

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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Miami Florida July 14th 1924

Editor Miami Daily News and Metropolis.

In a number of issues of your paper you have ~~XXXXXXXX~~ printed the "Communications" "Editorials" and in ~~XXXX~~ "Public Pulse" section of your issue of July 12th you add insult to injury by carrying a communication signed George E. Warren 210 E. Flagler St, 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 differant and I am quite sure you are and have been in possession of facts quite contrary to the statements published on July 12th.

The State did not give a large body of land to be sold for the purpose of building canal and trail. 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 on providing an OUTLET for 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 as the advertisement stated that bids would be received in Tallahassee on February 2nd 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 Everglades" the nearest to Miami being 22 miles the furtheres ^{national} 35 miles.

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The purpose of this sale by the State and purchase by Mess. 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 Tamiami Trail Canal (not one cent to be used on Tamiami Trail); I was made sales agent for this land and within six months 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 of Tamiami Trail (then in the future), some of these sales are as follows. William Jennings Bryan 50 acres (^{@ \$11.00} per acre on the Trail), Carl G. Fisher (640 acres ^{@ \$10.00} on the Trail), Louis G. Freeman (640 acres ^{@ \$10.00} on the Trail), L. T. Highleyman (640 acres ^{@ \$10.00} on the Trail), T. O. Wilson (640 acres ^{@ \$10.00} on the Trail), Mrs. Jennie Cook (10 acres on the Trail at \$14.00), Miss. Hattie Carpenter (10 acres on the Trail at \$10.00), Reese Combs (10 acres on the Trail at \$14.00 per acre), John F. Wake (640 acres at \$4.00 per acre four miles south of Trail), C. H. Grote (640 acres at \$5.00 ^{per acre} three miles south of Trail), John W. Erickson (640 acres at \$8.00 per acre one mile south of Trail), C. F. Blanke 640 acres at \$3.50 ^{per acre} four miles south of Trail) etc, etc; the aggregate sales amounted to \$125,010.04 with commissions deducted, from which sum there was to be deducted the cost of advertising, sales room, trips to Tallahassee, attorneys fees, interest, leaving really no net profit to any one; let it be known that Mr. Highleyman's purchase and the purchases made both by Mr. McDonald and myself were paid for at the same rate as other purchasers.

The State spent this \$100,000 on the Tamiami-Miami Cut-off Canal.

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which is one of the most important State Drainage canal outlets.

I personally bought about a thousand acres for which I paid in excess of \$5.00 per acre, I have since sold about four hundred acres, and still hold about six hundred acres most of it located from three to four miles south of the Trail, I am and have been paying about seventy cents per acre taxes (general, general drainage, and special drainage) per year on these lands.

Right here let me thank those who purchased these lands, and right here let me say I never mis-represented a single element to make the sales, and further I am ready to buy or find a buyer for any or all of the purchase at purchase price plus 8% plus 100% profit on the price paid; personally I am not SELLING lands on the Tamiami Trail, I am BUYING as far as my means permits.

Mr. Carl Fisher, Mr. L. T. Highleyman and myself bought in 1917 * 10,500 acre of land from the Receivers of Miami Everglades Land Co. we sold about four hundred acre in 1917, BUT the acreage remaining IS NOT FOR SALE JUST NOW.

I feel it a privelege to give my connection with any and all connection I have had, am having, or expect to have with this project.

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. Warrens 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 were perhaps the least drained lands in the

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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, and we have accomplished this IN
SPITE OF an opposition which has always been present since this gi-
gantic project started rather than with the help of those who really
ought to aid and help, and in spite of the fact that a "DAM" now exists
in the Miami Canal (just above the land which Mr. Warren is trying to
sell from his offices 210 E. Flagler St and offices on Miami Canal), and
* in spite of the fact that the Dade Drainage Dis trict have a canal
which is conduiting the waters from the Warren ~~tax~~ and others lands
~~XXXXXXXX~~ south to Southern Drainage District, but if Mr. Warren reads the
news-papers he will note that Mr. J. P. Conrad Supervisor Treasurer of
Southern Drainage District told the people in "Public Pulse" of Miami
News-Metrop~~olis~~ on July 11th just where they would have "to get off",
I would also ~~tax~~ 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 special direct tax on lands benefited ONLY), all of
this money going to the merchants of Miami; it was my pleasure and
privelege to be the real organiazzer of this District, its first President
and this District is doing more to actually reclaim lands

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directly at the doors of Miami than all the rest of the drainage projects combined, lands owned by Miamians and citizens of Dade County, lands which have proven their value (Section 6, T.S. 54 S. Range 40 E. has more people living on same and making their living by farming, altho twelve miles out on the Tamiami Trail, than any other Everglades section of land near Miami (exclusive of Hialeah and the section occupied by the Pennsylvania Sugar Co.), 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 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 (alto at that time Bright's farm and one lone settler at Hope City was all there was on Miami Canal, we also include a further item of \$ 25,000 in the last bond issue, thus if the lands Mr. Warren are interested in selling have any value the TAMIAMII TRAIL PROJECT HAS CREATED SAME FOR THEM.

Mr. Editor

But why 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 its portion even if the bonds proposed are voted, LETS CARRY THIS BOND ISSUE, we may have to depend on the Tamiami Trail for entrance into the City of Miami from the North this winter if reports of Dixie Highway are true (if Collier and Monroe Counties were aided the TRAIL COULD BE MADE PASSABLE this winter), but there can be no question of Dade County having received

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a hundred dents on the dollar and more on the McCrary contract, that he delayed this work there is no question-----in this connection let me say that I was personally injured by this delay perhaps more than Dade County, for the reason that altho I did not own a single acre of land on the line of The Tamiami Trail at the time I promoted this great project that I have since sold about all the property I owned in ~~XXXXX~~ Miami and invested the proceeds along the Tamiami Trail, owning or being interested in about a quarter of a million acres, and no es ecially anxious to sell any of it at this time, thus the delay in cost of interest, taxes, etc.etc. has been very costly to me.

* Dade County is and have been receiving FAR MORE IN TAXES from the new lands put on the tax books and increased tax values than the interest has been costing the Tamiami Special Road District---the interest on the \$300,000 thousand of bonds at 6% is \$18,000 per annum, the taxes derived on these lands are in excess of \$_____ (figures from Tax Assessor Hill----thus the Tamiami Trail is and has been an asset and not a liability, even tho in-complete, WHAT WIL IT BE WHEN COMPLETE ?

* * I have given the best eight years of my life to this pproject, without compensation, 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 beleive in it have invested my money and time in it, am still on the job and will be until we have the TAMIAMIANI TRAIL for Dade County needs wants, and will have it in spite of those who have

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"an axe to grind", "land to sell elsewhere", "enemy 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 lets adopt the new policy, but for Dade County's sake dont let us be a party to permitting these "interested parties" inject all this "bunk" into the issue in the hope that they can "fool the new comer" for they sure cant fool the "old timer". LETS COMPLETE THE TAMIAMI TRAIL.

In conclusion let me say this is no apology, no explanation, no excuse; I am proud of the idea of the Tamiami Trail, its progress and benefit now and in the future, we have been delayed, we cant afford any further delays.

J. F. Jaudon