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Honorary President.

TELEPHONE, LOMBARD 25-21.

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Philadelphia, March 9, 1916

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HERBERT S. WELSH,
EDWARD M. WISTAR.

Mr. J. M. Willson, Jr.,

Kissimmee, Florida.

Dear Mr. Willson:

Mr. Elkinton and I got back to Philadelphia last week just in time for the monthly meeting of our Executive Committee, and we reported to our people concerning the Florida situation. Our recommendations, which seemed to us to cover the most pressing needs of the matter, are as follows:

Chasey
"That Congress be asked to appropriate a sufficient sum to equip (1) a demonstration farm on the Seminole reservation near Chamey Bay, in charge of a competent Indian (~~Creek~~) employe from Oklahoma; (2) that a day school be established at the same point, in charge of a competent Oklahoma Creek Indian as teacher;

"That a special appropriation of \$25,000 for land purchase be asked from Congress, and that Special Commissioner Spencer be authorized to ascertain what suitable lands are available for purchase; and

"That Florida be asked to redeem its recognized and admitted obligation to the Seminoles by setting aside lands for their use and benefit."

These recommendations were approved by our Committee and we were directed to confer with Commissioner Sells on the subject. It should be noted that these recommendations are not intended to cover every phase of the situation, but to give the Association something to work on.

Monday of this week, Mr. Elkinton and I had a long and satisfactory conference with Commissioner Sells. We believe that the Indian Office realizes that something should now be done for these

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Seminoles, and when the current Indian Appropriation bill becomes a law, the item of \$8,000 for the benefit of the Seminoles can be used to make a start in the way of a demonstration farm and school on the reservation, near Chaney Bay. One great trouble in the past has been, I think, that the Indian Office did not have any comprehensive idea of the Seminole situation. I therefore went over the matter quite fully with the Assistant Commissioner and a number of the heads of Divisions. I believe that our trip has done considerable to acquaint the Indian Office with the situation, and that a new policy will be inaugurated by the federal government. Of course, there will be much follow-up work to be done at this end of the line, and we are now in a position to act intelligently and, I hope, effectively.

I enclose a number of photographs covering that part of the trip you made with us. I think you will recognize the scenes which ~~were~~^{are} depicted.

Mr. Elkinton joins me in kind regards to Mrs. Willson and yourself. His arm is still a little lame, but otherwise he is none the worse for his experience in "wildest Florida".

When I reached Jacksonville, I learned that the regular sailing date to Philadelphia had been cancelled, owing to the steamer having had a collision on the way down, and it was a case of my taking the boat scheduled to leave for Baltimore on Saturday or waiting over until the following Thursday for the next Philadelphia sailing. I decided to go by way of Baltimore, and consequently that cut my time short in Jacksonville, and I was therefore unable to look up Mr. Agnew, as I had intended to do. When I reached Philadelphia the weather was mild, but that night it snowed, and we have had two or three snow storms during the past week.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

M. K. Sniffen