

BACK TO BROWARD

THE “BACK TO BROWARD” LEAGUE AND ITS BATTLE OVER EVERGLADES DRAINAGE

Although most south Floridians wholeheartedly supported Everglades drainage in the early twentieth century, the means by which to accomplish this goal was long a matter of contention, especially after construction of the initial Atlantic-to-Okeechobee canals failed to produce the desired results. Small farmers anxious to cultivate still-flooded lands, real estate companies who had purchased large tracts for resale based on state promises of drainage, and leading citizens in coastal towns which stood to benefit by increased population and trade in the interior were often united in their criticism of state drainage policy.

Out of such criticism arose the “Back to Broward League,” organized in Fort Lauderdale in January 1915, under the guidance of former Mayor William H. Marshall. Backed by a number of prominent citizens in the area soon to become Broward County, the League advocated using the balance of state-owned Everglades land as collateral to finance completion of the reclamation project, and transferring management of the project from the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund to a special commission to be headquartered in south Florida.

As statewide elections approached in 1916, the League issued a booklet designed to gain widespread public support and to force commitments to its program from gubernatorial and cabinet candidates. The booklet, including a series of unique, original cartoons, is reprinted here in full.

Not all Floridians — even in Broward County — supported the sweeping changes proposed by the Back to Broward League. “Back to Broward: Another View,” printed here on pages 33-35, outlines the opposing view as written by an unidentified Tallahassee author and published, with obvious approval, by Colonel George G. Mathews in his Fort Lauderdale Sentinel.

Despite strenuous efforts on the part of its leaders, the Back to Broward League failed in its attempt to gain statewide support. In 1917, after state officials declined to adopt its proposals, the League brought suit against the Internal Improvement Fund in federal court, asking that the Fund be placed in receivership and that large sums of both money and land be assessed from the railroads. When this suit failed, the League faded into oblivion, but disputes over the management of Everglades land have continued to the present day.

Back To Broward

**Drain the Everglades; make good on Florida's promises to
the United States Government and
to the people of our sister states**

Save The Honor of Florida

Constitution of the “Back to Broward League”

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be
"Back to Broward" League.

ARTICLE II OBJECTS

The objects of this organization are:

- Section 1.** To aid in the drainage and development of the Everglades.
- Section 2.** To cooperate, for the common welfare, with all men interested in the Everglades.
- Section 3.** To place before the people of Florida the real facts with regards to the Everglades, its history, its present status and its future possibilities.
- Section 4.** To inform the people of the State of Florida of the obligations and duties incurred and assumed by them with reference to the drainage of the Everglades and the manner in which these obligations and duties have been treated by the several State Administrations.
- Section 5.** To urge the immediate redemption of all pledges made by the State and its Officials with a view to saving the honor and reputation and the fair name of Florida.
- Section 6.** To urge that future State Administrations avoid the mistakes of those in office since the death of Napoleon Broward and, "Going back to Broward," adopt and carry out, in its essentials, the drainage plan of this greatest of Florida's sons.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

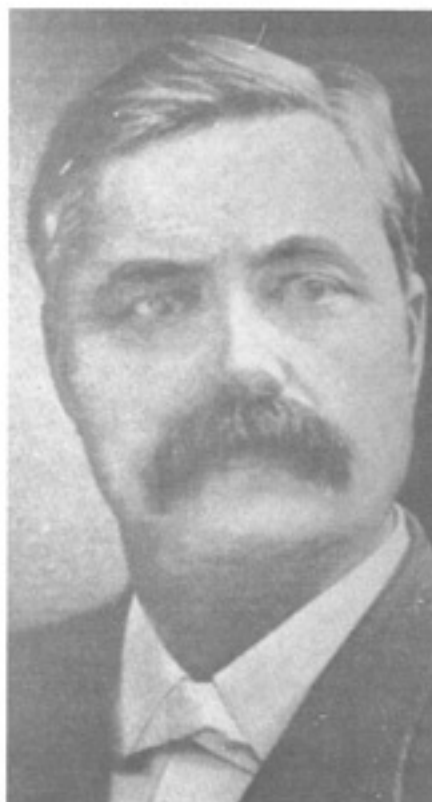
Membership in this League may be held by all commercial, agricultural, marketing and other organizations, and firms, corporations and individuals interested in the drainage and development of the Everglades, that apply for membership, and cooperate to further the objects of this League.

ARTICLE IV LOCATION OF OFFICE AND BRANCH ORGANIZATIONS

The General Office of this League shall be at Ft. Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida, but branch offices may be established at any place in Florida where a sufficient number of persons apply for membership in the League.

ARTICLE V — OFFICERS

The carrying out of the objects of the League shall be, so far as it is in his power, the duty of each member, but it shall be particularly the duty of the following officers: An Executive Com-



This portrait of Governor Napoleon B. Broward was printed on the cover of the "Back to Broward" pamphlet, which invoked his memory to hasten Everglades drainage.

mittee of five members to be chosen from the membership of the League, a President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer, who shall be members of the Executive Committee and chosen by it.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVERGLADES

The Everglades is an immense prairie containing over four million acres of land. Its watershed contains three million acres additional.

The flood waters from Lake Okechobee and the watershed to the north and west thereof overflow the bulk of this great prairie at certain seasons of the year and make it too wet for successful cultivation.

The Everglades, while nearly level, slopes gradually from about six feet above sea level in the southern and eastern portions near the coast, to about 20 feet above sea level near Lake Okechobee. With this elevation it can be readily seen that it is not a difficult engineering feat to build enough control canals to carry off the flood waters from the lake, and enough other

canals to carry off the rainwater that falls upon the Everglades proper.

The Everglades is the biggest single body of reclaimable land in the world and is among the easiest and cheapest to reclaim. A comparatively few dollars per acre spent in drainage works will reclaim this vast prairie and make it one of the most valuable assets that the State of Florida possesses.

Size of the Everglades

Four million acres does not spell very much in cold figures, but a few comparisons will serve to illustrate.

The Everglades is larger than Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties combined. For another illustration, Gadsden, Liberty, Leon, Franklin, Wakulla and Jefferson counties combined will just about total the Everglades acreage. In Central Florida, the total land surface of Bradford, Clay, Alachua, Putnam and Marion counties could all be contained in the Everglades with room to spare.

The State of Connecticut is not far from being the same area as the Everglades. It would take two states the size of Delaware to make the Everglades. The State of Rhode Island supports half a million people, and the Everglades is four times as large as Rhode Island.

The Everglades is approximately half the size of Holland, and Holland supports a population, mostly farmers, of six million. At this rate, the Everglades, when drained, should support three million people.

With only one family on every 80 acres, leaving the towns out of account, the Everglades would support 50,000 families, or with an average of five members to the family a population of 250,000. This is a conservative estimate.

What Is Produced and Can Be Produced in the Everglades

In those portions of the Everglades now most nearly drained, the wonderful ability of the Everglades soil to produce various crops has already been proven.

Nearly everything that has been tried grows very rapidly and luxuriantly.

Grapefruit and other citrus fruit trees mature rapidly on Everglades soil, and the fruit is excellent. Vegetables of nearly all kinds are produced in abundance, yielding in some cases several hundred dollars per acre in a single season.

Sugar cane, grasses and forage crops mature rapidly and seem to be at home in Everglades soil. Grasses and forage crops can be cut many times throughout the year.

Cattle thrive particularly well on the Everglades. Hogs, both pure blooded

stock and native, thrive here in a most satisfactory manner.

Other States regard their reclaimed wet lands as the most valuable land within their boundaries. Florida has in its Everglades a more wonderful area of reclaimable land than has any other State in the Union.

In many parts of the Middle West, Illinois for example, with about a five months' growing season, the best farming land is valued at over \$200 per acre. With a twelve months' growing season, how shall we value our Everglades land?

With the Everglades reclaimed and added to the State's other millions of acres of productive land, Florida will take the position to which it is justly entitled — *the leading farming State in the Union.*

State Taxes from Everglades, When Drained, Should Pay Florida's Administration Expenses

If we value Everglades land, when drained, at only \$15.00 per acre, as much of the South Florida prairie land now in crop is returned for assessment, the Everglades when drained would be valued for taxation at *Sixty Million Dollars* and would produce at the present State millage \$300,000 per year in State taxes. Undrained, and in its present condition, the Everglades produce less than \$50,000 State tax.

When drained and placed under cultivation, however, the assessed value per acre of the Everglades should be \$50.00 per acre instead of \$15.00, and would probably be thus assessed. The total assessed value of \$200,000,000 would produce a State tax of *One Million Dollars* per year, or more than enough to pay all the expenses of the State Government of Florida on the present basis of cost.

BACK TO BROWARD AND HIS POLICY OF REAL DRAINAGE

Over Half of the Land in Florida Was Received by the State Subject to the Condition of Drainage

1. More than 20,000,000 Acres Accepted by Florida Under the "Swamp and Overflowed Land Act."

These lands were scattered over nearly every county in the State, and represent the richest undeveloped asset of the State. They will yet make Florida the richest farming State in the Union, but a change of policy is necessary to bring about this result.

2. Greedy Corporations Scramble for Possession of Lands that Should Have Been Used to Pay for Their Drainage.

Paying no attention to the proper disposition of the "swamp and overflowed" land, public servants yielded to the demands of railroads and transportation canal companies and proceeded to give away approximately 17,000,000 acres, the heritage of the people of Florida. All a railroad seemed to need was a name and a board of directors to get a share of the rich spoils. There followed a riot of squandering these lands. In blocks of all sizes from a few thousand acres up to over 2,500,000 acres to one corporation, the "swamp and overflowed" lands were diverted from the people and their proper use of financing drainage, and were illegally granted to private corporations.

3. Broward Found "Bank Account" Overdrawn.

When Broward was inaugurated as Governor, he found land grants outstanding, the total of which exceeded the total acreage of "swamp and overflowed" lands in the State. Several million acres more had been granted than actually existed.

He maintained that the so-called "State" lands in the Everglades should be devoted to reclamation, and after having sold several hundred thousand acres for drainage purposes, he reiterated time and again that if any further funds were needed, all of the remaining "State" lands in the district would be used, if necessary, to complete this great work.

The Contract of the State of Florida With the United States

1. On the Part of the United States.

(We quote some of the most vital clauses only.)

"AN ACT to enable the State of Arkansas (and other States) to reclaim the "Swamp Lands" within their limits.

"BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That to enable the State of Arkansas (and other States) to construct the necessary levees and drains to reclaim the swamp and overflowed lands therein, the whole of those swamp and overflowed lands, made unfit thereby for cultivation, which shall remain unsold at the passage of this act, shall be, and the same are hereby, granted to said State . . .

"PROVIDED, however, That the proceeds of said lands, whether from sale or by direct appropriation in kind, shall be applied, *exclusively*, as far as necessary, to the purpose of reclaiming said lands by means of the levees and drains aforesaid . . .

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the provisions of this act be extended to, and the benefits be conferred upon, each of the other States of the Union in which such swamp and overflowed lands, known as (and) designated as aforesaid, may be situated.

"Approved, September 28, 1850."

2. On the Part of the State of Florida.
(We quote the most vital clauses only.)

"AN ACT to secure the swamp and overflowed lands lately granted to the State, and for other purposes.

"SECTION I. BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF



This 1913 view of the Everglades from the North New River Canal shows the flooded conditions that remained even after the canal was completed.



REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENED, That the governor is authorized, and hereby requested, to take such measures as to him may seem expedient and most to the interest of this State, in securing and classifying the lands lately granted to this State, designated as 'swamp or overflowed lands' . . .

"That there shall be, and hereby is, created and constituted a Board of Internal Improvement for the State of Florida . . . to determine upon and recommend plans for the reclamation of swamp lands, and to appraise the value of said lands . . .

"Approved January 10, 1853"

Later, in 1855, the Internal Improvement Board was changed to its present form. (We quote a few important clauses from the Internal Improvement Fund Act of 1855.)

"SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That for the purpose of assuring a proper application of said fund for the purposes herein declared, said lands and all the funds arising from the sale thereof, after paying the necessary expenses of selections, management, and sale, are hereby irrevocably vested in five trustees, to wit: In the governor of this State, the comptroller of public accounts, the State treasurer, and attorney general, and the register of State lands, and their successors in office, to hold the same in trust for the uses and purposes hereinafter provided . . .

"SECTION 16. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Trustees of the

Internal Improvement Fund shall . . . make such arrangements for the drainage of the swamp or overflowed lands, as in their judgment may be most advantageous to the Internal Improvement Fund, and the settlement and cultivation of the land . . ."

Passed the house of representatives December 29, 1854. Passed the senate January 2, 1855. Approved by the governor January 6, 1855.

There is no question but that the foregoing constitutes a contract between the United States Government and the State of Florida.

The Supreme Court of the United States says These Lands Should be Used for Drainage Purposes.

(We quote from certain opinions handed down by the highest court in the nation.)

"The State, in accepting the grant, was bound to devote the lands to the accomplishment of the purpose which Congress had in view, and there was an implied agreement on her part to take all the measures reasonably within her power to make their application effectual to that purpose.

"Upon general principals she could not tax the land while the title remained in the United States; nor while she held them as Trustee of the United States, which in view of the law, is one and the same thing."

"The contract" (between the Federal Government and the State — as it was so declared by the court) "required the State to appropriate the lands granted to the purpose of reclaiming them.

In addition to the fact that the contract between the United States and Florida as to drainage and application of swamp and overflowed lands to drainage purposes is undoubtedly legally binding and enforceable.

It has even greater significance in that it is morally binding, and the people of Florida need no legal process to make them keep their solemn pledges. We believe that the people of Florida will, by their votes, elect State officers pledged to carry out the contract with the United States, to fulfill the sacred trust of drainage, and thus save the honor of Florida.

THE BROWARD CAMPAIGN

1. Broward's Platform — "Recover Swamp Lands Illegally Granted and Use Them to Pay for Drainage.

Broward showed what it would mean to the State of Florida to develop its swamp and overflowed lands — apply them to the purpose of drainage, first wresting them from the hands of selfish interests.

2. Broward Was Elected. He Saved Millions of Acres of Everglades Land for Drainage Purposes.

He used the lands, saved from grasping railroad corporations, for the purpose of paying for drainage, selling them from time to time as became necessary, in accordance with the conditions of the original grant from the United States Government.

3. Broward's Plan — "Drain by Units" — Leave Drained Lands Behind the Dredges.

His plan further contemplated finishing drainage as the dredges moved forward, and selling the land in drained areas at a drained-land price to carry on the work. After the work was well started he did not expect to sell undrained land at ridiculously low prices, nor would this have been done if his plans had been carried out.

THE EVERGLADES BOOM BEGINS

1. Land Operators at First Shy of the Proposition, But Induced by State Officers to Buy Large Tracts.

The only method at first of deriving large enough sums of money to prosecute the work seemed to be by means of sales of Everglades lands to colonization companies, which in turn would sell the same to small buyers to

make their homes upon. After many negotiations, several large land operators were found who bought big tracts upon the assurance of State drainage, thus furnishing means to the State of Florida to start the drainage work.

2. Sales to Thousands of Would-Be Settlers.

There followed a period of land buying hardly equalled in the history of any State. The wonderful Everglades, the region of mystery, the home of the Seminole, were at last to be drained by the State of Florida, and homes made for millions of people where before existed only a trackless swamp. The Everglades appealed to the imagination, they were something big, something different from the ordinary land proposition. Great enthusiasm was aroused and people vied with each other to buy. Extensive advertising and widespread publicity on the part of the State and colonization companies attracted thousands of purchasers. Many an agent has said, "It was no trouble to sell Everglades land; it sold itself." And, moreover, all these buyers were fortified with the oft-repeated statements, "The project can not fail." "It is a State project." "The State of Florida is back of it."

EVERGLADES ADVERTISING BROUGHT PROSPERITY FOR THE STATE AT LARGE

The Broward administration will long be remembered as a period when Florida began to grow in population

and wealth as never before. The newspapers and magazines all over the country contained glowing accounts of Florida's great reclamation enterprise, her balmy tropical climate and her wonderful agricultural possibilities. Florida was brought into the public eye more prominently than ever before, through Napoleon Broward's pledge to drain the Everglades, and the fact that the work was actually under way. The words "Florida," "The Everglades," were on the lips of thousands of people in every State in the Union. Interest in Florida was general. People flocked into the State. Colonization projects in many parts of the State were organized. Business all over the State was greatly stimulated. Land values all over the State were increased.

Millions of dollars were made by the people of Florida at large through the wide-spread publicity accorded to the Everglades.

FLORIDA'S PLEDGES WHICH INDUCED 20,000 PEOPLE TO BUY LAND IN THE EVERGLADES

DRAINAGE OF THE EVERGLADES A STATE DUTY.

THE PLEDGES THREEFOLD

1. Verdict of the People
2. Acts of Legislature
3. Pledges of State Officers

1. The Verdict of the People

Broward was elected governor on a platform promising the drainage of the Everglades. The people of Florida thus placed themselves on record before the world. No campaign in Florida before or since has had the publicity of the Broward campaign. The news was heralded to every city and village throughout the Union, "The State of Florida is going to drain the Everglades."

2. Acts of Florida Legislature, Providing for Drainage of Everglades, Gave Land Buyers Confidence in Project.

In 1905, in 1907, again in 1913, the Florida Legislature (the Representatives of the People) passed laws, calculated to bring about the drainage of the Everglades. In 1915 the law was again worked over to the administration's order.

All these various laws were passed to provide for drainage of the Everglades, and to place the exclusive control of all drainage operations in the hands of the State officials.

3. Pledges of State Officers.

From so many it is difficult to select a few. We will use direct quotations only.

(Extract from Quarterly Bulletin of the Agricultural Department of the State of Florida July 1, 1909.)

"These lands (Everglades) are being rapidly and successfully drained by the State as well as by private and corporate owners . . ."

"The general surface of the Everglades was thus subject to great changes prior to the inauguration of the system of drainage now so successfully underway."

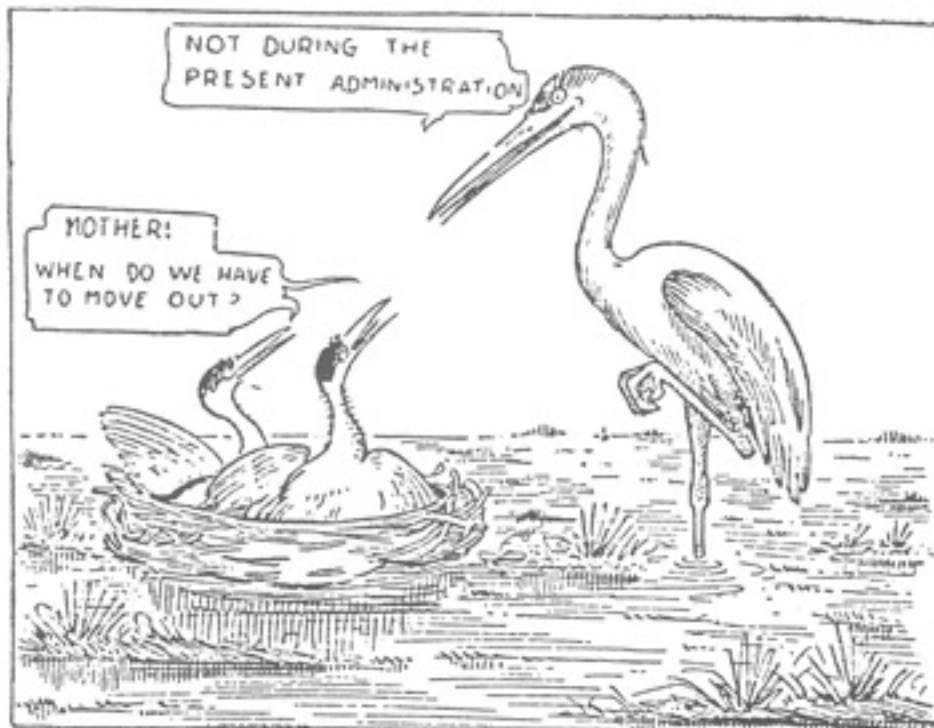
This same matter quoted above was moreover used again in 1910 and still again in 1911 in agricultural reports from the same office.

From the Minutes of Trustees of Internal Improvement Fund, November 1, 1911:

"The Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund and the Board of Drainage Commissioners have funds in hand and available for the completion of the contracts made, and in addition have a sufficiency of land together with the drainage tax being collected, to construct such other canals as conditions may warrant."

From Supplement to Florida Quarterly Bulletins of the Agricultural Department April 1, 1915:

"In the campaign of 1905, the successful candidate for Governor was elected on a platform pledged to the drainage of the Everglades, and since that time, notwithstanding the many





Another Everglades scene from 1913 showing flooded lands which greeted prospective settlers.

obstacles necessary to be overcome, reclamation by drainage has on its own merits, gradually become one of the fixed policies of the State."

If you were a citizen of another State and had read the foregoing and many similar statements, would you have any doubt as to Florida's being pledged to drain the Everglades?

4. Advertising Matter Was Sanctioned and Paid for by State Officers out of Public Funds to Aid in the Selling of Everglades Lands.

At a meeting of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund (State officials), April 9, 1912, a resolution was passed providing for the spending of approximately \$1,000 to partially pay the cost of a junketing trip of newspaper men, in company with the State officials, through the Everglades for the purpose of sending out broadcast "accurate information" regarding the condition of the land, its value, etc., to keep the army of small buyers in good heart and keep their money coming into the land companies so that the land companies could continue their payments to the State. We quote from the "Souvenir" booklet (published and distributed in 1912), which was the product of the junketing trip, paid for in part by the State officials.

"Now comes man, driven by necessity to complete God's plan and by cutting a half dozen canals . . . Presto! North America's tropical winter garden is ready for the sower . . ."

"On account of the combined drainage and irrigation methods of reclaiming the Everglades, it can be truthfully described as one of the safest reclaimed land projects, from an agricultural or investment standpoint, ever attempted . . ."

"Gone forever are the Everglades. In their place Florida today has 4,000,000 acres of tillable land, wonderfully fertile."

"If the facts concerning the Everglades were generally known, there would be a rush of settlers to Florida and the land of the Everglades that would see this wonderfully rich area thickly populated with thriving farmers from the North within a few months."

5. Senate Document Widely Used as Land Selling Literature.

Senate Document No. 89, Sixty-second Congress, First Session, con-

tains many promises of State reclamation of the Everglades. The Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, at a meeting held August 30, 1911, authorized their Secretary to order 10,000 copies of this document, the reason given in the minutes being that said document contained:

" . . . all official reports on said subject, both National and State to date."

The statements made in Senate Document No. 89 were thus made the official utterances of the State officers in regard to the drainage of the Everglades. These documents were widely distributed.

Among the quotations set out in this Senate Document we append the following:

From resolution adopted by the Legislature of Florida January 6, 1848:

"RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENED, That Congress be requested to grant to this State all of said lands (the Everglades) . . . on condition that the State will drain them and apply the proceeds to the sale thereof, after defraying the expense of draining, to the purposes of education."

From resolution adopted by Florida House of Representatives, May 31, 1909:

"RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That in view of the magnitude of the operations involved in the drainage of the swamp and overflowed lands of the State, and of the vast importance thereof, and of



the great benefit to be derived therefrom, it is of vital interest to the people of the State that the drainage operations now being conducted by the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund should be prosecuted with vigor and economy, to the end that large areas of immensely valuable lands may be placed upon the market by the State, to secure desirable immigrants and to encourage the development and use of the almost limitless natural resources of the State, thereby increasing the wealth of the State and leading to a corresponding reduction in tax burdens."

From Minutes of Trustees of Internal Improvement Fund, vol. V, page 267:

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT FUND, ALL BEING PRESENT, That the Trustees adhere strictly to the provisions of the Act of January 6, 1855, Chapter 610, Laws of Florida, as to their powers and duties and the purposes for which said trust was granted, and that they will assert their rights and defend the title to the lands granted and irrevocably vested in them for the purposes therein set forth of reclaiming said lands by means of levees and drains."

As further proof of the acknowledgment of the drainage obligation, even at the very hour that the drainage-trust-lands were again being diverted to other purposes, we quote below from the Minutes of the Trustees of the In-

ternal Improvement Fund of December 27, 1912:

"... The Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund are engaged in the work of draining and reclaiming the Everglades, which were patented to the State of Florida by Act of Congress on September 28, 1850, such work being directed and required to be done by an Act of the Legislature, approved January 6, 1855, imposing upon the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund of the State of Florida the trust of drainage and reclamation of the swamp and overflowed lands acquired by the State under the said Act of Congress; and

"... In the execution of the trust of drainage and reclamation of said lands the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund are compelled to expend large sums of money, which sums are derived from the sale of swamp and overflowed lands and a drainage tax of five cents per acre upon the lands lying within a certain drainage district; that the sale of the lands, or pledging of them, to secure loans, is absolutely necessary to a continuation of the work of drainage and reclamation of the lands and of the discharge of the trust aforesaid."

6. All the Dealers in Everglades Land Naturally Gave the Widest Publicity to All These State Pledges.

The 20,000 or more buyers of these lands look to us, the people of Florida, to see to it that our public servants make good our promises of drainage.

They appeal to us to direct our State

officials to go back to the Broward policy of actually draining the lands which the State has permitted to be retailed to small buyers, and not spreading over the entire map and measuring results by dollars spent rather than by acres drained.

Let Us Save the Honor of Florida!

BROWARD'S PLAN UPSET AFTER HIS DEATH

1. Plan Abandoned of Actual Drainage of Lands Which State Permitted to be Sold to Small Investors and Even Helped to Sell to Them.

The plans of succeeding administrations have varied as political expediency and pressure from different quarters prompted this or that change. The land sold to small investors as early as 1909 is largely still undrained. These people have waited since 1909 — those who have not died or allowed their land to be sold for taxes. They feel that they have been betrayed and they now appeal to us to insist that our public servants carry out the solemn pledges of drainage.

We Must Save the Honor of Florida.

2. The Present System of "Holding Out" the Swamp and Overflowed Lands from the Purpose for Which They Were Received, Is Crippling the Project.

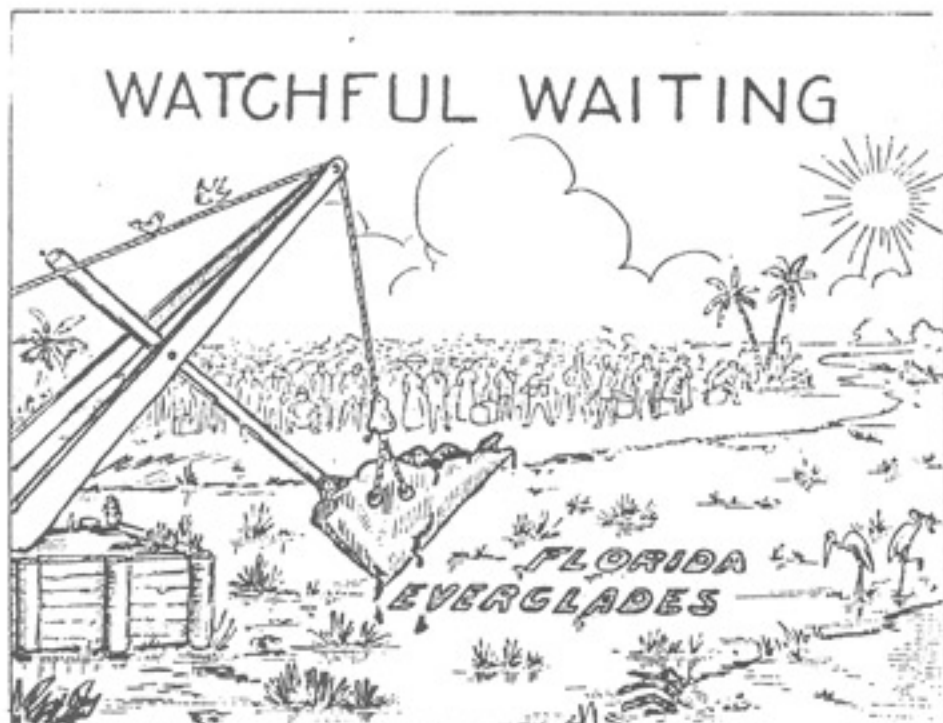
One of the first acts of the present Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund was to pass a resolution, February 1913, reading in part:

"It is the opinion of the said Board that the drainage should be supported and carried on by the drainage tax which is levied upon the land within the drainage district, and that the State should not be required to dispose of its lands for such purposes."

This resolution has never been rescinded, although a subsequent resolution states that the Board is willing to sell a "reasonable acreage" for the purpose only of improving certain canals. But this offer to sell a "reasonable acreage" is worthless, as the greater portion of the lands will not sell, being still largely under water and unsalable.

This failure to place the so-called "State" lands within the Everglades district back of the project in a proper manner and use them as a basis of credit is fatal to the sale of bonds in sufficient quantities to properly finance the drainage.

It Is Up to The People of The State to Insist That The Officials Use These Lands for the Purpose for Which Florida Received Them.

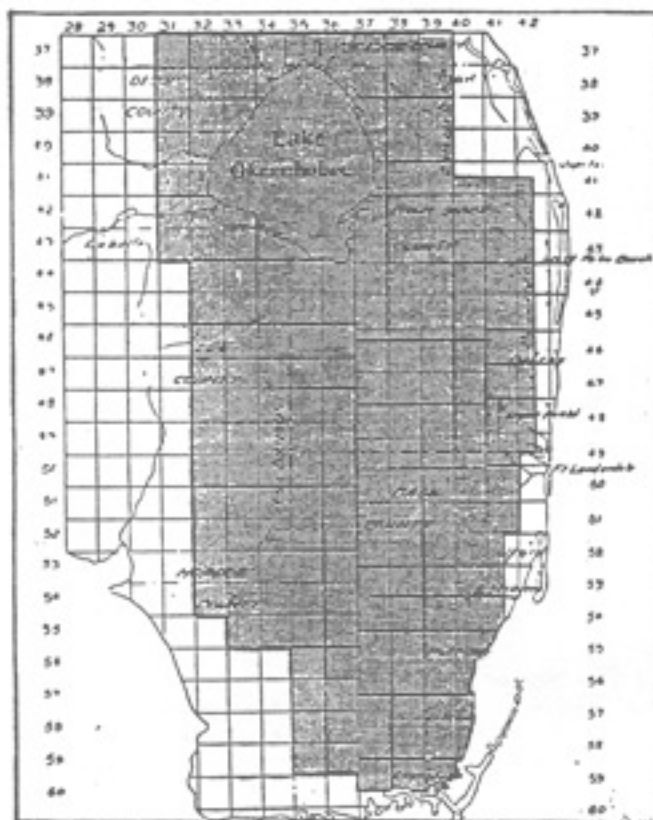




Map of Florida showing an area equal to the 20,000,000 acres of "swamp and overflowed" lands taken over from the United States Government by Florida under the trust of drainage—equivalent to more than half the area of the State.

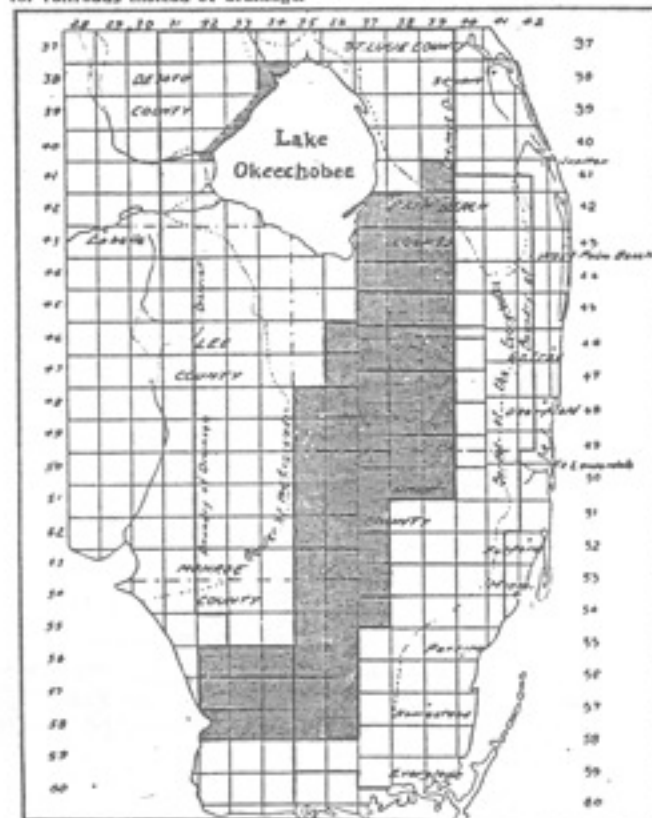


Map of Florida showing approximate acreage held by the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund of the State of Florida, March, 1916. Note how Florida's birthright has shrunk as a result of using this rich heritage for railroads instead of drainage.



Map showing approximate acreage in the Everglades Drainage District held by the State when Governor Broward started the work of reclamation.

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Map of Everglades Drainage District showing approximate acreage held by the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund of the State of Florida, March, 1916—only about 1,500,000 acres being left after giving away most of the land to railroads.

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Collection of maps showing the decrease in overflowed lands held by the State of Florida. These

maps and the accompanying captions, appeared in the "Back to Broward" pamphlet.

DAMAGE DONE BY PRESENT PLAN OR LACK OF PLAN

1. Project Is "Eating Its Head Off."

There is no way of enforcing the collection of drainage tax against so-called "State" lands and passing valid title thereto, any more than the State capitol building can be sold for a State debt, or the county jail for a county debt.

Because of the mismanagement of the project, and interminable delay of drainage, the privately owned lands are being rapidly forfeited to the Commissioners of the District for nonpayment of drainage taxes, and there is no provision for the Commissioners paying any taxes. For non-payment of State and county taxes also, privately owned Everglades lands in great quantities are reverting to the State, and the State, of course, pays no taxes.

The security is thus dwindling, and it can not be expected, therefore, that bond buyers would be especially attracted to Everglades drainage bonds.

The present authorized bond issue is wholly inadequate and will only build some of the general works and drain comparatively little land, even if the bonds should sell.

250,000 acres of Everglades land, similar to that sold in 1912 in large blocks for \$15.00 per acre, was offered in 1915, because the owner could not pay his taxes, for \$2.00 per acre, with no takers. *A shrinkage of value apparently from \$15.00 to \$2.00 per acre!*

The project under the present reactionary policies is going backward, regardless of the supposedly large sums of money spent, to which the officials point with great pride.

2. Florida's Credit Injured.

There is no question that the failure to make good on the Everglades project has hurt the sale of drainage bonds all over the State and has frightened away millions of dollars of capital that would otherwise have been invested in Florida for various forms of development.

Florida's name is a laughing stock in financial circles; she is pointed out with scorn as the State that has failed to make good her solemn obligations. Because of the reactionary policy and questionable acts of her public servants, tens of thousands of would-be citizens have almost learned to *doubt the integrity and good faith of their principals, namely, the people of Florida themselves.* It has, therefore, become a matter touching the individual and personal honor of every citizen of the State.

Now that the plain, unvarnished facts have been called to their notice,

the people of Florida may be depended upon to rise up in their might as one man, and in righteous indignation stamp out forever the blighting system of withholding or diverting the drainage-trust-lands from their proper purpose.

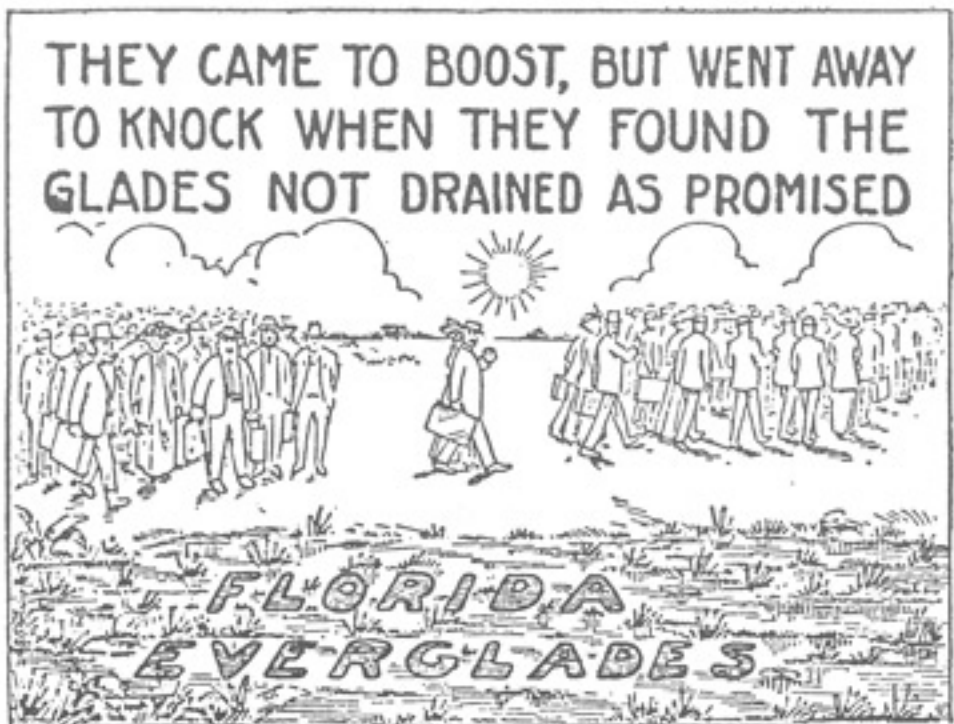
To restore confidence and save the honor of Florida, and thus prepare for a new era of prosperity, the *people of the State* must require the officials to carry out their honor bound contract of drainage with the *people of the United States.* The swamp and overflowed lands received by the *people of the State* from the *people of the United States* under the *provisional trust* of 1850, and almost all of which have been illegally diverted or withheld by unfaithful officials, must be restored

the canals under contract are to be completed within three years from July 1, 1910. It has also at different times sent out literature lauding the fertility of the Everglades, and stating that the drainage would be pushed with all vigor, and in one at least giving the idea that the land near the canals would be available for farming behind the dredges."

"We all think we have been gold-bricked by ... and the State of Florida."

"When this purchase was made, it was made on the representation that the State of Florida was back of the drainage proposition. Whether legally back of it or not, they were back of it morally in permitting the propaganda to be made."

Hundreds of letters are in existence



to their *rightful purpose*, and the Everglades drainage project placed upon a *sound business basis.*

3. The Fair Name of the State Blackened. Individual Buyers Blame the State.

Read these extracts from their letters:

"We do not ask for sympathy, but for justice, as we were not deceived so much by the big land owners as by the State. The State undertook to drain the Everglades when it accepted them from the Federal Government. It set a time when the main canals would be finished when it let the original contract to the Furst-Clark Construction Co. in June, 1910, stating that all

written, in the same tone as the foregoing, by buyers of Everglades land.

4. What We Are Losing

Hundreds of letters are also in existence written to Boards of Trade, Commercial organizations, the Everglades Drainage League, and individual citizens, from buyers of Everglades land showing that these *lands were bought for homes.* We are losing the greatest opportunity ever afforded to any State to add to its population and wealth.

Not only is the district near the Everglades suffering, but *all portions of the State.* Not only are all Florida drainage projects viewed with suspicion on account of the failure of the

Everglades project to date, but *all* Florida land has suffered a loss in actual value, or has failed to appreciate in value, from the same cause.

We are actually losing thousands of settlers each year through the odium attached to the Everglades operations. There are disappointed land buyers in every city and village in every State, and they do not hesitate to condemn all Florida for its failure to make good on drainage of their lands.

If you had bought land five, six, or seven years ago, under promises of drainage, and it was not only still undrained, but *no provisions made for its drainage*, would you not think and say, as do the present buyers, that the State has been a party to a gigantic land swindle; would you not advise your friends (as they do) to "Stay away from Florida?"

We must *Save the Honor of Florida* and make good with these people, and thereby counteract as far as possible the untold injury sustained by reason of the bungling policies of our State officials.

THE MISERLY POLICY OF "HOLDING OUT" STATE LANDS, WORTHLESS AND COVERED WITH WATER

We justly condemn a miser for denying himself food, clothing and the decencies of life, in order that he may hoard up money.

The lands in the Everglades were given to the State for a definite purpose, to be used for drainage, in order that the lands might become habitable, grow crops, and add to the population and wealth of Florida. In their present condition they are worthless, covered with water, inaccessible. The people of Florida are not going to approve a policy of "holding out" these lands for the mere satisfaction of counting so many hundred thousand acres (under water). The State officials are now withholding them from their rightful use, as the miser does his gold.

Florida has promised the United States Government and the people of other States to *drain the Everglades* and to use the lands within the district for that purpose. We must not break our pledges to them, but must use the means available — the lands themselves — to carry on the work to a successful completion.

Not a dollar of public money from the general State treasury should be used to carry on the work — no State appropriation or general State bond issue should be asked. The so-called

"State" lands within the district will finance the project, if properly used for that purpose.

Save the Honor of Florida.

THE REMEDY — "BACK TO BROWARD," AND POLICY OF ACTUAL DRAINAGE OF THE LANDS HELD BY SMALL INVESTORS

Like most problems, the remedy, in final analysis, is quite simple and might be expressed briefly as follows:

(1) Go back to the first principles of plain honesty and apply the drainage-trust-lands for the sole and unmistakable purpose of drainage, as was clearly implied and expressed by the Congress of the United States in its Act of September 28, 1850.

(2) Elect only such men to the State Senate and House as believe in carrying out this trust honorably, and who will pledge themselves to enact a law that will make it impossible to further divert or withhold from drainage the lands which were granted for that purpose.

(3) Find out where the candidates for high executive offices stand on this vital subject, and elect a State Administration which is in harmony with this plan to **SAVE THE HONOR OF FLORIDA.**

(4) When enacting a new law to straighten out the present Everglades entanglement, provide specifically for transferring the project and management to a separate commission resident in the district, clothed with ample authority to concentrate the drainage operations and to complete the reclamation progressively on the unit plan; also provide a method of taxation for drainage purposes sufficiently flexible to meet every contingency; also confer necessary authority upon the commissioners to provide whatever security may be required, including the lands within the district, to facilitate the issuing of bonds on a business-like basis, and in such amounts as will conform with estimates of capable engineers, such bonds to be marketed from time to time as needed to vigorously prosecute the drainage operations and keep pace with economic requirements.

These essential points are included in the platform and statement of principals of the "Back to Broward" League, which appears below.

A Short Statement of Facts and a Definite Program to Repair the Damage Done.

We believe that the State of Florida

made such promises of drainage as induced people to buy Everglades land.

We hold that the State of Florida should carry out the promise of Everglades drainage promptly and efficiently, particularly in the areas which the State permitted to be sold to thousands of small investors, under promise of State drainage.

We maintain that the present failure to complete drainage in the areas owned by small investors, is caused by the mismanagement of the project and consequent lack of funds.

We believe, and base our conclusions upon the most careful investigation, that this lack of funds is caused by the fact that the original plan of completing the drainage of definite areas was changed, and that the land given by the United States Government to be used to finance drainage works has been diverted to other purposes, and withheld from drainage purposes, by Florida's State officers.

We know that the balance of 1,400,000 acres of so-called "State" lands still remaining in the 'Glades is absolutely subject to the conditions of the original grant by the Government, that they should be used as a basis of credit to carry on the Everglades drainage work, and that when drained they should be sold and the proceeds used to supplement the drainage taxes in creating a sinking fund to retire the bonds.

We maintain that when this residue of 1,400,000 acres is unreservedly placed back of the drainage proposition, a long step will have been taken towards properly financing the Everglades drainage project.

We believe that with the proper financing arranged for as outlined above, not only can the general works be continued, but intensive drainage works can be undertaken at once in the areas sold in small tracts.

We believe that the Everglades project should be placed in the hands of a special Board of Commissioners, who should be located on the ground instead of at Tallahassee, five hundred miles away.

We believe that these Commissioners should be clothed with proper authority to employ necessary engineering talent, and do all other things needful to vigorously prosecute the drainage work in an efficient manner.

In the interest of justice, and in the name of twenty thousand people who bought land in the Everglades *on the strength of Florida's drainage promises*, we ask that these things be done.

**WHAT THE EVERGLADES,
DRAINED AND RECLAIMED,
MEANS TO THE STATE
IN MATERIAL WEALTH**

**1. State Tax from Everglades Now
About \$500,000 per Year; When Drained
Should Produce \$1,000,000 in State
Tax Annually.**

The greatly added revenue from this source will naturally reduce the taxes to be paid by people residing in other parts of Florida.

**2. The Drainage of the Everglades
Will Easily Double the Population of
Florida.**

Land values all over Florida will increase. The density of population largely regulates land values. Lands in the West, for example, with one person or less every ten square miles, were valued at \$1.25 per acre, the Government price. Land values in those same sections today with a family on every 80 acres are \$100 to \$200 per acre — *the same acres exactly*. If the doubling of the population of Florida added only an average of \$5 per acre to every acre in the State, it would add nearly \$200,000,000 to land values. It could scarcely be doubted that the doubling of the State's population would add much more than \$5 per acre to the value of lands in your neighborhood. On this basis, if you own 80 acres, for example, an added \$5 per acre would mean \$400 to you — this actual selling value added by an increase in population only.

3. Rapid Settlement of the Everglades Means Prosperity of State.

Completion of drainage and settlement of the Everglades by thousands and tens of thousands of buyers mean more markets for lumber; more busi-

ness for wholesale houses and retail merchants, and consequent growth of our cities; more goods shipped in and more goods shipped out; more traffic on railroads and more railroads and steamship lines for the traffic; more employment for labor, skilled and unskilled; more money in the State from the outside, hence more money in our banks, and millions of dollars additional to drain other districts, and to develop Florida's resources. All these benefits and countless others will result from Florida's "making good" on her drainage promises.

PREPARE FOR PROSPERITY

Prepare for unprecedented progress and development, by making good on the State project of Everglades Drainage; by making good with the people who have accepted State promises at par value and bought these lands because thereof; by letting the world know that the Citizens of Florida are jealous of their honor and that they are demanding that their State officials make good the sacred contract with the Federal Government.

When the drainage-trust-lands in the Everglades are restored to their proper status and actual steps are taken to *Save the Honor of Florida*, the State will be the beneficiary of unlimited favorable publicity throughout the length and breadth of this great land. The whole countryside will ring with unstinted praise of Florida's progressive spirit and the honorable determination of her citizens to carry forward to sure success the unfinished work of her greatest and noblest son. Words of thanksgiving will issue from the lips

of unknown thousands, whose hard-earned savings have been invested in this, the world's greatest reclamation enterprise, the Everglades.

Confidence will be re-established. The State will experience an influx of immigration and capital surpassing all previous records, and every county in Florida will receive its share of benefits.

If it were possible to peer beyond the veil, we feel sure that the benign spirit of our beloved Broward would be seen pouring his blessing upon the head of every honest and loyal citizen who does his part to bring about this happy result.

**Florida "Expects
Every Man to Do His Duty."**

**"BACK TO BROWARD"
LEAGUE**

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. B. LOWE, President

ROBERT J. REED, Vice President

W. I. EVANS, Secretary-Treasurer

W. C. KYLE

F. A. BARRETT

On account of the misappropriation of the "swamp and overflowed" lands and general mismanagement of the

ONE
CENT
STAMP
HERE

"Back to Broward" League

Ft. Lauderdale

Florida



Among the prominent Broward Countians who served on the executive committee of the Back to Broward League were A. B. Lowe of Davie (left, with Mrs. Lowe), who was also the first chairman of the Broward County Commission, and Wilfred I. Evans of Fort Lauderdale (right), who served as the first county attorney.

drainage trust, *less than one acre in ten* has been drained in the sixty-five years since the land was received by Florida from the Federal Government.

All present drainage work in the Everglades should be continued, but much new work, especially in areas sold to small buyers years ago, on Florida's pledge of drainage, should be undertaken without delay and pushed vigorously to early completion.

**LEAGUE IS STRICTLY
NON—PARTISAN ADVOCATES
PRINCIPLES ONLY**

The "Back to Broward" League is a strictly non—partisan organization and does not advocate the candidacy of any particular aspirant or aspirants for State office. Its activities are impersonal and its principal object is to impress upon all candidates and the public at large the importance of adopting a business-like policy for the drainage of the Everglades, in harmony with the contract existing between the State of Florida and the United States.

In order to learn the views of the various candidates on this important matter of rehabilitating the Everglades project, a letter was mailed by the League during the month of April to all who had announced their intention to run for the offices of Governor, Comptroller, Treasurer, Attorney General and Commissioner of Agriculture of the State of Florida.

All who desired to do so were thus given an opportunity to express their views and outline their plans with reference to this subject. Up to the date of going to press the following replies had been received:

**LETTERS FROM CANDIDATES
FOR STATE OFFICE**

ERNEST AMOS

Candidate for Comptroller

Replying to your recent inquiry about my attitude toward reclamation of the Everglades, I can say I have been friendly to this great project from the beginning, having voted for it when submitted to the people during Gover-

nor Broward's administration, and otherwise assisted the cause.

I am a friend to the proposition and favor pushing it to a successful conclusion as rapidly as conditions will permit.

For some time drainage bonds have been on the market without buyers. During the same period municipal bonds found ready sale. The same force, *the power of taxation*, is behind all alike. Then why the difference in demand? Evidently because, to bond buyers, at least, municipal bonds represent going concerns, while not enough work has been done on the drainage project or what has been done is not sufficient to make its bonds attractive to investors.

We can not hope to reclaim all the 'Glades at one time, nor afford to wait the long years necessary for its accomplishment. In my judgment, we should use our energies towards reclaiming portions of it at a time, so that the same may not only be reclaimed but be developed and quickly bring into being the wonderful possibilities of this fertile soil, thereby restoring confidence in this great project, to be followed by

renewed activity and new life, whereby your section of our great State may soon come fully into its own.

A. J. ANGLE

Candidate for Comptroller

I wish to congratulate the people of Broward and Dade Counties in their efforts to redeem the pledges made by the people of Florida to drain the Everglades.

Since the inception of the Drainage Project by Governor Broward, I have been heartily in favor of the drainage of the Everglades, and if I am placed on the Internal Improvement Board by being elected Comptroller of Florida, I shall use all the influence I possess toward the successful termination of this project.

If necessary, the State lands should be placed behind the bond the same as the privately owned land, because the land undrained is of no value, while if drained and placed on the tax books would produce hundreds of thousands of dollars in State taxes alone.

I appreciate the criticisms of the people of other States who have purchased these lands and have been disappointed in the delay of draining the lands they bought, and that the people of Florida will approve of the policy that I hope to carry out, if possible, of completing the drainage of the land bought by small investors for the past few years and have held for, say, six or seven years. This should be the first duty we perform in order that the people of Florida would continue to live up to their reputation of doing the right thing.

All existing contracts should, of course, be carried out in spirit and in letter.

S. J. CATTS

Candidate for Governor

Your letter was handed me in Marianna yesterday.

In reply will say I favor the drainage system of the Everglades and the hastening the completion thereof both by the canals being put through on the East Coast and the widening and deepening of the Caloosahatchee River on the west.

If we can succeed in doing this work perfectly we will have the richest section of the earth open to settlement.

If I am elected Governor I will help in this course in every way I can.

ION L. FARRIS
Candidate for Governor

In a speech delivered at Ft. Lauderdale on February 14, 1916, in the Broward County Court House, Broward County, Florida, I commenced the "Back to Broward" fight for the drainage of the Everglades. I said then, and I say now, that if I am elected Governor, thus becoming Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, I shall work, fight and vote to have all the lands owned by the State of Florida within the Everglades drainage district placed behind the project as pledged by Governor Broward, either as pledged for the payment of bonds or by sale of the land as may from time to time seem most advisable so far as the lands may be necessary to drainage.

I shall vote, work and fight for the adoption of a plan which will insure adequate financial arrangements for the drainage of this land. My present idea is for a bond issue, secured by all taxes from privately owned lands within the Everglades Drainage District, and all land owned by the State within that district. I am opposed to the levying of taxes upon any land in the State of Florida outside of the Everglades Drainage District for this purpose.

I shall vote, work and fight for the appointment of a Drainage Board

which shall contain the best engineering, business and administrative talent obtainable, to work under the direction of the Trustees.

The main drainage office ought to be located on the ground, at the most convenient and accessible place for directing the work. As it is now, the State is endeavoring to handle a \$400,000,000 project from an office located five hundred miles away, two days' distant in point of time. Such a method of operation would not be employed for a day in any private business of such magnitude.

I shall work, vote and fight as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, for the adoption of the unit plan of drainage. It is foolish and useless to attempt to drain the Everglades as a whole. It is impracticable in the first place, and in the second place even if it were practicable, it is not desirable.

I will do all in my power to have some of the land in the Everglades — as large a tract as possible — drained and reclaimed completely without delay. This is necessary in order that public confidence in Florida may be re-established, and the effects of all the unfavorable publicity which Florida has received on account of mismanagement of the Everglades affairs counteracted so far as that may be possible. Besides that, 10,000 or 20,000 or 30,000 acres, or as much more as can be drained immediately, when settled and cultivated by thousands of home seekers, who are now ready, willing and anxious to go upon the land, would be of far more value to the people of the State than all the millions of acres of undrained land which are now in the 'Glades.

I shall endeavor, first, to drain the lands which have been sold to small purchasers, redeeming the credit and reputation and the honor of the State so far as that is within my power, and showing to the world that the people of Florida are jealous of Florida's honor and bound by Florida's promises.

I will do all that lies within my power to save for the State all the land that I can, but the land I save will be drained land, no submerged land, and it will have some real value.

I will work diligently, and use all the influence at my command to induce the Federal Government to extend financial assistance to the Everglades and all other drainage projects in Florida.

I have made this fight in every section of Florida from the beginning of this campaign and I shall continue the fight to the end.

I commenced my public career in 1904 as a follower of the late lamented Gov-



Sidney J. Catts of DeFuniak Springs, who won the 1916 race for Florida governor, responded to the League's request for an endorsement with a brief and rather non-committal statement. (Courtesy of Florida Photographic Archives.)

ernor Napoleon B. Broward on this issue.

I know what his plans and policies were, and I shall do everything in my power to carry out his promises to the people and the pledge of the people to the world.

L. S. GRINER

Candidate for State Treasurer

No reply received up to May 10th.

C. P. GWYNN

Candidate for Comptroller

No reply received up to May 10th.

F. M. HUDSON

Candidate for Governor

During my three terms in the State Senate, I have endeavored by my record to convince my constituents that it was my earnest desire to serve them and the State of Florida.

I have always been a friend to the Everglades drainage project. I supported Governor Broward's measures while he was in office, and I still believe that his policies were based upon sound law and sound reason. I believe that every vote that I have cast on that question has been consistent with his policies.

Under the original Act of Congress all of the lands of the Internal Improvement Fund in the Everglades territory are held in trust and are dedicated to the accomplishment of drainage. These lands should be sold or encumbered or used in any other way that is best calculated to secure drainage.

Common justice demands that those who are suffering most, viz., settlers on the Everglades lands, and those who bought lands there for home building, should be relieved first, if it is possible to do so.

These things I hope to see accomplished. I have tried on more than one occasion to state this position in language that no one could misunderstand.

When I was in Miami last, I had an extended interview with Mr. W. J. Kackley, an engineer, who has made an exhaustive study of the entire question. I found Mr. Kackley's views most interesting and instructive.

He stated my own views so aptly that I finally asked him this question: "What would you do with reference to the drainage project if you were Governor?"

By way of preface, he said, "No man can say positively at this time with any degree of intelligence what he would do with regard to Everglades drainage if he were Governor. It would be impossible, without the data in hand, to formulate a fixed and final policy either with regard to the administrative or legislative acts which are desirable."

Mr. Kackley then proceeded with numerous suggestions which I requested him to reduce to writing. He has since submitted to me a statement which is too extensive to publish within the scope of this article, but the gist of his views is contained in the following extracts:

"One of my first acts . . . would be to appoint a commission to investigate and render report upon the Everglades drainage project from the standpoint of a business undertaking . . . on this commission there should certainly be an attorney, a financier, an authority on agriculture and general farming, and an engineer. These men should be authorities in their respective lines of work, and should be the best men obtainable in the United States.

"As Governor I should make certain recommendations and suggestions to this commission regarding the matters to be investigated. I should instruct them, first, to determine the truth regarding every feature of the project and regardless of whether it hurt any individual or not.

". . . My instructions would furthermore contain, among other matters:

"1. Investigate and report upon the matter of conflict of interests between the State, land companies and individual buyers, and recommend a method of eliminating this conflict.

"2. Investigate and report upon all land sales and land grants made by the State to date, and report upon the matter of responsibility for the drainage of these lands.

"3. Investigate and report upon the present policy of administration.

"4. Determine the probable agricultural value of the lands from the standpoint of productiveness, after they are reclaimed. In this connection, attention should be called to the fact that very probably it will be necessary to produce staple crops instead of winter vegetables when more than a few acres in the Everglades are available for agricultural pursuits.

"5. From a consideration of the economics of the undertaking and in light of a purely business project, should the Everglades be reclaimed as a whole or in sections?

"6. Investigate and study the engineering reports which have been rendered on the project and determine whether sufficient data are now available to permit of the intelligent planning of reclamation works

"7. If sufficient data are not available to warrant proceeding with extensive drainage work, would the commission recommend the reclamation of a small portion of the 'Glades as an experimental project?

"8. I should explicitly call the attention of the commission to the advisability of studying all matters which pertain in any manner to the possible success or failure of the settlers in the Everglades . . .

"9. I should instruct the commission to recommend a comprehensive policy of administration and finance to be applied to the project.

"I should furthermore appoint an engineering commission to investigate the project and report upon engineering phases of the undertaking. This commission should be composed of engineers acknowledged by the engineering profession as authorities on drainage engineering. This commission should give specific recommendation regarding the size and capacities of the necessary drainage works.

"With the two foregoing reports as guides, one to the administration policy, and the other to the engineering and construction policy, I should then remove the administration from politics by creating a Board of Drainage Commissioners to be appointed by the Governor. The chief engineer and all other employees of the commission should hold office under civil service, and I should in every possible way endeavor to see that this Board and all employees were entirely removed from political influences.

"I should be guided by the recommendations of these two commissions in my administration of the Everglades project. I will further say that I would not be willing to carry on any extensive drainage operations without such a report and without such advice . . ."

Mr. Kackley is not speaking as an engineer. Professionally he has decided views as to the proper and necessary procedure to accomplish drainage. But he intends what he has said as his opinion of what views a layman, unfamiliar with engineering, ought to be expected to hold. In other words, he has pointed out the course that he thinks a Governor ought to pursue to arrive at a correct conclusion, and he thinks that such a course would lead to the same conclusions which he

holds, but which he has *not* expressed in the statement from which I quote above.

This is exactly the contention that I have been making. I have insisted that we need more light on the subject, and that we ought to learn as we go, and go as we learn.

I announced that in case of my nomination I should thereafter devote myself to a most painstaking investigation of the question so that I might thoroughly familiarize myself with it down to the minute details. I now reiterate that promise.

I recognize, however, that Mr. Kackley's suggestion is the best yet offered for acquiring the data necessary to a final, just and effective conclusion.

Those who know Mr. Kackley will agree that he is a competent and disinterested critic, and that his heart is in the work of Everglades drainage. I know of no way to give better evidence of my continued interest in the drainage project than to say that I approve the views above expressed by Mr. Kackley, and accept them as my own. This I can consistently do, because in principle they are views that I have already expressed.

W. V. KNOTT

Candidate for Governor

No reply received up to May 10th.

J. C. LUNING

Candidate for State Treasurer

No reply received up to May 10th.

W. A. McRAE

Candidate for

Commissioner of Agriculture

No reply received up to May 10th.

E. P. THAGGARD

Candidate for Comptroller

No reply received up to May 10th.

THOMAS F. WEST

Candidate for Attorney General

No statement for publication received up to May 10th.

F. A. WOOD

Candidate for Governor

No reply received up to May 10th.

**PRINCIPLES OF
"BACK TO BROWARD" LEAGUE
I Believe**

That Florida's promises of Everglades drainage are binding upon Florida's citizens.

That all present contracts should be completed, but that all future drainage work in the Everglades should be concentrated and completed in units and that lands sold to small investors five, six and seven years ago should be drained first, as Governor Broward planned.

That no State bonds should be issued, neither should general State funds be appropriated by the Legislature for Everglades drainage. All so-called "State" lands in the Everglades district should be unreservedly dedicated to drainage and placed back of bonds, in order that ample funds may be raised for drainage as was intended by the Congress of the United States when granting these lands to the State. The present issue of bonds is too small to give real drainage for any consid-

erable area, even if sold in its present form.

That with the project standing on its own feet, the Everglades district is entitled to "home rule" and local commissioners, even as any other drainage district in Florida.

That the present policy of ignoring State pledges of drainage reflects upon the fair name of the State and is greatly injuring all sections thereof.

That every candidate for State office should pledge himself to **SAVE THE HONOR OF FLORIDA** and, if elected, to carry out the principles set forth above.

If you believe in these principles, sign your name below and mail this card to the League headquarters; this makes you a member of the "BACK TO BROWARD" LEAGUE. **There are no dues. Sign here:**

Name _____
Address _____

Remarks _____

