

## TAMiami RAILWAY

*Ocean to Gulf*OFFICE OF PRESIDENT  
J. F. JAUDON  
321 N. W. FOURTH AVE.

MIAMI, FLA. Oct. 6th 1924.

Mr. John S. Jones  
Columbus  
Ohio.

Dear Mr. Jones:

I have yours of Oct. 3rd, and glad you are going to New York about the 15th inst and that you will see both Mr. Walters of the A.C.L. and Mr. Warfield of the Seaboard.

Yes I visited Naples for a few minutes last week, and found Mr. Hartley a very busy man; he seems to think that the A.C.L. have an organization which they will continue until they extend their line to Naples and perhaps on to Marco; it is said they will have trains to Bonito Springs before January 1st, and I guess they will.

The new developments are such as to be a little alarming, I was visited a few days ago by Mr. Thomas W. Lockett of the Seaboard, he talked in a very definite manner of the Seaboard entering Miami; I gave him some pictures of the territory laying between Miami and Naples, but it struck me they (the Seaboard) intend to try and reach Miami by extending their West Palm Beach line down the coast to Miami; I also had a friend of mine tell me that while he was out west this summer he met one of the chief engineers of the Seaboard who told him that on January first he was going to begin surveying a line west from Miami to the Gulf, in fact the Seaboard are making overtures to the Miami Chamber of Commerce, and the Miami City Commission to secure their aid in entering Miami.

I also have a letter from Mr. R. L. Holtzendorf (my wife's cousin) of the DeSota National Bank at Arcadia who I asked to secure a price on the Government Railroad from Arcadia to Carlstrom (Kodak views of which I am attaching) he writes me "Mr. T. W. Parsons of the C. H. & N. Ry. Co. informs me that the Carlstrom Field R. R. is not for sale. The A. C. L. Ry. Co. having gained control of it---it will be a permanent road and probably a part of their cross-state road"---it looks as tho they are ALL determined to make it impossible or rather unnecessary to build from Miami to Naples.

Mr. H. N. Rodenbaugh of the Florida East Coast is to return to Florida very soon, you recall he said he would immediately come to Miami upon his return, and discuss the situation---you of course understand that they are very close to the A. C. L. Ry.---Mr. Hartley suggested in fact wrote me to request Mr. Rodenbaugh to visit Naples and see the West Coast and its opportunities; I do not take it that Mr. Rodenbaugh has any idea of the Florida East Coast Ry. building this line, but I do take it that they do want a working arrangement with our line as it will deliver to the F. E. C. Ry. a vast tonnage of lumber, vegetables, fruits etc, etc.

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I am still of the opinion that if you assure Mr. David Warfield President of the Seaboard Air Line Railway that the Tamiami Railway has its Charter from Miami to Arcadia via Naples and Fort Myers and that you expect to finance the construction provided that his line will not do so that he will gladly tell you that the Seaboard will underwrite five million dollars worth of the bonds of the Tamiami Railway PROVIDED the operating lease is given to the Seaboard and its connections.

Have just received a letter from Hon. H. Clay Crawford, Secretary of State of Florida saying "Your letter with enclosures, map, etc showing lines of TAMIAMI RAILWAY has been received and said map has been filed with other in connection with said railway that are on file in this office" etc, etc,.

We are now ready to go to the Inter-State-Commerce Commission and apply for our Corporation financing and construction permit, and Certificate of convenience and necessity, but I hesitate to do this as I do not desire to cross wires with any arrangements you may make, as your interest for nearly two years has been mine.

I am quite sure if TAMIAMI RAILWAY had five hundred thousand dollars which we could depend on in sight, that we could proceed with our complete plans, begin laying off town-sites along our line and that we could and WOULD sell lots in such town-sites and receive cash faster than we could wisely expend same on construction---in other words there would be no further demand for financing---I realize that you and Mr. Hartley who have constructed and operated railroads through old settled communities can-not appreciate this angle of the situation, and I admit that it is almost un-beleivable---but true never-the less.

With a definate policy laid out I am equally sure we would have no trouble in getting Carl. G. Fisher, Geo. R. Merrick of Coral Gables and other substantial men to join with us; I however do not feel justified in approaching them until I know your desires and intentions.

I beleive the above is all the news and suggestions which I can give at this time---I sincerely hope you can and will get Mr. David Warfield or Mr. Harry Walters to make a definate proposition as to just what they can and will do---my fear is that with all this agitation that it will result in the laying out and construction of a line from Miami to the Gulf which will not touch at Naples, I am,

Sincerely yours

J. F. Jaudon

JFJ/n