

Kissimmee, Fla., April 26, 1916.

Mrs. W. B. Young,  
Box 743,  
Jacksonville, Fla.

My dear Mrs. Young:

I received your letter, and appreciate your consideration and advice, and also your position.

I expect to be in New York, and have had a room engaged at the Netherland, but as I have not been well I doubt if I will have the courage to move from the Hotel Imperial, where I feel so much at home.

I do not want to take any of your time, when I know how busy you are; but just to say that our resolutions, according to the Year Book of the DeLand convention, appears as referred to the Seminole Indian committee. This was not done, and the important part, as I am told by the Departments at Washington, the National Indian Rights Association, and those in a position to know, which contains the slogan, "Why have the Seminoles of Florida been continually denied lands in the Everglades?" were, by somebody's authority, left out of the Minutes.

Had these Resolutions passed properly, as they did in the D. A. R., there would not be any trouble at the Biennial; but I am wondering if the Florida delegation can put it through, when the person who objects so seriously to it, will, of course, be on hands. Is there any other way to have it presented?

As representing a national humanitarian cause, if I could get these resolutions endorsed by the Biennial, it would be a wonderful victory, because there would not be any trouble in any other National organization or Florida club.

The Secretary of the Interior writes to me, asking that the Florida women keep the subject before the public. I have been offered one of the most eminent lawyers to assist in a quiet way, and the Florida Federation would not need to appear in anything like a fight, but the uncovering of some things that have been discovered in the Interior Department would be done by Washington authorities, so quietly that the one man who has held back the giving of these lands to the Seminoles would likely remain quiet for the sake of his own name.

I do not know whether Mrs. Stranahan, the Chairman of the Seminole Committee, will be there; and confidentially, I do not know how far I can trust her, as she told things regarding our P. F. W. C. President to the recording Secretary of the Indian Rights Association, that if I were to repeat might make considerable trouble, and yet she seems to be working with her.

I know you are so busy you will scarcely have time to read this letter, and when you get to New York you will be still busier. Yet such women as Mrs. Clark, Mrs. William Grant Brown, Mrs. White of Dakota, and others, urge that the Seminole question be brought before the public.

Judge Young would know, were he to read the Report of the Secretary of the Interior, of 1898, that there was a great deal of illegality in the grabbing of the lands of the Seminoles. This report is not available, however; I have a copy, but I believe it is difficult to get a copy from Washington.

I believe I told you that Mrs. Sneth is the step-mother-in-law of my full cousin.

If you can offer a word of advice and suggestion, of course I will be glad to have it; but I will not tax you, for I know how you stand, and I do not want to embarrass you in the position that you hold.

I fear it will be only glimpses we will get of each other in New York. With best wishes, I am,

Affectionately yours,

MMW) RP