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1-21-24.

SUBJECT: Rubber Industry in Southern Florida.

Hon. F. B. Stoneman,  
c/o Miami Herald,  
Miami, Florida.

My dear Judge:

Mr. Pepper has written me that he gave to you some of the publication which appeared in the Manufacturers Record on November 8th in regard to the possibilities of the production of rubber in South Florida.

It is a most important product and one that I have been much interested in, and it would seem as if the results of our experiments on the Perrine-Crest in planting rubber in '96 or '97, justified an effort to make this profitable as a commercial enterprise. It will grow almost anywhere, on the rocky soils as well as on the sandy, and requires no cultivation. Within a few years they will begin to produce. I have been very anxious for a long time to try and find something for Dade County that will be an all year around staple product, something that will be absolutely reliable and not require costly maintenance, and I have been watching these trees for many years, and I now believe that they have attained such a size and age as to justify going into this matter further. They have demonstrated their ability to withstand the frosts of that climate, which is about the only thing from which they might suffer. I don't know that they have any insect enemies.

With high regards.

Yours truly,

JEI-e.

President.