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7-28-1915

Letter from O. G. Hertzog to B. R. Colston [sic]

O. G. Hertzog

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B. R. Colston
Gainesville Fla.

Hiram O. July 28/15

Dear Bro. Colston

I returned Monday evening from Penna, where I went to try to close out a deal in some coal land in which my sister Mrs. West has some interest. The prospect is fairly good as we can on our side meet about all the conditions required. It will require time for Surveys rights of way & still I feel very hopeful that the matter will be a go and I shall be especially grateful on my sisters account, we have carried the property many years paying heavy taxes. But a new obstacle has arisen unlooked for. It had been my purpose to purchase the property at Gainesville and carry it for my sister until such time as they could pay off some debts held against their interest in the coal. Some ten days ago a big flood struck us on the Scioto marsh west of Kenton where I have large holdings in Oison and corn land. The entire marsh of 17000 acres was all flooded and my tenants were driven up stairs and more than a million dollars worth of crops destroyed. I lost forty acres of fine oisons, fifty acres of corn beside potatoes and other things. I had a thousand dollars in seed and fertilizer &c and that with the crop is all gone. My loss is between three and four thousand dollars and the tenants have lost fully as much in crop. This makes it impossible for me to carry the property for the West as I have heavy special taxes on paving and ditches and many interests that demand my attention. I deeply regret this misfortune for the sake of others. We had a similar misfortune eleven years ago when I lost about four thousand dollars. This means that the river

will be widened and deepened and some of the
water at the head of the stream turned into the
Anglage River, this movement was started two years
ago involving the drainage of some thirty square
miles but it required time to remove some legal
technicalities but I learn the improvement will
now go forward. This is like locking the barn
after the horse has been stolen, I had spent a good
deal of time looking over Florida and taking everything
into account I decided on Gainesville, connected as
I was so many years with Hiram College the State
University there was attractive and I was delighted with
the church and its simplicity and the city and community
all looked good to me and I felt sure it would please
both my sister and husband. Man proposes but God
disposes I held back about taking the property there
because the onion crop is hazardous and I never feel
sure till we harvest the crop and know the market
I have a fine lot of tenants and they are dependable.
Our crop would have been harvested the latter part of
Aug but we will not get a thing from the farm.
Everything is a total loss and I will no doubt have
to help some of my tenants before we can raise
another crop. It is very doubtful about our going
to Florida this winter still we can determine that
better when winter comes. "Sufficient unto the day is the
evil thereof" I am sure we are very grateful to
you for all your kindness and regret deeply the
circumstances that have changed our plans.
Kindly remember me to all the brethren.
Cordially yours O. S. Herzog

072815a.Letter to B.R. Colson

Transcription by Penny Ruot, October 2020.

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