

Mr. GILLIN. No; I didn't see any.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Was there any milk?

Mr. GILLIN. No, sir.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Any fruit?

Mr. GILLIN. No.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. That was all you found?

Mr. GILLIN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SEARS. About how many Indians are here?

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Twenty-two, Mr. Coleman stated.

Mr. GILLIN. There isn't enough food in the camp for a dinner at the present time.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Any fish?

Mr. GILLIN. No.

Mr. SEARS. How long have you lived in the State?

Mr. GILLIN. About four years.

Mr. SEARS. What State did you move from?

Mr. GILLIN. South Dakota.

Mr. SEARS. In your opinion, what is the difference between the condition of the Indians that you find here and the Indians out there?

Mr. GILLIN. Well, the Indian out there has been taken care of.

Mr. SEARS. Do they have homes out there?

Mr. GILLIN. They have homes and schools and everything else that an Indian could wish for.

Mr. SEARS. Here they have nothing?

Mr. GILLIN. Have nothing.

Mr. SEARS. Anything else, Mr. Ellsworth?

Mr. ELLSWORTH. I haven't anything further.

Mr. SEARS. I would like for Mayor Reed to state, as mayor of this town, how long he has been mayor and what his experience has been with the Seminole Indians?

STATEMENT OF MR. W. J. REED, MAYOR OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.

Mr. REED. I am just finishing up a term as mayor, and I don't know but what I may be mayor for another term, there being no opposition. The Indian conditions have been well gone over, and I believe we are all convinced as to the sanitary condition of the camp. I can state, as far as the city is concerned, that we have no trouble at all from the Indian. Even in his intoxicated condition he is peaceful. I have tried to work with the agent and do that which he wished relative to drunkenness and watching the sale of liquor to the Indian, and believe that we have cut it off to a great extent. But the people of Fort Lauderdale contribute to the wants of the Indians through pure charity, and try to do it in a way that the Indian will not believe it is charity. We have no jurisdiction over their camps. If we had, they would be in a more sanitary condition. We have never known whether the State or Federal authorities considered they had jurisdiction over them. We have always looked upon them as an unconquered Indian without any provision, and believed that they were a part of our community and needed our attention.

I believe that this commission will see the great need of having a permanent place that they may go to, so that even if they do hunt or fish they will have some place to return to.

It is hard for a white man to do any dictating to the Indian, as has been stated, on account of the feeling of the Indians toward the Government and the white people. Other than Tony Tommy, we have been unable to reach the people in a school way, and believe that he needs a great deal more instruction as to the white man's ways. In my opinion, Tony Tommy takes the entire responsibility, and in his own way sometimes hampers the Indian agent by not allowing other Indians to attend school, and until the Government or State takes the authority of handling the Indian and dictating to him as to what is wanted of him I think conditions will never be improved.

I believe that the Indian agent has exercised most all of the authority that he possibly could, because, as we know, the Indian does not look upon the Government as having any jurisdiction over him, and when you allot them land I believe you will find that it will be hard to keep them on it until we actually compel them. This can be brought about. This particular camp you are in are more or less willing to go into a camp set aside for them by the Government which will be called theirs, and rightfully theirs. There are a few Indians that are farming 4 miles away from here now, out of this camp, that practically are hiding their farms. They are merely doing it out of necessity, nothing else, and they don't want even the white men to know where they are, because they are afraid some one will come and drive them away and take their crops. That has not been brought out, but I positively know that that is a fact.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. How far is that away?

Mr. REED. Four miles from here, and on squatted land.

I don't know of anything that I could add to your investigation. I just merely want to cite the fact that the town is not bothered in any way under any conditions by the Seminole Indian, even in his intoxicated condition.

Mr. HASTINGS. How long have you lived in this neighborhood?

Mr. REED. Eight years in this neighborhood. I have been in and out of the State since 1898.

Mr. HASTINGS. Where are you from?

Mr. REED. My birthplace is Chicago, Ill.

Mr. HASTINGS. In the event the Government makes arrangements for land upon which to permanently locate these Indians, from your knowledge of conditions down there, taking into consideration that the Indians should have a place where they could hunt and fish, where would you think would be the best place to locate them?

Mr. REED. The best place to locate the Fort Lauderdale Indian would be on the Pine Island mentioned.

Mr. HASTINGS. Well, now, it has been stated that that is submerged the greater part of the year?

Mr. REED. No; you misunderstood. Pine Island is 15 feet above the level of the Glades. It is the surrounding land that is submerged.

Mr. HASTINGS. Well, about how much is above water?

Mr. REED. Well, all of Pine Island.

Mr. HASTINGS. And about how many acres?

Mr. REED. It is from 300 feet wide to a quarter mile wide and about 2½ miles long, but at this time I would like to state that there are three 40-acre tracts that are supposedly owned by the Government in Pine Island, and they are not adjacent to each other. There are lands in between them. I believe about 160 acres in all Pine Island is about all the State thinks the Government owns. That is a matter for your legal department, and all we are stating here is that you would have to see it. You could send 40 Indian agents out there and not have any more information than you have now.

Mr. HASTINGS. Do you think Pine Island would be sufficient to locate all of the Seminoles—the entire 600?

Mr. REED. In this particular district. I mean Miami and this district here.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Mayor, do you have saloons over at Fort Lauderdale?

Mr. REED. We do not.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. How recently have you had them?

Mr. REED. Never had them.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Is there any place over there where the Indians can procure liquor?

Mr. REED. Our Davis law allows any man to order in an original package, and I have a standing offer for any blind tigering, and it has never been called upon—a cash offer—and it has never been called upon in the last two years.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Are there other places near by where they can procure liquor?

Mr. REED. The only place is Palm Beach.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. How far away?

Mr. REED. Forty-five miles.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. They would have to get it indirectly from there?

Mr. REED. They would have to get it through the express office or ordered by some one else and then delivered to the Indian.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. The Indian himself wouldn't have intelligence enough to send in an order for liquor, would he?

Mr. REED. Not at all.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. He would have to procure it through third parties?

Mr. REED. Yes, sir; but he gets it.

Mr. TILLMAN. Gets it through a bootlegger, I suppose?

Mr. REED. We don't have the bootlegger here, but I think it comes from those places by automobile.

Mr. TILLMAN. You don't have any trouble with them in Fort Lauderdale?

Mr. REED. None in the least, except they get drunk and we have to see that they get headed for camp; that is all.

Mr. SEARS. Don't you believe the Seminoles are entitled to some relief?

Mr. REED. I believe they certainly are.

Mr. COLEMAN. Will you permit me to add this, as the mayor might be too modest to state it, that the Government man has found unusually favorable and cordial cooperation on the part of the authorities and school people and the town generally in the handling of these Indians in the school and in their social contact, and in every way.

Mr. REED. I would also state that we have no interest in the committee allotting anything to the Indian because of what we are expending. We are willing to do what we are doing, but we have no authority to step in the camp and clean it up; if I had, it would be cleaned, I will assure you that.

The CHAIRMAN. Before concluding the hearing, I want to thank the mayor and the other citizens of Fort Lauderdale for their assistance to us in this hearing, getting us to the camp, and taking care of us while we are in the city.

Mr. REED. I would like to state, Mr. Chairman, at this time, that this particular camp is not within the corporate limits of Fort Lauderdale, and its condition would not be permitted within the corporate limits of Fort Lauderdale.

At this point the chairman personally called upon each member of the camp and importuned them to make a statement, which they refused to do, some of them in substance stating that they were attending to their business and did not see why the committee should be molesting them.

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