

Kissimmee Fla. Feby. 7th. 1917

Hon. Sidney J. Catts, Governor.
Tallahassee Fla.

My Dear Governor:-

Your very kind favor to Mrs. Willson and myself is received. We appreciate very much the interest you show, in our very needy friends, the Seminole Indians. It is the earnest hope of these Indians' friends that the coming Legislature will make ample provisions for their future.

You will probably recall, Governor, me talking with you on this subject, when we were in Jacksonville, about May 1915 I think, it was.

The bill, has not yet been drawn, it being necessary as I understand the matter, to have first the proper description of the land. The best way in which to get a list of the available lands, is one of the important matters, first to decide.

It has been suggested, we might have the bill that was vetoed amended by putting in the descriptions of available lands at this time, and thus be in a better position, than a new bill would. I do not know if this would be a good plan or not.

Briefly, my ideas are;- Lands for homes for these Indians is a State problem, as they were a part and parcel of the Everglades, when the U.S. Government gave to Fla. the 4000,000 acres. That these Indians need and should have 100,000 acres, enough that they could raise stock and have a hunting ground, with out being molested by the whites, and that the land be not subject to a drainage tax.

We hope to have your hearty support and advice, in each and every move we make to secure homes for these Indians, and at this time especially, would we welcome any suggestions you would make.

Under a separate cover we are sending you a small pamphlet on this subject, which I trust you will find time to read. It is intended to send this article to the members of the next Legislature and to many of the State papers, hoping thereby, to acquaint the public and thus make sympathy for these Indians having homes.

Thanking you again for the interest taken, in these very worthy, but homeless, and needy - Indians, I beg to remain,

Very Sincerely Yours,

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
STATE OF FLORIDA