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Indian Rights Association,

995 DREXEL BUILDING,

Philadelphia, Dec. 21, 1915.

Mrs. J. M. Willson, Jr.,
Kissimmee, Florida.

Dear Mrs. Willson:

Your interesting letter of the 16th instant received, with various enclosures, all of which I have read. I am very glad indeed to get in communication with you, and to learn how thoroughly you have been going into the Seminole question.

I have looked up something about the "stumbling block" to the progress of justice for these poor people, and what he has written with his own hand, so to speak (for my information is from "Who's Who in America") is very suggestive. I enclose for your information that part of the sketch of Wm. Sherman Jennings that gives one answer to your slogan, "Why have the Seminoles of Florida been continuously denied lands in the Everglades?" --certainly a reason for the recent refusal of the State authorities to do their part. This item may not be new to you, but to me it speaks volumes. It seems to me that we ought to get the definite kind of data that will enable us to "smoke out" Mr. Jennings. The right kind of publicity may drive him to cover and give the State authorities an opportunity to atone for the past.

Do you happen to know from whom Mr. Jennings purchased the 100,000 acres of Everglade land? And is it that tract that is being operated, or exploited, by the Jennings Artesian Farm Land Company? I suppose the headquarters of the latter are in Jacksonville. I would want to find the record of that purchase. It may

Mrs. Willson--2

may not be in Jennings name originally, but the transaction could be traced. If you can put me in the way of securing this data, I know you will do so. Do not go to too much trouble, but a suggestion of where it ought to be found, and who is likely to be communicative on the subject.

I shall be indebted for the additional information that you hope to send me, after talking the matter over with Mr. Willson, as to our best plan to follow in reaching the homes of the Seminoles. I am sure that your suggestions on this point will be just about what is needed, in view of the confidence the Indians have in Mr. Willson and yourself. The most important part of such an expedition is to have the right interpreter and guide--some one whom the Indians know and trust.

I do now know what the "Special Commissioner" to the Seminoles is doing, nor what kind of land has been acquired by the Government for them; but I want to see both on my trip.

Mr. Elkinton's place is at Orlando, and although I have not seen him for over a week,--on account of his absence from the city,-- I presume that he will be pleased to stop off at Kissimmee for a conference with you. In any event, I shall expect to do so.

I am quite ready to believe that the Everglade Drainage scheme will have to be investigated,--at least, that it ought to be,--and it may be that Mr. Jennings will not welcome such a step.

Our Association will be glad to adopt your slogan, "Why have the Seminoles of Florida been continuously denied lands in the Everglades?" and I believe that the Society of American Indians will be ready to co-operate with you also. I am in close touch with that organization, and only last week, its Secretary, Mr. Ar-

Mrs. Willson--3

C. Parker,
was in Philadelphia to make an address at our Annual Meeting. We were then talking about the Seminoles, and the way is already paved for help from that quarter.

Herewith I am returning the clippings and the mss. of your article which you propose to read before the Women's Clubs of Florida. I think the latter a splendid statement of the situation. I note that you refer to the treaty of 1843 (on page 2). Do you not mean 1833 ? I cannot find any reference to a treaty made in the former.

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of our 33rd annual report, just off the press.

With thanks for your kindness, and with the Season's greeting, I am,

Sincerely yours,

M. K. Sniffen.