

December 10, 1919.

Mr. J.E. Connelly.,  
27 William St.  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

On Monday I had the pleasure of a conference with Mr. G.A. Bridge and William I. Phillips, and put before Mr. Bridge a timber, land and development proposition which no doubt offers greater opportunities than any large investment in Florida. I suggested that Mr. S.R. Ginsburg (1614, 150 Nassau St. New York City) who was chief engineer for the Romano Central in Santa Domingo, and who made an inspection of this property, be induced to call on you and tell you what he knows of same. In keeping with this suggestion I wired at once to Mr. Ginsburg requesting him to do so but as he has certain principles which are also dealing for the property he wired me that he thought it would interfere with his negotiations, but I am again wiring him tonight repeating my request that he call on you-- which I trust he has done, but for fear that he has not done so I am enclosing you a map of southern Florida prepared for myself. The red shows the location of the Chevelier tract, comprising 207,360 acres, owned by myself and associates, and the green, the location of 842,000,000 feet of cypress timber which can be purchased, and the black, the location of a coastal tract of land which, at a very little expenditure of money offers a deep water shipping point for this cypress timber and the millions of feet of pine timber on this great undeveloped area. A railroad could be projected from this point, affording a shipping point for this cypress timber and could be extended on to Miami, opening up for settlement and development some of the richest agricultural land in all Florida--lands which have been pronounced sugar cane lands by sugar engineers of national reputation.

This combines three propositions:

- (1) The acquiring of the coastal lands for a deep water harbor, and shipping.
- (2) The purchase of the 842,000,000 feet of cypress

timber.

(3) The purchase of the Chevelier tract, of which I am part owner and we own charter for the Tamiami Railway from Miami to Fort Myers. Charter for this railway carries with it terminal facilities at Miami in the shape of a franchise granted to the Tamiami Railway by the City of Miami.

Acquisition of these three propositions would mean:-

(1) The development of the prettiest location for a townsite and deepwater harbor on the Gulf of Mexico, which would be the natural location of a sawmill to manufacture the lumber and the sugar mills to handle the sugar cane which experts have said can be grown to perfection on this area.

(2) The manufacture into lumber between one and two billion feet of cypress and pine timber lying adjacent to this railroad.

(3) Putting into cultivation for the commercial growing of sugar cane thousands of acres of land which has been pronounced a "Sugar cane Proposition" by sugar cane engineers.

(4) Opening up the best stock farm and fruit and vegetable section in all Florida.

Mr. H. B. Plant constructed the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad from Jacksonville to Fort Myers. He was the great developer of the West coast of Florida. Henry M. Flagler constructed the Florida East Coast Railroad from Jacksonville to Miami and then on to Key West, developing the east coast of Florida. A railroad connecting these two east and west coast trunk lines roads traversing the heaviest timbered area in Florida and developing the rich agricultural possibilities paralleling same, would be an accomplishment in itself greater than the two combined developments noted and would be made easy by the thousands of population that Plant and Flagler have brought to Florida and the man or set of men who make this possible will not only reap an enormous income of profit from doing this thing but will have done something for Florida, as well as for himself.

I have not entered into the price on the cypress timber, coastal lands or the Chevelier tract. My sole purpose is to furnish you with this information, showing you the opportunities that it offers.

I am enclosing a booklet prepared by our company last year when we contemplated a timber certificate against our cypress timber--this we did not do, however, but the

booklet will give you an insight into the proposition and an idea of same, and also I call your particular attention to the proclamation of Mayor Watson on the first cover page of the folder and the resolution of the Miami Chamber of Commerce on the back cover page of same.

The coastal lands and town and mill site propositions lands can be purchased; the cypress timber is for sale and we can make mutually satisfactory arrangements with you in the development of the Chevelier tract and the acquisition by you of the Charter of the Tamiami Railway, but the proposition in its entirety, by reason of the timber, sugar lands, cattle and stock farm land, settlement and development and town site and connection of the railroad transportation with the east and west coasts offers to capital untold millions as a profit in the greatest development that Florida has ever had.

If you wish Mr. Bridges to make an inspection of these properties I shall take pleasure in arranging this.

Very truly,

JFJ:H

P.S.--I am enclosing copy of the cruise of the 842,000,000 feet of cypress timber and have requested Judge T.F. McGarry, (Pennsylvania Hotel, New York City) or Mr. H.B. Cauty (Room 68, Twenty Nassau St ) to take up with you the matter of the purchase of this cypress. Mr. Bridges, Mr. Phillips and ourselves can handle the coastal shipping point, Chevelier tract and railroad proposition, if you wish to combine same.

JFJ:H