

W

Presumably Florida
Dec. 12. 1915 -

Mr. Robert S. Yard:
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Yard: I have eagerly
perused your letter written to me on
date of July 9th. In it you told me
of your work for the summer, but
suggested that I write to you "about
Christmas". Judging from the hard
times in Florida, where Germans are pushing
almost every one, this is "about Christmas".

The subject upon which I wish to
write is what you say you "may
be of some substantial assistance" is of

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Spray on great Okuchobu Lake was a
series of sand dunes and shoals and many dead
fish left by the receding waters. The Fox family
Catoosahatchie river was unrecognizable most of
the way, something that I presume has not occurred
since the Catoosai (an Indian tribe found probably
300 years) occupied the adjacent country. This
was the result of the cutting of canals lowering
Okuchobu against the rules of the central office.
During the summer a ten inch rain fall filled
Okuchobu & the basin and raising water has
flooded all the Tuxtopes country, a recent rainfall
of eight inches. The Fox has kept the country
flooded, until thousands of purchasers of land are
clamoring as crops as they were crops have
been drowned. So chaos, incompetency, palace
surveys, political job base of the Tuxtopes and
speculators who are anxious to unload their
thousands of acres has made Florida poor
indeed, for distrust seems to reign supreme
when it comes to legitimate sales of good
land. Of course you know the Seminole
Indians are my chief concern, they are pitifully
hungry, living on bare flint, the cabbage plants
Indians know what else.

In a pioneer country like Florida, my old or yet
very young, whose controlling men have within a decade
come up from dirt hands in a tow boat or whose ex
Governor has risen from a Virginia oil crier, as he
drove a plea better horse through the new towns of Florida
to a seat in a governor's chair or now through many
Tuxtopes has come, into well his part in a meeting
table, and when we realize that such men have occupied
office, through the votes of citizens who never
heard of Noah Webster, then you can



understand better why conditions exist
as they do. The idea of unjust justice
and patriotism has been forgotten.

I have an idea intended, now to
see our Democrats have the lands they so
much need but this did not help last
Spring when the Sumner Land Bill
was a subject before the Legislature.

I now am using this slogan —
it is being taken up in America New
York Sun, N. Y. Times, Charleston S. C. &
many magazines ^{have used it} Why have the Democrats
of Florida been continually denied lands in
the Congress? — and discussing just a
moment, as I came home from New York
I met on ship board, Mr. Jerome J. Bell,
who was then connected with Debitum

I found him extremely interested in the
Haida Indians and when I told him of your
new position, as that you are interested he
remarked "if my friend Robert you
takes a hand in defence of those helpless
people, there will be something doing".

For this time I feel have told enough
enough to weary you. I am enclosing
some clippings which you may want
to read, and as I am getting up
an article now as well as to keep my
authority for quotations I will much
appreciate it if you will return to me
when you have had time to finish
with them.

When your department looks seriously
into the "Alaskan matter" I will necessarily
find that not only have the Indians been
mistreated but thousands of Caucasians who have
in good faith, if not good judgment, bought
acres of ^{land} ~~unimproved~~, submerged coral
formation rock, utterly worthless and that
the little coral people who made them

country have not ceased from their
labors long enough for soil deposits
to cover their efforts of 110,000 years.
According to Agassiz - this last statement

With many thanks for your interest
in the trip you have been & are
in the part, we hope that
the triple alliance, the departure
of the Interior, the War department - &
the Indian department may stir
up some dry bones in this country

I am
Dear Sumner

Wm Moore - Willom