

MEMORANDUM.

By previous appointment I met the "Drainage Committee" of the Homestead Chamber of Commerce, at 10 A. M., today in the office of A. R. Livingston. Besides this Committee, there were present Mr. J. D. Redd, County Commissioner of that District, and Mr. Wm. J. Krone.

Before any discussions whatever were entered into I made it plain to the Committee that the Model Land Company, The Boston Company and Thompson and Jackson, would not give any favorable consideration to the formation of a Drainage District, until they could have placed before them full and complete data as a basis for coming to an intelligent conclusion, as to whether or not such a drainage district as proposed, was a desirable proposition from the standpoint of a land owner. At the same time I, also, assured them that these Companies, as in the past, stood ready to cooperate and assist in every way possible for any constructive proposition that would first, be a benefit and of advantage to the community at large, and second, an asset and not a liability to the land companies.

It was, therefore, decided the first step necessary in gathering the data needed would be a careful and complete survey, especially with reference to land levels, from which it might be decided whether or not the property, or certain portions of the property was susceptible to drainage reclamation. Mr. Krone stated that no levels or other engineering data of any value, to his knowledge, had ever been taken in that part of the territory lying South of Florida City and East of the Railroad, and he further backed up my contention for the necessity of a survey, by stating that it was nothing more or less than a wild guess, or foolishness, for anyone to advance an opinion as to whether or not this property could be advantageously drained, without first obtaining a complete survey.

This naturally brought on the discussion as to who would stand the cost of such a preliminary survey, it being estimated by Mr. Krone that such a job would cost in the neighborhood of \$2500.00. I was asked if the Model Land Company and the other Land Companies, represented by this firm, would be willing to stand a portion of the cost of such a survey, and my answer was that I did not know, but felt positive that they would not even consider having the work done until they were assured by me that they had a sufficient acreage that would be desirable farm lands if it could be drained, and I have, therefore, made arrangements to spend what time is necessary in going over the property to be able to come to a conclusion on this point, and the present arrangement is that Mr. Hunter and Mr. Livingston will accompany me on next Monday morning, the 17th inst., on the first trip, and I, also, told them that I would try and have Mr. McLendon, of St. Augustine, come down and accompany us.

Mr. Redd stated that there was available from the sale of bonds \$50,000.00, which would be used to start construction at once

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of the new road leading from Florida City to Key Largo, and the other \$50,000.00, which has been voted, would be available by the time the \$50,000.00 we now have on hand is spent. He, also, expressed himself as favorable for the County Commissioners to cooperate with the Drainage District in working out an equitable plan for building a canal and this road simultaneously.

While it does not seem to have been definitely decided in the minds of those promoting this Drainage District, as to under just what law it shall be organized, it seemed to be the opinion, however, of those present that a plan similar to the one under which the Gould's Drainage District is operating is preferable to the State plan of being handled under a special Legislative Act.

F. J. Pepper.

Miami, Florida.  
December 10th, 1923.