

The CHAIRMAN. You say the governor said he thought the act was unconstitutional?

Mrs. JENNINGS. He thought the bill was unconstitutional.

Mr. SEARS. Do the people of Florida largely feel that some assistance from some one, either the State or the Government, should be given the Seminoles?

Mrs. JENNINGS. I think, Mr. Sears, that there is a good deal of acrid feeling in the State on this question.

Mr. SEARS. That has grown largely in the last few years, hasn't it?

Mrs. JENNINGS. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. What do you mean by that, Mrs. Jennings?

Mrs. JENNINGS. I think there are—I don't know whether I should make this statement or not, because it is hearsay entirely on my part—I think there are people in the State who feel that perhaps some of the large land interests of the State are involved in the non-passage of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Large landowners and land speculators?

Mrs. JENNINGS. Land speculators; yes. Whether that is true or not, I do not know. I have no means of knowing.

Mr. SEARS. You think the Government should assist these Indians in teaching them agriculture and how to become self-dependent?

Mrs. JENNINGS. I have no personal knowledge of the Seminole Indians at all. Judging from other Indians whom I have seen, I see no reason why the Seminole Indians should not be developed as other Indians have developed, if they had the opportunity.

Mr. SEARS. All they need is the chance?

Mrs. JENNINGS. All they need is the chance. People who know them seem to feel that they are above the average intelligence, many of them. But it is certainly very gratifying to the women of Florida that this committee of the Congress of the United States has come down here, and we surely hope that there will be results from the visit for the Indians.

The CHAIRMAN. Any questions, Mr. Sears?

Mr. SEARS. No; I believe not.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there any further statement, Mrs. Jennings, that you wish to make?

Mrs. JENNINGS. No; I think that is all I know. Of course, I have heard a great deal of discussion and a great deal of gossip, but I should not feel at liberty to repeat that, because I do not know just how true it is.

(At this point Mr. Hayden took the chair.)

Mr. HAYDEN. We will now hear Mr. Spencer. Mr. Spencer, will you please give your name and official position?

#### STATEMENT OF MR. LUCIEN A. SPENCER, MIAMI, FLA.

Mr. SPENCER. Lucien A. Spencer, Maimi, Fla.

Mr. HAYDEN. And your official position?

Mr. SPENCER. Special commissioner to negotiate with the Indians.

Mr. HAYDEN. Now, any statement that you would like to make in regard to the Seminole Indians the committee would like to have, knowing your familiarity with them.

Mr. SPENCER. Why, I am kind of at a loss on this, but it seems to me the first thing we must take into consideration is the fact that



we are dealing with an uncivilized tribe. The rules and regulations of the Indian Office wouldn't apply here. Now, there has been considerable criticism on the fact that I have been commissioner here for practically four years and have accomplished nothing. I did that work 37 months on the fag end of the 1911 appropriation. The first money that we had available for Seminole work was available the 1st of July this year, and on the 18th of the preceding June I was called to military service.

Mr. HAYDEN. So you have had no opportunity since that time to render any service?

Mr. SPENCER. That little bit of the 1911 appropriation I spread out in the matter of negotiation and health conditions and starting the matter along educational lines.

Mr. HAYDEN. How long have you been familiar with the Seminoles?

Mr. SPENCER. Ever since 1900.

Mr. HAYDEN. Intimately associated with them?

Mr. SPENCER. Just as much as I could be. I spent all my vacations among them. I have been among Indians all my life, and the reason that I took this work was on account of their great superstition of the Government man; and their knowing me for several years preceding 1912, I thought I could break down that superstition.

Mr. HAYDEN. They are prejudiced against anyone connected with the Federal Government?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, sir; any Government man. Now, when I went into the work I found a condition, a tribal law, that forbade education in any form. Two or three boys had seen the need of education, realized the need of education, and ran away to school. They had been taken back to the tribe; in fact, one of them had his ears cut off as punishment for it.

Mr. HAYDEN. Did you see that boy?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes; you probably saw him in Miami. Did you notice one of his ears was gone? He lost that on account of this education?

Mr. HAYDEN. We met him at Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. SPENCER. I found Tony Tommy was contemplating that same move, going to school. I called him in and said, "Now, Tony, it does not pay, but you are a popular boy, and you go back to your council and tell your council that I said you were to go to school, and get permission from your councilman to go school." He did that, and I entered him in the Fort Lauderdale schools, but very shortly after that the council met—he got permission from his own councilman—the council met, and when they met they put the death penalty on him. They refused to confirm the word of his councilman. Then I went in—I was up against it—I went in and I called the council together. We had a smoke talk and organized officially, and I called their attention to the fact that I wanted to educate these Indians, so they could do business with the whites; that I was trying to help them, but that they were not going to put any death penalty on that boy, and if they did, I would come in there and hang the whole council. Of course, they believed I have a perfect right to hang an Indian if I want to. They smoked for some time, and then the oldest man in the council said, "Yadiechee; he go." Of course, I am right, and



I saw the point then. They gave that boy, then, the permission to go to school, and I clinched that by telling them that probably I couldn't send him to Fort Lauderdale, but I wanted to send him somewhere else. So I have permission to send that boy anywhere at the present time. Then, the next year I put in four girls and two boys up at Indian Town.

Mr. HAYDEN. In the public schools?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes; but they have been run out. They are never going to make a success of putting Indians in the white schools.

Mr. HAYDEN. Do you think it is necessary to establish separate schools?

Mr. SPENCER. Establish separate schools; yes. In the first place, you have got a big proposition on the girls. You have got to teach those girls how to dress, first. That is a big item. If I had an Indian teacher in the Indian school, I could bring them up that way.

Mr. HAYDEN. Do you think it would be a good plan to bring Seminole Indians from Oklahoma here as teachers?

Mr. SPENCER. Certainly I do, and women at that.

Mr. HAYDEN. Do you think that female teachers would be better than male?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes; for the simple reason that when the men of one camp go to another camp they don't talk to the women. Now, a girl can talk to the girls, and she can talk to the boys in the school, but the great thing to do is to waive the rules so that any Indian under 100 years of age can go to that school. You can not make them see that their children ought to go to school when the old grandfather can't read himself. They will say that child is too young. We haven't gotten an Indian in the school under 17 years of age. We want to arrange it so any Indian can go to school, no matter what age.

Now, I don't believe in putting them on a stipend basis, but an arrangement should be made so that every day an Indian is in school he should have some provision—so much for living expenses. It doesn't need to be a large amount, but if he goes to school for the sake of getting the allowance and then drops out half the time, just slice off half of that allowance.

Mr. HAYDEN. About how much allowance do you think ought to be made?

Mr. SPENCER. I should say \$10 a month would be an abundance.

Mr. HAYDEN. For each child in school?

Mr. SPENCER. For each person in school. Put it "person." Do not put it "child," because we want to take the old ones, too. And when we get the old ones in, we can get the young ones.

Mr. HAYDEN. Now, tell the committee what you know about the advisability of acquiring land for the use of these Indians as farmers.

Mr. SPENCER. That must be their ultimate occupation.

Mr. HAYDEN. Do you think they are better suited to follow farming than any other occupation?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAYDEN. Do you think they would make good use of lands if given to them?

Mr. SPENCER. Providing we had sufficient funds to educate them in the modern system of farming. Their farming operations are



very crude. They know nothing whatever of scientific fertilization. That is illustrated in this way: The Indian goes to a semitropical jungle worth \$125 to \$200 an acre to clear; clears that out; raises three crops; depletes the soil; goes on another place and clears out another jungle, when, with one-tenth of the work, by modern farming and fertilization, he could grow better crops.

Mr. HAYDEN. Then you think some practical farmer should be placed with the Indians?

Mr. SPENCER. My idea in starting would be to have a man and wife, the wife a teacher, and the man educating them along farming lines. That would get a man and his wife.

Mr. HAYDEN. Would it be possible to assemble all these Seminoles in one place to do that, or would you have settlements?

Mr. SPENCER. Don't try to send them anywhere. My idea would be to start up on that Okechobee property. We have three sections and a half there. Start up on that property and let them drift that way. I would start with two or three families first. That would be all. Teach them along educational lines and let them have a tract of that land where we could show them how. Then the others would drift up there.

Mr. HAYDEN. Is that good land?

Mr. SPENCER. That is the best land we have got.

Mr. HAYDEN. Well, there seemed to be some doubt at Fort Lauderdale as to whether there was any land in Florida that really was set aside for the Seminoles. Do you know anything about the title to the land?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, sir; it is held in the Indian Office. We bought it, paid hard cash for it, and it ought to be ours.

Mr. HAYDEN. You bought it from the State of Florida?

Mr. SPENCER. Bought it from private individuals.

Mr. HAYDEN. How about that island near Fort Lauderdale?

Mr. SPENCER. We have got 320 acres, I think, on that island.

Mr. HAYDEN. No doubt about the title to that land being in the United States?

Mr. SPENCER. I have the title to it in the Indian Office. There was a larger tract than that and my impression is—it was before my time—but my impression is that the only bill that was introduced by the former Senator Bryan, which became a law, was a bill taking a part of that tract in to fill out property that was there. There is one corner gone out of that tract and my impression is that it was Senator Bryan's bill. There was originally more. We have in the neighborhood of 400 there now.

Mr. HAYDEN. Is that all good land, suitable for farming?

Mr. SPENCER. No, sir; until the drainage system was run it was the finest land in Florida—till the Everglades were drained; but it is right up on the sand hill now.

Mr. HAYDEN. Could it be made a good farm in the hands of a competent farmer?

Mr. SPENCER. It would grow citrus stuff and all that stuff very nicely, and there are three other islands in there of 40 acres each, west of it.

Mr. HAYDEN. Do those islands belong to the Government?



Mr. SPENCER. They belong to the Indian Office.

Mr. HAYDEN. Why is it that no effort has been made toward getting the Indians to live on that land? They don't seem to understand that they have any interest in it at all.

Mr. SPENCER. The Indian has been a nomad, moving his fields from place to place. That land has been farmed by Indians; then they have worn it out and gone again. The same thing is true on the Lee County reservation. We have 23,000 acres there. There are Indian fields on that, but there is not an Indian living on that reservation to-day.

Mr. HAYDEN. Have you any further suggestions that you would like to make?

Mr. SPENCER. In regard to the Florida proposition, provision for land should certainly be made. Now, if the State of Florida is going to set aside land, why, then, the Government can bend its energies toward developing the Indians along other lines. That is a question you gentlemen are much more familiar with than I am.

Mr. HAYDEN. But you consider it absolutely necessary that some suitable tracts of land be acquired for these Indians before anything else can be done?

Mr. SPENCER. No, sir; I should start the educational proposition the first thing, teach those Indians to support themselves first. My suggestion would be, the first move would be to start a school, with an allowance as I suggested. And if possible secure a man who at the same time could teach them along so they could start their fields and grow part of their provisions. But the land problem must be considered soon, because lands are becoming scarce. I would like to hear from Mr. Sears as to that.

Mr. HAYDEN. Any of the other members of the committee like to question the chaplain?

Mr. TILLMAN. Are you certain, Mr. Spencer, of the accuracy of your statement there that this Willie Willie had his ears cut off because he refused to go to school?

Mr. SPENCER. As a punishment.

Mr. TILLMAN. Do you know Mr. Girtman?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes.

Mr. TILLMAN. Mr. Girtman testified before our committee that Willie's brother chewed this ear off in a fight.

Mr. SPENCER. That is not the way I got it. It might have happened that way, but I never got it that way. I talked with him about it.

Mr. TILLMAN. I observed his ear, the corner of it is cut off.

Mr. SPENCER. That is the punishment. We have several of them. In fact, Old Charlie, the oldest Indian connected with the Fort Lauderdale Tribe, has both ears cropped. They call him "Cropped Charlie." Both were cut off as punishment.

Mr. TILLMAN. How many acres altogether do you say that the Government has for the Indian reservation?

Mr. SPENCER. I have 574 on my census; I imagine 600. You are bound to miss some of them. They cover 9,000 square miles of the territory of Florida that has not got a road in it.

Mr. HAYDEN. But Judge Tillman wanted to know how many acres of land belonged to the Indians.



Mr. SPENCER. We have 23,000 acres in Lee County and 1,261 acres in Palm Beach County, and 440 or 460 in Brevard County.

Mr. TILLMAN. Then, is that treated as a sort of reservation for these particular Indians?

Mr. SPENCER. That is held for them by the Indian Office.

Mr. HAYDEN. How much of that area could be made into good tillable land capable of growing crops?

Mr. SPENCER. Not more than one-twentieth, 5 per cent. I have been over every foot of it.

Mr. HAYDEN. What is the trouble with the remainder?

Mr. SPENCER. The 23,000 acres in Lee County is limestone rock. There isn't a point on it that has got over 20 inches of soil, and on 20 per cent of it the rock is above the level of the ground.

Mr. HAYDEN. What is the trouble with the remainder?

Mr. SPENCER. Brevard County land is, as I say—the drainage has made it too dry. The Palm Beach County land is the only tillable lands we have got. We have one section that is very good. The rest is a wet prairie, splendid for grazing, but no good for cultivation. We might fence it in and put cattle on it.

Mr. TILLMAN. About how many acres do you think the Indians ought to have for a reservation?

Mr. SPENCER. I don't think you need to work on the basis of 160 acres. I should say 40. That is what I surveyed. The lands I have surveyed, I surveyed into 40-acre tracts.

Mr. TILLMAN. It shouldn't be contiguous, but should be scattered over the State?

Mr. SPENCER. Well, I would get it as much in about one block as possible on account of the educational facilities.

Mr. TILLMAN. Do you think the Government ought to furnish this reservation or ought the State of Florida to do it?

Mr. SPENCER. That is a hard question to answer. I think the Government was very foolish when it gave the State all that land. Taking that up as the basis they gave it land, and the State owes the land to the Indian, unquestionably. There is an old treaty—probably you remember it—that gives that land to the Indian. The Indian was to move into the southern part of the State and was to have it. The Government deeded that to the State. The only thing is we need the land, and whatever we get the State owes it to them. But we need it, and if the State won't give it to them the Government ought to.

Mr. HASTINGS. Do these Indians have any cattle?

Mr. SPENCER. We have about 200 head all told.

Mr. HASTINGS. Where are they?

Mr. SPENCER. They are scattered around in the different camps; each camp has a few. In fact, I have got milch cows out at Indian-town that are helping to relieve conditions out there very considerably.

Mr. HASTINGS. Have they any horses?

Mr. SPENCER. About 20 head, among the Cow Creek Indians, back of Fort Pierce. They have got all the horses.

Mr. HASTINGS. Have they any hogs?

Mr. SPENCER. We have in the neighborhood of 3,000.

Mr. HASTINGS. Any chickens?



Mr. SPENCER. A few; probably 15 or 20 at each camp.

Mr. HASTINGS. Any sheep?

Mr. SPENCER. No sheep. Each camp raises its own little field of corn and sweet potatoes, pumpkins, and cane.

Mr. HAYDEN. You expect as soon as the regiment is mustered out to go back?

Mr. SPENCER. I expect to report for duty on Monday.

Mr. HAYDEN. What was your profession prior to the time you went into the Indian Service?

Mr. SPENCER. I was a missionary to the Indians. I am a clergyman.

Mr. HAYDEN. What denomination?

Mr. SPENCER. Episcopal.

Mr. HAYDEN. Were you maintained here in Florida by some missionary society?

Mr. SPENCER. I was a missionary in Michigan; then I came to Florida. I was dean of St. Luke's Cathedral for 13 years. I spent my vacations—we maintained work among the Seminoles all the time I was there. Of course, when I entered the Federal service I left that part of the work to others, the religious work among the Seminoles at the present time being done entirely by Baptists. I am helping them all I can, but I am not mixing the missionary work up with the Government work. I am keeping them entirely separate.

Mr. TILLMAN. Is anybody making any converts among them to Christianity?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes; there is a man by the name of Stake who is doing very good work among them. He has several converts. He has done very much better work than we ever did. I will say that much for him.

Mr. NORTON. What have you done for the Indians down there? How long have you been in the Government service in charge of the Seminoles?

Mr. SPENCER. I took the work on the 1st day of March, 1913.

Mr. NORTON. What have you done for the Seminoles since you have been down there?

Mr. SPENCER. My work has been entirely that of negotiation, getting them so we could negotiate with them, and looking after the health conditions and starting schools.

Mr. NORTON. Do you know how much land the Government has down there?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, sir.

Mr. NORTON. How much?

Mr. SPENCER. It has 23,000 acres in Lee County; approximately 400 acres in Brevard County; 1,260 acres in Palm Beach County.

Mr. NORTON. Have you ever been over the land?

Mr. SPENCER. Every foot of it.

Mr. NORTON. Seen all of it, have you?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, sir.

Mr. NORTON. You know the exact situation?

Mr. SPENCER. I do.

Mr. NORTON. How big is Pine Island down there?

Mr. SPENCER. Pine Island—what do you mean, in Brevard County?



Mr. NORTON. West of Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. SPENCER. That was one of the best islands west of Fort Lauderdale up to the time the water was lowered. Now it is a little dry.

Mr. NORTON. Does the Government own that?

Mr. SPENCER. The Government owns a part of it.

Mr. NORTON. How much of it?

Mr. SPENCER. A little less than 400 acres. They owned 400 acres, but a little was taken out of it by special act.

Mr. NORTON. Now, Tony Tommy, do you know him

Mr. SPENCER. Tony Tommy?

Mr. NORTON. An Indian at Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, sir.

Mr. NORTON. He says the Indians there don't know whether the Government owns it or not. The reason they haven't gone upon that land is that they are not certain that it has been set aside for them. What can you say as to that?

Mr. SPENCER. They have been told that the land was there, but the trouble is that you have got a class of people that have made their entire money from the Indians, and they start ahead of you and undo the work before you can do it.

Mr. NORTON. Did you ever try to get any of those Indians together out upon any of that land?

Mr. SPENCER. No, sir; I have done all of my work trying to settle them on the land in Palm Beach County, because that land is inaccessible. You can not get to it.

Mr. NORTON. Is the land on Pine Island inaccessible?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, sir; it is surrounded by glades and is practically inaccessible to get to.

Mr. NORTON. Have you settled any of them on the land in the other counties?

Mr. SPENCER. No, sir; we have one section in Palm Beach County surveyed, and the Indians were ready to select lands and move on to it when I was called into the service, and I had to leave. Whether any of them have settled there during Mr. Coleman's time I do not know. I have been away eight months.

Mr. NORTON. Well, I can tell you that so far as I have been able to learn, Mr. Coleman has not done anything, and as far as we could learn or observe down there nobody else has done anything. If you have done anything down there, we haven't heard of it, and I want to say to you, as a part of the record, that I, as a Member of Congress and a member of the Committee on Indian Affairs, believe the employee in the Government service who has charge of those Indians down there should make it his business to try to get those Indians out upon the land there.

Mr. SPENCER. That is what we have been doing for three years—trying to induce them.

Mr. NORTON. And if that can not be done, there is no need of having a man down there. That is the way that it seems to me. As far as I could see, nobody has done anything for them down there.

Mr. SPENCER. Conditions are entirely different than they were four years ago. I can assure you of that.

Mr. NORTON. What difference in the conditions, as far as the Indian is concerned, is there to-day and four years ago?



Mr. SPENCER. They have gotten to the point, in the first place, that their camps are more sanitary, and while there is a great chance for improvement they are more sanitary. In the second place, they have given up their medicine men and allowing white doctors to treat them entirely. In the third place, there are 9 of them in school, when there was a tribal law which positively forbade them to go to school. You have got tribal Indians there that are just where they were when Columbus discovered America. You have got to creep before you can walk. You can not step down there and say to those Indians, "Come here." You couldn't get near those Indians when I went there, and now you can negotiate with them. I gave Mr. Coleman letters to them, which one Indian who could read went in and read. And they met him just the same as they did me. Probably you people didn't have much success with them, because nobody was there to lead you to them, but a man who knows them can do business with them, and you could not do that four years ago. If he found that there was a man representing the United States Government in those woods, he left them.

Mr. NORTON. You say that you could not do business with them? By that, you mean an agent of the United States Government or what do you mean?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, sir; they would not meet a man connected with the United States Government. They positively refused to meet him. Mr. Willson knows that is a fact, too.

Mr. NORTON. Other men like Mr. Willson and like Mr. Stranahan—

Mr. SPENCER (interposing). Mr. Stranahan traded with them for years.

Mr. NORTON. Other white men down there have traded and done business with the Indians for many years.

Mr. SPENCER. You let one of those represent the United States Government, though, and he could not do business with the Indian at the time I took the work. That work was offered to those men and they knew they couldn't handle it. It would ruin their business and they absolutely refused to take the work.

Mr. NORTON. Why couldn't the United States agents do business with them, would you say?

Mr. SPENCER. For the simple reason that they say they have made 32 treaties with the United States Government, and the United States Government has broken every one of them, and they are through.

Mr. NORTON. Have you brought to the attention of any of those Indians down there the specific land that they had a right to go upon?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, sir; I have taken Indians over the land and they were making their selections. I came out of the woods just in time to get a telegram to join the Second Florida Infantry.

Mr. NORTON. What Indians have you taken over and shown any of that land?

Mr. SPENCER. The Gopher clan—

Mr. NORTON (interposing). Give their names.

Mr. SPENCER. Jim Gopher, Aha Tiger, Wildcat Tiger, Tom Tiger, Billy Stuart, Billy Jones, Coffy Gopher. Each one of them represents a camp.



Mr. NORTON. Have you ever talked to Tony Tommy?

Mr. SPENCER. Tony Tommy—I paid Tony Tommy's schooling for the last three years.

Mr. NORTON. Have you ever endeavored to show him land that his tribe might settle on?

Mr. SPENCER. No; for the simple reason that he was at school at Fort Lauderdale, but was going with me on my next trip up there and pick out his land. If he could get a school on that land in Palm Beach County, he was to move his camp there. He has not seen the land, though.

Mr. NORTON. Do you know his brother?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, sir.

Mr. NORTON. Wouldn't he be a fit subject to place upon a piece of land where he could remain permanently?

Mr. SPENCER. Well, he would go with the camp. Tony Tommy is head of that camp, and the whole camp would go. If one goes, they all go.

Mr. NORTON. That is all.

Mr. HAYDEN. Have you made any written reports to the Indian Office about the conditions among the Seminoles?

Mr. SPENCER. I didn't make a report on the 30th day of June this year. There is one on the 30th day of June a year ago. But there is one point I would like to put in on my not doing anything there. I have run that work from the 1st day of March, 1913, to the 30th day of June, 1916, on the fag end of a 1911 appropriation. The first money available for working among these Indians was available on the 1st day of last July. On the 18th day of June preceding I was ordered to join my regiment and go to the front. I have not had a finger in the pie yet on the money that has been appropriated for the Florida Seminoles—not a cent of it.

Mr. NORTON. How much salary have you received?

Mr. SPENCER. I have received \$2,000 a year, of which, on account of the lack of money, I put \$1,000 back into the work.

Mr. NORTON. In addition to that, you have had your expenses?

Mr. SPENCER. Necessary expenses, actual expenses for travel.

Mr. NORTON. Well, I haven't the figures here—the exact figures on the use of the last appropriation made—but, as I now recall it, it runs something like this: For salary and expenses of the Government employee in charge of the work down there, about \$4,000; for supplies and medicine—

Mr. SPENCER (interposing). For supplies, \$42.

Mr. NORTON. For supplies and medicines, etc., to the Indians, about \$42?

Mr. SPENCER. Yes, sir. Now, let me tell you something. Did you read the appropriation?

Mr. NORTON. I haven't the exact figures.

Mr. SPENCER. I will take your figures. I will put it \$4,200.

Mr. NORTON. Not \$4,200; \$42.

Mr. SPENCER. I am talking about salary and traveling expenses. I say, I will put that \$4,200 and put the other \$42. Now, look at the appropriation. We tried to expend some of that money, but the Comptroller of the Treasury wouldn't let us, because Senator Talliferro introduced that bill, and that money was to be spent entirely



for a man's salary and traveling expenses to negotiate with the Indians. The comptroller ruled, however, that a medical bill was an emergency which we had a right to take from the money, but wouldn't allow us to expend a cent of the money for anything else. That money was only to be expended for that purpose. Out of that \$4,200 there was \$1,000 of that put back in to meet these emergencies, which was my own personal salary; and I carried on that work at my expense, because you people would not give me any money to do the work with. I took my own money to keep those Indians going.

#### STATEMENT OF MRS. MINNIE MOORE WILLSON.

Mr. SEARS. Give your name and how long you have lived in Kissimmee?

Mrs. WILLSON. Mrs. Minnie Moore Willson, and I have lived here 25 years.

Mr. SEARS. Mrs. Willson, I believe you are the author of the first, if not the only, book on the Seminoles of Florida?

Mrs. WILLSON. The Government authorities say I am the only authority on the present Seminole Indian.

Mr. SEARS. Of course, a great deal of the information contained in your book are facts that you have gotten from studying history?

Mrs. WILLSON. Very little of it. Most of it has been gotten from the Indians themselves.

Mr. SEARS. But some of it was obtained from history?

Mrs. WILLSON. Yes; as recorded in Washington.

Mr. SEARS. A greater part of the information contained in your book was obtained from the Indians, and at least a part of it is what some people would call legendary; that is, handed down from Indian to Indian?

Mrs. WILLSON. It was handed down, but it is absolutely correct history.

Mr. SEARS. Having known you since I was a small boy 8 or 10 years of age, of course, some of the questions I ask you I know of my own knowledge, but I am anxious that others may also know of conditions. Is it or is it not a fact, Mrs. Willson, that for the past 20 years or more that you have been interested in the Seminole Indians and that different members of the various tribes or clans have visited you at your home?

Mrs. WILLSON. Yes; some times as many as six at a time.

Mr. SEARS. It was from these that you obtained a large part of your information, having gained their confidence?

Mrs. WILLSON. Almost entirely from the Indians who have visited me at my home.

Mr. SEARS. In your book have you a vocabulary of the phrases and sentences of the Seminole Indians?

Mrs. WILLSON. Yes; about 800.

Mr. SEARS. These were gotten from the Indians direct?

Mrs. WILLSON. Yes; and at the beginning it sometimes took a day to get a single word.

Mr. SEARS. That was at the beginning of your work with them. After you had obtained their confidence you had no further trouble in getting them to talk to you?