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April 27th, 1912.

Mr. Morse:

Following is memoranda of trip taken by Mr. Goodson and myself on the 24th, 25th and 26th inst. to obtain samples of marl from and inspect quality of land embraced in Township 59 South of Range 37 East:

We left Miami morning of 24th by automobile and followed rock road out from Detroit until we came to the old Camp Jackson trail where we left the auto. and walked to Camp Jackson a distance of about five miles arriving there about 6 P.M. where we remained that night with ~~xxxx~~ Mr. McRae and his crew. Mr. McRae advised us that he had just the day before completed running the range line south between Ranges 37 and 38, to the Northeast corner of Township 59-37, and we therefore made arrangements to go to the corner the next day.

On the morning of the 25th Messrs. McRae, Goodson and myself left Camp Jackson at 5:30 with a pocket lunch and a machete; the distance from the camp to the NE corner of the township is about 4-3/4 miles along the range line. After going over very rough pine land and arms of shallow rocky prairies for a distance of about one-half mile we struck the large Everglade prairie which continued to the corner of the township unbroken except for an occasional cypress key; all of this prairie along the range line was covered with from four to fifteen inches of water with several deep sloughs running through; for a mile and half the walking was very difficult the water and mud being above our knees and in many places above our waists. Most of this prairie over which we passed before coming to the township corner appeared to be of a good quality of marl running from six inches to two feet in depth; the lowest parts of this prairie is covered with a growth of saw-grass and the higher ridges with scattering mangrove bushes, with small cypress keys dotted here and there.

We arrived at the township corner three hours after starting and found a good pool of cool drinking water under a mangrove bush, where we also found a three foot moccasin, but relieved him of his existence with the aid of the machete.

We took a course southwest from the corner stake out into the township for a distance of about two miles and decided that was about as far as we could go and get back to camp that night.

About a quarter of a mile north of the township corner we found the soil beginning to get shallow, being about six inches deep at the corner. For a mile southwest of the corner we passed through scattering mangrove and a thin growth of a kind of wire grass; ~~xxxx~~ Mr. Goodson climbed a pine tree and from a height of about twenty feet as far as he could see with the naked eye west and south over the township it all looked the same, being covered with numerous small cypress keys and the stunted growth of scattering cypress. A great many of the keys near the northern line of the township contained scattering pine trees, and at a point about four or five miles west of the NE corner there appeared to be a pine island of considerable size penetrating down into the township.

As far as we went out into the township it was hard to find over four inches of soil except in an occasional hole which appeared to be filled mostly with partly decayed vegetation. On a great deal of it there was not over two inches of light marl underlaid with flat surfaced rock.

Sample No.1 contains a full depth of the soil at a point about two miles southwest of the NE corner.

Sample No.2 contains a full depth of the soil at a point about one mile west of the NE corner.

The soil was so shallow that we did not consider it necessary to take a separate sample of the top and one of the bottom, but took two samples in two different locations.

As to the quality of the township as far as we were able to examine and see it is very poor indeed. We have heard that several here claim to have been on this township and found it to be a beautiful rolling prairie, and they also claim to have made the trip down there and back in one day from Homestead, which we feel certain is a physical impossibility, and taking this into consideration and from what we found on the township, it is our opinion that they have never been on the township, but may have been on the large prairie running north of the township.

We got back to Camp Jackson 20 minutes of five, it having taken us eleven hours to make the trip and without scarcely stopping. We remained in camp that night and walked back to the automobile next morning, arriving at Miami 5:30 PM. the 26th.

FJP

Yours very truly,

*J. Hepper*