

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

Fort Myers , Fla. January 31, 1931.

Mr. J.M.Wilson,
Kissimmee , Fla.

My Dear Mr. Wilson,

Yours of January 28th, has been received and I am at a loss how to answer.

1st. I do not know just what the Indians of Oklahoma are intending to do. Confidentially, there are two Associations of the Oklahoma Baptists and they are very antagonistic to each other, and this feeling has, of course, been more or less detrimental to the work of Christianizing these Indians.

2nd. The Indians which you visited are now drifting North and West of Lake Okeechobee and will probably keep moving until they reach the Big Cypress. Hardly any of the old crowd are left West of Stuart with the exception of Jim Gopher's camp. There are only about a dozen of the Fort Lauderdale group and they will probably move before long.

3rd. The work at our reservation in the Big Cypress is at a standstill for want of funds. This will eventually be the centre of Indian work, but owing to the fact that we have no money this year and little hopes of any next year we dare not settle the Indians on the Reservation because it would mean starvation for them.

We have a plant there valued at a quarter of a million dollars and our small appropriation requires that every dollar be stretched to the limit in order to keep the plant from deteriorating .

The Appropriations Committee in the House cut us to \$ 5,000. for next year . It will take every cent of this for repairs , keepingf fires from our fences , doctors bills and meeting some famine conditions among the old Indians.

Senator Fletcher has offerred an amendment in the Senate raising our item from \$ 5,000. to \$ 16,000. and Mr Sears will, of course, back it up in the House, but under present conditions it is hard to conjecture just what the final outcome will be. To be frank, it is a dark outlook and our case seems to be no worse than other tribes.

I am supposing that your Mission Board has to husband its resources and I would suggest that you delay action until we know what we are going to do.

As soon as we have anything definite to work on I shall be very glad to take the matter up with you.

I shall be very glad to assist your Board in any way I can.

Very truly yours,

Lucien A. Spencer,

Lucien A. Spencer ,

Special Commissioner, Etc.

1-Wms-31.