

San Antonio, Texas.
April 3rd, 1923

Mr. H. B. Ayres,
Battle House,
Mobile, Alabama.

Dear Harral:-

We returned from the Valley Saturday night about 10:30. I am enclosing you a few of the clippings. Haven't had time today to look thru all the papers but they certainly gave us a royal welcome on our entire trip. The only fall-down in the program was that we stayed at Falfurrias the first night and there came up a storm next morning about 4 o'clock. We left Falfurrias at 7:15 a.m. in the rain and the wind was blowing so hard that it looked as if there might be danger of it turning the car over.

We got out of the one storm before we got to the Brooks-Hidalgo county line but by that time we began to get to the point where the rain was heavier. They had about a six inch rain from there to San Juan. Fortunately the entire road is nearly completed across the sand. There were nine miles on the lower end that had a big pile of brush every fifty feet. I could climb about two-thirds of the brush piles with the car, but one-third of them were trees that I didn't dare tackle, so I had the three fellows pull trees out of the road, and we got over the nine miles in about two hours. This threw us behind time of course. We were due at Harlingen at 12 and got there at 2:50. I telephoned ahead and got them to go ahead with the dinner party and postponed the mass meeting from 2:15 to 3:30, and they arranged for the San Benito people to come over there and joint them so we could jump from Harlingen to Brownsville. At the night meeting in Brownsville in the Chamber of Commerce every available inch of space was taken, including standing room around the walls, and the outer office was full of people. The interest was fine. On our return there were about 200 at LaFeria, over 300 at Mercedes, and all the other towns along the line had good crowds.

We had about 250 at McAllen and would have had more only it seems that Secretary Lewis tried to stop the game or didn't carry out his part of the program. I found that one of the members of the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce was an old time friend of mine and used to work for me. I just told him what I thought of Mr. Lewis as a commercial secretary and he advised me that he felt just like I did. Ed Bentley is President of the Chamber of Commerce and Ed also expressed himself the same way. At 3 o'clock that afternoon the board of directors had Roy Hardin, secretary at Mission, come over and they hired him away from Mission. Mr. Lewis was out of town and I guess he is looking for another job by this time. In a way this seems like rather harsh methods but I am going to have an organization in each one of those towns if I have to import someone to organize it and be members of it. I will be awfully badly fooled if I don't organize Mercedes as soon as I can get back to them.

I am just in receipt of your letter of the 31st. Note what you say and appreciate your confidence in me, and I don't want to jump the game but I can't afford to fool along with this proposition in this shape. The Association owes me a hundred dollars from last month and \$175 for this month, making \$275., besides some expense money. So you