

FLORIDA'S GIFT TO AMERICA

Under the caption of "Florida's Gift to America", Mrs. James W. Wilson^l of Kissimmee Florida is in New York to launch a movement to preserve 100,000 acres of the swamp tangled Everglade jungle for all the birds of the North American Continent. Her aim is to establish a Memorial Sanctuary that will be a haven for all our feathered friends, a place for the Seminole Indians to pass through from their reservation, and ^{the} preservation of part of the wilderness beauty as yet unspoiled by drainage.

"It is a sorrowful fact," says Mrs. Wilson, "that our most beautiful birds are fast disappearing. The cutting down of forests, and ruthless slaughter are the cause. Florida's own native ^{birds} also are becoming extinct, Haughty Egret no longer admires his fine raiment in the mirrored lake, Green Parroquet never screeches out from under the leaves as green as himself, and Blue Heron's diminishing in number.

"Forests gone, migratory birds that wintered above the Spanish State have sought winter quarters in the Glades. Food being scarce enroute, many birds succumb ere they reach the winter play ground.

"The birds gone, it is noted the trees they lived in are dying of pests they fed on. Some species of trees have disappeared all together, because the birds who devoured their enemies are no more."

"If at this time," went on Mrs. Wilson, "when the eyes of the entire world are on Florida such a gift be secured, the Sanctuary will be an asset, not only to Florida but to the whole continent as is Estes Park, or Yellowstone National.

"The territory for such a haven will be secured in the watery and forever useless part of the Glade, country which no real estate promoter can ever utilize but will make an ideal feeding ground for the countless thousands of "winter feathered tourists" who survive the journey, as well as pre-

serve the native species that have not already vanished for ever.

Mrs. Wilson is known in literary circles as Minnie Moore Wilson.

She is the author of "The Seminoles of Florida," and other popular works on that state. She is no novice in such work, having secured through legislative action 100,000 acres in the Everglades for the homeless Seminoles, after a ten years opposition from Florida officials.

Mrs. Wilson is a lover of nature. Her heart and soul are with the Seminoles and wild creatures of the Everglades.

100,000 acres is only thirteen miles square- a very small portion of the 5,000 square miles of Glade land the United States government gave to Florida in 1850.

Thirteen miles square, ~~miles~~ is a wee plot to ask for; but what a bequest to Posterity, when Florida no longer is the sand dune, barren pine grove, and swampy jungle, cut here and there by flowing streams, and blue lagoons; a place where the wild creatures flitted and roamed, and the Indian ~~enrolled~~ smoked his pipe in peace.

Alma Love