50TH CONGRESS, 1st Session. | SENATE. | EX. DOC. No. 139.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A letter of the Secretary of the Interior relative to land upon which to locate Seminole Indians.

APRIL 9, 1888.—Read, referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I transmit herewith a communication of the 6th instant from the Secretary of the Interior, submitting, with accompanying papers, a draught of proposed legislation, prepared in the office of Indian Affairs, to authorize the use of certain funds therein specified in the purchase of lands in the State of Florida upon which to locate the Seminole Indians in that State.

The matter is presented for the favorable consideration of Congress.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
April 9, 1888.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, April 6, 1888.

The PRESIDENT:

I have the honor to submit herewith a report from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs of the 30th ultimo, with its accompanying papers, setting forth the unsuccessful efforts made by his office to carry out the provisions of an item contained in the Indian appropriation act of July 4, 1884 (23 Stats., 95), "to enable the Seminole Indians in Florida to obtain homesteads upon the public lands and to settle themselves thereon," by reason of the failure to find any vacant and available public land in Florida upon which to locate them. He reports that the only way in which land can be procured for them is to purchase it from the State or from the improvement companies or others holding it, and he submits the draught of a bill, which he recommends for submission to Congress, authorizing the use of the balance of the $6,000 appropriated in the law of 1884 above referred to (which balance is stated to be $4,610.88) in the purchase of lands in the State of Florida at not exceeding $2.50 per acre, upon which to locate these Indians, and whose possession thereof shall be secured by patents issued to them as provided in the draught of the bill.

The number of these Indians is reported to be two hundred and sixty-nine, of whom sixty are males over twenty-one years of age. As it is very desirable that something should be accomplished for the improvement of their condition, I have the honor to recommend that the measure proposed by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs be transmitted to Congress for the consideration and action of that body.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. F. VILAS,
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, March 30, 1888.

SIR: The Indian appropriation act of July 4, 1884 (23 Stats., 95), contained an appropriation of $6,000 "to enable the Seminole Indians in Florida to obtain homesteads upon the public lands and to establish themselves thereon."

Late Special Agent Beede spent several months during the winter of 1884–'85 among these Indians for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the act.

He finally succeeded in inducing some of the Indians to consent to take homesteads, but was unable to find any vacant available lands upon which to locate them.

Correspondence was also had with the governor of Florida, who suggested that the officers of the State, as trustees of the improvement fund, might dispose of certain lands to the United States for the purpose of locating these Indians, as contemplated by Congress.

January 22, 1887, A. M. Wilson, esq., was appointed a special agent for the purpose of making another effort to carry out the intention of Congress with respect to these Indians.

He was engaged in the work, during such months as the weather permitted, until the 30th of December, 1887. In a report bearing that date he stated that he had reached the conclusion that it would be folly to waste further time and money in efforts to locate them, unless Congress should make an arrangement by which the lands selected *by them* could be secured to them.

He expressed the opinion that under such a provision of law a few of them could be located, which would be an entering wedge to the final location of the whole tribe.

He also stated that their condition was deplorable and that unless some effective measures to improve it were adopted serious trouble would result at no distant day.

Special Agent Wilson gives the whole number of Indians in Florida (Polk, Monroe, Brevard, and Dade Counties) as 269, of whom 60 are males over 21 years of age.

His services were dispensed with on the 30th of December last.

In a letter dated February 17, 1888, addressed to Senator Call, by whom it was referred to this office, late Special Agent Wilson refers to the Seminoles, and expresses the hope that the Senator may be able to accomplish something that will lead directly or indirectly to their enlightenment and civilization.

He states that many of them, particularly the younger ones, are making evident progress; that he found probably fifty settlements where the Indians have resided continuously from five to fifteen years, are in

comfortable circumstances, and would be content to remain permanently if they could only secure title to the land.

In every case which he investigated he found the lands occupied by the Indians to belong to some railroad corporation, drainage company, or other syndicate or individual, who would no doubt be willing to sell the lands to the Indians or to the Government to be allotted among them.

He also speaks of the great need of educational facilities for the younger Indians.

There remains unexpended of the appropriation of $6,000 made by act of July 4, 1884, the sum of $4,610.88, of which $634.09 is in the hands of late Special Agent Wilson.

The expenditure of any portion of this amount in further attempts to locate these Indians on *public lands* would be simply a waste of public funds, as the investigation already made has demonstrated the fact that there are no public lands in Florida upon which they can be located.

In view of this fact it becomes necessary either to abandon all attempts to improve the condition of the Indians remaining in Florida or to devise some new measure of relief.

Since the Seminole wars and the removal of most of the tribe to the Indian Territory, those who were left behind and whose removal could not be effected, with a few Creeks, have lived in the everglades of Florida, and until recently have repelled all approaches from the Government.

By cultivation of small patches of ground and natural resources in the way of game and fish, they have maintained a comparatively comfortable existence.

But the increasing white settlements in southern Florida are fast driving these people from their accustomed haunts and depriving them of their means of support.

It is charged that they kill cattle belonging to the large herds in that section of the State, to the value of some $2,000 or $3,000 annually.

In view of these facts, trouble between them and the whites is likely to occur at any time.

Although their education is to be desired and measures for this purpose should be taken at an early day, the most pressing necessity is to provide them with land which they can call their own, and from which they can not be driven by the white settlers.

The only way in which this can be done is by purchase from the State or of the improvement companies.

The balance of the $6,000 remaining unexpended will doubtless be sufficient to purchase homesteads for as many heads of families as can at present be induced to accept them, if its expenditure for that purpose can be authorized by Congress.

I have accordingly prepared the draft of a bill authorizing negotiations for the purchase of lands upon which to locate the Indians in Florida, and have the honor to recommend that the same be transmitted to Congress with request for favorable action, or, if practicable, that its provisions be inserted in the Indian appropriation bill.

I also transmit duplicate copies of a report made by Capt. R. H. Pratt, August 20, 1879, two reports of A. M. Wilson, late special agent, letter of the latter addressed to Senator Call, and a letter addressed to Mrs. Cleveland by Miss Lily Pierpont January 11, 1887.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. D. C. ATKINS,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

A BILL to enable the Secretary of the Interior to locate Indians in Florida upon lands in severalty.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he hereby is, authorized to use the unexpended balance of the sum of six thousand dollars appropriated "to enable the Seminole Indians now in Florida to obtain homesteads upon the public lands, and to establish themselves thereon," by the act of July fourth, eighteen hundred and eighty-four, entitled "An act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department, and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes, for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty-five, and for other purposes," in the purchase of lands in the State of Florida, from the proper officers thereof, or from any corporation or individual, at a price not exceeding two dollars and fifty cents per acre, upon which said Indians may be located.

SEC. 2 That upon the approval by the Attorney-General of proper deeds of conveyance to the United States the Secretary of the Interior may assign not exceeding eighty acres of the land so purchased to any Indian residing in said State, being the head of a family and over eighteen years of age, and shall cause patents to issue for such assigned land in the same form and with the same restrictions and conditions as provided in the fifth section of the act approved February eighth, eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, entitled "An act to provide for the allotment of lands in severalty to Indians on the various reservations and to extend the protection of the laws of the United States and the Territories over the Indians, and for other purposes."

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
Miakka, Fla., Agency, February 17, 1888.

DEAR SIR: I am just in receipt of yours of the 9th instant, and note carefully all your inquiries in regard to these Indians, among whom I have traveled. I fully appreciate and share your solicitude for them, and sincerely hope that you may yet be able to accomplish something that will lead directly or indirectly to their enlightenment and civilization.

Many of these Indians are making evident progress in the march of civilization. This progress is more noticeable among the younger men and women who have enjoyed better advantages by having been in more frequent intercourses with the whites than their fathers and mothers did while young. I find many, perhaps I could show fifty, settlements where these Indians have resided continuously from five to fifteen years, and, as a result, I find such as these to be in comfortable circumstances, and many of them content to remain where they are permanently, if they could only secure titles to the land. But in every case which I have investigated I have found the lands occupied by the Indians to belong to some railroad corporation, drainage company, or some other syndicate or individual, who, I have no doubt, are willing to sell the lands to the Indians, or to the Government to be allotted among them.

I found their profound ignorance and want of an intelligent understanding of the object and purpose of the Department to be one of the greatest barriers in the way. You see our system of government, our "Interior" Department, our Congress, etc., is not within the scope or ken of their benighted understanding. But this obstacle, in my opinion, can in a short time be removed if the proper policy is pursued.

In my final report to the Department I made known the state of affairs just as they exist, and recommended that some action be taken to first educate the children and younger ones—in fact, all of them who are susceptible or accessible. The younger Indians all manifest a desire to learn, not alone to speak our language, but also to read and write it; and all that is necessary is a proper and systematic distribution of the right kind of literature among them, and what amount of help and instruction that could be given them, without exciting the distrust and consequent disapproval of the older heads. Most of the Indian boys have each a lead pencil and blank book, in which they are always glad to have one to write, that they may imitate and copy. Many of them write their names very legibly, while some of them make our alphabet and figures well.

The younger Indians of every family and settlement that I have seen (and I have seen them all) manifest a great fondness for our language and a wonderful aptness in its acquirement; and, as above referred, a well-directed effort will in a short time dispel the dark clouds of ignorance which go far to throttle our efforts in that direction. There are 269 of these Indians all told, of which 60 are males over twenty-one years of age. A very large per cent. of the remainder are bright, intellectual children. And it is for the latter that we are more interested and concerned.

Any assistance that I may be able to render you by supplying any information that may be in my possession will be cheerfully rendered.

Very respectfully,

A. M. WILSON.

Hon. WILKINSON CALL.

WINTER HAVEN, POLK COUNTY, FLA., *January* 11, 1887.

DEAR MADAM: I want to tell you about the Seminole Indians that live near this place. They come here very often to trade and bring game to market. They are in almost a nude condition and are half starved. Year after year they have been driven farther south, till now they are almost at its "jumping-off place," and as the white settlers press in upon them, they must in a very short time find a refuge in the Gulf or Atlantic, or they must resort to war.

There is another alternative: Give them first the necessary comforts of life and then schools—give them at least a chance of civilization. I believe they would take most kindly to the lighter trades. These Seminoles have never had anything done for them, I am told; they are, I believe, now regarded as wards of the nation. They are at present inclined to be friendly, though they are often imposed upon by white settlers. A short time ago a party of white men made a raid upon the property of some Indians stationed near Titusville and destroyed their hogs. The Indians, instead of fighting, appealed to the mayor of Titusville, D. L. Gaulden, for Government protection; I have not heard if they received it. The poor creatures are too ignorant to take care of themselves. Is it right to leave them in such darkness?

Another thing: I am told these Seminoles have negro slaves. Think of it! One report is, that they are willing slaves; another, that they are bondsmen and women compelled to do the field work, what little is done. Again, that the negro men are kept in chains or are carefully guarded. Now, there is probably some exaggeration here, but it is a fact that the Indians have negro slaves. What would General Sherman say? He should have extended his "march" farther than the Georgia coast. "Yallabussee" is the name of one of the Seminoles' chiefs; he has called upon us several times. Last week two Indian boys and a negro woman came in town to trade. I am told this woman is the daughter of one that Yallabussee bought before the war. She is as ignorant as the Indians of our language.

When a true-hearted man or woman becomes conscious (particularly a woman) of a great wrong existing at one's very door, its natural impulse is to remove that evil. Sometimes it is a very helpless woman, without money or influence, who desires most earnestly to do away with the evil, and can think of but one way—to bring it to the notice of those who have the power she lacks.

If I write, Mrs. Cleveland, to Florida's Representatives, they will pay no attention to my letter. The average man never exerts himself, except for himself, until forced to it, and I have not the strength to give the required pressure. The men here to whom I have mentioned the subject say, "The Indians will soon be exterminated;" "The white man will shortly put an end to the last of them;" "They are happier as they are;" "The Indians are an ungrateful people;" "They have not the minds for receiving education," etc. How can they be grateful for benefits never received? How can we form any idea of their mental capacity before it is tested?

I can not forget that this great country was once all theirs. Nor do I think it will cost the Government more to give the Seminoles a few acres of land in a healthy locality, with legal title to the same, and to provide them with a few of the many blessings we enjoy now, than in a few years to support them in forts.

Will you, Mrs. Cleveland, mention this subject to Mr. Cleveland? Ask him if it is possible that something may be done to bring the matter in hand to the notice of the proper parties. I am trying while waiting to forget the difference in our position, and remember only that you are true and good. You will not put my letter aside as worthless because I am unknown to you.

With greatest respect, I am, your friend,

MISS LILLY PIERPONT.

Mrs. CLEVELAND.

MIAKKA, FLA., *December* 30, 1887.

DEAR SIR: After a vexatious delay of five days in Key West, on account of strong head winds, I resolved to wait no longer, and I therefore boarded a small sloop boat with two other parties (Messrs. Curry and Taylor), who promised to make an effort to reach Miami.

The winds were still unfavorable, and, to make a long story short, will only add in this connection that we were forced to "beat" against strong head winds all the way up to Miami, which place we reached on the evening of the 9th of December, having been out seven days from Key West.

Immediately upon reaching shore I started in search of a competent guide and assistant, and soon secured the services of Mr. John Pent to accompany me on the morrow.

Early on the following morning I boarded Mr. Pent's skiff boat, and by him was soon taken up to Miami proper, which is about 4 miles farther up the bay, where I expected to procure supplies for the journey up to the settlements of the Indians.

Having prepared ourselves to spend ten days in the everglades, we proceeded up the Miami River, but had gone a short distance when we met two other young Indians, who told us the old men of the tribe were in another direction—that we would find them up Snake Creek, and distant from them about 20 miles.

We therefore changed our plans, as well as our course, and sailed up to the head of Biscayne Bay, where we found the entrance of Snake Creek. This we found to be a bold stream with strong current, which was very difficult to ascend.

We met several canoes descending the stream, in some of which were half dozen or perhaps more Indians, all going down to Miami to trade. Some of the boats we noticed were loaded with starch, others with alligator skins.

The former they manufacture out of a wild root which grows very abundantly in that section, and called by the whites "comptee" and by the Indians "cootee."

I talked with most of those I met, and made known to them my business. They were not surprised, as they told me they had been looking for me a good while. In fact, I met several whom I had met on a former tour to the Big Cypress and other places. But they all with one accord, requested me to go on and talk with "Old Alleck" and other old men who I would find up at the settlement.

At about middle of the afternoon we sighted a group of shanties on the bank of the creek, and we were soon moored alongside their improvised wharf.

Our arrival was soon announced by a horde of yelping curs, which comprise no small part of an Indian's necessary adjuncts.

Here we met an Indian whom I had known for many years, and who, though I had not seen him for twelve years, recognized me and appeared to be very glad to see me, and through whom I held an interview with "Old Alleck," who is the oldest looking man I ever met.

The old fellow is bent and shriveled with age (he told me he was one hundred years old, and I incline to believe he is older), his sight and hearing are both badly impaired, and as he sat conversing with two other old "veterans" not many years his junior I then beheld what to my mind was a group of typical aborigines.

I made known my business to old Alleck through my interpreter, who listened very courteously to all I had to say, and then gave vent to the most derisive and sarcastic laugh I ever heard, after which he proceeded with a long harangue, not a word of which was intelligible to me because of his hoarse guttural style of utterance, but I was told by my Indian friend that he would not accede to any of my propositions.

Seeing that it was folly to waste time upon him, I proceeded about 2 miles, where I found another shanty where I found a lot of Indians, but two of whom are old enough to entitle them to homesteads.

These fellows talked very sensibly upon the subject, and frankly admitted the wisdom of their people accepting lands, now that the opportunity was extended, and they stated that they would accept homesteads, regardless of "Old Alleck's" opposition, if I would find them good lands.

Here we spent the night sleeping, or rather trying to sleep, among hogs, dogs, and fleas. At early dawn we were in our little boat and descended the stream to the bay, where we met a head wind, but reached Miami late in the afternoon. Here I met a lot of Indians that I had not before seen. With these I talked upon the subject of my visit.

These were chiefly young men and boys, but very intelligent, and some of them stated that they would like to have a piece of hammock land, but they will not accept pine lands, because they say it is "no good."

These Indians, like most others whom I have visited, seem to have plenty to eat and to wear, but I think these pay less attention to agricultural pursuits than any other settlement of Indians that I have visited. Nor do I find many hogs among them; they live chiefly from the manufacture and sale of starch, as above referred to. They are very quiet and unobtrusive save when intoxicated, but they are becoming to be an actual detriment to the progress and development of that section.

I was appealed to by a gentleman while at Miami who demanded of me the removal of some of these Indians off his land, which he informed me was a very valuable tract of land, which he could have sold at a good price but for their occupancy and residence thereon. I informed him that I held no such authority, but recommended that he employ only conciliatory measures in his efforts to remove them, such for instance as a liberal offer for their improvements upon the land.

During my visits and sojourn among these Indians I endeavored, though in a quiet way, to ascertain their exact number, in which I have succeeded, and which I give as follows:

In Polk County:

Males twenty-one years old	3
Women and children (two negroes)	23

In Monroe County:	
Males twenty-one years old	12
Women and children	38
In Brevard and North Dade Counties:	
Males twenty-one years old	15
Women and children	52
In Dade County:	
Miami males	30
Women and children	96
Total Indians in Florida	269

of which 60 are entitled to homesteads.

But in case of trouble they could easily muster 200 fighting men, as there are doubtless 40 or 45 young men, who, though they have not reached their majority, they are good hunters and expert marksmen.

From my knowledge of these Indians and of their attitude and sentiments in this matter, together with the scarcity of good available land that will be acceptable to the few who have signified their willingness to locate, I have reached the conclusion that it is folly to waste further time and money in an effort to locate them unless Congress—in obedience to your suggestion—makes an arrangement by which the lands selected by them can be secured to them.

With that provision of law, a few of them can be located, which, as stated to you in a former report, will be the "entering wedge to the final location of the whole tribe."

Their condition is certainly deplorable and, unless some effective measures are adopted for its betterment, must lead to serious trouble at no distant day.

Very respectfully,

A. M. WILSON,
Special Indian Agent.

Hon. J. D. C. ATKINS,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

MIAKKA, FLA., *November* 3, 1887.

DEAR SIR: On the 11th day of October I left this place for the purpose of making a second visit to the Cow Creek Indians living in Brevard and Dade Counties, a part only of whom I had seen on my first visit in May last, my object being to work my way from thence to Miami.

On the day I left home, and before reaching the town of Arcadia, my team became frightened and ran away with my wagon and did considerable damage, so much so as to detain me the following day to have the same repaired.

On the 13th I left the latter place with supplies sufficient to sustain myself and team three days, reaching Fort Bassenger at noon on the 16th, having camped two nights alone upon that desolate road upon which neighbors live 50 miles apart.

NOTE.—The day I left home it began to rain, which continued incessantly during eight days, during which time the sun was not at any time visible, and which submerged the whole of the lower peninsula of the State.

We had pre-engaged the services of Jno. M. Pearce, of Fort Bassenger, as guide and assistant in lieu of a more competent one which could only be obtained among the Indians.

Not having had an opportunity to notify Mr. Pearce of the time of our coming he was not ready to go at once, and we were thereby detained until the afternoon of the following day, when we crossed the Kasimme River in a drenching rain. After procuring all the supplies obtainable at a little store which is kept on the other side of the river, we proceeded but a short distance before we stopped for the night.

On the morning—the same being the 18th—we proceeded a due east course through water and mud, not unfrequently the former running into our wagon. The settlement of old "Parker," a very prominent Indian, was our objective point. He lived in Cow Slough, and was distant about 35 miles from Fort Bassenger. We waded all day, but did not reach his place until the following day at 10 a. m., but he was absent with a bunch of hogs which he had taken to Indian River for sale. We were told by his wife and son, who speaks our language very well for an Indian, that he was not expected home in about a week. We were also informed that Parker owned about five hundred hogs, and had about one hundred meat hogs for sale, which he sells at very remunerative prices. And in addition to these he owns ten or twelve head of ponies. We noticed an abundance of new cloth, of supplies of both food and clothing, and in fact more evidences of thrift and comfort than we see about the homes of many white families.

Leaving a message for Parker to the effect that we would again call upon him as we returned, we proceeded on our journey, but turning our direction from an east to a southwest, with a view of visiting other settlements of Indians who live on the borders of the Alpataokee Flats.

We passed two or three camps that afternoon, but found only women and children, of whom we made a few purchases, such as dressed deer-skins, a bunch of fine bananas, etc.

We reached the house of a white settler (Addison by name) about dark, and there spent the night.

On the following morning (the 20th) we proceeded, our next object being to see Tom Tiger, a very prominent and influential Indian, who upon our first visit had expressed a desire for a homestead and had also pledged us his influence in the matter. We arrived at the house of Tom Micko, where we found a lot of squaws and children and two young Indian bucks, from whom we learned that Tom Tiger was absent on a "hog hunt" and that he would be absent several days, but that Tom Micko had gone that morning to hunt him up and would return that night; that by stopping until he (Micko) returned we could learn from him of the whereabouts of Tom Tiger. We therefore concluded to remain the balance of the day, which we spent watching the modes and manners of these people and taking notes of same.

We were amused and interested at their primitive style of preparing their corn for food. This is entirely the business of the squaws, who use a mortar which is chiseled or otherwise dug out of the end of a block.

This mortar is about 15 inches deep and about 6 inches in diameter, and holds about 5 quarts of corn, which is dampened with water before the pestling begins. Into this mortar three long wooden pestles are plied by as many squaws, who take their positions around the mortar, forming a triangle.

At a given signal one of the pestles is plunged into the mortar, and the second one chimes in as the first is raised, while the third comes in on the "heels" of second; and thus the pounding and pestling proceeds, with wonderful regularity and precision. After the corn is thus pounded a few minutes, it is removed from the mortar and shaken through a sieve, which is simply a flat basket made of splits of cabbage-palmetto stems, the bottom of which is so made as to allow the finer particles of the corn to escape and is caught in another large, flat basket beneath. The coarse and unbroken grains of corn are then returned to the mortar for a second, and some a third, pestling.

But I will in a future letter give you a more extended description of the customs and habits of these people.

At dark Tom Micko returned from a fruitless hunt for Tom Tiger, and informed me that he thought, from some sign or indications that he had seen, that Tom Tiger had returned home that day.

We determined to proceed to Tom Tiger's house, which was 84 miles distant, and investigate. On the coming dawn we borrowed two old rickety, stirrupless saddles from the Indians, and leaving our wagon we proceeded, but to meet with another disappointment, as he had not returned; but one of his wives (of which he had two) who was at home offered to accompany us to his camp, which she stated was about five miles distant.

We handed her twenty-five cents by way of encouragement, and she led off, taking a western course. We followed her along a devious zig-zag trail until we reached the camp of her husband, who had his "other wife" with him. Tiger appeared to be very glad to see us, and I then held an interview with him of perhaps an hour in length. He agreed to accompany me to Miami in the capacity of an interpreter, provided I would go by land, but stated that he did not like to go by water, as that always made him sea-sick. I did not talk "land" to him further than to show him the maps, and point out to him the land upon which I expected to locate old Tallahassee and his brother, old Tommie, and suggested to him that he sell out his hogs there and go up and locate with them.

He seemed to like the idea, and remarked that he knew all that section of country well and the land spoken of was good land.

As above stated, I did not talk with him upon this subject further, as I expected to have him with me several days and would have more time.

We then agreed, he to accompany me to Miami, for which I was to pay him $1 per day; I was to return to my wagon and proceed to his house that night, and he was to return home, and from there we were to start early the next morning.

Accordingly we returned, reaching the wagon at 1 p. m., and after a hastily prepared dinner we proceeded to his house, reaching there at dark, where we remained all night; but Tom Tiger did not come, and we have not seen him since that day, nor do we yet know the cause of the disappointment.

Thus I found myself shut off from the last avenue or hope of getting a guide whose knowledge of the country extended below Jupiter River.

But with Mr. Pearce's knowledge of the country to that point, and with the aid of a pocket map, I resolved to proceed, and, if possible, reach Jupiter light-house or

Lake Worth, where alone we could hope to replenish our fast diminishing stock of supplies, our purpose being to leave our team at one of the above places and proceed down the coast in a boat, provided one could be obtained. We therefore left Tom Tiger's early on the morning of the 22d, and, pursuing a southeast direction, soon found an old, long since obsolete road, which was made about fifty years ago by General Zachary Taylor during his memorable crusade against the Florida Indians, and which shows no evidence of having been traveled since that eventful period.

We reached Jupiter Creek the following day at 3 p. m., which we found to be very full—in fact, impassable to one less determined to cross over. In fact, for 20 miles before reaching this creek we found the water to be gradually deepening. Sometimes the water for miles would almost reach the floor of our wagon.

We luckily found some floating logs, which we tied together with ropes, and thus made a raft, upon which we hoped to be able to take over the wagon with its contents, but came very near getting the whole business dumped into the river, and were obliged to take over only our baggage, and then pull the wagon through the stream by tying ropes to the end of the pole and swimming through with the rope until we could reach bottom on the opposite side. The team was then driven through, and as night was near at hand, we struck camp on the south bank of the stream, where we spent the night.

The following morning, the 24th, we repacked our wagon and, after early breakfast and feeding to our teams the last vestige of grain, we proceeded, following the United States road only about 1 mile, where we turned to the northeast, in view of striking the coast about the mouth of Jupiter River, where we had been told by the Indians we would find the only entrance to the beach that was to be found between the light-house and Lake Worth, and the only possible entrance to either of the above places. We soon found that we had touched the inlet too high, as we noticed a creek below us which cut us off from a near approach to the light-house, which was now in full view.

We retraced our steps about 3 miles to get around the head of the stream, and again bent on our course and again came in view of the light-house, and we expected soon to be there, where we could rest and refresh ourselves and our jaded team. But alas! for human hopes. Upon reaching the summit of a prominent elevation we saw that our passage was again obstructed by an arm of the inlet, which seemed to coil around us like a huge snake, and again we turned back; and, to make a long story short, I may state that there and in that manner we spent ten days, during which time we tried to force an entrance into this impenetrable morass. We tried at every point between the light-house and Lake Worth, and each effort we found ourselves cut off by a big, deep river, of which there are scores, and which flow in every conceivable direction. Many times we left the horses and waded through saw-grass marshes waist deep in mud and water, clambering through mangrove swamps in a vain effort to reach the beach, by which we could make ourselves seen or heard by some one, which might lead to our delivery from our dilemma, but we failed in every attempt; and after two days of the hardest riding and the most fatiguing walking I ever did, and with no food for our fagging team, and upon the verge of starvation ourselves, we were forced to wend our way back, and thus abandon the expedition to Miami by this route.

For three days we were forced to subsist upon cabbage palmetto, squirrels, and anything in fact that we could kill, while our team ate nothing but grass.

On our return we recrossed Jupiter Creek after the same manner that our first crossing had been effected, and reached the house of Tom Tiger on the morning of the 27th, at 8 a. m. Though he was not at home, we bought a feed of corn for the team, and a quart of hominy, which we cooked and ate before leaving.

We then proceeded to Addison's, the white settler with whom we spent the night on our downward trip, and then spent the night. From thence we proceeded via Parker's house, hoping to find him at home, but we were again disappointed, as he was off on a hog hunt and was not expected to be at home in several days. Our circumstances would not allow us to await his return, or otherwise delay.

Proceeding on our journey, we reached Fort Bassenger on the night of the 29th and stopped only for the night. We proceeded to Arbuckle River on the following night (the 30th). The following day we reached William Addison's, where we spent the night, and reached John W. Hendry the following night and arrived at this place the night of the 2d of November, having been absent twenty-two days.

This was the most tedious, laborious, and disagreeable trip that has ever been my lot to make, and I fear has not been very fruitful of results. I talked with many Indians upon the subject of homesteads, most of whom expressed a willingness to locate, provided always that other and older ones would do so themselves. I also met some very intelligent young men among them, who speak our language understandingly. I met two Miami Indians who stated that if their people could secure the lands upon which they live, they thought there would be no trouble about locating them. And I think, according to the maps, their lands are embraced in an unsurveyed ter-

ritory, in which case I presume there will be no trouble because of the present proprietorship of the land, a difficulty which too often arises in other sections.

I shall again start to Miami in a few days, but shall go next time via Key West, after which I shall render my final report and submit some suggestions for your consideration.

I am, yours, very respectfully,

A. M. WILSON,
Special Indian Agent.

Hon. J. D. C. ATKINS,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *August* 20, 1879.

SIR: In compliance with Special Orders No. 122 from headquarters of the Army May 23, and your letter of instructions dated June 9, directing me "to investigate and report upon the condition of the Seminole Indians in Florida, * * * making in connection therewith such recommendations as you [I] shall deem proper * * * with a view to the institution of such measures as the Department may be able to inaugurate, looking to their civilization," I have the honor to report that, taking with me, at the desire of Professor Baird, for the purpose of gathering specimens for the national collection, the Cheyenne Indian Tichkematse, employed in the Smithsonian Institution as a taxidermist (his expenses being borne by his patron, Miss A. E. Prall, of New York City), I left Washington June 11, and proceeded to Saint Augustine, Fla.

It was my intention to go down the eastern coast of the State to Miami and thence around to Forts Myers and Ogden, making trips inland to the Indian villages, but, obtaining better information after arrival in Florida, I determined to begin at Fort Meade, Polk County, which point I reached, by way of Cedar Keys and Tampa, on the 27th of June. Lieut. E. T. Brown, U. S. Army, stationed at Saint Augustine, being anxious for the experience of such a trip, asked and obtained a leave of absence for the purpose and accompanied me from that point, and I am indebted to him for the drawings hereto appended.

Florida papers had published some time before my arrival that the intention of the Department in sending me on this visit to the Seminoles was directed towards their removal to the Indian Territory. This was, to some extent, unfortunate.

At Fort Meade I learned that the Indians were divided into four communities or villages; that Chipco, a very old man, had a small village among the lakes about Fort Clinch, 30 miles northeast of Fort Meade, his people being Creeks and claiming a separate tribal origin from the others, speaking a different but similar language; that a second village, under a chief named Tuscanugga, was at Fort Center, on the western border of Lake Okechobee; that the old Chief Tiger Tail governed a third community in the vicinity of Fort Shackleford, somewhat scattered along the borders of the Big Cypress Swamp; that in the vicinity of Miami, on the Atlantic coast, was the fourth village, ruled over by Young Tiger Tail, who is the son of Old Tiger Tail.

I deemed it best to seek a conference with the leading men of the villages west of Okechobee in a body, and to this end fixed upon Fort Myers, on the Caloosahatchee, as the place and the 7th of July as the time. Capt. F. A. Hendry, one of the largest cattle-owners in the State, a worthy and warm friend of the Indians, and one of the few in whom they confide, undertook to assemble those from Forts Center and Shackleford, and I undertook the Fort Clinch village.

Engaging the services of a guide and interpreter we proceeded to Chipco's village, which was reached about 9 p. m., June 29. We were received very hospitably by Chipco and his people. Chipco gave us his summer-house to sleep in, and otherwise extended all the hospitality he was able.

The village is on a slight elevation in the piney woods, in the vicinity of clear, beautiful lakes, in which abound black bass and other food-fish. It is composed of ten substantial buildings, similar in character, which are well represented by the drawings hereto appended, marked 1, 2, and 3. They are located convenient to each other, but without regard to order. Although rude in their construction, they are quite ample for the climate, show as much mechanical skill and are quite equal in comfort to those of many of their white neighbors. The timbers for beams, rafters, posts, and floors are neatly hewn; while the clapboards were rived out as evenly as possible. Scattered about the village were a few young orange trees, protected carefully with boxing or fences. Chipco showed us the village and their fields of corn, sugar-cane, rice, etc., with evident pride in all that indicated energy and thrift. The fields comprise about 15 acres in the midst of a dense hammock. They were reached by a crooked pathway, which crossed a small stream by a slight foot-bridge. The outside of the hammock on all sides was left in its original state, as a compact mass

of trees, vines, and underbrush, so that observation of passers and encroachments of stock were effectually cut off.

The clearing away of this large tract was not accomplished without great labor, in which I was informed both men and women engaged. The land was rich and the crops equal in appearance to any I saw in the State. Each family had its separate patch of corn, rice, sweet-potatoes, sugar-cane, and melons, and old Chipco had a few stalks of tobacco. The cultivation was perfect; not a weed was to be seen. Having no plows, they use hoes, only to stir the ground. The day we remained in the village it rained in the afternoon. When the rain commenced falling, Chipco excused himself, saying it was a good time to set out sweet-potatoes. and he had a little patch he wanted to help his squaw finish. They went off to the fields a mile away in the rain. They returned at dark soaked and begrimed with earth, and the old man complained that work made his back and shoulders ache.

Chipco is said to be a hundred years of age; he is certainly very old. He claims to have been one of the leaders in the Dade massacre, over forty years ago.

One of the men, named Tom, went to a lake fishing early in the morning after we arrived. His rig was a long elm pole, with about 3 feet of line attached, and to that two stout hooks knit together and concealed in pieces of deer's tail and red flannel. He returned in about an hour and a half with 25 to 30 pounds of black bass, that would have made old Isaac Walton jump with delight. Ten cents bought the best one, which four hungry men found an ample breakfast, and all pronounced the quality surpassingly fine. Tom went again in the evening, taking his thirteen-year old boy. The result was the same. When a quarter of a mile from camp, on his return, he gave the fish to his boy to carry and went off the path to a blown-down tree, where he shouldered and brought in for fire-wood a limb so large and heavy that I doubt if any in our party could have carried it as far.

We saw a good many hogs, and were told they had many more off in the mast. These they allow to sleep about their houses and under their beds. When moving their hogs from place to place, for feeding or to market, they follow like dogs.

They had plenty of chickens; and when we asked for them, more eggs were produced than we wanted.

They have a few ponies and cattle. Tom bargained with our interpreter for a cow while we were in the village.

The men wear the usual breech-clout, a calico shirt ornamented with bright strips of ribbon, and a small shawl of bright colors folded the width of the hand and wrapped around the head like a turban. The legs and feet are usually bare, but on special occasions they wear both moccasins and leggins of buckskin, and in addition a light hunting coat of bright colors, ornamented with strips of ribbon or cloth of bright, flashy colors.

The women wear short jackets and shirts made of calico. I saw none with covering on the feet. Cheap beads, large and small, and all colors, are piled up in enormous fagging quantities about their necks. The hair of the old women is done up in a conical-shaped knob on the back of the head, whilst the young women wear theirs long and flowing, with bang in front. Small children about camp don't wear anything.

They had in this village dozens of deer skins and buck skins, and a few other pelts, but Chipco complained that game was getting scarce.

I told Chipco that the Government had heard he was poor, that game was getting scarce and his crops had failed, and that I had been sent to see what help he needed in the way of raising corn, etc., and if he was ready to have his children educated so that they could get along better in company with the whites who were crowding down into his country. He replied that they did not want to hear any "Washington talk," that while it was true game was getting scarce, their wants were all supplied and they needed no education or other help. I suggested that help in the way of plows, hoes, etc., might be acceptable, but he said no, they wanted to be let alone. I told him of the conference at Fort Myers and invited him to be there, but he declined, saying he was old and his pony lame. I suggested he had better send a delegate, that I would provide food, etc., but he said no, none of them cared to go.

They parried direct attemps to find out their numbers, but by various devices, and aided by the acquaintance of the guide and interpreter, we found this village to number twenty-six in all, one-third of whom were absent. Six of them were warriors, and three others (one man and two women) were negroes, held as property. As late as last year Chipco offered to sell negroes at $800 each in Fort Meade.

While in the village I overheard Tom ask my interpreter, "Good whisky, Bartow?" The interpreter informed him that the best whisky was to be found at Fort Meade. These were the only English words I heard any of the Indians use while in the camp, though I had been told that both Chipco and Tom could speak some English.

The men, women, and children were well-built, strong, healthy, and jolly. Tom and his son were models of erect and graceful carriage, strength, and endurance.

In this village we saw only the old Kentucky rifle with bows and arrows as weapons, but were told that in the other villages they had a few breech-loading arms and revolvers. Men women and children came together to handle and comment on my self-acting Colt's revolver.

I invited Tom to give us a specimen of his skill with the bow and arrow. The bow was nearly 6 feet and the arrow nearly 4 in length and without feathers, but having a pointed cone-shaped cap of iron at the butt end. He asked what to shoot at, and a large pine tree was indicated, further than I supposed he could send the arrow. He shot and struck the tree. The trajectory was equal to the height of the tree and the arrow struck about as high as a man's head. I stepped the distance and found it quite 190 yards. I removed the arrow with difficulty.

We remained two nights and a day, and as we were leaving Chipco asked what we came for. I repeated in substance my former statements, and that I should report just what I had seen and what he had said. He replied he had money to buy what he wanted and needed nothing from Washington.

I distributed among them a small quantity of sugar, canned stuffs, crackers, tobacco, etc., which I had brought along for that purpose, which they gladly accepted, as a return for their hospitality.

We returned to Fort Meade and proceeded at once overland to Fort Myers, where we arrived July 6. The messengers to Fort Center and the Big Cypress had performed their duty and reported that both villages would send in their best men. A party of four arrived on the 7th and eleven more on the 9th. Only seven of the whole number were men and all were from the Big Cypress. Six of the seven men shook hands with me distantly, and answered a few questions I asked, when they first arrived. Old Jumper refused to shake hands or to have anything to say. I waited until the 11th of July, when, hearing nothing further from the Fort Center party, I desired those who had arrived to meet and confer with me about the object of my visit. They sent word they had nothing to say and did not want to hear "Washington talk," as they called it. Their good friend Capt. F. A. Hendry reasoned with them, but it was of no avail.

Three of these men, Doctor, Motloe, and Jumper, are quite old and esteemed among the most important in the tribe. All of them were noted in the war of 1835 to 1842. All refused to accept both food and tobacco, which I had arranged to supply them with on their arrival. Said they could buy what they wanted.

They afterwards said, if the Fort Center party came in and talked, they would talk. Later I received a message from the Fort Center village that their Chief, Tuscanugga, had been bitten by a rattlesnake, and they would not come in, though they had received the message to come with favor.

At this point, being satisfied that any further attempts to deal with them, either by visiting their villages or otherwise, would be additional sacrifice of dignity without material results, and that the information already obtained would guide to about the only solution of the case, and as the Secretary of the Interior had desired my early return, I concluded to end the effort and return.

The testimony of all persons familiar in any way with the Indians was sought and noted. From these sources much valuable information was derived.

W. R. Hollingsworth and Louis Lanier, of Fort Meade, Capt. F. A. Hendry and J. J. Blunt, of Fort Myers, and T. J. Sparkman, of Fort Ogden, were particularly interested and informed in regard to the Seminoles.

Four or five years back these Indians all lived in frail houses constructed of palmetto leaves. The men busied themselves only with hunting, disdaining labor of any other kind, and the crops the women raised were not large. Now the houses in all their villages are constructed as in Chipco's camp, and their fields, industry, and general prosperity are quite up to his. Formerly they could not be hired to help cattlemen. Now some of them make fair laborers in building pens and gathering cattle.

They generally have corn and sweet-potatoes to sell in their villages.

Within two years they have begun to raise cattle, and this year the Fort Shackleford village sold four head to the shippers.

From careful inquiry I estimate their revenue to be annually:

From buckskin, skins and pelts	$3,000
From sale of hogs and cattle	2,000
From sale of produce, etc	1,000
Total	6,000

It is evident that their game reliance must diminish yearly, and they be driven to civilized resources.

The introduction of piazzas and windows into the construction of their houses, and the building of a small rude mill to grind sugar-cane are special signs of breaking away from savage life.

A few instances of desire for education have occurred among the boys, but they are promptly suppressed by the old men. Recently a bright boy, friendly to one of Captain Hendry's sons, was induced to remain at Fort Myers several weeks and attend school, but was forced to give it up by the old men. Responsible friends of the Indians have proposed to take their children and educate them, but they have always declined, even when the place proposed was where they could see them often.

Whisky is the great enemy of the Florida Indians, and will obstruct their progress in civilization more than any other one thing, perhaps more than all other obstacles combined. They trade in Tampa, Fort Meade, Bartow, Fort Myers, Fort Ogden, Miami, and other places. With the exception of one from each party, detailed to keep sober for the purpose of looking after the others, the whole party always gets drunk. There is no exception, they always do. Except to make a noise, they are not ugly when drunk, nor do the citizens apprehend any violent conduct. Liquor is sold to them without stint at all trading points, and the value of their trade being some object, a little legislating on the superior quality of the whisky at this or that place occurs. Their annual green-corn dance, held when roasting ears come, usually turns out a great drunken frolic.

On the occasion of the green-corn dance they gather from all the villages, at the point named, and a new chief is elected or the old one re-elected; laws are made, and criminals who have been outlawed can re-establish themselves by reaching the dance circle before being caught. Some years ago a jealous woman killed the woman of whom she was jealous. She remained hid until the green-corn dance, when she reached the circle and was restored to her former status. A warrior who had married a negro woman was outlawed, but reaching the charmed corned circle was rehabilitated in the tribe, retaining the woman still as his wife.

I could hear of but one mixed blood, and he was a middle aged negro Indian.

The women are said to be virtuous. Of those who came into Fort Myers all seemed to understand the English Indian patois, so common along the Indian border everywhere, but they were reticent in speaking it themselves. I was informed most of them could speak some English, a few quite plainly.

Cattlemen complain that they steal and kill a good many cattle, and very often are profligate enough to kill one for only a few pounds of the meat. The cattlemen claim a loss of 150 to 200 head annually, worth $1,500 to $2,000. There seems good reason to believe they have killed and cured stolen beef and carried it through the everglades to sell. They have been caught killing the cattle of their best friends. In a very few cases they have paid for the cattle.

Like offenses are committed against the Indians. Within a few months a man named Lightsey was charged by an Indian with having stolen sixteen of his hogs. The Indian brought the men who helped cut them up as proof. At the time of my visit public opinion was so strong against Lightsey that he was expected to pay for the hogs.

Another notable case was when an Indian named Streety Parker had bought from a white man named Collier fifty cattle which proved to be stolen. Parker had to give them up and Collier was tried before the courts, but escaped punishment. No restitution was made, and the friends of the Indians wrote to the governor of the State, who replied that an act of the legislature was the only remedy, and there the case rests, with the Indians still indignant.

The squaws steal cooking utensils, etc., at houses where they are permitted to visit. While I was in Fort Myers one of the squaws was given her dinner by a merchant's wife. The merchant's wife missed articles of stove furniture and sent out to the Indian camp, when they were recovered from the squaw.

These evils will only pass away as the moral atmosphere improves.

I was unable to obtain an exact census of these people, and am satisfied it is not an easy thing to accomplish. Their confidence must first be established. The account of Chipco's village I believe to be correct. Mr. Blunt, of Fort Myers, who has herded cattle south af the Calbosahatchee seven years, gave me the names and number of each family between that river and the Big Cypress Swamp. Two other parties of like experience at different periods confirmed each other as to the names of families, and the number in a part of them about Fort Center. I average those families whose numbers are not known.

Two years ago an old Indian from Miami enumerated to Captain Hendry eighty persons, old and young, as being the aggregate of that village. This was confirmed to me by a recent resident of Miami. From these rather indefinite sources we have:

At Fort Clinch village (Chipco, chief)	26
At Fort Center village (Tuscamugga, chief)	90
At Fort Shackleford (Old Tiger Tail, chief)	76
At Miami village (Young Tiger Tail, chief)	80
To these counts I add, for possible oversight	20
Total	292

I believe this to be rather more than the actual number.

Coontie root, much like arrowroot in character, enters quite largely into their food. A description of the method of preparation by T. J. Sparkman, of Fort Ogden, is appended, marked 5.

The constitution of Florida provides for the representation of the Seminoles in both branches of its legislature, and paves the way for their citizenship. (See appendage, marked 6.) The Indians have often been urged to accept of these privileges, but always decline.

They are brought to the attention of the State legislature almost every session by propositions from the border members looking towards their advancement in civilization, etc., but as yet no formal action has taken place. All propositions I saw in examining several years' proceedings looked to the General Government for relief or re-imbursement.

In 1871 the Methodist Conference of Florida sent the Rev. W. E. Collier, one of its members, as a missionary to the Seminoles. Though an earnest man and one universally esteemed to be well qualified for the work, he does not seem to have made much impression during the year he was continued on that duty. Want of funds compelled the discontinuance of the work the succeeding year. Another member of the conference was appointed to the mission at a later period, but died before assuming the work. Other efforts made by Catholics, Baptists, and others have proven equally abortive.

It is probable that so long as the old Indians remain who passed through the war of 1835 to 1842, and the later wars of 1852, 1856, and 1857 (who are justly suspicious of the United States Government), no great progress can be made in the education and civilization of these people, particularly whilst they contract no greater restraints than now exist in regard to property and whisky.

Their removal to the civilized portion of their tribe in the Indian Territory would do more for their advancement than any other plan, but, except by some unworthy trick, they could not be procured to go there. I very much doubt that they could be gathered into one community in Florida. To reach them in their present divided state and exercise any authority as agent would be an extremely difficult task, even should the Indians be willing to accept such authority.

Their spirit of independence and self-help should not be destroyed.

I would recommend that the Department begin the work of redeeming these people from their savage state by sending among them a responsible man as teacher, having special reference to gathering their children into school. That he be instructed for the present to visit and remain at least ten days in each village once every three months, gradually inculcating educational ideas, instructing and encouraging them to enlarge their agricultural and stock resources and to advance whatever relates to their material or moral prosperity. That he deprecate kindly and firmly their tendency to drink whisky and organize and grow a faction against it. He should counsel them and protect justice in their intercourse with the whites. By these and other means he will gain their good-will, and so their consent to let their children attend school.

A detailed report after each visit would be advisable, and these after a few visits would aid to direct a course.

A boarding-school with manual-labor features would be the only school of real value, in which, so far as possible, the youth should reap tangible rewards for their labor. Old Fort Brooks, at Tampa, is probably abandoned for military uses, and would furnish an admirable place for such a school, ready for immediate use. So long as they spend their gains for whisky all other material aid would be farcical, but the interests of humanity and good government demand a strong and persistent effort to save them and their children from the vagabondage toward which they are drifting.

An educated Seminole from the Indian Territory would be a valuable assistant, and possibly lead them to desire emigration.

The teacher could, in a few visits, gain a correct census by name, age, and sex.

It would not conserve the good-will of whites or Indians to institute stringent legal measures against the whisky traffic at once.

Six or seven hundred dollars annually would be a sufficient salary for the teacher, and enable him to provide his own transit from village to village. Three hundred dollars more would pay for an interpreter, who would not be needed after the first year.

The boarding and clothing of the children, pay of an assistant, etc., would come up for action when the work had reached that stage.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. H. PRATT,
First Lieutenant, Tenth Cavalry, Special Agent.

Hon. E. A. HAYT,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

FORT OGDEN, FLA., *July* 8, 1879.

DEAR SIR: According to promise I will ship you a box of coontie (I am not certain about the orthography of this word) by the first boat going from here to Cedar Keys. I can not (tell) when that will be.

The coontie is an article of food among the Indians. The following is their manner of preparing, from the best information that I can get:

Pare off all the hard outside. Grate the remainder very fine. Put it in a cloth; common calico will do. Pour water over it; stir continually so that the water will carry all the finer particles through the cloth. After all has passed through that will, let the water settle; then pour it off carefully, leaving the starch at the bottom. Pour in more fresh water. Stir, let it settle, and pour off again. Continue thus washing it until the water is clear and the starch white. Some say that the Indians, after grating, allow it to slightly ferment before straining and washing it. The above is the best information I can give you at present.

If I can learn anything more I will let you know. It is said to be very poisonous unless properly prepared; the white people are afraid of it. The plant is very abundant around Fort Ogden. The Indians come in here every winter and manufacture and carry off the starch, sometimes as much as 8 or 10 barrels, but it is hard to learn the process of manufacturing unless a person would stay with them all the time. They are not disposed to be communicative unless they want something.

If I can be of any further service to you, it will afford me pleasure.

Yours, truly,

T. J. SPARKMAN.

Capt. R. H. PRATT.

Extracts from the constitution of the State of Florida.

SEC. 7. The tribe of Indians located in the southern portion of the State, and known as the Seminole Indians, shall be entitled to one member in each house of the legislature. Such member shall have all the rights, privileges, and remuneration as other members of the legislature. Such members shall be elected by the members of their tribe in the manner prescribed for all elections by this constitution. The tribe shall be represented only by a member of the same, and in no case by a white man: *Provided*, That the representatives of the Seminole Indians shall not be a bar to the representation of any county by citizens thereof.

SEC. 8. The legislature may at any time impose such tax on the Indians as it may deem proper, and such imposition of tax shall constitute the Indians citizens, and they shall henceforward be entitled to all the privileges of other citizens and thereafter be barred of special representation.

O