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January 25, 1908.

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Mr. Henry G. Stott,
600 West Fifty-ninth St.,
New York.

Dear Mr. Stott:

The following is a transcript of a letter received from Mr. Townley this morning:

January 24, 1908.

Mr. Ralph W. Pope,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

It is uncertain that I can be present at the special Directors' meeting on February 3rd; therefore, as I was sponsor for the \$6.00 dinner suggestion, I feel that I should register my views.

While legally within its power to do so, I believe it would be improper and wrong for the Institute to appropriate from its treasury funds to defray the expenses of an annual dinner, which, while theoretically is open to the whole membership, as a practical fact is of no direct benefit to far distant members, and, in my judgment, there is no reason in taxing the membership from Illinois, Missouri, or California, to help pay for a New York dinner, even though it may be official. This view is borne out by our refusal to allow any part of the appropriations to defray expense of social gatherings at the Branches. If this point be admitted, then the price of the dinner must be sufficiently high to cover all expenses, and in the past, the incidental expenses of music, decorations, menus, steward's fee, entertainment of guests, printing, etc., have amounted to a large sum; considerably more than \$1.00 per plate. Accurate information as to exactly the amount of these expenses can, doubtless, be obtained from the records. If we are going to give an official dinner, it should be equal at least to the dinners that we have given in the past, and I see no reason for believing that we can maintain the past standard and largely reduce the cost of the incidentals. I am not in favor of dictating to the Dinner Committee what they shall charge for the dinner, provided they will make themselves responsible for maintaining the standard of the dinner and having both ends meet, assuming a certain minimum attendance.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Calvert Townley.

Mr. H. G. Stott -2- Jan. 25, 1908.

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As arranged with Mr. Hutchinson last night, we are going ahead with the printing and distribution of 3,000 postal-cards to the membership within a reasonable distance of New York City. Messrs. Lozier and Guy are cognizant of the work and are co-operating with me.

Yours truly,

Secretary.

Re Annual Dinner