

Major W.H. Gralle'
Washington D.C.

My Dear Major Gralle' :-

Yours First received ,late Saturday afternoon, too late to get a letter off and there is no mail from here on Sundays, I note with keen disappointment the difficulties and impossibilities in getting the complete loan to carry on our Sugar Plantation; you asked me to wire you on receipt of your letter if anything suggested itself to me, and that in case you did not receive wire that you would return to Fort Myers.

Nothing has occurred to me that you have not very fully explained so I am not wiring, but I am writing you to Washington and sending a copy to Fort Myers ; if you have stayed over in Washington until you receive this letter you might present a proposition to the Powers That Be as follows.

We will permit any Department of Government to take over in trust or by title the ten thousand acres of land described upon them paying fifty thousand dollars (this will clear title) ,with the understanding that they will immediately put five hundred or more/ un-employed ex-farmers who are more than anxious to cultivate same, that such Department will advance to these men and women sufficient funds to cultivate this land in tomatoes in the winter months and sugar cane all the year round; for such advances they charge to each individual farmer the amounts paid or loaned to him or her and let same be a charge against the land cultivated until all advances are paid with interest.

The ex-farmer is now un-employed, he can be put to work, he can repay his loan quickly as follows--

- FIRST----A tomato and vegetable crop on a few acres of the land will more than repay such advances by April 15th 1935.
- SECOND----His sugar cane crop (harvested in winter of 1935 will pay at the rate of \$100.00 per acre and continue to pay such a sum annually for from five to ten years.
- THIRD---- He will be growing a crop which does not compete with any crop now being grown in the southern part of the United States.
- FOURTH----He is removed from the field of competitive labor and is assured a revenue for life.

We to receive fifty dollars per acre ultimately for our land if the plan works out, if not NOTHING.

This would accomplish all we have planned except it would give the entire profit to the grower and Government.

I bet you dollars to doughnuts that you will not get a single Department of Government to even investigate this offer, altho it is sounder than any similar one now being followed; the answer of course is that there is no law permitting this to be done.

Personally I am agreeable to any plan which will insure the continuation of a sugar plantation in this area; I am going to do like B.H. Dahlberg did---JUST DO IT ANYHOW.

Mrs. Saudon joins in personal regards, I am,
Sincerely yours,