

*True file*

1. Broward promised the State the drainage of the Everglades, as his original campaign issue.
2. The State accepted it upon the proviso that the drainage of the Everglades should not cost the state a penny. These promises must be made good; the Glades must stand on their own feet.
3. The State promised to devote all of the lands furnished by the United States for the purpose of draining the Everglades, being approximately 3,000,000 of swamp and overflowed lands included in the Everglades Drainage District.
4. The State assumed and began the work of draining the Everglades in 1905, from the proceeds of the sale of the lands, and including the levy of drainage taxes.
5. In 1907 the Legislature established the Everglades Drainage District, and levied a drainage tax on the lands in aid of the drainage project, as set forth in Senate Document #89.
6. By continuing the work, and by continuously promising in its literature, circulars and pamphlets by the State, by the Trustees' action as shown in the minutes appropriating \$1,000 for publicity, and the entertainment of newspaper men, the State promised to drain and reclaim the Everglades; the Trustees have constantly been offering inducements to people to buy the lands, and such promises must be redeemed.
7. The Legislature made no specific appropriation or disposal of the lands included in the Everglades patent or the Everglades Drainage District after the lands were given to the State by the United States, and all of the lands that had been diverted in any way to any other State fund, or enterprise, were transferred under pretended authority of acts of past Legislatures, or by State officers, without direction or direct authority of the Legislature in any legislation.
8. The withholding from sale of the lands still held by the State in the Everglades was not directed or authorized by the Legislature.
9. The drainage taxes and the amount of bonds authorized to be issued are plainly inadequate, and should be augmented by the lands remaining unsold, and a sufficient

bond issue based thereon being authorized, and at no cost to the State, the Everglades ought to, ~~be~~, and must, be, drained.

10. The drainage taxes are utterly inadequate for any extended work, and the sale of lands still held by the State in the Everglades is extremely difficult, if not impossible at the present time, except at cut-throat prices, owing to the delays of drainage and mismanagement of the project. This makes it necessary to issue bonds, the lands being security for the same, and the lands not to be sold until suitable prices could be obtained,--the long time bonds furnishing all the money necessary for the drainage operations -- and the lands could be sold in sufficient amount from time to time to take care of not only the interest, but a large portion of the principal, thereby cutting off the bond charge. This can be done by making the bond issue sufficiently large, and providing that the bonds shall be redeemable, say, in five year periods, or on proper notice, such time being given as would be reasonable, and would not affect the salable quality of the bonds.

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The policy of the State, as will appear by the minutes adopted by the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund (Vol.5, p.267) was unequivocally that of drainage and reclamation.

"Therefore,

Be it resolved by the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, all being present, That the Trustees adhere strictly to the provisions of the act of January 6, 1855, chapter 610, Laws of Florida, as to their powers and duties and the purposes for which said trust was granted, and that they will assert their rights and defend the title to the lands granted and irrevocably vested in them for the purposes therein set forth of reclaiming said lands by means of levees and drains."

It was a promise to continue this policy which placed Napoleon Bonaparte Broward in the Governor's Chair. It was this same promise which inspired some 20,000 purchasers to invest their hard-earned savings in the wet lands of the Everglades, knowing that the State was back of the project; <sup>knowing</sup> that while individuals and corporations might fail to make good on a promise, this could not apply to the great state of Florida.

The State was the beneficiary of these representations, because sales of lands were made to purchasers all over the country, their money being paid to the wholesale dealers, who, in turn, paid the State their deferred payments, so that the State got the money. The inducement to buy land was the State's promise to drain the lands, and its representations in regard to the drainage of the lands. Therefore, since the money came to the State, the State was the beneficiary.

But through changing administrations and shifting policies, and illegal diversions of lands from their rightful purpose, the State's name is now being held up to scorn and her promises remain unfulfilled. This is a matter which touches the personal honor of every citizen of the State. Florida's promise must be redeemed and her honor retrieved.