

MY FLORIDA

"A state oldest in white settlement and newest and best in modern development—a state with a rare blending of the old and the new. A state where the products of the Temperate Zone and the Semi-Tropics meet on common ground, and intermingling reach their highest perfection. A state abounding in assets of pure air, good water, generous sunshine, ample rainfall, and twelve full months in each year to grow grain, grass, root and fruit crops and live stock. A state with gentle and healing winds bearing balsam from the pines and salt air from the seas. A state fast becoming the all-year-round playground, health resort and income producing region of the nation. A state to which the world is invited to come and study and enjoy, and by staying prolong life in comfort. A state to which the tourist and homeseeker can come in any month of the year."—By Pat Murphy.

Are you here? Will you come?

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J. F. JAUDON

Bougainvillea

321 N. W. FOURTH AVENUE
MIAMI, FLORIDA

July 14, 1928

Editor Miami Daily News Metropolis:

In a number of issues of your paper you have printed "Communications", "Editorials" and in the "Public Pulse" section of your issue of July 12th you add insult to injury by carrying a communication signed George E. Warren, 210 East Flagler Street. I shall only attempt to answer certain charges made in the latter article (I shall reserve my answer to your "Editorial" in a more emphatic manner).

Mr. Warren should have known different, and I am quite sure you are and have been in possession of facts quite contrary to the statements published.

The State did not "give a large body of land to be sold for the purpose of building canal and trail" as Mr. Warren charged. The State did, however, sell to J.F. Jaudon, L.T. Highleyman and R.E. McDonald, 20,000 acres of land for the sum of \$100,000, the proceeds to be used by the State for providing an OUTLET for the Tamiami Trail Canal — this land was advertised for sale by the Trustees in the Miami Metropolis under date of December 22nd, 1916 (any one could have made purchase of this land, as the advertisement stated that "bids would be received in Tallahassee on February 2n, 1917) we were the highest bidders and upon payment by us of ten thousand dollars, deed was issued to us and we jointly signed a mortgage for the \$90,000 remaining due; this land was located "out in the Ever-

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glades"—the nearest to Miami being 22 miles; the furthest distant being 35 miles from Miami.

The purpose of this sale by the State and purchase by Messrs. Highleyman, McDonald and the writer, was to sell this "undrained" "Inaccessible" land, the purchase price - \$100,000 - to be used for the purpose of producing an outlet for the Tamiami Trail Canal (not one cent to be used on the Tamiami Trail). Within six months we had sold the entire acreage at prices ranging from \$3.50 per acre (less than cost) to \$15.00 per acre for ten acre lots directly on the south side of the Tamiami Trail (then in the future).

The State spent this \$100,000 on the Tamiami-Miami cut-off canal, which is one of the most important State Drainage canal outlets in the southern area of the Everglades; starting at the Miami Canal and running south west to the Tamiami Trail Canal.

Mr. Warren says "Is the Herald aware that lands along the Tamiami Trail — even on the Trail —are not sufficiently drained for settlers" ——— for Mr. Warren's keen Real Estate mind, let me tell him, and your readers, that altho at the beginning of the Tamiami Trail project the land along the Trail was perhaps the least drained lands in the ENTIRE EVERGLADES that now THERE ARE MORE ACRES OF REALLY DRAINED LANDS IN SOUTHERN DRAINAGE DISTRICT ALONG THE TAMIAMI TRAIL than there are in any like AREA IN THE EVERGLADES,

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and we have accomplished this IN SPITE OF an opposition which has always been present since this gigantic project was started.

In spite of the fact that a "DAM" now exists and diverts the water south on Southern Drainage District in the Miami Canal, (being located just above the land which Mr. Warren is selling from his offices 210 E. Flagler St. and branch office on Miami Canal), and in spite of the fact that the Dade Drainage District has a canal which is conducting the waters from the Warren and other's lands south to the Southern Drainage District, but those who read the newspapers will note, Mr. J.P. Conrad, Supervisor-Treasurer of the Southern Drainage District, told in "Public Pulse" of Miami News-Metropolis, on July 11th, just where those who are responsible for this would have "to get off", I would also call his and your readers attention to the "Protests against Canals" made by the "Larkins Civic League" in the name of the 1200 owners of lands in Southern Drainage District which was organized by Legislature in 1917, is spending over fifty thousand dollars per year (derived from a direct special tax on benefitted lands ONLY), all of this money going to the merchants of Miami. It was my pleasure and privilege to be the real organizer of this District —it's first President, — and this District is doing more to actually reclaim lands directly at the doors of Miami than all the rest of the drainage projects combined — lands owned by Miamian's and citizens of Dade County —

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, lands which have proven their agricultural value. Right here let me say that the Miami Canal Highway is a part of the Tamiami Trail project. The original or first bond issue for the Tamiami Trail carried an item of \$25,000 to build a road up the Miami Canal to Bright's farm and on up to the Broward County line (altho at that time Bright's farm and one lone settler at Hope City was all there was on the Miami Canal) there was also included a further item of \$25,000 for this road in the last bond issue; thus the lands Mr. Warren is interested in selling owe at least a large part of their value to the TAMAMI TRAIL PROJECT AS IT CREATED SAME FOR THEM.

But why, Mr. Editor, go on with "muddying the water" as to the Tamiami Trail project? Lee, Collier and Monroe Counties are going to have their sections of the Tamiami Trail completed before Dade County can possibly surface it's portion, even if the bonds proposed are voted. LET'S CARRY THIS BOND ISSUE. We may have to depend on the Tamiami Trail for entrance into the City of Miami from northern points this winter, if reports of the Dixie Highway are true (if Collier and Monroe Counties were aided, the TRAIL COULD BE MADE PASSABLE this winter.

Dade County is and has been receiving FAR MORE IN TAXES from the new lands put on the tax books and increased tax values on land along the Tamiami Trail, than the interest has been costing the Tamiami Special Road District —the interest on the \$300,000

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(\$275,000 of which has been expended, and \$25,000 which is now being expended — and not \$400,000 as has been repeatedly stated by those who are not correctly informed or who purposely mis-state the amount) spent on the Tamiami Trail, at 6% is \$18,000 per annum; the taxes derived on these lands along the Trail is in excess of (figures from Tax Assessor R.L. Hill) —thus the Tamiami Trail is and has been an asset and not a liability, even though incomplete.

WHAT WILL IT BE WHEN COMPLETE?

I have given the best eight years of my life to this project, since its inception, have had no main thought but its completion and benefit to Dade County, its all I ever claimed for it, and far more. I believe in it, have invested my money and time in it, am still on the job and will be until we have the TAMAMI TRAIL — for Dade County needs, wants, and will have it in spite of those who have "an axe to grind", "land to sell elsewhere" "energy to punish" or a "personal or selfish motive", if the Tamiami Trail can be finished quicker and better than on the lines we are working then let's adopt the new policy, but for Dade County's sake, don't let us be a party to permitting these "interested parties" to inject all this "bunk" into the issue in the hope that they can "fool the new comer" for they sure can't fool the "old timer". LETS COMPLETE THE TAMAMI TRAIL.

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In conclusion let me say this is no apology, /excuse; I

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am proud of the idea of the Tamiami Trail, every connection I
have had with it, its progress and benefit now and in the future.
We have been delayed - we can't afford any further delays.

JFJ:H

J. F. JAUDON

BOND