

Miami Fla June 19th 1924.

Mr. John S. Jones.
Columbus
Ohio.

My Dear Mr. Jones:-

I have your letter of 16th inst, and have answered same under separate heads of "Attorney" and "Fisher Interest", but I have been trying to write you for some time but there was so much which I had written to either you or Mr. Hartley which had not been answered by either of you that I hesitated to insist further on these subject matters; your letters of 16th inst. however touched on most of the subject matter of which I have here-tofore written, and I take pleasure in replying under separate heads-----.

TAX CERTIFICATES AND TAX DEEDS-----Certain property has been sold in the years gone by for taxes (lying in or near Naples), I called your attention to advertisements appearing in Collier County News "Applying for Tax Deeds", these should have been stopped ~~THEY~~ as the applicants have secured Tax Deeds for some very valuable Lots in Naples at small costs to them-----There are a great number more of these outstanding "Certificates", I told Mr. Hartley of them; told him "that these Certificates should be purchased and Tax Deeds secured by you"----Mr. Ernest Ames State Comptroller has furnished me a list of these Certificates; you should have Paul Taylor or some "faithful" attorney buy these Certificates and have him proceed to secure Tax Deeds for these properties, I could have done this myself but did not nor do not want to do anything without your sanction, as it might interfere with your plans, I suggest you sending five hundred or a thousand dollars to Taylor (or some other attorney who has your interest **SOLELY** at heart and instruct him to "purchase ALL certificates outstanding ~~and~~ against lands near and at Naples and secure Tax Deeds for you".

RAILROADS-----The Seaboard is BUILDING from Coleman to West Palm Beach, they have at least a dozen crews building grade, cutting and delivering ties, placing 100 $\frac{1}{2}$ steel and within a year will have completed this line.

The Florida East Coast is BUILDING from Okechobee City to Pohnokee and will extend to Sand Point (or just below Sand Point) and then build on to Miami along the Miami Canal-----the Atlantic Coast will extend their line from Clewiston and join with them in building to Miami-----These things are BEING DONE, and they dont help Naples a bit, nor would these plans interfere with the line from Arcadia to Miami via of Naples, BUT they do interfere with terminal plans at Miami.

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As I have said in my letter of today to you there is but ONE THING TO DO NOW---amend charter of Tamiami Railway to extend from Arcadia to Miami, apply for permit from Interstate Commerce Commission to construct and begin work in a modest way, and also TAKE UP AT ONCE (immediately after Charter has been amended and permit applied for) the effort to secure co-operation of Carl G. Fisher, Fred. S. Rand, and George S. Merrick (Coral Gables) and W.F. Matheson interests, (we already have Chevelier Corporation's proposal).

I think you should dis-regard the Fort Myers Southern entirely, as they will never connect you with Miami, in fact I believe they would put you on a "sidetrack".

The Seaboard will NEVER move until you make them or have some thing definite to offer them.

I have Mr. Maxwell Kilvert (a railroad builder) ready to take hold of the Arcadia Miami Railroad but I WILL NOT LET HIM DO A THING UNTIL OR UNLESS you must advise me that you so desire; I feel that you have just as fine a railroad man in Mr. Hartley as can be found, but he should have authority to move at once.

COLLIER COUNTY ELECTIONS---Yes it was to have been expected, and really nothing is lost, in fact the longer H. Collier tries to dictate the policies of Collier County the more he will lose---I tried to have a "Census" made of Collier County on Jan 1st so you could have controlled this election---as you have said if you let it be known that Naples will have a Railroad your population will enable you to control future elections---you also need a good attorney on the bond issue that Collier County is now proposing, and one who can keep tab on county expenditures.

Mr. Jones I am wholly in your hands in this Railroad and any connection I may have with Naples and Collier County affairs, am ready to serve you in any way possible---you have never given me your idea of how I could represent you in any sales of Naples property that you desire to place on market; I do not want Tamiami Railway Charter to die a natural death by expiring or defaulting, I do want to be of service and at the same time earn some money and have a future in the general plans.

With highest regards, I am

Sincerely yours