HENNING & SMITH, INC.
FLORIDA REAL ESTATE

Orlando, Fla.
March 18, 1926

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
Windsor Hotel
Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Your kind letter of the 17th just received and I shall be very pleased to give you the information you requested and any other which I may be able to furnish you.

The Seminola race tract is located in Seminole County at the little town of Longwood which is about 14 miles from Orlando. The story of the race tract is about as followers: Some of the promoters came to Orlando with the intention of locating it here. Mr. Carl Hunt, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, at once took the matter up with the City officials and the leading citizens of both the town and County with the object of condeming the establishment of the racing assocation in this County. He found the sentiment so unanimous against racing as at present conducted, that he wrote the promoters who had temporarily left town, telling them that Orlando and Orange County would have nothing to do with bringing it here and, futhermore, the assocation would not be given a permit. In a general way these are the main facts in the case.

The story of the Palm Beach real estate deal is about as follows: On my way to Miami I submitted to this party a million dollar tract of land in which he became interested and requested me to leave all the data with him until my return a day or two later. In the meantime he would take the matter up with some wealthy friends.

When I returned two days later to see him he said that he desired to apologize to me for not going into my deal. His reason was that a lady friend had come to him the day before stating that she had lost so heavily at Bradley's the night before that she must have some money at once. She offered to let him have some business property in West Palm Beach for $175,000 which he said was easily worth $250,000, which was so unusual that he took it at once necessitating such an outlay that he could not consider my deal at that time.

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Frankly, Miss Tarbell, I don't know as to the advisability of using a story like the one above.

Many people might take it as applying to Florida alone while we all know, or at least should, that such profligate abuse is made of money wherever gambling is conducted. If you think it would serve the purpose of helping to root out the establishment of such nuisances in Florida, I would say make the greatest possible use of it.

With the exception of Palm Beach and Miami gaming instutions are making very little headway in the state.

I suggest that when you see Gov. Martin you raise the question with him.

It was a very great pleasure to have you in Orlando and when you return, which we hope you may be able to do this trip, we want to see you more.

Mrs. Herming and Harriette join me in very best wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

Chas. H. Herming

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