

Mr. COLEMAN. Well, that is a question a little difficult to answer, but as a layman I would say that the grown element of the Indians show a remarkable strength, in a way. The children show evidences of their climatic conditions and general environments. You take it in this country, naturally swamp conditions are general; environments of water and the presence of mosquitoes make largely the conditions. I find in every camp I have been to general anemic conditions. I believe that hookworm obtains with every Indian camp to a certain extent, and I have the authority of what doctors I have consulted in cases of sickness backing up that view.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you find tuberculosis?

Mr. COLEMAN. I do not know of a single case. I have read of two cases.

The CHAIRMAN. Any trachoma?

Mr. COLEMAN. None whatever. They are remarkably immune from that. Not a single case, so far as I have been advised, of trachoma in the Florida Indian.

#### STATEMENT OF HON. WILLIAM J. SEARS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM FLORIDA.

Mr. SEARS. Mr. Chairman, just briefly I want to thank the committee for coming to the State, and I trust before you get through you will find that I have not overdrawn, but rather underdrawn, the picture. My good friend, Mr. Norton, raised the question as to whether the State of Florida or the Government should take care of the Seminoles. In reply to that I will simply say that the State of Florida in a way—not the State of Florida, but the citizenship—have been taking care of them, and while I regret to put it in print, when you remember that under a flag of truce Osceola was captured you can realize and appreciate why the Seminoles distrust the whites. I realize further that practically the entire State of Florida belonged to the Seminoles, and that the treaty of 1832, which was repudiated by those of the Seminoles who are now before you and their forefathers, was signed by Indians, making their mark, and signed by the white man, writing out his signature; I believe you will agree with me that under the statute of frauds in every State in the Union, that treaty would be null and void. There is no transfer of land to-day that would be permitted to stand where the man makes his mark and you sign your signature, unless there are witnesses to that signature. That being the case, approximately \$250,000 from the State at the signing of that treaty and accrued interest to the present time is still being held by the Government, and is due the Seminoles of Florida.

I have made my fight for the Seminoles because I believe they are entitled to relief. My fellow members of the committee will say that I have more than once stated before the committee that no ulterior motive could be charged to me in that, because for once, regardless of any of my other acts in Congress, I was working for a band of people who neither voted nor cared to vote, and perhaps would never appreciate the work I was doing for them. I simply did it because I felt they were entitled to it, and that some day the Government would wake up and pay to the Indians what they really owed them, and regain in part their confidence.

You find here a typical camp. I have known the Indians for 36 years, and I will say this for them, in reply to another question from one of the members of the committee when he asked if the State courts

assumed jurisdiction, or the Government courts, that during my 36 years of actual experience with the Indians I have never seen an Indian tried. There have been some white men tried for selling liquor to Indians.

Mr. HAYDEN. Were those cases in the United States court?

Mr. SEARS. The white men were tried in the State courts. Some of them were tried in the United States courts. It was a matter of which county the crime was committed in and which court assumed jurisdiction.

Mr. HAYDEN. The law against selling liquor to Indians requires that it be set out in the indictment that the Indian is a ward of the Government?

Mr. SEARS. In those cases I will be frank to say I do not know. But I do know that the white man has been tried and not an Indian; now whether we assumed jurisdiction in trying to protect them or not I do not know, but so far as stealing or anything like that is concerned, the Indians haven't given us any trouble. That is possibly more to their credit than their discredit.

I will say another thing: While we took from them the State of Florida, I want the committee to remember that since that day until the present time, they have practically never given us any trouble at all. My good friend, Uncle Phil Bryan, here to the left, has been in Florida a good many years and he will bear me out in that assertion. After the Seminole War the Seminoles moved around from place to place, and if they were ordered to move from this place to-morrow, while they might complain, they would move on. They do not come out any more with the knife for the purpose of getting scalps, and they never give trouble to the Federal or State authorities.

We have here Mr. and Mrs. Stranahan, who have done some work with the Indians, and we might complete this hearing here without going back and save some time.

Mr. TILLMAN. Mr. SEARS, before you leave the stand I would like to have you speak into the record a graphic description of the squalor and wretchedness of this camp, in order that it may be read. Describe what you see here, show how they live, and tell of their water supply, and go into details as far as you can, in order that it may be made a matter of record. I can personally testify that you have been the friend of the Seminoles, and so can every other member of the Committee on Indian Affairs. You have been earnest and faithful and thoughtful, and seemed to be as good a friend, if not the best friend they have; and I should like to have you, before you go from the stand, describe accurately and in detail this camp, which I assume is typical of the other camps of the Seminoles.

Mr. SEARS. This camp is typical. You can travel throughout my district and you will see abandoned camps which the gentleman who preceded me mentioned, and they are all practically like this: Their beds are boards a few feet from the ground; their houses are made of upright poles stuck in the ground, a few poles across the top covered with cabbage palmetto, which, by the way, is absolutely water-proof. If you will let me indulge in a little levity, I will say a typical camp for anybody who lives in the land of sunshine and flowers. Of course, you gentlemen, where you have cold and ice and snow, could not live this way, and I admit it would be better for

them if they had beds and some more conveniences than they have here. Their water, as you have noted, is a spring that they have prepared. Their cooking utensils consist of pots and pans. Their meals are cooked over an open fire the same as we use when we go out on a camp hunt in this State, as they have no stoves. They have a few chickens, a few hogs generally, and all of them live right together.

Mr. TILLMAN. Describe accurately the spring and tell of its sanitary condition.

Mr. SEARS. I would rather have Mayor Read or some one else do that. Of course, this spring I have seen, but I don't know whether it is sanitary or not.

Mr. TILLMAN. Well, in a word, don't the surroundings of this camp denote squalor, wretchedness, and poverty?

Mr. SEARS. Absolutely. They all live here practically without any law, but they follow all laws, and—

Mr. TILLMAN. I want to ask you another question: What is the attitude of the tribe toward Tony Tommy and those who show ambition and show a desire to mingle with the white people and learn their language?

Mr. SEARS. Until a few years ago, as stated by the Indian agent who preceded me, it was very adverse. In fact, I am told that they at one time cut off an ear or in some way inflicted punishment upon the Indian trying to learn the English language, such as would deter other Indians from trying to get an education. But in Tony Tommy's case this custom seems to have been overcome. The Indians, let me say here, if you will let me be a little personal—and it may help my colleagues here and the other Members of the House if they only knew it—they never forget a kindness. The Indian agent never more truly spoke, than when he said that the Seminoles, after they once learned a man, like Uncle Phil Bryan and others, would trust him.

About 28 years ago my father treated Tom Tiger. He had a severe case of sore eyes. At that time this was a pioneer State, practically without any laws among white people as well as among the Indians, and this Indian was brought to him. Of course, it was not a serious case, but there is no doubt but what that Indian would have lost his sight, if he had not received some treatment. As long as my father lived Tom Tiger never forgot him. Every time he came to Kissimmee he would bring my mother and father either a turkey or a ham of venison or a deer hide—something to show that he appreciated what had been done. Many times he more than overpaid my father for the treatment. My father later treated one Indian girl for tuberculosis. Of course there was no hope for her, but the Indians never forgot that, and young Tom Tiger to-day and Billy Bowlegs and those Indians remember my father. They seem to hand it down. Whenever a white man or any white person does them a favor they hand that down to let the Indians know that that white man is at least their friend, if the rest of the white men are their enemies. That is also a very good trait. I don't think you could pick out a more deplorable camp than this camp, and when we get back to Congress I sincerely trust something can be done for the Seminoles. I have intimated to the committee some of the lines

along which I expect to endeavor to assist them. I believe that they should be given a tract of land, but I don't believe that the State of Florida should stand all the burden.

Now, I will tell you why. If no one but the citizens of Florida had stayed in Florida on the Indian lands the Indians to-day would have all the lands they wanted. But some good people from my friend Congressman Gandy's district, for instance, have appreciated Florida and have moved down here. Some good friends of mine from Oklahoma have appreciated Florida and they have moved down here. We are glad to have them. We give them a hearty welcome; but with the thousands that are moving in, the Indians are gradually being forced back, and unless the Government soon purchases lands for them—and not lands covered by water, but lands that they can get on—and then take a young Indian like Tony Tommy to persuade and get these Indians settled on it, I don't know what is going to become of them. I only wish we had a few of the older Indian men here to-day.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. SEARS, I understand, according to the land grant that was delivered to the United States by Spain for the State of Florida, the rights of the Seminoles were reserved.

Mr. SEARS. Really, I could not tell you. I have only studied the treaty of 1832, because you know we have been very busy with other Indians as well as Seminoles. I think that is a fact, however.

The CHAIRMAN. Then the Federal Government transferred those lands to the State of Florida?

Mr. SEARS. Possibly that is true.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, then, where does the extinguishment of the Indian's title and his right to those lands come in?

Mr. SEARS. The only claim I am hanging on is the treaty of 1832, which says that whenever the Seminoles, as I recall it, move west the Government shall pay to them \$250,000. I am taking it that in these number of years there is an accrued interest, and—

The CHAIRMAN. How much land—public land—was granted to the State of Florida by the Federal Government?

Mr. SEARS. I really could not tell you. That was given to the State of Florida for drainage purposes. Practically all the land given us was land that we have spent about \$3,700,000—

Mr. HAYDEN. Under the swamp-land act?

Mr. SEARS. Yes; and the State of Florida already has spent about \$3,700,000 trying to drain that land. They are finally going to be successful, and the lands will be drained.

The CHAIRMAN. As I understand it, Spain transferred this peninsula to the Federal Government with the reservation in the title that the Indians' right to whatever lands they owned should be reserved.

Mr. SEARS. Except prior to 1832.

The CHAIRMAN. That was when the transfer of the land took place, I think—along in 1820.

Mr. SEARS. Well, evidently the Government in making the treaty with the Seminoles recognized that right.

The CHAIRMAN. You did not let me complete my statement. Then the Federal Government transferred it to the State of Florida, and some place along the line the Seminole right was lost out in the

shuffle. Now, the thing that this committee wants to determine, I think, is who is responsible for that. Where does the responsibility rest—with the Federal Government or the State of Florida?

Mr. SEARS. When I get back I will take great pleasure, as I told you before, in going over that fully with the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, some of the committee, I think, want to ask Mr. Coleman a few questions.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Could I make a suggestion at this point? I do not want to make it in a critical way, but it strikes me that there are a good many things about the physical condition of the camp itself that we ought to examine into a little more thoroughly than we are doing now. These questions of law and treaty and things of that kind—if we spend our time on that we will miss opportunity to examine and get the physical conditions into the record as we see them.

The CHAIRMAN. As those points come up, naturally they are going to produce discussion.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. If it won't interrupt the proceedings, I want to ask Mr. Coleman a question, and then I want Mr. Gillin to take the stand.

The CHAIRMAN. There are several members of the committee who want to question Mr. Coleman.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. I would like to ask Mr. Gillan a question. He has just examined the camp as to its provisions, and I would like to have him testify as to the conditions. He is here and ready to testify.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, let us get through with Mr. Coleman first. Some of the members wanted to ask Mr. Coleman some questions. You did—and did you, Judge Tillman?

Mr. TILLMAN. One or two.

The CHAIRMAN. And Mr. Gandy, I believe.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. All I wanted was just simply to have in the record the number of Indians in this camp. Mr. Coleman can state that. How many Indians are there in this camp now?

Mr. COLEMAN. There are 22 in this camp, known as the Tony Tommy Camp.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Coleman, I believe you stated you have been here since October 1 last?

Mr. COLEMAN. October 1, 1916.

Mr. HASTINGS. Now, there is a provision in the last Indian appropriation bill, inserted there at the urgent suggestion of Congressman Sears, of \$8,000 for the help of these Indians. What I wanted to ask was for you to put into the record what money you have disbursed and how you have disbursed it since October 1 last.

Mr. COLEMAN. Acting on instruction and authority as well of the Indian Office, all expenditures which have been made by and through me have been paid direct from the Indian Office. No money is given me for disbursement or for personal handling. The funds disbursed by the Indian officer under my direction have been for cases of distress where found for an occasional small bill for groceries.

Mr. HASTINGS. Now, let us stop and go into details. I want to know if you have given any groceries to this camp; have you relieved any distress at this particular camp; and if so, when?

Mr. COLEMAN. I was going to give it to you briefly in detail. As stated before, a few cases of distress have been temporarily relieved

by the purchase of groceries. Where there have been cases of sickness, I have procured a doctor and secured his bills; also the drug bills—approved them in the usual regulation form, and sent them to the Indian Office for payment. For this particular camp, Tony Tommy, in addition to medical and other drug-store supplies and services, I have, under the direction of the Indian Office, provided a per capita of 35 cents daily or \$1.75 for the five days of the school week per capita to this camp to all who attended school and have authorized by contract with the Broward Grocery Co. here locally to send to this camp for these Seminoles at school that limitation of subsistence in the form of groceries.

Mr. HASTINGS. But none to those who do not attend?

Mr. COLEMAN. None to those outside of school.

Mr. HASTINGS. Now, how much have you authorized to be spent for a physician at this place, or drugs, since you have been here in October?

Mr. COLEMAN. Let me complete my statement as to the school. In addition to the groceries sent here and the payment of doctors' and drug bills, I have also taken care of the item of school books, tablets, pencils, crayon, and all of those, etc., that go with a school pupil, white or Indian. Now, no particular amount at any time or place is set aside by the Indian Office, the matter of supplying that or making requisition for same being left solely in the discretion and judgment of the Indian Office representative, myself. For instance, we could not anticipate sickness. We did not know what the doctor's charges would be, because we could not know the number of visits. That has all taken care of itself in a natural sequential way. I don't have the aggregate figures in my mind, because I kept no account of it other than my office files show. Every detail of the aggregate can be obtained from the Indian Office. I could not personally state how much money for all purposes or any one purpose.

Mr. HASTINGS. Have you paid any physician's bills for this camp?

Mr. COLEMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. HASTINGS. Drug bills?

Mr. COLEMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. HASTINGS. But you do not have in mind the amount?

Mr. COLEMAN. Oh, no; I do not keep those.

Mr. HASTINGS. And you furnish no supplies to this camp except for those who attend school?

Mr. COLEMAN. No, sir.

Mr. HASTINGS. Then for the other camps, where none of the members attend any school, you furnish no supplies whatever?

Mr. COLEMAN. None whatever, except there should be a case of distress, which I would temporarily relieve with from \$2.50 to \$5 worth of groceries.

Mr. HASTINGS. Now, do you have in mind how many cases of distress you have relieved since last October? About how many?

Mr. COLEMAN. Well, I have had a few.

Mr. HASTINGS. Half a dozen?

Mr. COLEMAN. Not exceeding that.

Mr. HASTINGS. And that was the largest amount?

Mr. COLEMAN. In no case exceeding \$3 or \$4.

Mr. HASTINGS. So that if you relieved about six cases, perhaps \$20 would be as much as you have had authorized expended?

Mr. COLEMAN. Twenty dollars will cover, specifically, every case of real distress relieved, if not exceed the amount.

Mr. HASTINGS. Now, have you expended any amount for any other camp other than this one; and if so, what camp?

Mr. COLEMAN. No other specific camp has had the expenditure of any money, except for doctors' bills and drug bills.

Mr. HASTINGS. Well, now, on what camp have you expended any for doctors' bills and drug bills other than this camp?

Mr. COLEMAN. The Billy Stuart Camp at Indiantown.

Mr. HASTINGS. How much, do you remember?

Mr. COLEMAN. The doctor's bill amounted to \$40 for professional services, he having to go about 26 miles over a more or less very sandy road.

Mr. HASTINGS. Now, any other camp?

Mr. COLEMAN. No other camp so far as camp disease is concerned, but wherever an Indian was found sick, without regard to his location or camp affiliations or otherwise, he was assisted.

Mr. HASTINGS. Do you have in mind any particular case at any other places other than these two camps?

Mr. COLEMAN. At Miami, in the case of old Tom Tiger, an old Indian who died, I got the doctor. He was administered to and taken to the city hospital and all of his expenses were accounted for after death. Same case with another old Indian down at Larkin, below Miami. The same is true of a few Indians who are occasional visitors to Miami, where there is a temporary camp, and as these migratory Indians from Big Cypress or anywhere in Florida come there and I can find out that they are sick, I get them a doctor and take care of the charges without regard to their location.

Mr. HASTINGS. But you pay nothing for subsistence except in these cases of distress you have mentioned, which would aggregate six or eight, and for the children who attend school?

Mr. COLEMAN. They are the other cases that I have provided for, as mentioned.

Mr. HASTINGS. Now, Mr. Coleman—

Mr. COLEMAN (interposing). I should say in explanation further, now, to anticipate a question, the policy of the Indian Office has not been to furnish supplies in a general or indiscriminate way, for the obvious reason of avoiding cultivating the Indian to loaf or form irresponsible habits, or from becoming a mendicant or absolute charge upon the Government. But cases of distress I had authority to relieve without any question or getting any other authority.

Mr. HASTINGS. How many of these camps are there?

Mr. COLEMAN. I have not my Government map with me.

Mr. HASTINGS. Six or eight?

Mr. COLEMAN. More than that. I do not know the number. I had not thought of the specific question.

Mr. HASTINGS. Now, Mr. Coleman, you have already stated that you do not have the exact figures expended or authorized to be expended, that have been paid, but can't you give the committee some idea of about how much you have expended out of this Government appropriation since you were here in October last—your best estimate?

Mr. COLEMAN. I could not give an intelligent estimate for the reason that I have had no anticipation of such a request for information. If I had time to run through my files I could, of course, give it to a cent. I should say further, in explanation, that at this particular place, when I could persuade one of these Indians to enter a white public school in Fort Lauderdale, I outfitted that Indian from the foot up. For instance, take the sister of Tony, as you see this spectacular Seminole garb—the long skirt, the bare feet—their garb generally—they naturally didn't want to associate with the white people, and we thought that to make them feel at home—they are very sensitive people—and, to prolong their school attendance and make them fall in love with the white man's habits, and, as an inducement to go to school, I took them up town with the aid of my good friend, Mrs. Strannahan, and we made a selection of shoes, stockings, undervests, and skirts, and I bought them a hand mirror and comb and brush and tooth brushes and paste, and undertook to give them just such equipment as would put them upon an equality with any white child in town, not in any pretentious dress, but at least for ordinary association upon the playground and in the school room, and, holding out that inducement as I have repeatedly offered to Tony, "Every time you get one of your brothers and sisters to come to school I will purchase them a complete outfit, buy all of their school supplies and add to it per capita groceries allowed to this camp." And a part of my expenditures have included not only groceries, school books, and supplies, but garments and outfitting for association and contact with white children.

Mr. HAYDEN. Your salary is paid out of the \$8,000 appropriation, or from the appropriation for inspectors in the Indian Service?

Mr. COLEMAN. From the appropriation for inspectors in the Indian Service.

The CHAIRMAN. Are your expenses paid out of this \$8,000?

Mr. COLEMAN. My salary and every expense comes out of the general fund for inspectors, six of whom are in the service. I happen to be temporarily assigned here to perform the duties of the regular agent. Not a dollar of my expenses or salary comes out of the \$8,000 appropriation.

Mr. HAYDEN. The salary of a regularly appointed agent would, though?

Mr. COLEMAN. As I understand, it would. I have never had occasion to look it up.

Now, I wish to add this information, that, in a general sense, I have recommended to the Indian Office that these Indians be segregated on this land already owned by the Government, mentioned as aggregating 26,000 acres, or that an additional appropriation be provided for the purchase of such suitable land as will be practical and suitable for these Indians. I have recommended that a trading post or store be opened, operated at actual cost, and all things sold to these Seminoles at actual Government cost, the purpose being to operate this store for selling the Indians what they must have without any profit to the Government, because the Indian has no idea of freight rates and costs, and no idea of prices except as he is accustomed to trade with his old post trader or the store he knows in town. I have recommended that schools be established on this reservation just as you have them in the West; a Government farmer put



in charge; equipped with stock and implements; and everything else to start from the ground; to teach these Indians the crudest form of agricultural work and to wean him away from the chase and the hunt, the sole means of his subsistence and maintenance; and, to encourage the Indian, I have recommended this detail: That he be paid at first, employed as you would a white man, to get posts out of the forest to inclose the reservation by a fence; pay him for everything he does, instead of employing white help; build substantial houses—not pine, but, in a way, a jump from this crude shack, thatched palmetto roof, to some sort of a habitation screened in properly to keep out mosquitoes and save him from the terror of malaria and hookworm and those other things which he has got now. And my idea has been that, when you do that, you are obliged to begin on the ground; wean him away from Seminole habits and make him sit down and do something that will be of lasting benefit.

Mr. GANDY. Have you ever been on the tract of Government lands you speak of?

Mr. COLEMAN. I have been on the tract north of Lake Okeechobee and the reservation west.

Mr. GANDY. Do you think that ground that you speak of as belonging to the Government is a suitable place for these Indians?

Mr. COLEMAN. It is a hard matter to describe those things to a man who has never seen the particular region of the Everglades. There are pine islands and little hammocks on that general territory in that immense big cypress glade and swamp, and in it little patches of prairie. Of course, I do not know just exactly, but my information and from what I saw when on it, the bulk of that land is covered by water the major portion of the year, but, with some drainage and some road system, that property can be made available, in that enough high ground in small hammocks and pine islands can be made suitable for agricultural purposes for the maintenance of these Indians. And if inclosed by a wire fence and properly protected, they can raise cattle and hogs. One trouble with them is they have never raised cattle for the reason that they have been troubled with cattle thieves in this country, over this immense country nonpoliced and non-inhabited. They have raised a few hogs because they have kept them around the camp. But if it were fenced in and a Government man put in charge for supervision and protection, they can raise cattle and hogs with some safety.

Mr. GANDY. Well, you spoke of some improvements that would have to be made on that tract to make it serviceable. Will your report go into detail with relation to the feasibility of using that tract, and the approximate cost?

Mr. COLEMAN. In my report to the Indian Office you will find I go into some detail as to my suggestions, giving what I believe will be necessary to make them practical. As to the cost, of course you see manifestly no intelligent man would offhand say that. The services of an engineer and an estimate of some one who is familiar with road building and fence inclosure and the price of wire—that, of course, would enter into the incidental cost.

Mr. HAYDEN. It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, highly desirable that his report be inserted in the record, and I suggest that that be done.

Mr. COLEMAN. If you gentlemen desire, I have some copies of my report at my headquarters in Miami in the Federal building which I

will leave there incidentally for my successor who resumes his duties soon. If you prefer, however, of course the Indian Office will furnish you copies of that report on file in the office.

Mr. HAYDEN. If you have an extra copy, you might give it to the stenographer. (See pp. 21 to 23 for copy of report referred to.)

Mr. COLEMAN. I have no extra copy. One I reserved for this end of the line. Personally I will have no further use for it myself.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Chairman, now Mr. Coleman has not heretofore described it—I wish he would describe the water supply, and the condition of that spring down there so we will have it in the record.

Mr. COLEMAN. Answering the request for such information, I will advise that about the first week in October, when I came to this camp, the first camp visited by me, I found this place more or less damp, because it was during the ordinary rainy season. The land approaching the edge of the camp was covered with water, I suppose anywhere from 6 to 14 inches deep. The little hole in the ground which you looked at was scooped out by Tony and his brothers, and seep water formed the source of their drinking and cooking water. It looked so utterly repulsive and so absolutely insanitary that I took the authority on myself of going to town, buying these cement pipes which you see, asking Tony to dig these holes, and sink them, so that they would get some water farther down, away from this black mucky looking mud that was mixed in that water then, and clean it out, so that they would have some fresh water, if it were nothing but surface water, and requested him to keep a board over it, so as to keep chickens, ducks, or pigs from rooting in that and polluting the water which they had to consume.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Is it covered over now?

Mr. COLEMAN. It is not covered over now. Just how regularly they keep it covered is a matter I can not say. I assume it is very irregular, and possibly receives little attention.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. State what the size of that drain tile is.

Mr. COLEMAN. The piping is about 22 inches, as I recall it—not over that; possibly only 18 inches in diameter—affording a volume of water for consumption not now exceeding 8 inches deep of seep drainage surface water.

Mr. NORTON. How long is the tile?

Mr. COLEMAN. Fourteen inches long; just a one-section tile.

Mr. NORTON. How do the ordinary white farmers—what is the source of the ordinary white farmer's water supply in this section of the country?

Mr. COLEMAN. I should say that the average farmer has a well.

Mr. NORTON. How deep?

Mr. COLEMAN. You had better get some local man to say that, as I am not familiar.

Mr. NORTON. They usually have a pump, do they?

Mr. COLEMAN. I am informed by Mr. Bryan, who is a local citizen and a long resident of Florida, that the source of water for the average Florida farmer is 12 to 15 feet from the surface, obtained through the use of an ordinary pump rather than any well and windlass.

The CHAIRMAN. We will hear Mr. Stranahan now.

Mr. COLEMAN. If you will permit me, just before leaving I want to say that in conjunction with my official duties and work at this particular camp I think it but just to say that Mr. and Mrs. Strana-

han have rendered me and the Government invaluable service. As you all know, he was an old original post trader with the Indians 25 years ago. He and his good wife have been very liberal in helping these Indians.

Mr. NORTON. Mr. Coleman, I would suggest that it might not be a very bad plan for you to incur the Government in the expense of putting down a driven well here and a pump for this camp. Do you think they would use it in case that was done?

Mr. COLEMAN. In reply I should only call your attention to the impracticability of such a thing, for the reason that this is private land, owned by the Brickel estate in Miami, and Tommy and his bunch are squatters by sufferance of the owner.

Mr. NORTON. Do you think the owner of the property would have any very serious objection to putting down such a pump, inasmuch as they have permitted the Indians to reside here for many years?

Mr. COLEMAN. I am not authorized to say for the Brickel people or the estate, whom I do not know personally; but they are recognized as friends of the Indians and would doubtless have no objection whatever for a well or pump or anything to be instituted here with no prejudice to their rights. I am assuming that.

Mr. NORTON. It occurs to me that there would not be any objection on the part of the owners of the land to that.

(The report referred to by Mr. Coleman is as follows:)

MIAMI, FLA., October 21, 1916.

COMMISSIONER INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. COMMISSIONER: I beg to advise that I have spent three days this week at Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where I found three Indian boys, or young men, attending the city public school. The young Indians at school are as follows: Tony B. M. Tommie, 19 years old; Tom Tiger, 24 years old; Wild Cat Tiger, 21 years old.

Ingram Charlie, 26 years old, has been attending this school, but left for his camp somewhere in the big cypress country the day before I reached Fort Lauderdale. I was not able to learn why this latter Indian left school, but from the best admissions by the other boys it seems that he had swiped some things or done something bad, and just suddenly decided to go home. I will make further investigation as to the real cause of his leaving.

The two Tiger boys are brothers of the Tiger Indian, who was killed by Ashley, and about which the office has been advised as to the Ashley trial, etc. These two boys hail from Indian Town, a camp about 25 miles from Stuart, Fla., and which camp I hope to visit next week. There seems to be some friction between Wild Cat Tiger and one Billie Stuart, who is a member of the Jim Gopher Camp Band at Indian Town. I will endeavor to look into this and see what is the trouble, Wild Cat Tiger having written Mr. Spencer and advising that Billie Stuart wants to kill him. Mr. Spencer has forwarded the correspondence to me, which I will investigate. Tom and Wild Cat Tiger are now living at the Tony Tommie camp near Fort Lauderdale. These three young Indians seem to be doing splendidly at school, where a very friendly and cordial feeling obtains among all white students and school management.

I visited the school twice, going to the grade rooms and listening to these Indians recite. Tony Tommie is in the sixth grade and is progressing remarkably rapid for an Indian. Mrs. H. E. Baker is his teacher, and seems to have a great personal interest in the progress of this Indian, taking time to teach him after regular school hours in the afternoon. She is making his case a special one in her room; likewise in the second grade Miss Angyleen McLeod is taking a very strong individual interest in the two Tiger boys, who read very creditably in my hearing from the school readers.

On the playground, on the streets, and everywhere these Indian boys seem to have the sympathy and universal interest of the white people generally, especially with the school children.

The superintendent of the school, Mr. H. C. Gillespie, is much interested himself in these Indian students and gave me every encouragement and attention while at the school building. He assured me that he would look after them very carefully and will do everything possible for them. All the teachers seem to take the greatest interest in their education and the manner in which they are treated by all white students.

I visited the camp which is on the outskirts of the town, some little distance from the city limit and near the New River, and found this camp in a fairly clean condition, its sanitary surroundings being better than I had expected, although not so good as it should be. These Indians have a pig, some ducks and chickens, and a small wire coop for partridges, which the boys and men had captured. This pig and fowls do not add to the sanitary condition of the camp, but I was pleased at finding it as well kept under the circumstances as it was.

Their drinking water is purely surface water in a small hole about 12 inches deep and 16 inches across, rather yellow or dark from leaf stain seepage, and I wondered how any of them were living after drinking such water, which was used also in cooking. The camp Indians bathe in the river or swamp pond near by.

I took with me on one visit Dr. J. A. Stanford, who is the camp physician and who was formerly selected by Commissioner Spencer, and talked with him fully about the camp surroundings and his treatment and the health of the individual Indian. Tony Tommie, who is the leader, because of his English education and contact with white people, promised me to dig a deeper hole and, some larger for the water supply, and I secured from a lumber company in town two cement pipes 18 by 24 inches, to be planted in the ground and extending to some 10 or 12 inches above the surface and which will be kept covered by a barrel head or wooden plank. This receptacle will enable them to secure a little volume of water which will be kept clean and uncontaminated by the pig or the ducks, and in this way will secure them as good a sample of surface water as is possible without a well or cistern being provided. Dr. Stanford agreed with me that it was a miracle that they enjoyed the apparently good health experienced by them.

The buildings consist of four upright posts with a cone-shaped skeleton frame, covered with palmetto leaves to turn the water. Three of these small structures have a board floor some two feet from the ground, which seem to be occupied by the men as the better equipped shacks, one being used as the eating place. There was also a tent of the ordinary tarpaulin construction, which appeared to be occupied by the women as sleeping quarters or at least much of the time during the day. The camp site is in a very clean, level place, the surface being sandy and in a clump of pine trees affording them a moderate degree of shade as protection in this warm climate. The lands being called the ordinary palmetto sandy lands of south Florida.

After cultivating them in a diplomatic way—they gave me a real cordial welcome as a stranger, and on the last day I was there I was permitted to take kodak pictures of these Indians, or rather those who were present at that particular time. I also obtained kodak pictures of Tony Tommie, the two Tiger boys, Superintendent Gillespie, and the public-school building, which I am transmitting herewith as an interesting exhibit in connection with the progress of this Indian camp and tenants, which I am sure the Indian Office will find very interesting.

Those residing at the camp are as follows:

Mrs. Annie Doctor Tommie, the widowed mother of Tony Tommie, estimated about 55 or 60 years old; Ben Frank Tommie (single), 29 years old; Annie May Tommie (single), 27 years old; Frank Tommie (single), 24 years old; Jack Tommie (single), 21 years old; Tony Tommie (single), 19 years old; Brown Tommie (single), 14 years old; Little Doctor Tommie (single), 11 years old; Eula Tommie (single), 17 years old; Katie Tommie (single), 13 years old; Mrs. Sam Huff (second daughter), about 24 years old; Pocahontas Huff, 5 years old, her child; Lena Huff, 3 years old, her child; Frank Huff, 1½ years old, her child; Sam Huff (husband), estimated 30 years old; Sallie Charley, mother of Sam Huff, widow, estimated about 65 years old; Charles Tom, 49 years old (single); Willie Jumper, 40 years old (single); Tom Tiger, 24 years old (single), in school; Wild Cat Tiger, 21 years old (single), in school; Ingram Charley, 26 years old (single), in school; Frank Charley, 18 years old (single).

Some of these Indians were absent from the camp hunting or fishing at my visits, and I failed to meet those away at any time while at this camp. I was at a loss to understand how these Indians live; their supply of food seemed to be almost nothing, but apparently was supplied in a meager way from time to time by the hunters. Tony Tommie tells me that he has spent all of his money and does not know whether he may be able to continue in school. The Tiger boys brought some money with them from the sale of products from hunting and fishing and did not mention that they needed any money or provisions. They, of course, took "pot luck" with the members of the camp.

The day I last visited the camp mother and two sisters of the Tiger boys joined this camp, the two single sisters being Edith Tiger, 23 years old, who spoke a little English and could understand most everything I said to her, Tude Tiger, aged 21, but could not speak much English, yet understood most everything I said to her. The members of this Tiger family seemed very intelligent naturally, and I liked their manner and way of meeting white people. Indeed, my judgment is that they are better Indians at heart and have more admirable traits than Tony Tommie, who is very much petted and stands a chance of being spoiled by the attentions he is receiving from white people generally. Of course, this Indian could not be blamed in a way for losing his head or developing traits not so pleasing because of the chances and consideration shown him by the good, friendly people in Fort Lauderdale. The Tiger boys are modest and a little more reticent of speech, but impressed me as Indians of character, and I learned to like them more as I became more or less familiar with them.

The two sisters of Tony Tommie, Eula and Katie, should be in school, both of them doing artistic and beautiful beadwork at the camp. The older sister promised to make the inspector a watch fob, with his initials for \$1.50, quite a liberal price for the intrinsic value of same, which I readily paid as an encouragement to these Indians. They have acquired the shrewdness of driving good bargains in dealing with white folks. Also, the two younger brothers of Tony Tommie, Sam and Little Doctor, aged, respectively, 14 and 11, should also be in school, and I urged and begged Tony to persuade them to go to school. He tells me that these two sisters and brothers would go to school if they had books, clothing, and something at the camp on which they could subsist. The two boys hunt and thereby contribute to the maintenance of the camp, but if they went to school this source of income would be cut off.

Likewise, the Tiger boys tell me that two of their younger sisters and a brother were coming to this camp and would go to school at Lauderdale if they could obtain clothing, books, and something to live on.

You see, the office obviously understands this condition—the Indians live solely from hunting and fishing, so if they attend school some means must be provided for their subsistence. This involves the question of the use of the appropriation which provides for their education, and I respectfully submit this question to the Indian Office for its determination in the matter—how much monthly would be allowed per capita for these young Indians who attend school—what amount allowable for clothing, books, etc.?

These Indians would not attend school in their native habit, but would desire dresses like Tony Tommie and the Tiger boys, because of their association with white children. It would therefore be necessary for an initial expense to outfit these Indians for school, as well as a regular allowance for their camp maintenance. I could not state definitely to Tony Tommie, who is negotiating for these Indians, just how much or to what extent the Indian Office would make such provisions, but, to my great pleasure, I found them strongly inclined to the school idea, which seems contingent upon the degree and kind of departmental aid.

I therefore await definite instructions from the office, which I trust will receive the promptest attention possible now that the school has a hold on the minds of these Indians at Fort Lauderdale.

Awaiting your prompt advices,

I am, your, very truly,

W. S. COLEMAN, *Inspector.*

The CHAIRMAN. We will hear Mr. Stranahan now. State your name and business, Mr. Stranahan, and residence, please.