

canal, and then the only damage that would probably result would be the lowering of the water table for existing wells thereby, perhaps, from 5 to 10 feet.

The CHAIRMAN. You are talking about a different point from that Mr. Johns referred to. The point embraced in the petitions that were read by him pertains to the Ocala limestone formation, which is the source of their artesian water supply. This other matter refers to surface water affecting agriculture in the immediate vicinity of the canal.

Mr. GREEN. Fifty-six inches of rainfall—there is the source of the water supply in the State of Florida. As to the adverse effect on the country, I went further into it. I had sent to me a letter addressed to Senator Taft, of Ohio, from some prominent member of his political party in Florida. I advised him that, in order to arouse alarm in Florida, a prominent railroad attorney, who is a fine gentleman, went to him and other people in Lakeland, telling them that their agricultural water supply would be damaged if this canal was constructed, thinking that would stop the canal. They originated the story, which was published in the press, that it would make a desert of the State of Florida by draining out the water. In order to stop the canal they put out the story, which was published in one or two papers, that it would make a desert of the State of Florida. They wanted to put the people of Florida against the Florida ship canal, and that is the story of the whole thing. That, of course, dislodged from my mind any fear I might have had, and anyone in the State of Florida who is acquainted with the details of the engineering surveys that have been made of the underground water conditions in Florida would know that this fear that you referred to is without any foundation whatever. If the people of Florida had an opportunity to vote on the question of reporting this bill favorably from the committee, I know they would vote overwhelmingly for its immediate enactment.

Mr. JOHNS. I was very much interested in it. They have fine water down in the State of Florida. In fact, I was told that the fountain of youth was down there, and when I visited there I drank from this fountain of youth and awakened the next morning all excited because I thought I was late for school.

Mr. MILLER. May I inquire from Mr. Johns whether or not the resolutions and protests he has received were directed against a ship canal or a barge canal?

Mr. JOHNS. Without any exact knowledge of that, I would say they were more against the ship canal. Of course, I am perfectly willing to accept the statements of those who have made the investigation. I do not know anything about it.

Mr. MILLER. I was wondering whether their opposition was to a ship canal or a barge canal. If it was to a ship canal, I would express the hope that the protests may not be made against a barge canal.

Mr. GREEN. There is no protest against any barge canal. I would like to quote from the hearings held in April 1937 on H. R. 5150, providing for the completion of the construction of the Atlantic-Gulf ship canal across Florida, as follows:

Mr. CULKIN. But the only place that the construction of the canal would affect the existing water level in the lakes and rivers will be in the central area? Is