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Philadelphia, January 20, 1917.

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

Dear Mrs. Willson:

Thank you for your favor of the 13th instant; also for the copy of the Jacksonville "Free Press," which reached me. I have read both with much interest. The letter of Ralph A. Horton, secretary of the Everglades Drainage League, is very well prepared, and it may lead to some very interesting developments for people who grabbed large blocks of land for a mere song.

Yesterday I was in Washington and had a good interview with Commissioner Sells. I suggested that he write a letter to Governor Catts bespeaking his influence and help for the Seminoles, and he promised to do so. I will also write to Governor Catts along the lines you suggest.

The Commissioner seems very much pleased with the reports that Inspector Coleman is sending in about the Seminoles. How far they are the result of personal knowledge gained from trips over the entire field I do not know; but the Commissioner was under the impression that Mr. Coleman was going over the ground. It occurred to me whether he (Coleman) might not have obtained much of his information from Mrs. Jennings and Mrs. Stranahan. Do you know if he has visited many of the camps?

I have arranged for the publication of a syndicated article on the Seminoles, to appear simultaneously in at least twenty prominent papers of the country. It ought to appear about March 1st.

If you can tell me the exact date on which the Florida Legislature will convene, it will help me time some other moves.

I have given a good deal of thought to the question of publicity, and have reached the conclusion that it will be better for me to make a comparatively brief report of the Seminole situation, based on our trip, than to get out an extended article. I want something that can be read by busy people, with just enough detail to show conditions leading up to the present situation, and the justness of our demand that something be done for the Seminoles by Florida. I am whipping such a report into shape now, and hope it will soon be ready for distribution. Another reason for brevity is that it ought to be sent with any communication we put out to the various Club members asking their active co-operation.

The delays you are experiencing with your printer are certainly aggravating, but I hope he will stay sober long enough to turn out your article.

I hope Mr. Willson's syrup mill will prove to be a profitable venture.

Mr. Elkinton has just started for Orlando, and it may be that he will run down to Kissimmee to see you. When I get ready for Tallahassee, I will plan to first visit Kissimmee, unless you expect to be at the Capitol for the Legislative meet.

By the way, I find that I failed to return to you the letter from Mr. J. E. Ingraham, and I enclose it herewith. He ought to be in a position to render material help in the Spring.

Have you found any one to draw up the bill that will be presented to the Legislature? You don't need to be told how important a matter that is.

(encl)

Sincerely yours,

W. A. Snuffen