

Kissimmee, Fla., Feb. 29, 1916.

My dear Mrs. Stranahan:

I am very much enthused over the Indian work that is going all over the country, you might say from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Mr. Sniffen took dinner with us on Friday, and told us of the part of his trip which he took with Mr. Spencer after Mr. Willson left them at Stuart. I think he has awakened to conditions, and that our Indians will eventually come into their rightful heritage. Mr. Sniffen was very much pleased with his talk with you and the attitude you took toward the Indians; but we, as friends of the Seminoles, are being watched by the United States Government's departments, and I want to feel that we will, as the Indians say, "Walk in a straight line" where no personal criticism may attack us. For this reason, I think we will have to be most guarded in our line of work, but it must be in the interest of the Seminoles.

Regarding the Seminole Indian Resolutions which were read at the DeLand Convention and referred to the Indian Committee, there must have been a slip in the cog, for the resolutions should have been handed to you as Chairman that day -- it was no your place to ask for them. Afterwards, the Seminole committee should have held a meeting and passed on these resolutions. Another thing, and as I did not hear the resolutions read that morning, I notice from the Year Book that the last paragraph, which contains the slogan, is entirely omitted. Unless the Chairman of resolutions committee did this (and I have no reason to think she did) this could certainly be considered a breach of trust to the F. F. C., who are so thoroughly in earnest about the Seminole work. I think it is our duty to look into this matter. All over the country I am having this slogan used, and without a single exception it is being endorsed in National as well as State, organizations. This, Mrs. Sniffen tells me is going to cause Americans who are patriotic and are working for uplift to help us in this great work for these homeless people. I believe you have the slogan, as so many of the clubs of the state are endorsing it.

Another point that I would like your advice on, as well as a little more information, is concerning Tony B. M. Tommie being taken to West Palm Beach and represented as a Seminole Chieftain. Of course, you know by this time that Tony B. M. Tommie has not been made chief, and according to the iron-clad rites of the Seminoles, he will not be made a chief. In the interest of a boy who might some day be a great help to his people, as well as the Everglade Indians who are making history so fast, I think this false impression should be corrected as much as in our power. This Seminole Sun Dance, which is gotten up for advertising purposes entirely, is in

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Mrs. Stranahan.

the hands of speculators and is totally wrong. The Seminoles have no sun dance and to attempt to make these innocent people catspaws for advertising purposes is, to say the least, not very honorable. Newspaper syndicates all over America have given the story from fake writers, which I regret, as I know you do, exceedingly. Mr. Spencer told me on Friday morning that he does not believe Tony B. M. Tommie or his faculty will go to the so-called sun dance. Of course, in these strenuous times, the power of money to hungry people is strong, and I await with interest the outcome of the undertaking. Whether Mammou, with its alluring, glittering prize will win, or whether the Seminoles will adhere to the heroic teachings of their ancient ancestors.

I will be glad to hear from you as early as convenient on these different points.

I am,

Very sincerely yours,

MMW-RP