

Adj. 2nd Fla. Inst
Laredo, Texas

Feb. 18. 17.

Hon. J. M. Willson Jr.
Kissimmee, Fla.

My dear Mr. Willson:-

Yours of Feb. 14. has just been received. In regard to a bill for the Indians, would say that I have been giving it some earnest thought but have been unable to settle on any very definite plans.

As you know, Mr. Coleman is now handling the work and owing to the shortness of time and the fact of my long absence, I should certainly request the Indian Office to retain him in Florida until after the session in the event of my being returned and reassigned before April 1st which is very doubtful.

Therefore I think you would do well to get into communication with him, He is a bright and experienced man and only lacks personal acquaintance with the legislators, which deficiency your acquaintance would be used to remove.

My idea would be to get a roster of the House & Senate, and select therefrom proper men for the Committee on Indian Affairs and make the first fight for their appointment when the session opened. The Committee heretofore has been composed of driftwood. In the next place some bright influential members should introduce the Bills in the House and Senate simultaneously on the first day. This will prevent some of the old fossils getting in rival bills.

In re. land, location, etc. you will need to be governed by the

men who are handling the bills.
 Some counties are glad to welcome
 an Indian population while
 others, like Monroe, don't want
 them.

I had in mind the Senator from
 Ft. Pierce, if he was in favor of the
 work. Dade Co. likes Indians
 and you and Coleman might be
 able to interest Watson but don't
 put too much dependence in him.
 I speak from experience and doubt
 that his interest extends farther
 than his personal ends and the
 benefit of public sentiment.

Cavass a list of all Senators
 and Representatives from Indian
 Counties and then make selections

will help you every way I can
 and hope to get to Florida in time
 to get a finger in the pie.

Capt Katy is down with a
 bad case of rheumatism but

aside from that Co. B. is in good shape. Don't know what the German complications are going to do to us.. or how long we will be held in the service..

The pamphlet of which you wrote has not been received but will probably show up in a day or two

I am writing Coleman today get in touch with him too..

Kindest regards to Mrs. Willson and yourself

Very truly

Lucien A. Spencer
Spec't. Commr.

Hdq. 2nd Fla. Inf
Laredo, Texas.