

Mr. Carson:-

For your information.

V.W.H.

March 23rd,
1916.

Hon. Ion L. Farris,
Jacksonville, Fla.

My Dear Senator:-

You will be glad to learn that the first offering of the Everglades Special Road & Bridge District Bonds sold for 97, at Fort Lauderdale, March 21st. The issue is for \$92,500 and the amount realized was \$89,725.

There were six bidders who deposited certified checks. One of the bidders offered a premium on the bonds, but through some fluke failed to make his certified check correspond with the bid, and therefore lost out.

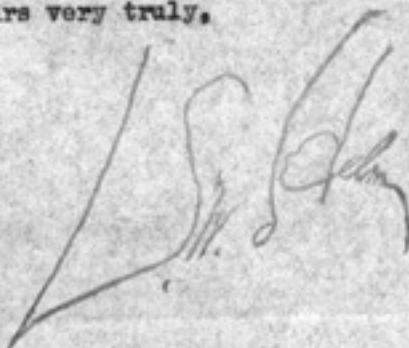
The district in question lies wholly within the Everglades, and the interesting feature about the bond issue is the fact that Broward County did not come into existence until last October. The County Commissioners were all new at the game, the most of them never having served as public officials previously, and yet within these few months they have formed a district, offered bonds and actually had some stiff competition among the bidders. This in contrast with the dilatory tactics of the officials at Tallahassee who have had Everglades Drainage District Bonds authorized for nearly three years, and utterly failed to make an outright sale of a nickel's worth, despite their "long service as public servants" and the "dignity of their respective offices". About a year ago when these same officials were making stump speeches in Miami and Fort Lauderdale, they almost begged the voters not to turn over the Everglades management to a separate local commission, for the reason, as they explained, that bond houses would not be impressed with the dignity of local officials as they would in the case of State officials and therefore that it would be much more difficult for local commissioners to sell bonds than important officials like the Governor and his staff. In view of what has just happened, it is to laugh!

If the present State officials would devote one tenth as much time and display one tenth as much intelligence in the handling of Everglades Drainage matters as the tyro commissioners of the new little County of Broward have displayed in the preparation and sale of the Everglades Special Road & Bridge District Bonds, we would have tens of thousands of acres of drained lands in the eastern portion of the 'Glades, and 20,000 disappointed land buyers would not be walking advertisements, singing the praises of Florida.

Hon Ion L. Farris,
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Surely here is another reason why we should get "back to Broward" as quickly as possible. The very name of Broward seems to have been an inspiration to our good friends in the County which bears this great man's name. Let us hope that it will prove an inspiration alike to the people of the entire State.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L. S. Farris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "L".

VWL/H