow- I guess he is all right - from what Bro Sam says & his father is a pretty well-to-do business man somewhere in Tenn. They expect to go there to live. Let us hope & pray they'll not change their mind about that.

I didn't tell you Georgie Ross is up in the Yellowstone Park. He will be back in the University in Sept. & continue his law course. I frequently see people who have met him in the Park - they give good reports of him. Since I've been sitting in this hotel I suppose a dozen people have come up to speak to me, everyone telling me the same thing as to reports of my Administration! Oh, how I hope that when it is over I shall have been a

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credit to my dear family & as well as to my state & myself.

This is ~~xxx~~ a very frank family letter - to be read by all of you & Alfred & Sara. Its mostly about me & mine & not such about you & yours, but that's not because you & yours and your happiness are not among my dearest interests - I thank you each one for every letter you've written me - And for your desire to have me at the Lake - You know when I'm out of the state I leave a Rep acting Governor - & they make much capital of my absence - I was out of my office for less than two weeks but they made much of the exacting & exhausting demands upon my substitute.

Even the newspaper reports could not give you an idea of the adulation I received at the Governor's Conference & all through New England - Every where I went it was the same - And dear little Bradford was taken right out of my hands & care by the Governors & newspaper correspondents & pronounced the finest little trump & sport in the world. His experiences & contacts were wonderful.

Did you know we had a cruise on the Curtis Yacht with Mr. & Mrs. Edward Bok? It was most palatial. Mrs. Bok is very lovely & refined. Mr. Bok exactly like his pictures & the impressions you get from his books. I couldn't with modesty tell you how kindly he talked to me.

When you see the length of this letter, or diary, you'll want to ask me not to offend again - I probably won't for many a day. You can read it by installments perhaps.

Tell Sara I never got the bill for the present she sent Jean Hooper for me - and request ~~xxx~~ her to send it without delay & thank her for her trouble. The towel which, for some reason went without a card, was for her new house-

I send my love to my dear sisters & brothers & all the neices & my nephew with the assurance that your letters give me much happiness & encouragement-

Lovingly-
Nellie