

Kissimmee, Fla., April 19, 1916.

Mr. Matthew K. Sniffen,  
Secretary, Indian Rights Association,  
Drexel Building,  
Pittsburg, Pa.

Dear Mr. Sniffen:

As I have not heard from you for some time, I want to tell you how much good your visit to the Indian camps has done in Washington.

I have had on two or three occasions, letters from the Department, and they speak of realising conditions better than they ever did before; and through the influence of Thomas Lee writer, who was called to Washington to discuss matters of certain Indian tribes of the West, he also took up the subject of the Seminoles with the Department, in as much as he had been in touch with Indians three or four years ago. It is felt that Washington is ready to help.

Several of the Florida Press Association met here in Kissimmee, Fla., and they endorsed the resolutions -- a copy of which I have with the original which has been left out. It is felt that Washington is ready to help.

I have heard from Mr. Skidmore several times, and he has ordered books quite recently.

I am writing this hoping to ask if you will not strain a point to secure a copy of the Secretary of the Interior's Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1913. Can you have this report throughly, and then look over the Seminole Land Bill of 1899, you will see by the end of it is very much worried and objects to the same. That at present, they are working the stereotypes in order that ever before -- Mr. Jennings and the Interior Board -- and it chances to have been very dry for several months, and so it is a splendid time for them to offer this country to the people to whom they wish to sell their bonds. If these same people could see this country in August, I do not think the bonds would sell. I wish it were possible for the Department of the Interior to send secret service men down in the summer to look into these conditions, for the selling of such land by this handful of speculators is not only hurting all Florida, but is making a stain on the conscience of our state.

I expect to go in New York in May; and if you should be in New York at that time, I would be glad to see you.

Yours,

Sincerely yours,