

CONFIDENTIAL:

655  
May 29th, 1920.

SUPERVISOR, Broward Drainage Distri:

Mr. Sidney Harrison,  
Secy. Model Land Co.,  
St. Augustine, Fla.

My Dear Mr. Harrison:

I have talked over with Mr. Morse the contents of your letter of the 27th and he instructed me to write you for him as per letter enclosed.

I will try and write you more fully in this letter, asking you to treat it confidentially if you please.

It would seem from your letter to Mr. Morse that someone from Ft. Lauderdale not favorable to Watson has made you a recent visit and have gone so far as to advise you that I regreted very much to have to cast your vote for Watson. I have never made such a statement to anyone, although it may be known by some that while I do not know anything bad about Mr. Watson I felt that more capable and experienced men than he should be appointed to such an important position. Mr. Kyle, at present President or Chairman of the Board, called me to one side and in a confidential way wanted to know how I felt about Watson and Bryan, and I frankly told him of the two I favored Watson, but that I would rather see a more capable man than he appointed, but we understood the State Board had voted to support Watson and as we thought it would be to the best interests of the Land Owners to cooperate with the State Engineer, the Model Land Company would vote for Watson.

Mr. Kyle told me that while he favored Bryan to Watson, he would rather see a more capable man than either put in, and with this in view was trying to induce Mr. Frank Stranahan of Ft. Lauderdale to announce for the place, as he felt everybody could endorse Mr. Stranahan. I agreed with him that I thought Stranahan would be much more capable than the other two, and if he came out would be glad to take the matter up further with your office.

Kyle is of the opinion that Mr. Jno. W. Watson made some kind of a political 'swap' with some members of the State Board to get their votes for his son, and that this was all done during the

absence of Drainage Engineer Elliot from the state, who was dead opposed to Watson, and had made a solemn promise that the State Board would not vote for Watson's return at this time, and he felt like Mr. Elliott might be able to induce the Board to rescind its action which would probably take place shortly after the general election of June 8th.

As to my personal opinion of Watson, will state I do not know anything bad about him, and can probably best express myself by stating I just don't think he is heavy enough for the place, but in view of the fact that Bright and Dr. Holmberg prefers him, and also in view of the fact there seems to have been a definite understanding or agreement between Gov. Jennings and Watson last year that if put back on the board at that time he would not oppose Bright whose policy was to follow the wishes of the Land Owner's League as far as possible, I consider that the Model Land Company's interest would be better served by Watson than Bryan.

Therefore, as the matter now stands, and as I understand the attitude of yourself and Mr. Ingraham towards the State Drainage Board, there seems to be no reason for changing your vote. If the Board should rescind their former action and support some other candidate, or a more favorable third party should come out, then it would of course be proper to reconsider the matter.

I am thinking that Kyle probably talked with Bryan after talking with me and that Bryan came to see you and probably drew on his imagination in his favor in quoting me through Kyle.

I trust this will put the matter before you clearly in so far as Mr. Morse and I are involved but if you would like to go into it further and think it can be best done by me running up to see you, I will be glad to do that.

FJP

Yours very truly,