

February 1, 1916.

Honorable I. L. Farris,
Suite 503 Bisbee Building,
Jacksonville, Florida.

Dear Farris:

I am enclosing herewith an eight page synopsis of the things which ought to be done in connection with the Everglades. This was dictated by Mr. Helm and not by me.

The ideas in it are very good but require some modification for political purposes. The chief change that should be made is, that it should be emphasized throughout on every occasion that we propose to go back to Broward's plan, that would remove the necessity of talking about fifty million dollars worth bonds. His plan of course, was to make the land responsible and to realize upon it by selling it as rapidly as it was drained; and then with that money to drain another tract, selling it out in order to drain still another and so at an infinitum (or nearly so.)

You will observe, without a doubt, that a great deal of Mr. Helm's argument is directed to the subject of taxation, that is entirely natural so far as he is concerned. I think however, that I should not propose any reduction in taxes, but, should take the position that there are not sufficient to carry on the work, especially since the state owns one million and a-half acres of the land and cannot pay its taxes except from sales of the land. Of course, too it cannot sell the land before the land is drained, so that you see we are now entangled in a ferocious circle. You

L. L. F. #2.

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will notice, too, that while Mr. Helm's position is eminently correct but, to elaborate it would require so many technical expressions as to make it useless and not understandable by the masses of the people.

I want to call your attention particularly to that part of his discussion coming under number 2, ^Q in that way I think, a state wide issue can be made of it. He is working on more stuff, therefore, I think it would be wise if to-morrow you will give me your Tampa address.

I am sending several pamphlets and documents which I think you ought to read. It is my idea that you should absorb all the facts about the Everglades you can within the next few days, and these pamphlets and documents contain enough, so that you can very largely familiarize yourself with the subject ⁱⁿ and its broad outlines.

Now, I want to say to you personally, that it is going to be comparatively easy to ^{work} make out the political side of this ~~po-~~
~~sition~~ ^{situation} here. I have been feeling and inquiring around a little bit. It may be good news to you, that the heads of the faction in Broward County ~~are~~ opposing the man you met the other day, to-day agreed with me to give you their support, ^I that ought to give you seventy-five per cent. of the votes there. I am staying away from the Dade County situation at present for what I think are very good reasons the chief one is, that I believe you can handle that situation better than I can. I shall expect you early next week. This matter is very important, and you ~~ought not~~ to lose any time.

Yours very truly,

JMC/reb.