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ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA. 6/10/20

SUBJECT: Southern Drainage District;
Broward Drainage District.

Personal & Confidential.

Mr. F. J. Pepper,
c/o Mr. F. S. Morse,
Miami, Fla.

Dear Mr. Pepper:

I have yours of the 8th instant and note that it is your intention to attend the meeting of the Broward Drainage District on the morning of the 14th and the Southern Drainage District in the afternoon of the 14th, and shall be glad, after you have had these meetings if you will write us a report fully covering both of these matters.

We would be very glad to have you co-operate with the Landowners' League and the Commissioners of these districts in regard to the appointment of an attorney. The agreement between the commissioners and the attorney as to his fees is a very important one and it should embrace or guide against the court fees in the foreclosure of tax sales. There also should be an agreement between the Commissioners and the publication through which they advertise the unpaid taxes, so as to reduce the charges or bring them as near to a minimum as possible, in order to permit the delinquent taxpayer to redeem his land later on. There are many times when the taxpayer has not got the cash to pay his taxes and may allow his land to be sold for unpaid taxes with the intention of re-purchasing it later on, and this I think is justifiable, and the charges should be so as to enable this man to redeem his land should he wish to do so.

In the Lake Worth Drainage District we have had some little experience and controversy and rather warm feelings in regard to the charges made by their attorney in that district. We have before us some examples:

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|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Delinquent Taxes | 1,048.47 |
| Interest on same to Oct. 26, 1919, | 900.00 |
| Cost of Advertising Notice of Suit | 382.50 |
| Cost of Advertising Notice of Sale | 193.50 |
| Clerk's Costs | 12.97 |
| Master's Costs | 70.43 |
| Attorney's Fees | 2,581.00 |
| | <u>5,189.16.</u> |

Mr. F. J. Pepper-Page #2-6/10/20.

1917.

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Ten Mill Tax | 3,706.13 |
| Interest to December 1, 1919, | 1,482.46 |
| Cost of Advertising Suit, | 833.76 |
| Cost of Advertising Sale, | 489.80 |
| Clerk's Costs | 14.08 |
| Master's Costs, | 98.56 |
| Attorney's Fees, | 5,685.00 |
| Total, | 12,309.79. |

1918.

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Installment Tax, | 5,778.06 |
| Int. to Feb. 7, 1920, | 1,155.61 |
| Cost of Advertising Suit, | 985.50 |
| Cost of Advertising Sale, | 534.90 |
| Clerk's Costs | 15.33 |
| Master's Costs | 107.31 |
| Attorney's Fees, | 6,155.00 |
| Total, | 14,731.71. |

You will note that the total of delinquent taxes, advertising, etc., in the first example is \$5,189.16, and the attorney's fee is \$2,581.00 of this amount. Example No. 2, total tax, interest, etc., is \$12,309.79, attorney's fee \$5,685.00. The third example shows total tax, interest, etc. \$14,731.71, and attorney's fee of \$6,155.00.

In Palm Beach County the penalties, interest, court fees, attorney's fees, increased the organization tax in 1917 from \$3,706.13 to \$12,309.79; in 1918, from \$5,778.06, to \$14,731.71.

The cost of advertising notice of suit and notice of sale is excessive in all of these instances. It is unnecessary to make any remark in regard to the attorney's fees. The only thing that astonishes me is that it did not take the whole shooting match, but these are points that the Commissioners should protect the landowners from, and should be very careful and take into full consideration and have their agreements cover all of these points so that the landowner has all the protection possible.

We will be glad to have you use your best judgment in this matter for us in regard to the appointment of an attorney. Will be pleased to hear further from you at your early convenience.

Yours truly,

Dianey Harrison
Secretary.

H-s.