

REFER IN REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING:

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ADDRESS ONLY THE
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

49700-1916

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON

MAY 10 1916

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

My dear Mrs. Willson:

I have read with pleasure your instructive article in the April number of the "Red Man" and appreciate the deep interest you take in the welfare of the Florida Seminoles.

We have already bought for these Indians about 23,000 acres in Southern Florida, from appropriations by Congress during the years 1895 to 1900, and on June 28, 1911, 3,680 acres of vacant public lands adjacent to the Everglades were withdrawn for them by an Executive Order. This makes a total of 26,742 acres either purchased or set aside for the Seminoles in Florida. In addition, an effort is being made to have the appropriation for relieving distress among the Seminoles and for purposes of their civilization and education, for use during the next fiscal year, include the purchase of such land for them as may be deemed proper.

While the appropriation that might be available is not large, yet it would enable me to purchase small tracts for isolated bands where specific cases of great need are reported to me.

My letter of June 23, 1915, to the Christian Science Monitor of Boston, Mass., in answer to inquiries from the

editorial department, gives somewhat in detail a brief history of the Seminoles in Florida from a "land title standpoint," and a copy thereof is enclosed for your use.

Senate Document 89, 62nd Congress, 1st Session, mentioned on page 4 of my letter, contains reference to the acquisition of title to the Everglades by the State of Florida, and other data that would no doubt be of great interest to you. I have no copies for distribution, but, as explained, you may be able to procure one from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

Very truly yours,



Commissioner.