

Personal.

Miami Fla June 25th 1924.

Senator Duncan U. Fletcher.

Washington D.C.

Dear Senator Fletcher:-

I have yours of June 21st relative to Dr. Robert Ranson. I can't for the life of me see how he "went wrong on Governor Catts", and like yourself I feel that he is not amenable to political reason, but the recent nomination for Governor proves conclusively that the Ex-Governor is not wanted again in any capacity, and I hope Dr. Ranson has reformed forever.

Florida however has some very valuable peat deposits, in fact the value of the Everglades really lays in the value of these lands for fuel, and power rather than their value for agricultural purposes (I mean STRICTLY SO CALLED MUCK OR PEAT LANDS of which there is over a million acres six feet deep and over).

I have with several others financed a small demonstration plant here at Miami, and we have proven the value of these peat or so called muck lands for producing gas, power, and by-products.

In other words Florida has within the Everglades a great "coal mine" which will add greatly to the wealth of the State and supply us with what nature has not given in any other manner, "cheap power" or "fuel".

The value we have proven, but its so new to America that unless we have Government Reports on the fuel and by-products value that it will be hard to utilize same.

My thought was that Dr. Robert Ranson could be put on a "Special investigation" and be allowed to devote his entire time to research, taking advantage of the knowledge he acquired in Europe and the demonstration work here, to the end that capital could be interested in developing this rich store of power so much needed in Florida, I certainly will be pleased to see you in September at which time I want you to see just what we have done in demonstrating the value of our Everglades peat, I am with highest regards,

Sincerely yours,