

65572
July 31st, 1919.

Hon. H. S. Jennings,
Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Gov. Jennings:

I thank you for your favor of the 30th inst. in reply to my wire of the 29th regarding the Model Land Company and Perrine Grant Land Company, Southern Drainage District Reclamation Tax.

I made tender this morning of the Companies checks to Mr. Blackwell, Secretary of the District in payment of these taxes in accordance with statements compiled by him, and was referred to Mr. Taylor, the Attorney for the District, on whom I next called and was informed by him that there was an additional charge of 10% for attorney's fees, as suit for foreclosure had been filed. I explained to him that I did not think we should be called upon to pay any such fee, in as much as we have never indicated that we would not pay these taxes, but on the other hand stood ready to pay them as soon as we could be shown it was a proper charge and be furnished with a statement; that the St. Augustine office had written the Tax Collector some weeks ago for such a statement but had not been able to get one until recently and that was incorrect and incomplete and was returned to this office by Mr. Ingraham's office on July 21st for correction, and by us referred to Mr. Blackwell who corrected his books according to St. Augustine records and apologized for the condition of his books being in such an incomplete state, and at the same time (and I believe in your hearing also) assuring us that he would have a better set of books next year; after the St. Augustine office lists were verified by Mr. Blackwell we immediately returned them to Mr. Ingraham under date of July 24th, and under date of the 26th the vouchers and checks were forwarded to us for payment providing we found the affairs of the District were being properly handled and other property holders were paying their taxes; as you were looking into these matters while here I therefore held up the payment and sent you the telegram.

On informing Mr. Taylor that I could not agree to pay him a 10% attorney's fee, he requested me to hold the vouchers until he could communicate with you, and stated he would write you this afternoon. I saw Dr. Holmberg and he seemed to think no Attorney's fee should be charged.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Harrison at St. Augustine and will hold up payment of these taxes until I get further instructions from you or him.

Yours very truly,

FJP

I understand the delinquent list will not be ready for the printer for possibly another week