

6551/2

June 14, 1929.

SUBJECT: Southern Drainage District.

Mr. J. W. Hoffman, Vice-Pres.,
Model Land Company,
St. Augustine, Fla.

Dear Sir:

Following our letter of the 13th on the subject, we are quoting below copy of Senator Watson's telegram to Mr. Conrad, in answer to the wires quoted in our letter of June 13th, and also copy of Mr. Conrad's further reply to Senator Watson under date of June 12th, to-wit:

"Wire received being so late dont think could get a two thirds vote to introduce the bill calendar now congested and everybody clamoring to take up his bill."

"I believe if you explain to the other Senators that the proposed bill is to authorize our Board to not levy, apportion or collect any reclamation tax for 1930 and that it does not affect any other taxes in any way that you can secure the two thirds consent.

Model Land Co. and other large landowners have requested this of us.

Present taxes on raw land average three dollars per acre per year, average market price on this land now eight and ten dollars per acre.

No hope for relief in lowering state and county taxes, because of bond issues, their only hope for relief is from us as we do not have any bonded or other indebtedness.

I can make a fair showing in canal work and forego the tax. The lands in west part of our district have paid taxes for schools and roads for past fifty years and not a county road or school in any of these townships. If these people are not given any tax prefer-

Mr. J. W. H:

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practically all the raw lands will revert to the State and that means they will come off the tax books entirely and no kind of taxes will be collected.

Grover Cleveland said it, Its a condition that confronts us and not a theory."

These are the same wires the writer read to you over telephone this morning.

Yours very truly,

PEPPER AND POTTER, INC.

By:

FJP/J