

February 7, 1929.

Dr. Robert T. Morris,
114 East 54th. Street,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Morris:

I received your communication in relation to the amendment to the Tropic Park Plan, and read it with great interest.

Last October I read your article in the New York Times Forum on the Everglades question, which tallied so completely with my writings for the last fifteen years, and which has been opposed by every official in Florida; and the only place we differ is that I consider since Florida received this vast area as a gift from the Federal Government that she is well able to make a return gift, which would be for the good of the State, the people, as well as all America.

I am inclosing the last article I had which appeared in the Miami Herald, which shows my viewpoint and which seemed to meet with the approval of the editor and the Tropic Park People at Miami.

I fear if those who are working on this are not very careful that they will get into factions and may spoil everything. I notice in yesterday's Press that they seemed still determined to go on draining the Everglades south of Okeechobee, which is, to me, almost criminal; and while at this stage of this political scheme there will have to be something done with Okeechobee Lake. It would not have been necessary if they had started the work right or let it alone three years ago. To put an enormous dyke around Okeechobee and yet not take care of the area, I might say, from Tohopekaliga down to the canals, which territory drains and goes into Okeechobee, is a very bad policy and will only help the people south and around Okeechobee; possibly the big sugar mill promoters and others in that section.

I am very glad you sent me the material which is very wonderful. With your knowledge of this whole country and with the influence you have with the highest people in America, some good certainly will come of it. My interest is only for the Seminole Indians, birds, forest animals, and to save nature, but so much of it has been spoiled that we will have to accept what is left. To this end, I fear, we will all have to work.

I will be very glad to hear from you again after you have read this inclosed article from the Herald, to see if we can make further progress on this great project. You possibly will be coming to Florida this winter and if so, I will be glad to see you here.

I was in New York last summer three months but was just about ready to leave for home when I read your article in the Times.

Thanking you sincerely for the information I have gotten from your letter and the memorandum to the proposed bill, I am

Sincerely yours,

Minnie Moore-Willson

~~MMW/12~~
P. S. After you have read this article I will be glad to have it back, and if you have not read my book, "The Seminoles of Florida", in the appendix you will find where I have been rather severe in my criticism of Official Tallahassee, but they have never said one word in return, in any way.

MMW