

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

Fort Myers, Florida.
April 5, 1919.

Mrs. Minnie Moore Wilson,
Kissimmee, Florida.

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

I have just received your letter dated the 3rd and in the beginning I want to thank you for the information contained therein.

You mention Mr Sheehan and his interest in the Indians. After a year and a half-a considerable portion of which was passed with Mr Bheehan in the Big Cypress Swamp - I am convinced he has a sincere interest in the Seminoles. At first I was inclined to attribute his interest to what prompts the interest in Indians of so many people, namely, Mystery and Romance, which might be called Hero Worship. After he found his Idols had feet of clay, after he had met Indians in their camps as man to man, when he realized that Indians like other human beings, had vices as well as virtues, when he had learned all these things by personal contact, then his real interest in Indians developed, it was then he appreciated the nobility of self sacrafice and the endurance of hardship imposed on the Seminoles, thats' when he gained a real interest based on the love of one man for another.

Concerning the statements made by me about the accomplish-ments of the Florida Federation of Womens' Clubs in behalf of the Seminole Indians, I referred to what I thought was a united body of Florida Ladies and my reference was intended for the club, not for any individual other than what may have been specified as personal. I am sorry if any statement made by me has cast a reflection on any one for I assure you I had no intention of such action and for this reason I hope I may be pardoned.

Concerning the proposed legislation providing for the transfer of title to 98,000 acres of land from the State of Florida to the United States for the use of the Seminole Indians. I want to make my my position as clear as possible and I think best to be as brief as possible.

1st. - - The Federal Government cannot develop the land in its

present status without a special act of Congress.

- 2nd. - - I have nothing to do with the action of the Florida Legislature concerning the disposal of Florida Property. That is a matter for Florida People to decide without outside influence.
- 3rd. - - I am not working for the passage of the bill and I am not working against it. I feel that it is none of my business at this time; however my personal opinion is, it would be well to have the title vested in the Federal Government.
- 4th. - - Some of the Club Ladies asked me several times what the Club could do to help the Seminoles and I suggested that the Club consider the transfer of title to the 98,000 acres from the State to the Federal Government.

I have been frank with you in this letter and hope it will be taken in the friendly spirit in which it is written. I was invited to attend the next session of the Legislature but declined for the reason stated herein.

In conclusion I want to say that Mr. Sheehan talked about you and Mr Wilson quite often when he was here and he admires your efforts along Indian and other lines. I have often wished that I might meet you and Mr. Wilson and talk over Seminole matters, but the opportunity has not come, so far.

Will you tell Mr. Wilson that the home address of the Oklahoma Baptist Missionary, who was at Stuart, is Rev. H.M. Harjo, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

Frank E. Bandon
Spl. Supervisor

