

by a committee, on behalf of the Tobacco Agents of Baltimore City, who represented that, owing to the introduction of white labor exclusively, and suddenly, into the several warehouses, occupied by the recent newly appointed Inspectors, the interests of the planters and shippers were materially injured - that it was found impracticable to inspect the Tobacco as fast as the necessities of the trade requires &c. By direction of the Governor, I hereby respectfully inform you that the position assumed by his Excellency, from the beginning, and which he had believed was fully understood by the several Inspectors, is this: that the rule of exclusive white labor in the warehouses is to be adopted, absolutely; but that the new system should be established in such manner as to inflict no injury upon the trade.

When Mr. Charles H. Waters was appointed in July 1857, he commenced the system at once, and gradually extended it, until he was at last enabled to perfect the regulation, without occasioning any inconvenience whatever. He retained just as many hands, as he considered absolutely necessary, for the immediate wants of his warehouse, and for the training of his new hands, and no more; and afterwards reduced their number, as rapidly as circumstances would permit; so that, now, his entire force consists of white laborers. The system (which had previously ^{been} denounced as impracticable) was thus successfully verified by experiment; and at no cost or inconvenience to the trade. It is in this manner that the Governor wishes you to adopt & carry out the regulation, relying, as he does upon your sincere desire to justify the expectations of the people, in the earliest possible accomplishment of the proposed reform, and upon your discretion, which will suggest to you the mode which will most facilitate the transaction of business of the Tobacco traders. By consultation with, and an interchange of services between you and your colleagues, much difficulty may be removed, and a uniformity of action produced. You will endeavour to attain the desired end fully and in good faith, at as early a period as practicable, and with as little inconvenience to planters and merchants as possible. The Governor will freely confer with you at all times, and desires to be kept informed of the progress of the system. He is much encouraged by a letter received to-day from Mr. Hammond of warehouse No 3, who strongly insists upon the entire practicability of the new regulation.

Respectfully your Obedt Servt
 Thomas H. O'Neal
 Secy of State