

**FLORIDA'S GREAT NEED
IS GOOD PEOPLE.**

**Mr. Reardon Writes Another Article
on the Debatable Utilities of the
Indian War Claims Fund.**

To the Editor of the Ocala Banner:

The Indian War Claims fund is over half a million dollars, but it would not build an Applan way from Tallahassee to Key West; it could not be used for educational purposes for one state institution which would be practicable, and to divide it for general or special educational purposes would be to squander it; it would not do away with the public debt, for another one would soon take its place in some form or another.

For not one of the purposes for which it has been suggested as above could it be used with satisfaction and the concurrence of the majority of the people. I think its use for public roads, education or payment of the public debt would give Florida more mean politics than she has had since the halcyon days of Harrison Reed and reconstruction.

If it can be used so it will produce more money for the state, then business policy and the needs existing and benefits prospective for the state require that such an investment be made.

When the Internal Improvement Fund lands were sold to Diston for twenty-five cents per acre two benefits to the state resulted from what appeared at the time to some as a ridiculous transaction: one was the obtaining by the state riddance of a large and burdensome special debt, always increasing, and thereby ending of harassing and expensive lawsuits; and the other was to turn that land, which was the consideration of this first benefit, from a non-producing asset into a vast resource of revenue for the state through taxation, from some thing, which before the sale, made the state land poor, and burdened it with an impossible asset, into a perpetual source of revenue.

Now in that sale to the Distons the state got back all that it gave up, perhaps more, and in a way mutually beneficial to buyer and seller. If such a transaction can now be made by the state by means of the Indian War Claims Fund, then of course it goes without saying that it should be done.

Most any theorist or enthusiast can work out success for his project on paper I know. Mathematics, the most exact system of knowledge, can produce more failures of plans of men than any other of the related sciences. Yet, after all, we can not do without figuring.

Beneficial results can only come by the practical application of that related knowledge which must necessarily control the life and progress of the things sought to be consummated or accomplished. Any use of money as a means to an end must, therefore, be upon a practical system which admits of losses and profits, the margin for which can be actually foreseen through experience and contact with, and belonging to, the object and purpose of endeavor, and correspondingly provided for.

Now my idea of the ways and means of getting immigrants, or settlers, if you please, for Florida, is practically to buy them at so much per head.

A state is heir to nothing and to nobody. What it gets is by purchase. It is a trader, and is supposed to pay value for what it receives. Whatever it needs it uses the public money to purchase, and if it needs immigrants, or settlers, and can get them through the proper use of money, then clearly that is what it has money for.

There is no prospect of an immigration hiegra to the state of people looking for homes like the flight of droves of wild duck, or the invading hosts of northern tourists to Florida, in the winter time. No such thing is going to mark the history of the state; and so much the better. Let us go slower, and like the purchaser in market alert, as we must be, pick and choose, and get a few at a time, but as often as possible, signed, sealed and delivered C. O. D., as it were.

A little experience that I have had in the matter of getting people interested in coming to Marion county satisfied me that the state can bring to it within a comparatively short time—say within three or four years—one hundred thousand acceptable souls at a cost of less than one hundred dollars each, and locate each family, or man, or woman, on a farm big enough in soil and ordinary civilized facilities to support him as well as that which he leaves, and in thousands instances, better than that which he leaves. I believe that the average belongings, i. e., goods, chattels, money and property of all kinds that this hundred thousand people would bring with them would exceed in value ten dollars per capita. Then consider the yearly increase of their taxable property.

On the theory that the \$600,000 in question belongs to the people of the state, or the benefit and progress of state, it seems to me that if it can be used so as to get those hundred thousand souls here, the sooner that we start their movement this way the better it will be for Florida.

JNO. G. REARDON.

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