

April 25, 1933

My dear Mr. Mathews:

I have been away from New York for the last three months trying to get a sharp attack of influenza out of my system. When I came back I found accumulated on my desk the copies of the Arizona Daily Star which had been sent me through the session of the legislature. Whether I am to thank you or Talbot Smith for this courtesy I do not know, but I want to thank both of you, you for publishing so good a paper and Mr. Smith for writing his news from the legislature.

I have them all cut out and have just gone over them chronologically. There is something about them quite frank, different from any other political reporting that I get hold of. After looking these over I feel pretty well acquainted with that group of gentlemen and ladies. I didn't get as much from them about Nellie Bush as I should have liked and I became interested in two or three matters which seemed not to have been solved, or at least I missed the solving. One was how the members got home. Did they have to walk? State warrants would not take them on the railroads, would they?

These letters are full of amusing sidelights, but there is a humorous appreciation of your frank and solid law makers that help reconcile me to the difficulties of popular government. Talbot Smith quotes one gentleman as giving an excellent definition of what is perhaps the inevitable process of legislatures. This gentleman said, "The hour had come when they had ceased to deliberate and had begun bartering." You see I got material for reflection as well as for healthy amusement out of The Star's reports. And so I thank you both.

One of these days I hope to get out to Arizona again and at least shake hands all around, but life is rather demanding this side of the country and if one has work it seems the part of wisdom to stick to it.

With all best wishes for you and Mr. Smith and your staff, believe me

Very sincerely

Mr. Wm. R. Mathews
The Arizona Star
Tucson, Arizona