



J. C. LUNING
STATE TREASURER
AND
INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

B.B./

State of Florida
Office of State Treasurer
Tallahassee

May 7, 1926.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
c/o Hotel Powhatan,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I thank you very much for your letter of the 28th ult. You are very kind to go into detail to such an extent. Frankly, I hardly think any of the discrepancies referred to in my former letter particularly need correction, as you do not intend to publish your Florida articles in ~~Shout~~ permanent form, and had I known that, most likely I should not have troubled you in the first instance. The error as to the Florida seacoast is so clearly typographical, that I believe it will be recognized as such by almost any intelligent reader.

My impression with regard to your comment on the railroads was based upon the last two paragraphs on page 7 of the May McCall's. I understood of course that you were discussing only the railroads in the peninsular portion of the State--the East and West coasts--and had no reference to the lines connecting Jacksonville and Pensacola, and other points in the northern and western portions of Florida. There is still in operation between Tallahassee and St. Marks a small road which was the third to be constructed in the entire United States.

The Plant System (now the Atlantic Coast Line,) was, as you say, made up largely of short lines. The Florida East Coast Railway (Flagler system,) took over some existing lines when it was incorporated in 1895, but its construction has been principally in its own name.

Please pardon me for not recognizing the alligator joke; I suppose we take ourselves a little too seriously at times down here in Florida, at times. The exact number of "lakes" is probably of minor consequence, and it certainly does the State no harm to credit it with more than we may actually be entitled to. Likewise, what difference does a few million acres of land make "between friends?"

I shall watch for the remaining articles in your series with great interest, and in the meantime, beg that you will accept assurances of my esteem and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Albert H. Roberts.