

Kissimmee, Fla., Oct. 13, 1915.

My dear Mrs. Stranahan:

I was very glad to receive your letter and particularly as I pleased to find your views coincide with mine as to the Indian problem,--the educating of the Florida people to the great necessity of homes for these Indians in the Everglades.

The enclosed clipping will show you that we are not alone in our friendly feeling for these original Americans. This article appeared in the Charleston News and Courier, Times Union, Tampa Tribune, and extracts from it in the New York Sun and New York Times.

Unfortunately, for our Seminole Indians they have strong opposition in the one important place where they should have support and help, and where it is most difficult to overcome.

With few exceptions, the Federation of Womens Clubs, so far as I know, are a unit in wanting these people to have their rightful heritage in the Everglades.

Unfortunately, however, it has been called to my attention on more than one occasion that "within the inner circles" of our Federation there is marked opposition to these Indians having Everglade land. This may not have come to your notice as forcibly as it has to mine.

I will cite to you one instance to show you the style of this opposition:

By special invitation I went to Jacksonville last spring to read a paper before the Rediprocity meeting of the Womens Clubs, the subject being "The Indians' Rights in the Everglades." This reading was received with much applause and a copy of the article requested for the Federation page; but evidently "some power higher up objected" and it was not permitted to appear.

So you will readily see that before we can accomplish all we would like in the way of educating the public to see the need of Homes and Justice for the Seminoles, it will be necessary to win over to our view-point this opposing official of the Federation; or else we all work to eliminate this influence by retiring this person to a less influential position.



Mrs. Stranahan.
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The Florida Press Association, of which I am a member, has pledged its support and sympathy to help in this worthy cause. Then, too, when in New York City this past summer, I found warm sympathy for this subject and many voluntary offers of newspapers and magazine writers to help exploit this subject. I am thoroughly convinced that we have fully enlisted the press of the country and the thinking public in behalf of these unfortunate Indians being provided homes in the Everglades, and I am so very much pleased to know that you and I feel alike on this matter.

The opposition referred to above advocates "sending these Indians West." To this I am unalterably opposed.

Recognizing in you one of the strongest friends of these Indians, I will be pleased at some future date to go more into details if you wish.

Very sincerely yours,