

HON. JOSEPH H. CHOATE,
Honorary President.

TELEPHONE, LOMBARD 25-21.

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Philadelphia, March 1, 1917.

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

Dear Mrs. Willson:

I spent all of yesterday in Washington.

I saw Commissioner Sells, and while I was talking with him, the letter that had been prepared to be sent to Governor Catts was brought in the office. The Commissioner read this to me and then signed it. He expressed appreciation of the Governor's interest in the Seminoles, and assured him of his desire to co-operate with him in every way that he could. If Mr. Spencer can be relieved from his regiment, he will be authorized to go to Tallahassee for the legislative session. Should he not be available, however, I have no doubt that Mr. Coleman will receive instructions to the same effect. I wrote to Mr. Spencer to ascertain when he was likely to be back, but have not yet received a reply from him.

I saw Senator Fletcher and found him very sympathetic. He advised that we enlist the active sympathy of Mr. Ingraham, and also get all the support that we could from the southern counties,-- Lee, Dade, etc.

I also called on Mr. Sears, and, of course, you know where he stands. Incidentally, he feels strongly that the Federal Government owes the Seminoles a great deal, and he is anxious to have some of the House Indian Committee visit them. Unless there is an extra session of Congress, Mr. Sears hopes to be at Tallahassee when the legislature opens, and can be counted on for help. His

Mrs. Willson--2

brother-in-law, Mr. Watson, is a member of the Legislature.

The Boston Transcript of February 24th, had a good editorial on the Seminoles. If I can get some extra copies I will send you one.

My tentative plans are to leave here on March 21st by boat for Jacksonville, where I should arrive on the 25th. Then, I would go to St. Augustine to see Mr. Ingraham and Dr. Webb. Next, unless you expect to be in Tallahassee, I could run down to Kissimmee for a conference, and after that go to Tallahassee, aiming to reach there March 31st or April 1st. I do not know anything about the hotels at the latter place, and will be glad to have a suggestion from you regarding the most desirable one to stop at.

Let me know how matters are developing at your end of the line.

With kind regards to you both, I am,

Sincerely yours,

M. K. Sniffen

The list of members of the Florida Legislature, to which you referred, has not yet reached me.