

Miami Florida July 31st 1924.

Mr. W. L. Hill, Secretary
Washington
D. C.

My dear Mr. Hill:

I have yours of 28th inst in regard to my several letters to Senator Fletcher in which I have been trying to secure the appointment of Dr. Robert Ranson as a special investigator for the purpose of making reports to the Department on the vast peat deposits embraced in the Florida Everglades (my understanding being that there was and is an appropriation for this purpose---the investigations of peat--said appropriation be the result of Senator Fletcher's efforts), to the end that conclusive information might be obtained for the purpose or encouraging (if the facts justified), or discouraging (if the facts developed features which would not warrant) the development of this deposit of peat.

Note with great pleasure that if an investigation of the "Peat Resources" of the Everglades is to be made it will be through the "Geological Survey" of the Department of the Interior and or by the State Geologist of Florida--Dr. Herman Gunter, a gentleman I know quite well and one who is now very much hampered by inadequate appropriations by the State for his Department----I am quite sure he will appreciate the aid of the appropriation by Federal Government for this purpose.

I personally feel like General Manager H. N. Rodenbaugh of the Florida East Coast Railway when he said " No doubt further investigation and study will develop greater possibilities than are now apparent, that will be obtained from the use of Everglades peat".

Our little demonstration plant at Miami has not cost a great deal of money, but none of us feel like "carrying on" (altho we have been very much encouraged by the demonstrations of Dr. Robert Ranson's knowledge and his years and years of investigations and the results obtained for us), hence we will await with keen interest the investigations by Dr. Herman Gunter, State Geologist of Florida who is a much younger man than Dr. Robert Ranson.

Convey to Senator Fletcher my highest personal regards and thanks for his interest, I feel quite sure he is disappointed in the outcome of failure to secure Dr. Ranson the appointment.

Very truly yours