

August 11th. 1929

Mr. M.K. Sniffen  
Philadelphia Pa.

Dear Mr. Sniffen:-

I want to thank you for the copy of Indian Truth which you so kindly sent me some time ago, I found it both interesting and instructive.

Tell me please - Now that we have a new Secy. of the Interior and a new Indian Commissioner, do you think there would be any use of me trying for the appointment of Indian Agent for Florida?

For more than forty years I have known quite a few of these Indians and I like them, and I want to help them, and I believe I can in the capacity of Indian Agent, if I had the opportunity to do so.

I feel that more progress should have been made in getting them more permanently settled, and in teaching them to make more of their living by the cultivation of the soil, than has been done in the past forty years.

Very probably the white hunter will soon exterminate the game now that hard surfaced roads have been extended down into the heart of the Everglades.

The land reserved for these Indians is located in five or six counties, and my idea is that the corners and boundary of this land be established and the Indians made acquainted with it, in fact get them to help do the work, then urge them to select such pieces as suited them best, - and help them to get fences and improved by growing fruits, vegetables, and field crops. This would lead to more permanent and better settlements and eventually to schools and churches.

You doubtless remember when Mr. Brandon was agent, that he recommended these Indians be established in the cattle and hog raising industry, but when Capt. Spencer, this work was abandoned, and the fenced tract leased to a white stock man.

I have a feeling that I can take hold of this Florida Indian situation and accomplish more towards their uplift and advancement to good citizenship, than has ever been done for them, - and I would welcome an opportunity to be given a trial.

What I would like to suggest to you Mr. Sniffen, is that you come to Florida for a week, and we visit the several camps, and see the actual condition of these Indians at this time. At present one camp is about 50 miles from Kissimmee, and a hard-surfaced road, to within 10 miles of it. This is Billy Buster and Billy Smiths' camps. You remember when you and Mr. Elkinton came down, we spent one night at Billy Busters' camp. If you can't spare a week, then come and go to see this near-by camp we can see it in a day.

Recently a white man, living down in that part of the county complained to me that these Indians were killing his hogs, and he wanted them moved, to prevent trouble. I suggested he take the matter up with Capt. Spencer, and gave him his address.

I would greatly appreciate a frank expression from you about this matter, and welcome any suggestion. Sincerely,