

Mr. WATSON. Yes; they are.

Mr. TILLMAN. But the males are inclined to drink, are they not?

Mr. WATSON. They drink every time they can get an opportunity, but I tell you I have had lots of dealings with them and they are just about as truthful a set of people and honest, too, as it has ever been my privilege to know.

Mr. TILLMAN. But the first thing for the Government to do is to keep whisky away from them?

Mr. WATSON. That is the main thing. They come to Miami—supposed to be a dry town—it is against the law to give it to the Indians, but they get drunk if they can get the money.

Mr. TILLMAN. It is best for the Indian and the white man, too, to keep whisky away from them.

Mr. WATSON. Yes, sir; and it looks like you are doing all you can to keep it away from them.

Mr. TILLMAN. We are doing all we can, and we are going to continue it. I am practically, as well as theoretically, a prohibitionist.

Mr. WATSON. I think you are on the right line.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Harjo, have any of the Seminoles of Florida accepted the Baptist faith since you have been here?

Mr. HARJO. Not a one.

The CHAIRMAN. How long have you been here?

Mr. HARJO. This is my third year.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you ever had public religious services?

Mr. HARJO. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You can not have them?

Mr. HARJO. No.

The CHAIRMAN. They won't come?

Mr. HARJO. No.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, do they have any suspicion against you on account of your religion?

Mr. HARJO. No; not that I know of.

The CHAIRMAN. But they won't have anything to do with the religion?

Mr. HARJO. But over here at Okeechobee we have another man down there, and I have just given him that field, so I am just traveling along the road, you know. And then he told me that he had a meeting over there. He said several came to the meeting there.

STATEMENT OF MR. WILLIE WILLIE, A SEMINOLE INDIAN.

Mr. HASTINGS. How old are you, Mr. Willie?

Mr. WILLIE. Twenty-one years old.

Mr. HASTINGS. How long have you lived around here? Where is your home?

Mr. WILLIE. My home is in the Everglades.

Mr. HASTINGS. About how many miles from here?

Mr. WILLIE. About 50 miles from here.

Mr. HASTINGS. Have you lived out there all your life?

Mr. WILLIE. Yes.

Mr. HASTINGS. What is your father's name?

Mr. WILLIE. Charlie Willie.

Mr. HASTINGS. What is your mother's name?

Mr. WILLIE. Sally Willie.

- Mr. HASTINGS. Is your mother alive?
- Mr. WILLIE. Yes.
- Mr. HASTINGS. Were your father and mother born and lived out there all their lives?
- Mr. WILLIE. Yes.
- Mr. HASTINGS. What does your father do for a living? Does he hunt?
- Mr. WILLIE. No, no.
- Mr. HASTINGS. Has he got some land?
- Mr. WILLIE. He has a little store.
- Mr. HASTINGS. We have got lots of them out in Oklahoma.
- Mr. WILLIE. Yes, sir.
- Mr. HASTINGS. How long has he had a little store?
- Mr. WILLIE. About six years.
- Mr. HASTINGS. Do all the Indians trade with him out there?
- Mr. WILLIE. Yes.
- Mr. HASTINGS. Does he buy their hides?
- Mr. WILLIE. Yes.
- Mr. HASTINGS. Do you come here to Miami to help the Indians sell their hides, too?
- Mr. WILLIE. Yes.
- Mr. HASTINGS. You can talk a little English and you know who to go to and you help them?
- Mr. WILLIE. Yes.
- Mr. HASTINGS. Do they buy things to eat to take back?
- Mr. WILLIE. Yes.
- Mr. HASTINGS. You take them around to these stores, do you?
- Mr. WILLIE. Yes.
- Mr. HASTINGS. And you show them the best place to get their things, don't you?
- Mr. WILLIE. Yes.
- Mr. HASTINGS. And when they get through they go back?
- Mr. WILLIE. Yes.
- Mr. HASTINGS. Now, you know all these Seminoles, don't you?
- Mr. WILLIE. Yes; I know them all.
- Mr. HASTINGS. You have been from one place to another from time to time?
- Mr. WILLIE. Yes.
- Mr. HASTINGS. Now, about how many of these little camps have they?
- Mr. WILLIE. Oh, I don't know.
- Mr. HASTINGS. A good many of them?
- Mr. WILLIE. About 50 camps.
- Mr. HASTINGS. Now, what is the biggest camp that they have—the numbers? Where is the biggest head camp, where most of them stay?
- Mr. WILLIE. Well, they don't have any big camp.
- Mr. HASTINGS. Now, where your father lives out there, how many are there out there at that camp?
- Mr. WILLIE. My sister and my brother.
- Mr. HASTINGS. That is all?
- Mr. WILLIE. Yes.
- Mr. HASTINGS. Where is the nearest camp to them—to your father and mother? Where is their nearest camp?

Mr. WILLIE. Out south and east.

Mr. HASTINGS. Now, one thing I want to ask you: Does any Seminole have any horse?

Mr. WILLIE. No.

Mr. HASTINGS. Don't have any?

Mr. WILLIE. No.

Mr. HASTINGS. Do you know any Seminole at all having a horse?

Mr. WILLIE. No; they don't have any.

Mr. HASTINGS. Do they have any cayuses?

Mr. WILLIE. They have ox teams.

Mr. HASTINGS. Just one yoke of oxen?

Mr. WILLIE. No; one man has about four.

Mr. HASTINGS. Is that all you know?

Mr. WILLIE. Yes.

Mr. HASTINGS. None of them have any cows for milk?

Mr. WILLIE. No.

Mr. HASTINGS. Any of them got any hogs?

Mr. WILLIE. Yes; some of them at Big Cypress.

Mr. HASTINGS. A few hogs or a good many?

Mr. WILLIE. Some of them have a good many.

Mr. HASTINGS. They kill these hogs and eat them, do they?

Mr. WILLIE. Yes.

Mr. HASTINGS. You never went to school any?

Mr. WILLIE. No.

Mr. HASTINGS. None of the rest of the Seminoles went to school?

Mr. WILLIE. No.

Mr. HASTINGS. Do you ever plant any cane or potatoes or pumpkins?

Mr. WILLIE. Yes; planted corn and potatoes and pumpkins and beans and sugar cane.

Mr. HASTINGS. You have done that yourself?

Mr. WILLIE. Yes.

Mr. HASTINGS. Do some of the other Seminoles do that way, too?

Mr. WILLIE. Yes.

Mr. HASTINGS. Now, you know they are draining out these everglades and the white people are getting nearer and nearer to the Seminoles all the time?

Mr. WILLIE. Yes.

Mr. HASTINGS. They are running the otter away and running the rest of the game away, so the Seminoles can not get much game now, can they?

Mr. WILLIE. No.

Mr. HASTINGS. And the Cherokee way out yonder, they say it is all gone. It is getting nearly all gone here, isn't it?

Mr. WILLIE. Yes.

Mr. HASTINGS. And it makes it harder for the Seminole to live, doesn't it?

Mr. WILLIE. Yes.

Mr. HASTINGS. Because he can not catch those things?

Mr. WILLIE. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Willie, have the Seminoles any chickens?

Mr. WILLIE. Oh, yes; lots of chickens.

The CHAIRMAN. How far is it to where your father lives from here?

Mr. WILLIE. Fifty miles.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you work in the store with him sometimes?

Mr. WILLIE. Yes; sometimes I sell goods for him.

The CHAIRMAN. No white people live over there at all?

Mr. WILLIE. No; no white people.

Mr. HASTINGS. Does a road lead across the Everglades from here to your father's place?

Mr. WILLIE. No; canoe road.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Willie, how did you learn to read and write? Where did you learn this?

Mr. WILLIE. Just picked it up.

The CHAIRMAN. If you had gone to school, you might have been a Member of Congress like this fellow Hastings, and know better than him. [Laughter.]

Mr. HASTINGS. And made a better Congressman, too, I expect.

Mr. NORTON. If the Indians owned some land, do you think they would farm it?

Mr. WILLIE. Yes; I think so.

Mr. NORTON. Does your father own any land?

Mr. WILLIE. No.

Mr. NORTON. He farms some, doesn't he?

Mr. WILLIE. Yes.

Mr. NORTON. Do you farm any?

Mr. WILLIE. Yes.

Mr. NORTON. How much do you farm?

The CHAIRMAN. He means, how many acres?

Mr. WILLIE. About 2 acres.

Mr. NORTON. What do you raise?

Mr. WILLIE. Sweet potatoes and pumpkins and corn and beans and sugar cane and tomatoes.

Mr. NORTON. Are you married?

Mr. WILLIE. No.

Mr. NORTON. Do you work your farm yourself? Do you put the crops in yourself?

Mr. WILLIE. Yes.

Mr. NORTON. Do you harvest them and take care of them?

Mr. WILLIE. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Willie, do you think that the Seminoles would like to have land that they would know was their own, so the white man could not make them move off?

Mr. WILLIE. I could not tell. I don't know.

The CHAIRMAN. All this land in this country belonged to them at first, didn't it?

Mr. WILLIE. Yes; belonged to the Seminole Indians.

The CHAIRMAN. Well now, don't you think they ought to have a part of it now? Don't you think a part of it ought to belong to them now, so they could build themselves a permanent home and the white man couldn't take it away from them?

Mr. WILLIE. Yes; I think so.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you think they would move on those places and farm if they were fixed up for them? They will have to do something when the otter is all gone and the alligators, too. They will get hungry.

Mr. WILLIE. Yes; otters about all gone. They will have to go farm I think.

The CHAIRMAN. They will have to live like the white man. That is the way we had to do in Oklahoma. Do you think the Seminole children would go to school if schools were provided for them to go by themselves where the white man won't go?

Mr. WILLIE. No.

The CHAIRMAN. They don't want to go to school?

Mr. WILLIE. No.

The CHAIRMAN. I don't blame them much for that. I did not like to go to school myself. We are very much obliged to you, Mr. Willie.

Now, about the education of the Five Civilized Tribes—none of the Five Civilized Tribes have ever been educated at Carlisle or any other Government school. All of them have been educated at their tribal schools supported entirely by the tribal funds; and until the last few years there has never been an appropriation from the Federal Treasury for the education of the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes.

(Whereupon at 10.30 a. m., the committee adjourned.)