

Mr. SEARS. He came in, then, for the purpose of a parley?

Mr. BROWN. That is what he claimed.

Mr. SEARS. Where was he confined here?

Mr. BROWN. In Fort Marion.

Mr. SEARS. How long did he stay there?

Mr. BROWN. I can not tell you exactly until I could turn to the book. I have the exact date.

Mr. SEARS. You could give to our chairman a copy of that book, could you?

Mr. BROWN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SEARS. Did he die here?

Mr. BROWN. No; he died—he was sent to Fort Moultrie and died there. He was buried just outside the entrance there, and there is a monument erected over his grave.

The CHAIRMAN. Who erected the monument?

Mr. BROWN. Some patriotic ladies from Boston.

Mr. SEARS. Did he try to escape here?

Mr. BROWN. No. There was Cocowgee and Hajos. Cocowgee was a war chief; Hajos was a medicine man. They made their escape, but they were recaptured about four years after and made a treaty, brought in the band, and took them to Indian Territory. Osceola was confined in the same room, but didn't make an escape. He was sent to Fort Moultrie and died there.

Mr. SEARS. Why didn't he escape?

Mr. BROWN. I can not tell you. That is more than any history gives any definite notes of.

Mr. SEARS. So far as you know, there was no reason why he shouldn't have escaped at the same time the other two did?

Mr. BROWN. Not a bit. You can see in the room where he was confined; they claim there was three holes cut in the wall where they used to climb up and look out. There was a window over a door—a small one—and they would sit on that ledge there to get the sunlight.

Mr. HASTINGS. When did Osceola die? What was the date of it, do you remember?

Mr. BROWN. No.

Mr. HASTINGS. About how long was he in prison? You don't have any idea, do you?

Mr. BROWN. I think less than a year, probably. I was two years keeping boomers out of Oklahoma, and I went through all the reservations there once every month, and those Seminoles in Oklahoma were in a great deal better condition than these are down here. They had nice ranches out there.

Mr. SEARS. Mr. Ingraham, will you make a brief statement to the committee about the Seminoles?

**STATEMENT OF MR. JAMES A. INGRAHAM, VICE PRESIDENT,  
FLORIDA EAST COAST RAILWAY.**

Mr. INGRAHAM. I have been very much interested in the Indians and knew a good many of them.

The legislature, I think of 1905, appointed a commission, of which I was chairman; Capt. Henry, of Fort Myers, was a member; a third gentleman from Miami was a member—his name I can not now recollect—to select a tract of land from the State lands to be used as a

reservation for the Indians. I discussed the matter with a good many of the Indians—Tiger Tail, Tallahassee, Old Charlie, Billy Harnie, and Osceola, grandson of Powell, the great chief. They looked upon it as necessary in time, as the white people encroached upon the lands which they were occupying, that they would have to have a place to which they could go as an ultimate resort. This committee selected 10,000 acres of land west of Fort Lauderdale known as Long Key or Pine Key—both names it had. That was selected because at that time the principal Indian settlement in the State was in that vicinity; their largest traders were there and their largest business was there. Frank Stranahan, a trader at Fort Lauderdale, shipped their hides. One year he told me he shipped 7,500 alligator hides, which was their principal source of living. He bought and shipped the plumes and deer skins; bought their starch—compty starch. This report was sent to the legislature, was accepted, but not acted upon, and the lands which we had agreed upon as desirable, containing some overflowed lands—that was before the drainage operations were considered; had some islands which would have afforded them a place to cultivate corn, beans, potatoes, and pumpkins, their chief source of living, and also a tract of land on which otters were plentiful.

The CHAIRMAN. Do they raise corn, Mr. Ingraham?

Mr. INGRAHAM. A little; yes, sir. It is very good corn, too—a small eared corn and small kernel, but hard corn and lasts very well and makes very good meal. That measure failed. You have heard Mr. Willson tell of the others.

The situation in my mind is just this, gentlemen: These lands are being constantly encroached upon by white settlers. Now, the drainage is coming on, and lands which were overflowed, which were looked upon as waste, are now becoming valuable. The Indians have got to be taken care of somewhere, somehow, by somebody, because they are in this condition: The alligator skins have gone out of fashion; it is against the law to kill, ship, or sell, or have in the possession aigrettes or plumes of plume birds. The deer are almost killed out, so they are now living upon otter skins. That is their sole source of living. A great many of them are down there near Jupiter picking beans, and to see a man and his squaw and his children picking beans—an Indian—is a remarkable thing. Yet it is common down there during the bean-picking season.

These Indians are proud. Mr. Willson has said that they are moral. They are. It is death among the Indians for a woman or a man to be taken in adultery. They are honest. I have left things in my camp for days with the Indians around and never missed a thing. You can go down into that territory and leave anything about your camps—your own camps open, food, provisions, clothing, ammunition, guns, or anything—and as far as the Indians are concerned they are safe. I can't say as much about the white man.

They saved my life once in coming through the Everglades, and I know what I am talking about when I say they grow corn and make good bread, because the bread that they gave me saved my life and that of some of my companions.

To go back to a question that you brought up, Mr. Chairman, in regard to the feeling against the National Government, old Billy Harnie, old Tiger Tail, Tallahassee, Medicine Tommy—Dr.

Tommy—men that I have known for years, in years back told me that there was a treaty between Gen. Harney and the Indians, made at what they claim to be the cessation of the Seminole War at the time that a great body of the Seminoles were taken west to Oklahoma from Tampa, setting aside a tract of land in the southern glades for the southern Indians. I went to Bishop Whim and Bishop Greer, and our own Protestant bishop here in Florida, who are interested—Bishop Whim, as perhaps you know, had the largest acquaintance and deepest interest of any of the American bishops among the Indians—he went to Washington to follow up that treaty, but there is absolutely no record of any treaty between Gen. Harney and the Indians to which these Indians have been referring; absolutely none. Yet they believe it, and they believe that the reason that they are suffering, that they are being pushed from one place to the other, is on account of the disregard of this treaty.

MR. TILLMAN. They are in error as to that treaty?

MR. INGRAHAM. I think they are. As to their truthfulness and their feelings, I want to tell you one little story that old Tiger Tail told me: Down about Biscayne Bay, at Cocoanut Grove, there is a very beautiful spring owned now by Mr. Kirk Monroe, the well-known author. I have bathed there a great many times. At one time I had my launch at Fort Lauderdale and old Tiger Tail came aboard, sat down, and I gave him a cigar and a little wycnee, which is whisky. We got to chatting and talking. I asked him if he had been down below lately. He said "No." I asked him to come down to Miami with me. He said, "No." Some boys were coming in from a hunt and I said, "Tiger Tail, you know big spring, Kirkman Rowe at Cocoanut Grove? You know him?" "Oh, yes," he said, "me know him." I said, "Do you know all about him?" He said, "Yes." Then I said, "Long time ago who lived there, Johnson?" He said, "Yes; me know him." "What became of Johnson?" "Me kill him." "Why? Tell me about it." "Johnson lived big spring. Johnson Indian friend. Me Johnson's friend. Johnson my friend. Me heap like Johnson. Me heap go stay Johnson's. One day I go see Johnson. I tell Johnson, 'You go way, hiepus, Indian come, Indian war. You hiepus.' Johnson say, 'Oh, no; me Indian friend; Indian my friend; me no go; me stay; Indian no hurt me.' I go away; come back one moon, two moons. I say, 'Johnson, go way. Hiepus. Indian come; Indian war; he hurt you.' Johnson say, 'Oh, no; me trust Indian. Me Indian friend; Indian my friend.' I stay. Me kill Johnson keep Indian from hurting Johnson."

He killed him to keep him from being tortured. Now, that is the way they looked upon some of the white people.

I heard a story, gentlemen, that will only take a minute or two of your time to tell. Old Tallahassee told me this, that years ago they lived up in the southern part of Georgia. "White man come, drive away their slaves, take their cattle, steal their horses, kill their pigs. Drive them away, go down to Mickanochie, Fla., about 80 miles from here—Tallahassee. Get some more pigs, few sheep, some cows, few ponies, corn, a little field, some pumpkins, few shacks. By and by white man come, drive them off, drive them off, kill my pig, kill my sheep, kill my cows, steal my ponies, drive off

my slaves. By and by we go to big swamp; little field; few pumpkins; no sheep, no ponies; pony can't travel big swamp; no sheep, few pigs; white man come, take away our slaves, take away our pigs, drive us off. By and by long sleep, big water, Indian all gone."

Now, that is the way they look upon the situation. I think that in justice to them, these men that have lived there, these people that are here, these Indians now since 1837, or 1845, when the Indian war actually ended, have never had one cent assistance from the Government. They have sustained themselves, taken care of themselves, and the State does owe them the lands, as Mr. Willson says, and they should have it. But the way to take care of them, in my opinion—and I have talked with a great many of them, not within the last few months, not within the last year, because my business and health has not permitted me to be among them as much as I have in years past—is to give them a small farm.

A 10,000-acre reservation for the Indians is an abundance. Put it where, as I said, they can have an ultimate resort. They will use all the public lands to range on and hunt on, but have a place from which they can not be driven and a place where they can have their little farms, where they can make their shacks, that no marauding white man, no marauding pioneer can come and say, when he has got a few acres of land cleared up and planted a few orange trees and a few lemon trees—something of value—"Get out of here; this is mine, and I am going to enter it," as has been done in I can not tell you how many places. Show him that he has friends among the white man; that he has got a friend who will eventually see that he is not abused; that will teach him how to take care of himself—just what the Government has done in Oklahoma.

Two or three years ago John Brown, a Seminole Indian, came to Jupiter and went out to Indiantown, perhaps one of the largest Indian towns in the southern part of the State, with a friend of mine, Joe Bowers, who has a little Indian store near Jupiter. These Indians stayed there for a number of days, and made a tremendous impression on the Seminole Indians. They came from far and near to see them, and they wanted them to go out to Oklahoma, but these Indians would not go, but they were very anxious that some of those Oklahoma Indians should come here and teach them how to be as they were. And there is the idea that Judge Tillman has brought up: Bring a few of those Indians that have their confidence; bring them here; show them what can be done; teach them; give them a little piece of land; give them a few hogs and a few cattle, and let them farm where they will not be disturbed. I thank you, gentlemen.

The CHAIRMAN. We will now adjourn, gentlemen.

(Whereupon, at 10.45 o'clock a. m., the committee adjourned.)

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.,  
Washington, March 14, 1917.

The committee met at 5.30 o'clock p. m., Hon. Charles D. Carter (president) presiding. There were also present Congressmen Hayden, Sears, Tillman, Gandy, Hastings, Norton, and Ellsworth.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order.

Mrs. Jennings wishes to make a statement, gentlemen. Mrs. Jennings, will you state your name, please?

STATEMENT OF MRS. FRANK E. JENNINGS, 1807 OAK STREET,  
JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

Mrs. JENNINGS. As to my official position, I am president of the Women's Club of Jacksonville at the present time, and the knowledge that came to me as to the Seminole Indians of Florida came to me in an official capacity. I was acting as chairman of legislation of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs. At the 1913 session of that legislature a bill was introduced into the legislature, which was instigated by citizens of Kissimmee, particularly, I think, by Mrs. Minnie Moore Willson, and this bill was supported by the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, and particularly by myself as the chairman of the legislation committee of that federation. This legislation committee was composed of women all over the State, and a good deal of literature was published containing information which was secured largely from Mrs. Willson and from the Indian commissioner, who, I think, was Mr. Spencer at that time, was he not?

Mr. SEARS. Yes; Mr. Spencer was Indian agent.

Mrs. JENNINGS. I am sorry to say that my weak point is figures. It will be impossible for me to make a definite statement as to figures, but the thing that we are particularly interested in, the women of the State, was that this bill which passed the 1913 session of the legislature called for over 200,000 acres of land, I believe, in the Everglades of Florida and called for a grant of this large tract of land to the Seminoles to be theirs indefinitely and indeterminately, in order that they might have a permanent home.

Mr. HAYDEN. This was to be a grant by the State of Florida to the Seminole Indians?

Mrs. JENNINGS. Yes; to the Seminole Indians.

Mr. HAYDEN. Could you get us a copy of the bill as it passed both houses of the legislature?

Mrs. JENNINGS. Yes; I am sure I can.

Mr. HAYDEN. If you would do that, we might insert it in the record.

Mrs. JENNINGS. Yes; I will do so.

Mr. HAYDEN. Along with whatever copies of literature that was printed at that time, if you could get it. You can mail it to Mr. Carter at Washington, and we will see that it is put into the record at this point.

Mrs. JENNINGS. I will be very glad to do it. I know I have copies of the literature sent out, and I think I have copies of the bill; but I can secure it, at least.

(The matter referred to is as follows:)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,  
STATE OF FLORIDA,  
Tallahassee, April 13, 1917.

Mrs. FRANK E. JENNINGS, *Jacksonville, Fla.*

DEAR MADAM: I inclose herewith copy of bill entitled "An act providing for and setting aside certain lands to the Seminole Indians as a reservation, etc.," as per request of your telegram. No charge for copy.

Yours, very truly,

H. CLAY CRAWFORD, *Secretary of State.*

AN ACT Providing for and setting aside certain lands to the Seminole Indians as a reservation, providing for trustees, in whom the title to said lands shall be vested for the use and benefit of said Indians.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:*

SECTION 1. The following described lands in the drainage district and in the county of Monroe and Palm Beach County, State of Florida, be and the same is hereby set aside and given to the Seminole Indians of Florida as a reservation to-wit:

All of sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, of township 56 south, range 32 east.

Also all of sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 34, 35, and 36, of township 57 south, range 32 east.

Also all of sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 24, 25, 35, and 36, of township 58 south, range 32 east.

Also all of sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36, of township 56 south, range 33 east.

Also all of sections 1 to 15, inclusive, and all sections 17 to 36, inclusive, township 57 south, range 33 east.

Also all of sections 1 to 15, inclusive, and all sections 17 to 36, inclusive, township 58 south, range 33 east.

Also all of sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, and 36, of township 56 south, range 34 east.

Also all sections 1 to 15, inclusive, and all sections 17 to 36, inclusive, township 57 south, range 34 east.

Also all sections 1 to 15, inclusive, and all sections 17 to 36, inclusive, township 58 south, range 34 east. All of the above land is located in Monroe County.

Also all of township 48 south, range 35 east, in Palm Beach County, Fla., except section 16 of said township.

Also all of township 48 south, range 36 east, in Palm Beach County, Fla., except section 16 of said township.

SEC. 2. The trustees of the internal improvement fund are hereby directed to convey to the board of commissioners of State institutions the title to said described lands, in trust, however, for the use and benefit of the Indians aforesaid, and as a reservation for them.

SEC. 3. The said board of State institutions are hereby authorized upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C., to allot to any of said Indians the head of a family certain parts or portions of said lands in accordance with such recommendation.

SEC. 4. This act shall become effective upon its approval by the governor.

WOMAN'S CLUB OF JACKSONVILLE,  
1807 Oak Street, Jacksonville, Fla., April 12, 1917.

HON. C. D. CARTER,

*Chairman, and Members of*

*Committee on Investigation of Indian Service,*

*House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SIR: Several weeks ago, during the visit of your committee to Florida for the purpose of investigating the condition and needs of the Seminole Indians of this State, I made to you a statement of my knowledge of certain legislation which had been attempted for the benefit of the Seminole Indians in the Legislature of the State of Florida.

It had been almost three years since I had given any definite thought to this subject, and I made the statement from memory upon short notice. Upon consulting records in my possession, after giving this statement, I find that it was in some details incorrect, therefore, since I wish to be correct even in the smallest details, I am requesting that you substitute the following statement which embodies all the information given in your presence, with a difference of date to make it accurate, for the deposition made at the Florida Country Club in March, 1917. I am inclosing certain documents and published literature to verify the statements made in deposition substituted.

The letter from the governor mentioned in the former deposition is inclosed, and I have just had a telegram from Hon. H. Clay Crawford, secretary of state, that he is mailing me a copy of the 1913 bill; I shall remail that to you as soon as received.

Please permit me to express my deep regret at the delay in sending the data promised. I have had some difficulty in locating it all, and have been extremely busy besides with home and club duties.

It was a privilege to meet your distinguished committee and an honor to appear before you, and I was greatly dismayed to find that I had unintentionally made an inaccurate statement.

Respectfully, yours,

MRS. FRANK E. JENNINGS.

It was in the latter capacity that information as to legislation attempted for the relief of the Seminole Indians came to me.

In December, 1912, with the approval and assistance of the president of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, Mrs. William Hocker, of Ocala, I divided the State into legislative districts, partially conforming to the congressional districts of the State, for purposes of convenience in reaching the women of the federation and securing their support and assistance in writing their representatives when the legislature should convene the following April. This machinery was very effective in helping to secure the passage of certain measures in which the women of the State were interested; and it was during the 1913 session of the legislature that my attention was first called to the Seminole land bill.

This bill called for the reservation of 235,000 acres of Everglade land for the use of the Seminole Indians—and originated in Kissimmee. It was passed by both houses of the legislature, with only one dissenting vote; that vote was in the Senate, I think. On the last day of the session it was vetoed by the governor.

Soon after the close of the legislative session Mrs. Minnie Moore Willson, of Kissimmee, the well-known friend of the Seminoles, to whom I am indebted for most of my information as to the history and needs of these Indians, came to me requesting more active support on the part of the legislative department of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs for a similar bill to be introduced in the 1915 session of the legislature. Accordingly, I wrote Gov. Park Trammell asking him his reasons for vetoing the 1913 bill. The governor responded very frankly and promptly, and his reply, which not only gives his reasons but outlines the bill as well, is herewith submitted:

STATE OF FLORIDA,  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,  
Tallahassee, April 29, 1913.

MRS. FRANK E. JENNINGS,  
1807 Oak Street, Jacksonville, Fla.

DEAR MRS. JENNINGS: Complying with your request for a copy of my veto of the Indian reservation measure, which was passed by the last legislature, I beg to advise that I am inclosing herewith a copy thereof. I feel very hopeful that when you have read the same that you will agree with me that I had good grounds for vetoing this bill.

Most respectfully,

PARK TRAMMELL, Governor.

JUNE 5, 1913.

HON. ION L. FARRIS,

*Speaker, House of Representatives.*

Sir: In pursuance of the provisions of section 28 of article 3 of the State constitution, I have the honor to return herewith without my approval, the following act, which originated in the house of representatives:

"An act providing for and setting aside certain lands to the Seminole Indians as a reservation providing for trustees in whom the title to said lands shall be vested for the use and benefit of said Indians."

This bill donates for the benefit of the Seminole Indians, numbering about 400—men, women, and children—approximately 235,000 acres of the land of the State of Florida held by the trustees of the internal improvement fund subject to the trusts under which it was granted to the State of Florida by the Federal Government. The land which it is sought to give away belongs to all of the people of this State, yet the bill seeks to take the title and the ownership from all the people of Florida, approximating 800,000, and place it in only 400 people of the State.

I very much question the authority of the legislature to make such contribution of the State's property, and believe that it is not a proper policy for the legislature of the State to donate such extensive acreage to a few of the people of Florida. The bill carries with it an average donation of 600 acres to each Indian, including men, women, and children. The property donated for the reservation at an average of \$10 per acre, which is a very low price for the land, amounts to \$2,350,000, or a gift of approximately \$6,000 to each man, woman, and child composing the Seminole Indians. An Indian family of five members is given approximately 3,000 acres of land of a value of \$30,000.

I fully appreciate the fact that at one time the Indians possessed a great part of our country and that their possessions were taken from them by our ancestors, but the contest which resulted in the white man's victory over the Indian was that of the Federal Government and not the State government. If the Indians were unjustly dealt with it is the Federal Government and not the State government which should now make ample provision for them. The Federal Government owns some 350,000 acres of land in Florida, and I submit that if it is desired to have an Indian reservation established in this State that a contribution of land belonging to the Federal Government should be made to be applied for such purpose. It is true that the Federal Government does not own sufficient land in a contiguous body for a reservation, but should the National Government desire for the Indians to have a reservation in the Everglades of Florida it could make a donation for such purpose upon the condition that the lands donated were to be exchanged for State lands within the Everglades.

It is well known to the members of the legislature that the drainage and reclamation of the Everglades territory is now in course of accomplishment. Within the past few days a bill was passed fixing an acreage tax upon all the lands within that territory, and authorizing the issuance of drainage district bonds. In the preparation of this measure it was contemplated that all of the lands within the Everglades would be subject to a drainage tax. While I can not say definitely, it is doubtful whether or not the 235,000 acres donated by this measure would bear its part of the expense of the drainage operations. I feel safe in saying that even if the said land was not relieved from taxation that the drainage tax upon it would not be paid by the Indians, but would have to be paid by the State of Florida. I submit that whatever construction may be placed upon the measure, it would produce an embarrassing situation. If the land did not bear any tax, it would so curtail the revenue for drainage purposes as to interfere more or less with the drainage operations. On the other hand, if the land should continue to be subject to a tax, I submit that it would not be proper for the State to be required to pay the drainage tax upon land which had been donated as provided by the said measure.

While it is my desire that our Government should deal justly with the Indians, I also can not forget that we have in this State approximately 800,000 other citizens who have an interest in the property with which we are dealing. I do not think it proper to take from the citizens generally of our State property worth several million dollars and donate the same to only a very few people. I do not feel that the Commonwealth is under any obligation which requires such action.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed)

PARK TRAMMELL, *Governor.*

A pamphlet called "The Seminoles of Florida and Their Rights in the Everglades," by Mrs. Minnie Moore Willson, was edited and published by the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs and given wide distribution. Also the cooperation of the press of the State was secured, and much publicity was given to the condition of the Seminoles and many pleas made for them. There was a good deal of feeling—acrid feeling—developed over the subject, and some gossip as to the part certain land companies had played in the matter. I know nothing as to the truth or reliability of this gossip, and do not feel justified in discussing it more specifically.

The Seminole cause was kept before the public during the biennial period between the 1913 and 1915 sessions of the legislature, and a bill similar to the 1913 bill was introduced in 1915. I know nothing of the fate of this bill except that it was lost. Mrs. Hocker's term as president of the Florida Federation expired in November, 1914, and with it my commission as chairman of legislation. Other duties claimed my attention and I was unable to serve the new president, Mrs. W. S. Jennings, in this capacity, and a new chairman was appointed.

Respectfully submitted.

Mrs. FRANK E. JENNINGS.

The following are two excerpts from a pamphlet entitled:

THE SEMINOLES OF FLORIDA AND THEIR RIGHTS IN THE EVERGLADES.

By MINNIE MOORE-WILSON, of Kissimmee, Fla.

(Edited by the legislative committee, F. F. W. C.)

THE SEMINOLE LAND BILL.

It is a far call from the marshy Everglades to the legislative halls of Tallahassee, and yet with the affairs of the State in the hands of men willing to serve the highest as well as the lowest of their fellow citizens, it is earnestly hoped that the heart cries of the silent dwellers of the Glades will be heard and justice and fair play be given to these red children of Florida.

In review, and briefly, it is well to state here that the Seminoles have three powerful allies in the field of action for the betterment of their condition. First, the Florida Legislature, whose friendly action in 1913 is known to all and is now a matter of history. Second, the Federation of Women's Clubs, which has championed the Indians' cause and is making the help of the Seminoles a part of their uplifting work. Third, the Florida Press Association, the great molder of public opinion and the motor power of the State, which at its annual convention in the city of Fort Myers, held in April, 1914, most graciously and amid frequent applause obligated itself by resolution to further the policy of homes for the Seminoles and to stimulate interest in behalf of these homeless people in a free land.

At the last legislature, as is well known, a Seminole land bill was carefully drawn by an intelligent body of men, granting a tract of 235,000 acres to the Everglade Indians. The bill passed both house and senate, but was killed on the last day by the governor's veto. If there was any technicality involved (and no reasonable one has ever been given), then a similar bill should be so framed as to be free from any objectionable features and passed at the present legislature.

For the benefit of those not informed 200,000 acres of this tract are water covered and utterly worthless for agricultural or reclamation purposes, being of "limestone rock formation, full of pot holes, and, according to the report of the committee on Indian affairs, would only serve as a hunting ground, and, further, that no white man could ever make use of it.