

January 5th, 1922.

Mr. J. S. Spring,
Leesburg, Virginia.

My dear Sir:

I beg to thank you for your courteous letter of December 26th, 1921 which I have just had opportunity to answer. I thank you for the sentiments which you express and you probably know by the article that I have always taken great pleasure in helping wherever I could.

As to the matter which you refer to I fear that it will be impossible to arrange to place a flock of sheep on the Capitol grounds. The experiment was tried out in the last few years around the White House and the Monument grounds, and while I have no positive information on the subject, it is a matter of record, I understand, that the difficulty was in preventing the sheep from getting at the delicate class of shrubbery which surrounds most of our public buildings. I suppose that is the reason that the herding of sheep was abandoned since I have seen none during the last few months.

I understand the farming difficulties because the newspapers have been fairly well filled with statements of the farmers complaints. I feel that Congress is making a serious effort to assist the farmer and I sincerely hope that his lot will be much benefited by legislation which is proposed by those in Congress who are familiar with the subject.

I wish I could suggest something more than a mere line or two to cheer you up, but I can only suggest that you confront the battle before you with all courage and manhood and believe that the one who writes you does so in full sympathy with your ambitions and wishes. I cannot refrain, however, from saying that under this present disturbed condition of affairs, it is wise to look well into any matter which tempts you to leave the soil. It is a great pity that more of us are not back in such localities and that the present disturbed condition of farming seems to make the occupation less attractive than formerly but I have faith in the matter and look forward to the time when you farmers will stand proud of your domains.

Sincerely yours,

E. W.
Architect of the Capitol.