

Kissimmee, Florida
January 18, 1929

Mr. Robert Bentley
Chairman, State Roads Commission
Tallahassee, Florida

Dear Mr. Bentley:

When I read of your appointment to the Commission I didn't think I would wait a half hour without writing and congratulating you, and also congratulating the state upon having a man of your sterling character and knowledge of the affairs in our state at the head of this department.

It is several years since I used to talk to you in the old Tampa Tribune building and I have had some "hard knocks". First, was in the hospital under Dr. Howard A. Kelly in Baltimore, then when I was better, I was unfortunate enough to fall in the Hotel Imperial in New York and fracture my limb. All this has kept me out of my work until the past summer when I was in New York, and your dear old New York Sun, which ever remembers humanity and has always been friendly to the Seminoles, started me again with good publicity. This has been going on since the last of October, until it is like the proverbial snowball; it is about to swamp me with inquiries and interest on the Seminoles and Everglades. As you remember, I always opposed Everglade drainage and now I have a great many friends with me on this subject. Some very influential members of the Tropic Everglade Park Association are writing me now and I have just received their prospectus, which trails an article you published once: "Why Drain the Everglades, A Tragedy on the Great Seal of Florida", which pleases me very much to know that after fifteen years some of the great minds of our state and Washington City are seeing what I saw in those days. Our Indians are truly in a deplorable condition and I am hoping something good may come out of this Park Association. If I could get in touch with some of the bigger men on this.

I know you will be glad to know that after seven years of practical retirement from the literary field, I have my eighth edition of the "Seminoles of Florida" just off the press and it is a very attractive book and I am hoping that a great many people will read it.

Again congratulating you upon your position, and remembering the kindness you always showed me, I am

Sincerely yours,

Minnie Moore-Willson.

MMW/tr