

Mrs. STRANAHAN. Yes; he has had some medical attention. A week ago last Sunday I brought out a bottle of Snow's liniment and a bar of medicated soap, purchased at the drug store where Mr. Coleman has made arrangements for drugs for Tony, who was stricken down just then with rheumatism.

Mr. NORTON. Is there a hospital in town?

Mrs. STRANAHAN. No, sir.

Mr. NORTON. Where is the nearest hospital?

Mrs. STRANAHAN. Miami.

Mr. COLEMAN. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I think it should properly come in this connection for me to state that the local physician, Dr. J. A. Sanford, is the one whom I have been using all the while and who has been treating both Frank Tommy and Tony and members of his camp when sick. One difficulty is in getting an Indian, when the doctor leaves, to follow his directions and take his medicine.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mrs. Stranahan, Mrs. Hayden, who is with her husband, Congressman Hayden, has suggested, very properly I think, that I ask you as to the rheumatism, whether or not it is a recent development, or whether or not you know it has been permanent, chronic in this particular tribe or camp?

Mrs. STRANAHAN. Well, Tony has had it, as far as it has come under my knowledge, for three years. Of course, before that time he was not in school. And last year at about this time he was sick for six weeks and out of school.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Do you know whether or not there is now in the camp a sufferer from rheumatism?

Mrs. STRANAHAN. Yes; one other and Tony.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. There are two, then?

Mrs. STRANAHAN. Two, anyway.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Tony makes his home at this camp also, does he?

Mrs. STRANAHAN. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any other questions?

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Do you have anyone else now, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Marshall, I believe. What business are you engaged in, Mr. Marshall?

STATEMENT OF MR. WILLIAM H. MARSHALL, FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.

Mr. MARSHALL. I am in the produce and seed business. What would you like to have me say, Mr. Chairman, now?

Mr. SEARS. The amount of provisions in the camp of the Indians now, for instance.

Mr. MARSHALL. I haven't seen anything except something that was left over in an old kettle that was cooked I don't know when. And I see some sofky here.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any questions any members of the committee desire to ask Mr. Marshall?

Mr. ELLSWORTH. I wanted to ask Mr. Gillin a question.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Marshall is the representative elect from this county in the Florida Legislature, and any question, so far as the State is concerned, he would be competent to answer.

Mr. HASTINGS. How long have you lived here?

Mr. MARSHALL. Seventeen years.

Mr. HASTINGS. You have been here during the rest of these hearings and heard the statements made with reference to the Indians? You are ready to verify those statements as to the number and camps, etc.?

Mr. MARSHALL. Yes, sir; there is a statement which I believe, however, is not complete, when it comes to the reference of Mr. Coleman that he had not known of any of the Indians ever being tried except in the State or county courts, and I wish to state that it came under my personal observation that one Indian known as Sam Huff, who was, of course, addicted to the habit of drinking, and he went to Palm Beach, became intoxicated, and was arrested and released and told to go back to his camp; but, of course, he couldn't go; he couldn't resist the temptation to stay where he could get whisky. He proceeded to get drunk again; and they arrested him, I think, a second time and turned him loose; and he couldn't get away, and he was arrested the third time. Then he was tried by the courts and sentenced to 30 days on the rock road, and he escaped some way and was arrested later down here by the local authorities. His mother came to me appealing to see if I couldn't get him released; so I went to see Sam and asked him a few questions, and he was in so much trouble that he couldn't hardly speak of it; but I told the sheriff or his deputy that I would stand for his fine, and so I did; and they released him. Then he goes out and leaves his family, of course, of three small children and goes to hunt, and he in two or three months succeeded in reimbursing me for his fine. However, I took the matter up with the governor and attempted to get a pardon through the pardoning board, and they had a transcript of the record forwarded to Tallahassee, and they looked over it, and the only reply I got was that on looking over the record they saw no just cause whatever why he should be pardoned and the fine remitted. So that ended the matter, and that is the way it stands to-day. Right at this time I think the most important thing that the Indian Department at Washington—the Bureau of Indian Affairs—could do would be to see that there was a proper appropriation made, and especially to include in that appropriation a sufficient amount of money to employ a secret service sufficient to uncover and bring to the courts—in the Federal courts—and try these men who are selling these Indians whisky and put them where they belong.

In my opinion, it is not best to provide the Indians with every other facility without providing a way whereby you can hunt down these men that sell them this whiskey and put them where they belong, knowing that if an Indian in Fort Lauderdale or anywhere else gets holds of enough money he can always get the whiskey, and that is where a good deal of their money goes when they should buy food; and that, in my opinion, is the greatest evil that has got to be overcome in dealing with the Seminoles.

The CHAIRMAN. Do the Indians have much money?

Mr. MARSHALL. No, sir; I don't believe there is two dollars' worth of food in this camp to feed 22 people at this time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Don't you think 50 cents would buy it all?

Mr. MARSHALL. Sure it would if it was for my use.

Mr. NORTON. Do the men work at all or try to secure employment?

Mr. MARSHALL. They help the farmers around here gather their crops. The young ones do, and the women, but they don't, as a whole, get out and take employment for a given amount for so much a day. They don't do that. They gather beans by the hamper and pick tomatoes by the day at regular wages.

Mr. NORTON. How much do they get a day?

Mr. MARSHALL. It varies, I think, from a dollar to a dollar and a half a day. When there are any beans to gather, they stop and gather them, but as far as getting out and doing a fixed piece of work, they don't do it.

Mr. NORTON. What do you think would be the best thing to do with these Indians in Florida, these 600 Seminoles?

Mr. MARSHALL. The first thing to do is to provide means to prevent them from getting whiskey. The next thing to do would be to provide a way to educate the younger ones—with the old ones, you couldn't do that—and then to provide land for them and provide houses or camps. Do not give them a house to start with, but compromise between this and a cabin, this camp still here, and gradually work them into the idea of having a real home. That home should be screened, just the same as it is in any other human habitation, especially a tropical country here where flies and mosquitoes are so numerous. They should be given implements and given in charge of some—as has already been suggested here—some Seminole civilized Indians from the West, and teach them to farm; and while the farming is going on let there be a provision made for a market. Now, all the available land that a Seminole has been able to farm on has been around town, and the white man has gotten all that that is cleared up, and any other place that is left to the Seminoles is so far away that if he produced any of the perishables commonly known to south Florida, the markets would be all overrun before he could get them to a market. Therefore the Seminole should be located where he could get a market; then his produce should be carried to market and let the agent sell it for him, and then let the agent use his discretion as to whether the money should all be given to him or only a portion of it. Let him be the Indian's guardian.

Then let them enjoy some of the luxuries. They should be induced to use machinery in their farming, modern machinery as near as can be, and save labor, because labor is as nearly foreign to them as anything can be. And they should be given stock and encouraged in stock raising; and there should be a market, as I say, a market agent to handle all and any of their products that they might have and give them the very best results that it is possible to give them. Just take them as you would children and have them under a guardian that is absolutely going to do his duty—which we understand that they are all trying to do, and the people on the coast down here have tried to encourage them without much success.

I think that the commission merchants in the North would sell the Indians' products without charging anything for the selling of same, but there is already a local market established for all such of these commodities that might be produced, and there would be no trouble to have a sale for anything they might produce. So I think that agriculture and stock raising will be the thing that the Indians should be taught here.

Mr. NORTON. Do you know anything about this land that belongs to the Federal Government for the Indians?

Mr. MARSHALL. Pine Island, I understand, is a very desirable place, and I have talked about that particular location several years ago, with the possibility of getting them interested to clear up that place out there and get it settled for the Indians, but you can't do it unless you provide something for him to eat while he is at it. As you will notice, there is nothing to eat; and the men, I presume, now are off hunting trying to get something for these children to eat; and there has got to be some provision made whereby these Indians will have something to eat.

Mr. HAYDEN. I might ask this question: Supposing that the Federal Government was to provide a practical farmer and send him over here to Pine Island, provide him with funds enough to employ these Indians in clearing lands, building fences and houses, getting them in shape so they would have something to eat, then instruct them in farming on that island—would that be a desirable experiment to carry on?

Mr. MARSHALL. I believe that would; but you did not state there what I would like to see done, that you take them over there and say, "Here is your particular little farm; we will help you build your house, and this is yours; and we will help you clear it up, and when you get it cleared up, it is yours; and no white man can come in and claim it."

Mr. HAYDEN. Certainly; allot the lands to them. How many acres ought to be provided for each family?

Mr. MARSHALL. Of course there is no use to provide any great quantity at the present time; until such time as they would become sufficiently interested to make it larger. A 5-acre tract, and put him a little camp on it; start him off with that, with the understanding that when this 5-acre tract is fully developed "We have another place for you or you can buy out your neighbor, or we will buy him out."

Mr. HAYDEN. On irrigated land in the West an allotment of 10 acres is considered sufficient for each man, woman, and child, and that is supposed to be enough to support a family. A family of four would have 40 acres. Three children would make 50 acres. Would that be enough to support a family?

Mr. MARSHALL. Ten acres is enough to support a family, properly cultivated.

Mr. HAYDEN. That would be an ample allotment?

Mr. MARSHALL. That would be more than they would cultivate to start with. Possibly it would be several years before you would get them to doing work actually cultivating 10 acres.

Mr. HAYDEN. He might put part of it into truck, and another part into grass for cattle?

Mr. MARSHALL. Yes; I think they would.

Mr. HAYDEN. Do you think that would be a desirable thing to do?

Mr. MARSHALL. I think that is the thing to do. While you are doing that, you get them away from the opportunity of getting so much whisky.

Mr. HAYDEN. How far is Pine Island from this town?

Mr. MARSHALL. About 12 miles.

Mr. HAYDEN. There would be no difficulty in bringing anything they grew there into town to market?

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Mr. MARSHALL. No, sir; it is only about half a mile from the camp.

Mr. HAYDEN. Have you been on the island yourself?

Mr. MARSHALL. Yes, sir.

Mr. HAYDEN. How many acres of tillable land is there there?

Mr. MARSHALL. Well, now, I couldn't tell you. I would have to get that from the map. You can get that right to the acre, but I should think the island is from 300 yards to a quarter mile wide, and I would guess about 3 miles long, and I should think there is land sufficient on the island to take care of 50 families of Indians.

Mr. HAYDEN. That would gather up all the Indians in this vicinity and put them on there?

Mr. MARSHALL. I don't think you could gather them from all the camps. You would have to take the Fort Pierce Indians and fix them there where they are located, and take the Miami Indians and locate them somewhere back there, and I think that would be the better way to do it.

Mr. HAYDEN. There is more land in this particular tract than there are Indians to cultivate it, isn't there?

Mr. MARSHALL. More than the Indians would need for immediate use; yes, sir.

STATEMENT OF TONY TOMMY, A SEMINOLE INDIAN.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, we will take Mr. Tommy. State your name and age to the stenographer, Mr. Tommy.

Mr. TOMMY. Tony Tommy, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. I am 18 years old.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me say to you before you begin your statement, Mr. Tommy, that this committee came here, at the request of Mr. Sears, with the intention of looking into the condition of the Florida Seminoles and seeing if anything could be done to better your condition. Every man on this committee has come here with the intention not to get anything that the Seminoles have or to try to mislead them in any way, but purely and simply to try to be of help to them; and we would like for you to give your people to understand that that is the purpose of the visit of the commission. Now, we would like for you to go ahead and make your statement in your own way—any statement you desire to make—and then the members of the committee may want to interrogate you.

Mr. TOMMY. I have been over here about 19 years. I was born down here in the State of Florida. My father was oldest Indian down here in Fort Lauderdale, and it was just small town. Mr. Stranahan, he was only man here, and traded with the Indians, who sold hides or anything, killed deers, and traded with him. My father and my grandfather stayed over there and were given land by Mr. Stranahan, and he build house for him, my father, on that land, and traded with the Indians. Many old Indians came to see him, and young man and children moved over there and he traded with the Indians. I was young boy at that time; I was not but 3 or 4 years old at that time. My grandfather died when I was little boy 7 years old. My father has been dead; he died when I was 8 years old. He has been dead since then, and I take care of all my family and brothers and sisters—six brothers and four sisters. I took care them since

my father and grandfather died. Since then I took care of my family. After that I was taking care of myself, and I was very young, and all Indians in the State of Florida had two chiefs at that time; two chiefs in the State of Florida. They got me from Okechobee come down here. That was not very long ago, two years, and they voted for me to take care of all Indians in Florida four years. I was over here two years, and I took care of the whole State of Florida, and I do anything that I wanted to do, anything I want. So, I can take care of the whole State of Florida; too hard to take care of myself. I never get trouble at all, but three or four boys at Palm Beach, in drinking, got in trouble one time. And that was only trouble I get in since I have been living with this tribe of Seminole Indians.

That is all I have to say.

The CHAIRMAN. You don't drink at all, do you?

Mr. TOMMY. I used to, but I quit it now.

The CHAIRMAN. How many children are there in the camp?

Mr. TOMMY. Four.

The CHAIRMAN. Do any of them go to school?

Mr. TOMMY. No, sir; only one sister.

The CHAIRMAN. Couldn't you induce them to go to school, do you think?

Mr. TOMMY. No; I don't think so. I would like to.

The CHAIRMAN. Why don't they go to school?

Mr. TOMMY. They don't like it. Do not like school. They will after a while, but not now.

The CHAIRMAN. That is pretty general among children of the white man; they don't like to go to school, but they have to go to school, anyway. There are only two who go to school from this camp?

Mr. TOMMY. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. How old are the other two children?

Mr. TOMMY. One is 8 and one 5 and one 2½.

The CHAIRMAN. You mean, going to school?

Mr. TOMMY. I mean the other two that do not go to school.

The CHAIRMAN. Tony, what do you think could be done to better the condition of your people?

Mr. TOMMY. Well, that is what I think about most any time. Give the land; millions of acres they get from the Seminole Indians, but it is too scarce now in the State of Florida. I don't know what is the matter. There used to be too many of them, but now there are not over 20 or 30 stays at one camp. Used to 10 or 12 stay at one camp, but now just one big camp, 20 or 30 or 40 at one camp.

Another thing the game is all gone and money is gone. Maybe go to farming after a while, but he don't know what he do in the State of Florida.

I have been trying to go figure out since I been going to school, and I would like to have some land for myself, farm and houses and everything. Too many Indians laying around now. They ought to be farmers living on it. That is what I think about it myself. Too many boys hunting now. But in the summer time they stay in camp. Sometimes stay in camp; sometimes in hunting season they go hunting all the time. When they haven't got anything to do they farm, but they haven't got any land.