ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY

December 18

Nathan Bay Scott, who served as United States senator from West Virginia from 1899 to 1911, was born on December 18, 1842.

CSO: SS.8.2, SS.8.4

Investigate the Document: (Howard Sutherland Papers, Ms83-2)

1. In Senator Scott’s correspondence with Senator Howard Sutherland states that “protective tariffs should be urged by the people of our state almost more than those of any other state in the union?” What is a protective tariff?

2. In Sutherland’s message to Senator Scott, what reasons does he provide for his disinterest in the governorship?

Think Critically: Use your knowledge of West Virginia Civics to answer the following: Howard Sutherland served as a West Virginia State Senator from 1909-1913. Is the senate part of the upper or lower house of the Legislature? How long is the term of a West Virginia State Senator? Howard Sutherland represented West Virginia as a United States Senator from 1917-1923. How many state senators does West Virginia have in Congress? How long is the term of a U.S. Senator?
Hon. Howard Sutherland,
Elkins, West Virginia.

My dear Senator:-

I know you share with me the universal regret of all good Republicans that our party in the state went down to defeat in November. But notwithstanding the result I know you agree with me that the principles of our Party are still the only ones to stand for. Protective tariff should be urged by the people of our state almost more than those of any other state of the Union. Of course now we are like a disorganized army but we will soon all come together again and in 1912 win a victory and put the old party back into power once more. Now is the time to rally our troops and I am sure you will do your part.

Wishing you much success during the coming session, and best wishes for the holiday season, I am

Sincerely yours,

N. B. Scott
August 20, 1916.

PERSONAL

Hon. M. B. Scott,
Continental Trust Co.,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator Scott:

I have your favor of August 16th, which I assure you I appreciate very much indeed. I am always glad to have your views because I have a great deal of confidence in your judgment as well as in your friendliness toward me.

With reference to the Senatorship, I have been making careful inquiries in many sections of the State, particularly since Governor White has announced himself as a candidate, and I have found only one or two who thought he could beat Hatfield. Those who are the best posted and the best judges of political conditions at this time think that Hatfield will beat him easily. There is at present no sentiment among the rank and file of the voters either in the country or in the towns for Governor White for that position. Governor Hatfield has, to begin with, a considerable support, while at the same time he has numerous enemies. He has, in addition, a well paid staff of State employees assiduously pushing his candidacy in every part of the State. Governor White's campaign must be started from the ground up and a demand for his must be created and this costs time, effort, and money. I believe I can say with all due modesty that there is in every section of the State a decided friendly sentiment in my favor among Republican voters. I am daily in receipt of letters urging me to become a candidate for Senator or for Governor, many of them telling me they are for me for either position. I am and have been constantly in touch with a very large number of the leading Republicans in every part of the State. I will say very frankly, however, that I have no overmastering desire to become a candidate for any position whatever. I should hesitate to thrust myself into the Senatorship from the constitutional standpoint upon the party before long that White cannot possibly be nominated, and further that it will be a party calamity to allow Hatfield to be nominated. Hundreds of Republicans of judgment and experience have expressed the belief that I
am the only man in the State just now who happens, through the fortune of politics, to be in position to defeat Hatfield for the nomination, and I think a careful, painstaking and accurate investigation should be set on foot among Republicans in every section of the State to determine the exact situation in this respect. If an absolutely impartial and fair investigation of this kind is made I am perfectly willing to abide by the result. I personally am convinced that it would be better to have only one candidate in the field against Hatfield, though numerous assurances come to me from various sections of the State to the effect that I can win over both of them.

With reference to the Governorship will say that I have never felt strongly inclined to become a candidate for that office, and while I have never said positively I would not be a candidate, I very greatly prefer not to be and should be very unwilling to enter the fight for the nomination. I very much prefer legislative work, and being already a member of Congress and realizing that the longer the tenure the better the opportunity to serve my constituents, and I have practically concluded that if the Senatorship was not within my reach I would become a candidate for Congress in the Second Congressional District, and I should, of course, like to have you withhold any promises with reference to that office until the situation has become more settled so that we can all tell what it is best to do. I should, of course, be glad to have your assistance and support for that or any other office for which I might become a candidate.

I understood from the authorized announcement made in the Bluefield Telegraph and in the Huntington Dispatch that Dr. Mann had definitely concluded not to become a candidate for the Senate. I told him sometime ago that if he concluded to be a candidate I would not think of entering the fight.

I hope you will pardon the length of this letter, but I wanted to give you my views rather fully, since I may not have an opportunity in the near future to see you and talk the matter over, so I should very greatly prefer to do. I will not reach any definite conclusion in the immediate future and will hope to have your advice and counsel further.

With kindest personal regards,
Yours sincerely,