

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.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you think if the Seminoles had land of their own where they could live permanently they would farm?

Mr. TOMMY. Sure.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you think they would cultivate the land and raise crops?

Mr. TOMMY. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. If you had 10 acres of land, would you farm it and raise crops?

Mr. TOMMY. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. What would you raise?

Mr. TOMMY. I would raise all kinds of things—hogs and chickens and beans and potatoes and all kinds of things.

The CHAIRMAN. You know how to raise those, do you?

Mr. TOMMY. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You know how to farm?

Mr. TOMMY. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Do many of the Seminoles know how to farm?

Mr. TOMMY. Some don't; some do. I can do most anything.

The CHAIRMAN. Are you pretty well acquainted with all the State of Florida?

Mr. TOMMY. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You know where all the Seminoles live?

Mr. TOMMY. Oh, yes.

The CHAIRMAN. How many camps are there among the Seminoles; do you know?

Mr. TOMMY. Big camps, about 12 of them.

The CHAIRMAN. Located around the edges of the Everglades?

Mr. TOMMY. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. What do they do—the Seminoles?

Mr. TOMMY. They raise corn, pumpkins, potatoes, some kinds of beans.

The CHAIRMAN. They just raise that on another man's land?

Mr. TOMMY. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Do they have to pay rent?

Mr. TOMMY. No.

The CHAIRMAN. Just squat there?

Mr. TOMMY. Just squat there and raise stuff.

The CHAIRMAN. They haven't any land at all of their own, have they?

Mr. TOMMY. No, sir.

Mr. NORTON. The Indians know that they can go out on this Government land that belongs to the Seminoles, don't they?

Mr. TOMMY. They know it; yes, sir.

Mr. NORTON. You know that the Government owns some land out here?

Mr. TOMMY. Yes, sir.

Mr. NORTON. Why don't the Indians go out on that land?

Mr. TOMMY. Somebody told me something—sometimes wrong, sometimes right—about it. Somebody promised me—Government agent down here one time promised me he bought lot 380 acres around here. I never seen one of them. That is reason.

Mr. NORTON. Do you know where the Government land is out near here?

Mr. TOMMY. Yes, sir.

Mr. NORTON. Have you ever been over that?

Mr. TOMMY. I have been over both of them, but I don't know whether that is right or not. I don't know; I can't tell myself.

Mr. NORTON. You don't know where any land is belonging to the Government here, for the Indians?

Mr. TOMMY. I know both of them. I know this one, and I know the other one, too. I have been to both of them.

Mr. NORTON. How many acres are out near here?

Mr. TOMMY. I don't know how many acres. I know land there but don't know how many acres.

Mr. NORTON. Is it fit to live on by the Indians?

Mr. TOMMY. It is all water; all muddy.

Mr. NORTON. Now, Mr. Coleman is here representing the Government. I understood you to say that a large acreage of this land was fit for the Indians to live on?

Mr. COLEMAN. I am talking about these other tracts.

Mr. NORTON. What other tracts; how far from here?

Mr. COLEMAN. I couldn't tell you the land district and identify it in that way, except as I mentioned in my talk—one tract of nearly 2,000 acres up here northeast of Lake Okeechobee.

Mr. NORTON. How far from here?

Mr. COLEMAN. One hundred and some odd miles. It is out west of Stuart in the Fort Pierce countries. That is up this road about 100 miles.

Mr. NORTON. Is there any land belonging to the Government near here, near Fort Lauderdale?

Mr. COLEMAN. No; as I recall it; except this tract called Pine Island, about 28 miles out.

Mr. NORTON. How many acres in that?

Mr. COLEMAN. I am not advised as to the acreage.

Mr. NORTON. Is it one acre or a thousand?

Mr. COLEMAN. I am not advised as to that particular acreage. I have only been advised by the office of the aggregate acreage. I happen to know that this tract is up there, but I don't know the acreage.

Mr. NORTON. Have you seen this land 28 miles from here?

Mr. COLEMAN. It has been covered with water all the time.

Mr. NORTON. Does anyone know how much of this land out here belongs to the Government?

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Marshall possibly could tell—

Mr. NORTON (interposing). Mr. Read, do you know?

Mr. READ. If Pine Island belongs to the Government it runs from about 300 feet to a quarter mile wide and $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long. It is long and narrow. Pine Island is about 15 feet above sea level; an elongated island.

Mr. NORTON. I would suggest here in the record that the Government agent go out and carefully look over this land—go actually upon it—and let these Indians here be given to clearly understand what land belongs to the Government and what land they have a right to go upon to begin with.

Mr. STRANAHAN. Might I ask a question there?

Mr. NORTON. Certainly.

Mr. STRANAHAN. Doesn't the State claim that land? How is that going to be settled? Suppose you take the Indians out there, then the State lays claim to it and wins out; then you have told the Indians something that isn't true. That is what we have been doing for years.

Mr. NORTON. I want to say this in that connection: If there's any question as to whether the Government owns this land or the State owns it, that ought to be determined at once. I didn't understand there was any question about it, but it should be the business of the Government inspectors to know what land the Government owns. I want to say that, as a member of the Committee on Indian Affairs, it has been represented to us that the Government owns 23,000 acres down here, and that a large part of that is fit for the Indians to go upon.

Mr. SEARS. Not for the purpose of criticism, but just to remind you that ever since last March a year ago I have been trying to get a report on my land bill, getting an exact description of the land, and so far a report has not been given.

Mr. NORTON. I can say, as a Representative, without any desire to criticise, that if the gentleman has gone down to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and has demanded a report on that from the Indian Bureau, and has not received it, that matter should have been presented to the Secretary of the Interior, and I think if it was insisted on, he could have received that information. Certainly misleading information has been given to me as one member of the Committee on Indian Affairs if there is any question as to the ownership of this land.

Mr. READ. Mr. Chairman, if you will permit me, there have been sales made by the State of Florida of land on Pine Island, and one of our bankers has been applied to for a loan by a private individual on this land that you are now speaking of, and for that reason an Indian agent or anyone else that would send the Indians upon this land should remember that the State contends that they own it.

Mr. NORTON. I will say here and now that I, as a member of the Committee on Indian Affairs, shall expect the representative of the Government to make a report of any occupancy of that land by other than Indians, and make a report as to whether any claim of right of ownership to the land is made by any one else outside the Federal Government.

Mr. HAYDEN. I would suggest in that connection that the United States district attorney for the district of Florida might well be directed to examine the title to that land and ascertain to whom it belongs.

Mr. NORTON. I think that would be proper under the circumstances that have been stated here.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me ask you a question about the physical condition of this land. Did I understand you to say that that land is sometimes covered by water?

Mr. STRANAHAN. The land surrounding Pine Island would be covered by water. That would be the land that they would be farming on in time. Pine Island is a high piece of land, probably 15 or 20 feet above the everglades.

The CHAIRMAN. After the drainage, then the land adjacent to the island would be farming land?

Mr. STRANAHAN. It would be the best farming land. The land on the island itself is very good land. There are sour orange trees and all kinds of trees like that growing on it now.

The CHAIRMAN. What is the exact status of the drainage of that land now?

Mr. STRANAHAN. Well, the land surrounding it overflows every few years, although they are cultivating land right across from it now.

The CHAIRMAN. What efforts are being made to drain it, and to what extent is it being drained? What I want to get at is: What is the prospect of its being actually drained so it can be farmed?

Mr. STRANAHAN. They have been working on it for 15 years now, and they will be working at it 20 years more, I think, at the rate they are going.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Is it all included in one big drainage project?

Mr. STRANAHAN. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. The land on the island itself, would that be good farming land?

Mr. STRANAHAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. NORTON. Is that occupied, Mr. Stranahan, by any white settlers at the present time?

Mr. STRANAHAN. Not to my knowledge.

Mr. NORTON. It is unoccupied?

Mr. STRANAHAN. So far as I know.

Mr. NORTON. But it is being claimed by others?

Mr. STRANAHAN. Yes; and Mr. Read has been applied to for a loan on it.

Mr. NORTON. Is it being farmed at all?

Mr. STRANAHAN. Mr. Read knows.

Mr. NORTON. About how many acres would you say are in that?

Mr. READ. Two hundred and fifty acres.

Mr. NORTON. Well, it isn't a tremendous acreage of land.

Mr. READ. That is the claim he has asked the loan on. I misunderstood your question.

Mr. NORTON. How many acres are there in Pine Island?

Mr. READ. It run from 300 feet to a quarter of a mile wide and 2½ miles in length. Now, I would have to stop to figure out the acreage in it.

The CHAIRMAN. What else have you to say, Mr. Tommy.

Mr. TOMMY. Nothing else.

Mr. TILLMAN. I will ask you if a school should be established for Indian children and an Indian woman put in charge of those children, and they should be exclusively for the Indians, don't you think then your brothers and sisters and other Indian children would go to them very gladly?

Mr. TOMMY. I expect so.

Mrs. STRANAHAN. May I say just a word? It is my opinion that in establishing these schools for the Indian children that we want an industrial school, a school that they can learn to do different things. They are very apt with the machine and in doing anything; I only have to show them just once or twice to do anything—to make dresses just like we wear. Many of them have done that in going to school this season. It isn't practicable to have these Indian girls from 17 to 19 years old—grown women—going to school in the

little primary grades with the little children 7 and 8 years old. They sit there all day and go up to the classes and recite in their class with these little children. They go out and walk around and play with the children, or look on, mostly. And anyone looking on would know that it was not practicable, and that an industrial school is what they want, where they can learn to do things.

Mr. TILLMAN. I think there can be no question about the correctness of that position.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you anything else to ask Tony Tommy?

Mr. HASTINGS. Do you know any people in Oklahoma among the Seminoles?

Mr. TOMMY. Oh, yes.

Mr. HASTINGS. Do you know any people among these Seminoles?

Mr. TOMMY. Yes.

Mr. HASTINGS. Who?

Mr. TOMMY. I know one here. He is from Oklahoma—Harjo—he is a cousin.

Mr. HASTINGS. Do you know some of those Seminoles out in Oklahoma? You have been out there visiting them?

Mr. TOMMY. Yes; I know some of them.

Mr. HASTINGS. Do you think it would be well for your people if some of those Seminoles who have gone to school and have been educated out there come back down here and be employed to teach in some of your schools?

Mr. TOMMY. I don't think they ought to come down here to teach. We can not send them over to this school.

Mr. HASTINGS. I mean, if they come here?

Mr. TOMMY. Oh, yes.

Mr. HASTINGS. Those that can speak the same language?

Mr. TOMMY. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Can you talk to those up there now?

Mr. TOMMY. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. The language is just the same?

Mr. TOMMY. I know seven different languages. It doesn't make any difference to me.

Mr. HASTINGS. It is the same language as your language here?

Mr. TOMMY. I learned seven different languages, and it doesn't make any difference to me.

Mr. NORTON. The Creeks out there speak the same language as the Seminoles?

Mr. TOMMY. Yes; a similar language.

Mr. NORTON. Have you ever worked any?

Mr. TOMMY. I have been working in a garage one time.

Mr. NORTON. Don't you think that all Indian men ought to work?

Mr. TOMMY. Why, sure.

Mr. NORTON. Since they can not hunt any more—hunting is done away with. In the early days the white men hunted, too, but now there are more people in the country, and they are required to farm and do actual manual labor?

Mr. TOMMY. Yes; everything high, and can't make anything at all. Yes; they can work, all right.

Mr. NORTON. Now, this man here—this old man—does he do any work?

Mr. TOMMY. No; sometimes he hunts, but nothing to do.

Mr. NORTON. Wouldn't it be better if he would work in the field and make some money and save some of it?

Mr. TOMMY. Yes.

Mr. NORTON. Do you try when you talk to your people—Do you try to get them to work, to take on the ways of the white man?

Mr. TOMMY. If I know the land over there, I can send them over there to work.

Mr. NORTON. We will try to get you some land, and to locate it definitely for you.

The CHAIRMAN. Is that all, Tony?

Mr. TOMMY. Yes; that is all.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Gillin, we will hear you.

STATEMENT OF MR. S. W. GILLIN, OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. You are in the retail lumber business?

Mr. GILLIN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Did you make an inspection or investigation of the food supplies in this camp to-day, with the idea of determining just what was on hand?

Mr. GILLIN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Will you go ahead and state what you found?

Mr. GILLIN. I found some small sacks of different provisions. I found a little breakfast food known as "Grits," probably 5 pounds in one sack, and two sacks of flour—that is, partial sacks of about 5 pounds in one and possibly 10 pounds in another. I found about a quart of "Crisco" in a half-gallon can.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Some corn meal?

Mr. GILLIN. A little corn meal.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. About how much?

Mr. GILLIN. Probably half a gallon.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Anything for frying or cooking, such as lard, butter, or anything like that?

Mr. GILLIN. That was the "Crisco."

Mr. ELLSWORTH. That was all there was?

Mr. GILLIN. In the meat line I found a turtle in a barrel.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. What do they call those turtles?

Mr. GILLIN. Gophers, I think.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. How large was that—how many pound of meat?

Mr. GILLIN. I should judge 10 pounds of meat.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Any butter?

Mr. GILLIN. No.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Any sugar?

Mr. GILLIN. No.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Any starch?

Mr. GILLIN. No.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Any baking powder?

Mr. GILLIN. No.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Any eggs?

Mr. GILLIN. No. I found a little salt.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. How many chickens are here?

Mr. GILLIN. I don't—I expect about half a dozen.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Any other meat outside of this gopher or turtle?