

The facts leading to this survey are fully set forth in my report of an investigation into their condition, under date of March 19, 1898, and this one should be considered supplementary to my former report. In accordance with my recommendation, made in said report, that a survey of certain lands of the east boundary and within the so-called Everglades, consisting of what is known at present as "Pine Island" and "Long Key," adjacent, and certain lands known by the Indians as "Big City," be made, on July 18 last, the honorable Commissioner instructed me to proceed to Florida and superintend and designate the above lands to J. O. Fries, C. E., appointed as special agent to the General Land Office, for the purpose of making said surveys; to consult with surveyor-general of Florida in relation to survey matters; to consult with the land agents of the different railroads, supposed, incidentally, to be interested in the lands, etc.

On July 21, I met Surveyor Fries at Tallahassee, visited the office of the surveyor-general, and obtained such notes of old surveys as were necessary for the contemplated work. Mr. Fries being under my instructions, on the same day I directed him to proceed to Fort Lauderdale without delay (Fort Lauderdale being the nearest point where supplies could be obtained for the work). I met Mr. Fries at the above place on July 25, and, under my instructions, the surveying corps was organized. I experienced some difficulty in procuring reliable and experienced men, as no others, I knew from my experience in the Everglades, could be depended upon. I went with Mr. Fries within the Everglades and designated the lands to be surveyed, consisting of the islands and lands above indicated. The work was commenced and prosecuted earnestly and actively, in anticipation of the severe rains due there.

The facts in regard to the work done by Mr. Fries are fully set forth in his report to the honorable Commissioner of the General Land Office, under date of August 29, a copy of which is attached hereto as part of this report. The facts set forth therein will relieve me of entering into all the details, as Mr. Fries has been very specific. The work, in my opinion, has been done well, as will be more clearly shown in the field notes which Mr. Fries has filed in the land department at Tallahassee.

In order that the honorable Commissioner may fully understand the work which has been done, the location of said lands, and their character, I have filed with this report a map, upon a large scale, to which I especially call your attention, as it particularly shows the character of the lands, Indian settlements or villages, Indian cultivation of these hammocks or islands, etc.

This map, with the letter of J. O. Fries, I think, will be all that is necessary for the honorable Secretary to understand fully the lands surveyed, and perhaps to be considered as completing the work assigned me at that place; but I would respectfully submit the following in regard to these lands which have been surveyed:

(1) *Character of the lands.*—The State of Florida claims these lands under the "Swamp act of 1850." No survey has been made heretofore within the boundaries of lands embraced in the so-called "Swamp list No. 87." The lands surveyed are evidently not swamp or overflowed lands at any time of the year. The survey was made to medium low-water mark.

The tract known as "Big City" is an old settlement. The Indians, for many years, have cultivated the hammocks indicated on the plat of the survey. At present quite a number of their houses are standing there. Below the first village tropical fruits, such as guavas, lemons, or limes were planted and are still growing. Fields were also found where they had cultivated sweet potatoes and other vegetables. According to the statement of Mr. Stranahan, storekeeper at Fort Lauderdale, Job Farrow, and others, they have occupied these lands from time to time as their home. Within a year past they have been occupying lands. About one year ago a Mr. Moore took possession of the cultivated hammocks, and which