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Letter From Thomas Worthington to Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson, October 6, 1911

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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OFFICE OF
WORTHINGTON & REEVE.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW.
ROOMS 1-3, MORRISON BLOCK.

JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS. October 6, 1911.

Mr. Huntington Wilson,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Wilson:-

In compliance with your request I am happy to write you, giving the names of some of the persons whom you met while in my company in Springfield; but I regret to find my memory is so short and that many of the names have escaped me.

You will have no trouble in remembering Senator Logan Hay, of Springfield. I think that he would make an admirable compromise candidate for Governor, and that it will be necessary to have a compromise candidate----that is, one upon whom all factions could agree, or Illinois is very likely to have a democratic Governor after the next election.

At the Governor's mansion we met Congressman Wilson, of Chicago, and a State Senator whose name I have forgotten; Mr. L. L. Emerson, of Mt. Vernon, one of the Commissioners of the Southern Ill. Penitentiary; Judge Hanby Jones, Pure Food Commissioner; Mr. Scott Cowan, of Chicago, Chief Grain Inspector, and others.

At the Fair Grounds we met Senator Frank H. Funk, of Bloomington, County Judge C. Ae. Martin, of Virginia; Mr. William Newman, of Jacksonville (one of the City Commissioners); Mr. Townsend (I think his initials are L. A.), of Galesburg, formerly U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Illinois; Mr. H. A. Dorwin, one of the Editors and proprietors of the Springfield Journal; Hon. James A. Rose, Secretary of State; Hon. James S. McCullough, State Auditor; Hon. George Rankin, of Monmouth, Receiver for National Banks with headquarters in

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Washington, and others. Mr. Rankin keeps in close touch with Illinois politics and is usually very well informed.

In the evening, in Senator Cullom's room, we met Mr. J. J. Reeve, my partner; Mr. H. H. Bancroft, former Mayor, both of Jacksonville, and again met Mr. Rankin.

At the foot of the elevator we met Mr. H. A. Converse, Assistant U. S. Attorney, of Springfield, and Mr. Miller Weir, Cashier of the Jacksonville National Bank of this city, and formerly one of the leading National Bank Examiners in the country.

You will doubtless not forget Hon. Richard Yates, formerly Governor of Illinois.

I don't think that this list covers half the persons you met, but these are all the names that come to me at this time.

My partner tells me that you had an interview with former Lieut. Governor Sherman. He is talked of as a compromise candidate for Governor and would be a good one. By "a compromise candidate" I do not mean a man without convictions, but some one who has managed to get along without making bitter enemies in one of the important political camps now existing in this State.

There are many well posted men who think that the bitterness existing between Governor Deneen and Senator Lorimer and their respective adherents is such that neither ^{the} Governor nor an avowed candidate of the Lorimer faction can be elected.

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Mr. Huntington Wilson, 3. JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS. Oct. 6, 1911.

In the last National election Taft carried this State by about 180,000 and Governor Deneen had only about 30,000 majority, as I now remember it. I don't know of any one who expects a loss of less than 75,000 from the vote at the last general election.

My wife arrived home safely Thursday evening. Both she and I felt very glad to meet you again and to do what little we could to make your stay in Springfield profitable, and we hope to some extent pleasant.

The next time that you come to Illinois we hope that you will have time to run over to Jacksonville and see us, and that you may have Mrs. Wilson with you.

Yours very sincerely,

Thos. Worthington.