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Capt. J. F. Jaudon,  
Ft. Myers, Fla.

Dear Captain:

Your two letters of the 10th came last week while I was on a trip down into Arkansas and Louisiana. I was glad to hear from you and to know that you and Mrs. Jaudon are well.

I am sorry you were not able to carry out your contract with Lee County, but am glad to learn from your letter that arrangements have been made so that the Tamiami Trail work will be pushed to an early completion.

As you say, our interests in the Chevelier proposition are the same, and whatever will benefit one of us will benefit the other, and vice versa. The trouble with this proposition ever since we have had it, has been that it was never adequately financed, and that is the trouble about it. That is the reason why I was trying to sell some of my stock to Messrs. Rollestone, Freeland and Groom. I thought I had the deal made, but for some reason that I do not understand, the two Rollestone's seem to hesitate about going into it. I am expecting to know something definite within the next two or three days, but have been expecting this for some weeks past.

If we could get them heavily interested in the proposition so that they would furnish the necessary finances for whatever it was decided was needed, we could make a great success of this property and they are financially able to put up any money that might be needed.

Mr. Freeland and Dr. Groom who saw the property, were well pleased with it and are willing to go in; but the Rollestone's, who are really the strongest financially, seem to hesitate and hold back. I do not know what the result will be, but hope to learn something definite very soon.

If Rollestone goes into the proposition, I will take up with him the matter of purchasing some of your stock if you so desire. I think from some remarks that have been dropped that one reason Mr. Rollestone hesitates about going in, is because he thinks the deal will require a considerable amount of money to put this property in shape for the market, and that he will have only a small per cent of the stock.



Capt. J. F. Jaudon, #2.

It was the expectation if our plans went through, that Rollestone, Freeland and Groom would have about 25% of the stock. Another reason I think that is holding Rollestone back, is the fact that his son, Ed, seems to be opposed to the proposition, and the further fact that the Rollestone's are putting on a big drilling campaign in the Bristow oil field which requires not only a large amount of money, but a great deal of personal attention.

I agree with you that there should be a policy of strict economy in the handling of this property and that all past due obligations should be settled at the very earliest possible moment. I had hoped that this could be done at an early date if my deal with Rollestone, Freeland and Groom went through. If it fails, I do not know where the money is to come from to pay off the existing obligations.

I do not know what the expenses of the corporation are or have been for the past year. I suppose Mr. McCord and Capt. Cook are keeping up with these matters, as Capt. Cook keeps the books at Miami and draws checks, and Mr. McCord keeps the books at Spencer and carries the corporation account in his bank.

If the Rollestone's decide to go through with the agreement made with me, I will probably make a trip to Miami in the near future and hope to see you when I come down there.

In regard to the railroad proposition, when we were down at Miami, Mr. Freeland thought he could get Mr. Rollestone to build a railroad, as he has long cherished an ambition to build a railroad, and now has the money with which to build it; but if he decides to not go into the Chevelier proposition, I suppose he will not be interested in the railroad proposition down there. I agree with you that the railroad could be made a big paying proposition.

I will write you again after I learn definitely what these people decide to do.

With best regards to yourself and Mrs. Jaudon, I remain

Very truly yours,

*J. A. McCord*

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