

Jan. 24, 1908

Mr. J. E. Wannamaker  
St. Matthews, S.C.

Dear Sir:-

I have just held a conversation with Mr. Lewis in regard to the development of our Coast Experiment Station at Summerville. Mr. Lewis informs me that he now has thirty-three convicts, and that he will not need but twenty of these men and he thinks that he can readily spare through the remainder of this year ten of these men to be used in digging the ditches on the land near Summerville. Mr. Lewis suggests, and I think the suggestion worthy of your consideration, that these ten men be sent down to Summerville in charge of Mr. McCrackin, and that the ditching be started at once. In the meantime, Col. Shanklin will prepare the necessary maps and specifications so that you can have estimates made by contractors and let bids on the work. If you find that it will be better to have the work completed in the hands of contractors, it will be very simple to stop Mr. McCrackin's men and let the contractor take up the work and complete the same. This will give you an opportunity to determine whether or not it is cheaper and more feasible in every way to do this work by convict labor. You understand that the law passed by the present Legislature will require us to pay \$6.00 a month for these convicts, and since talking with Mr. Lewis and Col. Shanklin, I believe that it will be economy on the part of the



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college to place these ten men on the grounds until the ditching is completed.

Of course you understand that in carrying out this suggestion it will be necessary to put up some rough buildings which will cost very little, - such buildings, in fact, as contractors put up to house workmen temporarily. Of course we can use ordinary rough lumber and cover the buildings with tar paper, and when the ditching is completed, the lumber can be knocked down and used for other purposes, or sold. I throw this out to you as a suggestion, and I will be glad to hear from you at an early date.

Col. Shanklin is engaged in attending to the necessary duties looking to the proper staking out of the land and the drawing of the maps and specifications. He states, and I am sure that he is correct, that it is not wise to locate these stakes until the men who are to do the work are practically on the grounds. It is so easy for the engineers to keep far ahead of the workmen in staking out property of this kind that it is not necessary for the stakes to be located in advance. In making the survey, Col. Shanklin will run a line of levels down Rumph Creek in accordance with the suggestions made by you and the other members of the Board. We now have on the campus Mr. Taylor, a former graduate of the college, who is engaged in locating contour lines for Mr. Kelsey. If you agree to the suggestion I have offered in this letter, Mr. Taylor can accompany Mr. Shanklin to Summerville, and this work can be rapidly pushed and I believe satisfactorily carried out at once.

Very truly yours,

PHM.MBW

President