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Indian Rights Association,

995 DREXEL BUILDING,

Philadelphia, April 25, 1916

Mrs. J. M. Willson, Jr.,

Kissimmee, Florida.

Dear Mrs. Willson:

Many times since my return I have thought of the pleasant stay I had at Kissimmee and have wanted to write you more about Florida affairs. We have been overwhelmed with a rush of work in connection with a lot of vicious legislation now pending in Congress, and it is yet too early to know what the outcome will be. We have done, and are doing, everything possible to bring about the defeat of this vicious legislation, and are hoping for the best. I am sending you, ^{enclosed} ~~under separate cover~~, copies of our leaflets referring to these matters.

I have not, however, forgotten the Seminoles. I had full talks with the Commissioner, his assistant, and the heads of the different divisions having anything to do with those matters, and I believe that the Indian Office now understands the situation far better than was formerly the case. I am glad that you can see evidences of the good effect of our visit to the Seminoles. I enclose herewith a copy of my report to our Executive Committee, which gives the substance of our interview with Commissioner Sells. This will interest you, and of course ^{it} ~~should~~ not be used publicly at this time.

Owing to the pressure of these other matters I have not yet finished my report on the Seminoles. The Senate in considering the Indian Appropriation Bill reduced the amount available for

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current use from eight thousand to five thousand dollars. We have been working to have the original sum restored by the Conference Committee from the two Houses when the bill is finally reported. The Indian Office agreed to make the request for the larger amount because of later information as to the needs of these Indians, and Congressman Sears has been using his influence along these lines. I hope that we may be successful in this effort.

I am glad to know that Tahan had the opportunity of discussing the Seminole situation with the Department. I agree with him that the authorities of the Indian Bureau are now ready to help.

I will see if I can get a copy of the report of the Secretary of the Interior for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1898.

If you come to New York this Spring I wish you would let me have your address; I will be over to that city some time next month, and if you are there it will give me great pleasure to call on you.

I was able to get a copy of Mr. Coe's book after a little effort, and I am very glad to have it in my collection.

Hoping that this finds all well in your household, and with kindest regards to you both, I remain

Sincerely yours,

M. K. Sniffen

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