

September 29th 1915.

Mr. E. G. Wilkinson,
Secretary & Treasurer,
Bonita Cattle Company,
Bonita Springs, Florida.

Dear Mr. Wilkinson:-

Your favor received. I note that you will confer with Mr. Langford upon his return from the North, and beg to advise that I have had a letter from Hon. J. Stuart Lewis, Secretary of Commissioners Everglades Drainage District, and he advises that it will not be possible for us to get a hearing before the Board until sometime during the week beginning October 4th. I shall advise you by letter or wire when we have arranged date, and I trust you, Mr. Langford, and as many other representative citizens of Lee County as possible will be in Tallahassee on such date, as the Board will be more inclined to be liberal in the amount of drainage allowed in connection with the road project of the two Counties if our representation is large.

I am enclosing you a letter from Mr. Hobart Crabtree, County Surveyor of Dade County to our Commission, and also copy of a letter which we have drafted to Chief Drainage Engineer Elliott. You will note that our idea now is, that Lee and Dade Counties pay the cost of constructing the road which will result in the digging of a canal along side of same; we are then asking that the Board of Drainage Commissioners, or Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund provide the necessary Gulf and Atlantic outlets to this East and West Canal which will be constructed in conjunction with the road project. You can readily understand that we will secure considerable more from the Drainage Board, if the two Counties work in conjunction, hence the request to them to provide the Gulf and Atlantic outlets. Mr. Highleyman is still in St. Louis but will try to have him in Tallahassee when we have arranged a date with the Board.

I think our proposition for bonds has been received favorably by the people of Dade County, and we have no reason but to believe that a bond issue will carry. However, it is going to be absolutely necessary for us to secure from the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund and the Commissioners of Everglades Drainage District an assurance that they will spend either from their bond issue or from the proceeds of lands which we asked them to set aside for this purpose, a specified amount to prosecute the drainage project in conjunction with the Road and Bridge Tax proposition. This feature is of such vital importance to the interests which Mr. Langford represents in Lee County, as they have been paying drainage taxes for years now and have received no work of drainage towards their land, and it strikes me that now is the opportunity for them to get the consideration which they unquestionably deserve from the

E. G. Wilkinson:

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Commissioners of Everglades Drainage District in conjunction with this road project of Lee and Dade Counties. I shall write or wire you just as soon as we have arranged the date of our Tallahassee Meeting.

With kindest personal regards.

Yours very truly,

J/D

BOND

HAWKWEBWIFF