

Southern Drainage DistrictOF
FLORIDA*Diegel
13823***MR. R. W. BABSON**

the internationally known statistician, in an interview stated: "It seems to me that the Everglades is the real answer to Miami's future. In the long run, Miami is better off for one dollar spent on draining the Everglades than on five spent for other purposes. The Everglades will continually bring forth wealth, and other things will be only of temporary value, requiring constant feeding in money."

MIAMI, FLA., April. 16th. 1923.

Mr. Frank J. Pepper.
Ingraham Building.
City:

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your letter in regard to lifting Southern Drainage tax for the years 1933-34-35.

It is my recollection that the tax for 1933 was discussed at the regular June Land owners meeting and that the resolution to lift same, failed of passage and was not adopted.

The minute books of the Land Owners League are not in my keeping and are kept by J.T. Rambler secretary, but altho I have not seen them since last June, I am sure of the fact that this resolution died.

On the first Tuesday of January, as provided by law our board levied the tax for 1933 of .50¢ per acre and same has been placed on county books and the expense of assessing same incurred.

I cannot consider your proposition to carry on the work and accept my pay from your companies. This is not in line with my ideas of proper official conduct, nor would it be fair to the other supervisors who have always fought side by side with me for the best interests of the district.

On the other hand my finances would not allow me to carry on for the next three years without any pay as I have been since Secretary Blackwell's death.

When Blackie died he was drawing the secretary salary of \$250 per month, Mr. Highleyman \$100 per month as Treas. and I was drawing \$100 as Supervisor, \$450 per month as provided by law, we paid Blackie's back salary to his widow in full at his death, and Lord knows she needed it with those small children, however that meant that the other salaries must be in arrears.

Temporarily, the Board combined the three jobs totaling \$450 per month and appointed me at the one salary \$250 per month, saving \$200 per month for the district.

However I have not received a dime in pay for the past 18 months and nothing short of a miracle would pay the back salaries.

The only pay I receive is the commendation of the many and the bitter condemnation of the few, who even if I was good wouldn't like me.

Therefore probably the best thing to do is to throw in with the combination district crowd which is popular - or abolish the district.

Ofcourse I have sat at the political table too long not to know when the cards are stacked against me and why the heat is being put on the district now. J.P. Conrad.