#### THE LEAST KNOWN WILDERNESS OF AMERICA, EVERGLADES OF FLORIDA

(By Minnie Moore-Willson, of Kissimmee, Fla.)

Why should the American go to the
land of the Vikings or to "darkest Africa"
for themes? We have the Everglades—
grey, misty, water-covered, a region with
a background that teems with romance,
yet reeks in tragedy.

The land of the southern peninsula of
Florida with its islets, lagoons, its cutting
saw grass prairies and tropic jungle is an
unexplored treasure house for the man of
research, a virgin field for the adventurer—in short, a tropic mimosa with
its secrets closely held against the disturbing exploiter, yet awaiting the intrepid spirit who would dare to explore
this "Loast Known Wilderness of America."

The Everglades, while at the very

s made—no flagstaffs mark the trail he adventurous explorer. Appearance of the interior Glades he appearance of the remote interior he Everglades is unlike that of any er region of the globe, and is certy the most bewildering and remark of this continent. View from an aeroplane would show ast lake of fresh water, spreading out he shape of an artist's palette; hunds of of the state of the state of the shape of an artist's palette; hunds of liles of tall sawgrags, shooting in slender stems, would break into the state of more of the state of more of shrubbery and vines; here and the would be seen an island of lofty es, but oftener the view would reveal of similates upon which were emitted a solitary majestic palmetto—a rinel or a place of signal for the wanter or the donizen of this "grass water" interior and color and animation to the scenet the captain of this airship rest his fit in midair and through his glasses of down upon this aquatic jungle. The wild animats find a refuge in these juded boundaries; the gentie doe with

The man with the glasses looks again and he sees the American red man add-ing a picturesque embellishment to the

the rock-bound bottom, it apparently has no source, but finds its supply from under-currents.

When the torrential rains, a characteristic of this 'Glades country, come, flooding the entire area, the Queen of the Water Kingdom picks up the rippling waters and like an eifish sprite huris them into the lakes and rivers, where they dash relentlessly, on until they reach some subterranean passage to the sea; and thus with under-currents, subterranean lakes, as well as subterranean outlets, the sanity of "practical drainage" in this "Grass Water" country becomes a stupendous problem to the honest engineer.

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to the honest engineer.

During the past decade more than one American engineering expedition has entered this region to make surveys for drainage and reclamation purposes, and each surveying corps has wisely and guardedly barricaded against criticism of failure by publishing to the critical world



The man with the glasses looks again and he sees the American red man adding a picturesque embellishment to the picture; he sees men and women and children, brown skinned, brightly garbed and picturesque, yet strangely self-contained; for the solemn silence is only broken by the splash-of a paddle of the cance as it glides through the Seminole's secret channels of the great swamp.

What a background of romance and tragedy do these aboriginal people give to this Venice of America! Stories weird and strange fill the unwritten life book of these descendants of aboriginal America. This vast aquatic domain, that has ever remained terra incognito to the white man, opens quickly enough to whomso-ever carries the key. In ages past, long before Columbus planted his silken banner in the damp sands of Cat Island, the haughty Carib cacque ruled his tribe, with justice, yet with power. Down through fantastic pages of time, tribe after tribe occupied the territory until the proud and liberty-loving Seminole entered these swamp fastnesses, and here he has remained. Resisting armed forces of the American Government, fleeing from bullets and bloodhounds, this small transplants to the pale face.

Possibly no legend of American history in the past tere interest in folk-lore lit.

Possibly no legend of American history of the Big Snake of the Everglades. This master enture than does the dramatic story of the Big Snake of the Everglades. This master reptile, according to Indian radiations, has never ceased to champion the rights of the sovereign inhabitants. When the Spanlards invaded the sacred homes of the 'Glade dwellers the monster reptile, according to Indian radiations, has never ceased to champion the rights of the sovereign inhabitants. When the Spanlards invaded the sacred homes of the sovereign inhabitants. When the Spanlards invaded the sacred homes of the strough the rights of the sovereign inhabitants. When the Spanlards invaded the sacred homes of the 'Glade dwellers the monster reptile, according to Indian radiation,

tell my boys." And so the tradition has been handed down from generation to generation.

As the chieftain describes the snake he says, "So big, no man can tell—head, big ojus, with horns like the great owl, and eyes look like flames of fre."

During the past decade, while the palcface with ax and compass has invaded the sacred home of the Seminole, the Great Snake has been active, appearing always at the zenith of the white man's seeming victory, and as he raises his dreadful head, and the red flames of fire shoot from his eyes, with his powerful

compass, the fantastic tracery of casales, exclusive control was terred to the property of the control was terred to the control work of control was to the control work of the control was to the control work of the control was to the control was

these monsters are exhibited today in national muscums, with labels stating that they "belonged to animals—probably mammoths, that lived 10,000 to 50,000 years ago."

Red Sons and Red Daughters
The scroen makes a quick change and thousands of years have elapsed and we see the "Grass Water" country of Flor-

The Seminoles' Needs

One hundred thousand acres of the Everglades.
Livestock industry being the natural vocation of the Indian, this is not too much land for their future needs. The national government will gladly help fence and start these Seminoles in the cattle industry.
Industrial schools taught by educated Seminoles from Oklahoma, whereby soil tilling and better home making may be learned from our new American methods.
With this help, these Seminoles will develop into the highest type of American citizens.

hounds and furious bloodhounds. We see handcuffs, chains and collars to secure and blind fast the innocent natives.

The reel makes another turn and the picture becomes enthrailing. DeSoto, ever pressing on it search of gold and conquest, has traveled 306 miles northward and enters the province of Co-faqui—the kingdom of the mightiest chieftain of this new land. The splendor of the reception is arisaling. It is a stage setting drama of sixteenth century renalissance in hospitality. The mighty chieftain of the Floridas sits upon his throne surrounded by his subjects. Entertainment has been provided for the "strange white mea from heaven." The chieftain has given up his village for the Spanish quarters and with his tribe moved to another rettlement. The arrogant Castillian, however, with eagerness to press on in search of gold, soon informs the generous Indian chieftain that he must move onward. The chief, with that hospitality of the original American, sent the Spinnards on, with provision of maize, dried fruits and ments for the journey, with an escort of 4,000 armed Indians to act as defenders, and 4,600 men as nurden bearers to conduct the men of Castille through a dangerous wilderness of several days' journey. Such were the proud and generous people the Caucasian found in Florida.

The adventurous Spaniard, however, in his quest for gold and the fabled store house of pearls, moved on; the Frenchman, with the luxus'-loving nature, remained but a short time; later the flag of England was planted, only to be torn down by another Spanish expedition; and so years rolled on and the aboriginal sensy, immovable, entrenched in the land given to them by the Great Spirit.

The Spanish religionists entered this Glados country and several churchs were erected by them.

Look—quickly! The film maker of the shimmeting waters of the shimmeting waters of the red morth, surmounted by a cross.

As late as the inacteenth century the American troops discovered a large, artificial mound, supposed to have been the foundation of a c

Record 5: "With 200 men we ascended Shark River into the Everkides. Here we met Captain Burks of artiflity of the ports and the packs of the packs, cooking utensile, provisions and their name."

The Indians escaped, but we secured their packs, cooking utensile, provisions and their name. "He indians escaped by the packs of the packs, cooking utensile, provisions and their name."

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The Indians escaped, but we secure the sacred homes of Florida's Indian population.

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# Tampa Drug

SOUTH FLORIDA'S

## Wholesale Drug House

#### TO OUR FRIENDS and CUSTOMERS:-

This is our eleventh successful year in business. This house is strictly a South Florida Institution owned and operated by South Florida men. Our efforts are confined entirely to South Florida, and your interests and ours are identical as to the up-building of same. This can and is being done by the loyal support of South Florida's wholesale houses, by merchants in our territory. Our increase in business this year over 1915 is thirty per cent in volume of sales. This is very gratifying to us, and is evidence that we are giving satisfactory service and that we are receiving your loyal support. We are highly gratified with the results of our efforts and sincerely grateful to our good friends who are largely responsible for same. We shall ever strive to merit your confidence and favors by our continued efforts to at all times better serve you. Our motto is—

#### "Service, Confidence, Appreciation and a Square Deal to All,"

Thanking you one and all for past favors, and wishing you the joys of the coming holiday season, and unlimited success and happiness for the year of 1917, we beg to remain, sincerely your friends,

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South Florida's Wholesale Drug House