

February 25, 1935

My dear Nettie

Here I come prepared to sit at your feet for instruction. I have a little article to do on the way industries and communities are meeting their obligations toward the old, particularly - a very simple little article but what I put into it I want to have right.

I remember when I was in Titusville last and you came to dinner at Mrs. Heckenbourgs that you had just returned from Meadville, as I understood it your first session with those who were applying for pensions under your new State law. Now what I want to know is just what that law is in your judgment, that is, how you interpret it - what it means. With that as a background I want to know if when I am in Meadville in March - I am going on to the Board Meeting on the eleventh - I might not run over to Titusville and hear from you your experience with individuals. Also, get your notions of the relative responsibility in this matter of old age, of family, community, state and nation. I can't get it out of my head that the responsibility for ones latter years lies first with the person himself, next with his family and then outside sources - all of which I agree are responsible agencies.

What I am afraid of is that there are a lot of people who are going to fall back on the possibility that the Federal Government will take care of their last years and that they don't need to think about them, also, that families and communities will have something of the same point of view. As I see it if the thing is to be done satisfactorily all of these agencies must be kept active in their relative relations.

I hope, dear Nettie, this does not sound like treason to you. At all events I want to get my mind quite clear on the problem. I think it is very

essential at the moment. More individual responsibility is what we need today and less feeling that somebody outside of ourselves can and should insure life for us.

At least I want to talk it all over with you if you don't mind. May I come over and see you? It will not be for long - I'll have to make the engagement after I get to Meadville and see just what my duties are there.

Affectionately

Mrs. Nettie Grumbine
Titusville, Pa.