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Letter to Judge Wm. W. Morrow, U.S. Court Bldg. San Francisco Feb. 2, 1909

Letter

Feb. 2nd (0) 9.
Judge Wm. W. Morrow
U. S. Court Bldg.
San Francisco, Cal.
My dear Judge Morrow:

While engaged in the preparation of the report of the State Earthquake Investigation Commission last year in Washington, I was very much impressed with the need of having some permanently organized investigations in the earthquake phenomena of this country instituted. To this end I formulated a proposal for the establishment of a Seismological Institute, and submitted it to a great many of the scientific men of the country. A copy of this proposal I herewith enclose you. The general plan for such an institute was endorsed very generally by scientific men. I have been unable thus far, however, to obtain financial support for the establishment of the institute. While in Washington I submitted the proposal to Mr. Walcott, and he thought it would be a good thing to take up as part of the Smithsonian Institution, and I quite heartily acquiesced in his taking over the scheme. He was to find money for carrying out the plans on the outside, but thus far he has been unable to raise the necessary funds, and I am therefore forced to renew my efforts to get the means for carrying out the project.

It seems to me that it would be an extremely appropriate undertaking for the Carnegie Institution, and I therefore take the liberty of calling your attention to the matter. I enclose herewith not only a prospectus of the institute itself, but also a copy of the endorsations of a set of resolutions which explain themselves. Mr. Walcott, as you will gather from what I have just said, was very favorable impressed with the idea, and President Woodward's attitude toward it is expressed in a letter which he wrote me, a copy of which I also enclose. I have a great many letters from other scientific men throughout the country similar in character to that of President Woodworth, with which, however, I will not burden you at present.

Will you not take the matter up with your colleagues on the Board of Trustees of the Institution and see whether or not something can be done toward securing the means of making these seismological studies under the auspices of the Carnegie Institution? If the project involves too much money, in view of the existing program of the Institution, it might be that Mr. Carnegie would make it possible for the Institution to do this work.

Kindly advise me what you think of the possibilities of the proposal, and whether or not you can assist in the matter, and so greatly oblige

Yours very sincerely

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