Hon. Morris Sheppard,

House of Representatives.

My dear Mr. Sheppard,

Following your kind request I enclose the slight amendments which I would suggest as an improvement to the bill (H.R.11850) looking to the erection of a National Archives Building.

The only place in Washington where there is scientific care of manuscripts is this Library, and it is in a position to give assistance to architects who plan a building which is intended to hold nothing but manuscripts.

That an archive building is a necessity is a fact familiar to all who have experience with government records. I speak with some knowledge, for I have used government records both as an administrative officer and as a writer on historical subjects, and I say positively that our records are not in good condition for administrative purposes, and, with the exception of those in a few offices, are inaccessible for historical purposes. How many have been destroyed that ought to have been preserved; how many have been lost and how many mislaid no one can say; but every one knows that enormous quantities have disappeared from these causes.
Most of the States of the Union and all of the governments of Eu-
rope are far in advance of the government at Washington in caring for
their records. It is a fact also that the foreign regulations for
consulting government records are generally more liberal than are those
of our executive departments.

The interest in archival conservation is increasing steadily with
the steady growth of deeper study of American history from original au-
thentic sources. It is to these students and scholars especially that
your bill appeals and from whom it meets with favor.

Very sincerely yours,

P.S. - I enclose an editorial on the subject which appeared in the
Evening Post on January 26th and the Nation a week later.

Richard Klug
Chief, Manuscripts Division.
EVENING POST: NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1911.

OUR NATIONAL ARCHIVES.

The request for one of the offices of the National Archives Building was made as a measure which has been pending before Congress for many of the past few years. As it happens, we have no competent records of the archives even as to their original aim or the amount of money which has been spent in building them. But in the language of one of our early Secretaries of State, in a speech delivered in the archives of the United States Department of State, it was said that the archives have been so constructed as to be fireproof, and that their contents are safe from fire.

It was only last winter that the archives of the United States Department were burned out; but the escape of the archives was only evidence of good luck. The archives of the United States Department of State, which was destroyed when a room in the Geological Survey was burned out; but the escape of the archives was only evidence of good luck.

The archives of the United States Department of State, which was destroyed when a room in the Geological Survey was burned out, was only evidence of good luck. It must be remembered, however, that the records of the United States Department of State are not fireproof; but, in the archives of the United States Department of State, there is no space for the archives.

It must be remembered, however, that the records of the United States Department of State are not fireproof; but, in the archives of the United States Department of State, there is no space for the archives. The archives of the United States Department of State, which was destroyed when a room in the Geological Survey was burned out, was only evidence of good luck.

The archives of the United States Department of State, which was destroyed when a room in the Geological Survey was burned out, was only evidence of good luck. It must be remembered, however, that the records of the United States Department of State are not fireproof; but, in the archives of the United States Department of State, there is no space for the archives.

The archives of the United States Department of State, which was destroyed when a room in the Geological Survey was burned out, was only evidence of good luck. It must be remembered, however, that the records of the United States Department of State are not fireproof; but, in the archives of the United States Department of State, there is no space for the archives.

The archives of the United States Department of State, which was destroyed when a room in the Geological Survey was burned out, was only evidence of good luck. It must be remembered, however, that the records of the United States Department of State are not fireproof; but, in the archives of the United States Department of State, there is no space for the archives.
Honorable Morris Sheppard,

House of Representatives,

CAPITOL,

WASHINGTON,

D. C.