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United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON PRINTING.

Nov. 28th, 1914.

Mrs. Minnie Moore-Willson,
Kissimmee, Fla.



My dear Mrs. Willson:

I don't remember whether I sent you S. Doc. No. 42 on the Seminole Indians in Florida, and am therefore forwarding it now, believing you would be interested in its contents.

In your very interesting pamphlet you state as follows:

"In review and briefly, it is well to state here that the Seminoles have three powerful allies in the field of action for the betterment of their condition. First, the Florida Legislature, whose friendly action in 1913 is known to all and is now a matter of history. Second, the Federation of Women's Clubs, which has championed the Indians' cause, and is making the help of the Seminoles a part of their uplifting work. Third, the Florida Press Association, the great mold of public opinion and the motor power of the State, which at its annual convention in the city of Fort Myers, held in April, 1914, most graciously and amid frequent applause, obligated itself by resolution to further the policy of homes for the Seminoles and to stimulate interest in behalf of these homeless people in a free land."

In this connection, permit me to call attention to the bottom of page 5, under the head of "Indian Lands", in the document I enclose. This will indicate to you how much the Florida Legislature has done as an ally.

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I may remind you also that Dean Spencer prepared the bill and stayed in Tallahassee and worked night and day on it until it passed, and without his presence you can imagine whether it ever would have passed or not.

I have sought to get legislation through the Florida Legislature for some years, but nothing came of it.

As for this second ally, what specific acts do you refer to, and what help has actually been rendered? I am not raising the question, but am simply seeking information on this point. Has any fund ever been raised? Has any actual assistance ever been offered beyond some resolutions and indication of a friendly feeling?

As to the third ally--I am glad to know that in April, 1914, a resolution was adopted to further the policy of homes for the Seminoles and stimulate interest in them. They have been ^{working} ~~working~~ along for some fifty years and more, and I am glad that in this year this ally has appeared.

These are all good, earnest, valuable agents, but when it comes to doing things for the benefit of the Seminoles that count and get somewhere beyond the resolving stage, it seems to me that the Congress of the United States and the Office of Indian Affairs might be at least classed as an ally of helpfulness, or as one of the agencies that has done something. Congress has given actual money, placed in the

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field an actual agent, who is actually looking after these needy people and ameliorating their conditions.

I would be glad to know that these allies you praise so beautifully have done as much, all or *singularly*.

Please understand I am not "fishing" for any recognition of what Congress or what the Indian Office have done--I am simply calling the facts to your attention.

Is it more important to have an ally extending its sympathy and good wishes by generously worded resolutions, or an ally that actually puts up the means, and sets in motion the agencies, which go right down among the Indians and supplies the needed help?

I appreciate greatly all these allies you mention and everything they have done, or may do, and I hope their alliance will continue, but I submit it would be well for us to, when acknowledging assistance not to overlook the one source of real assistance, meager though that may have been.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,

Duncan U. Fletcher