

# WEEKLY INDUSTRIAL RECORD.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY. DEVOTED TO NAVAL STORES, LUMBER AND MANUFACTURING INTERESTS.

Adopted Sept. 12, 1902, by the Executive Committee of the Turpentine Operators' Association as its Exclusive Official Organ, and adopted Sept. 11, 1902, in Annual Convention, as an Official Organ also of the General Association. Adopted Sept. 11, 1903 as the Only Official Organ of Turpentine Operators' Association. Adopted April 27, 1903, as Official Organ of the Inter-State Cane Growers' Association. Endorsed by Georgia Sawmill Association. Official Organ of Southeastern Stock Growers Association.

## Government Studies of Naval Stores Industry.

The United States Government has for the past five months been making investigations of the timber supply as it is related to the naval stores industry of the Southern States. A special appropriation was made by the last Congress to carry on this work. For some time those interested in the turpentine industry have felt the need of accurate data regarding the supply of timber still available for the production of turpentine. The degree of injury sustained by the longleaf pine during the process of bleeding for resin has always been a subject of contention between the lumbermen, on the one hand, and the turpentine operators on the other, and a special effort was made to ascertain reliable facts bearing upon this phase of the investigation. Statistics of production are also in process of compilation. The present methods of obtaining resin from the tree and especially the extent of use and the practicability of the new cup system of collecting gum have come under careful study. In order that the best possible results might be obtained all parts of the naval stores producing region were visited, the best informed operators were interviewed and observations were made in regions of vary conditions. The data collected in the turpentine investigation are now being brought together, in a report which will later be published. Some of the points brought out are as follows:

The new cup system of gathering the gum, whereby the injurious hole or "box" cut in the tree to catch the gum has been replaced by a cup hung on the tree have generally proved both practical and profitable, and are everywhere gaining in favor.

As compared with the old and exceedingly injurious "box" system these new methods unquestionably lessen the injury done to the timber and lengthen the average life of the tree after bleeding. This increase in efficiency is due to the fact that the cup system renders the tree less susceptible to damage by subsequent fires.

The United States Forest Service men who made the investigation found the field of the turpentine operator is moving westward. As the available timber in the older sections of the Eastern States becomes exhausted the operator moves farther West in search of new fields.

Finally, the available supply of turpentine timber in the United States is likely to be exhausted within the next fifteen years to the extent that the turpentine industry as related to the production from living trees will be seriously curtailed, while a large falling off of production will probably occur within ten years. This condition will be a surprise to many who have held that large areas of fine pine timber in the States of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas will come under production and thus tend to offset the falling off in the East. It has been found, however,

that the conditions differ in these States as the timber lands are held in bodies of considerable extent by large companies who will not allow their timber to be bled. Their experience in turpentine leads them to the view that the damage done to the timber more than offsets the additional revenue and has caused them to become antagonistic to any advance looking toward the tapping of their timber. For this reason the naval stores industry will probably never become the factor in these States that it has on the Atlantic Coast.

### MARION'S FAIR A SUCCESS.

#### Wonderful Exhibition of Her Fruitful Soil Shown at Ocala.

Marion county came to the front and showed to the world that there was something doing down that way during the occasion of the County Fair, held at Ocala, December 17, 18, 19 last.

Every exhibitor took a personal interest in making the fair a success, and the high quality of the fruits, vegetables, live stock and other products of the county could hardly be equaled anywhere.

The citrus fruit growers made a fine showing, and the judges had a hard time determining where to bestow the blue ribbons. The truck farmers and gardeners were not a whit behind their brethren of the orchards, and gave such an exhibition of fine fresh vegetables as would have excited the envy of some of the Northern commission men.

The prize for the best collection exhibit from one farm, went to the Palmetto Park Farm of Z. C. Chambliss, Ocala; second prize to Mrs. S. R. Pyles, Ocala; third prize to Perry Edwards, Ocala.

W. J. Crosby, Citra, received first prize and diploma for the best box of oranges; also for the best box of grapefruit. Mr. Crosby also received the premium for the best individual exhibit of citrus fruits; second prize went to W. N. Camp, Ocala. E. O. Cordrey, Lynne, received premium and diploma for best box of tangerines.

Prize for best collective exhibit of vegetables went to Perry Edwards, Ocala. Others who received prizes were: W. M. Shockley, Lowell, for best bushel of sweet potatoes; Mrs. S. R. Pyles, best bushel of Irish potatoes; Perry Edwards, best half-dozen cabbage; J. M. Douglas, Shady, best half-dozen pumpkins; E. L. Howell, Anthony, best half-dozen kershaws; J. I. Gist, McIntosh, best half-dozen squashes.

The McDowell Crate and Lumber Co., Oak, received a diploma for best exhibit of vegetable carriers.

Now let's hear from every other county in the State what they are doing.

## New District Administration of National Forests.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The institution of six district offices in the West by the United States Forest Service, a big piece of work which has just been completed, involves a complete change in the machinery of this branch of the government as regards the handling of National Forests. As a result of the reorganization, the Forest Service force at the headquarters in this city has been reduced to the general administrative officers and to those who are conducting the investigative work of the Service out side of the National Forests.

The six districts which have the same boundaries as the old inspection districts will be in charge of six District foresters with headquarters in Denver, Colo.; Ogden, Utah; Albuquerque, N. Mex.; Missoula, Mont.; San Francisco, Cal.; and Portland, Oreg. For nearly a year preparation for the District organization has been going quietly but steadily forward. This has thrown an additional burden upon a force already excessively busy, but the work has been accomplished and accomplished on time. The transition has been particularly remarkable because it involved no material delay in the transaction of National Forest business while the change was going on.

"The Forest Service," said Gifford Pinchot, United States Forester, "is putting a large part of its work into the field, where it belongs. The organization on December 1, of the National Forests into Six Districts, each in charge of a local force under a District Forester, is something we have been working towards for a long time. That we have not done it sooner, is because we did not have a sufficient number of trained men to equip the Districts."

"The District organization will mean a much freer use of the National Forests by the people, because there will not be the delay inevitable so long as the National Forest business is handled from Washington. It is also going to mean that there will always be officers with the power to make decisions, near the ground, who can look into the facts for themselves, wherever necessary, without having to decide them at long range. I believe every man who uses the National Forests will realize these things inside of six months."

It is probable that there have never been new Government offices started with their procedure so fully and definitely outlined as that for the six District offices of the Forest Service in the West. It has been possible to start all the offices well equipped with men with both the training and experience to take up the work. A large proportion of them are men who have formerly been in charge of National

Forests and who have been promoted to higher positions as the direct result of their efficiency. All the District officers are familiar with Western conditions; many of them were born in the West and lived there before and after they entered the Government Forest work.

### A NEGLECTED FRUIT.

#### The Alligator Pear a Unique Florida Product—Said to be Fat-Producing, and Is Growing in Popular Esteem.

A fruit little known now, but destined to become one of our most valuable articles of food, is the avocado pear, commonly known as the alligator pear, and which flourishes in this region of Florida. That it is coming more to the front as an article of daily diet, was evidenced by the local demand for it during the recent season for it, and its cultivation will likely receive greater attention in the future.

Although strictly speaking a fruit, the avocado has none of the characteristics common to most fruits. The absence of sugar and acid, which constitute the food value of the great majority of fruits, places it in a class with the olive, the value of which lies in its oil.

The avocado is very rich in oil, containing from eight to nearly twenty per cent according to the variety; and like the olive, one has to acquire a taste for it. Upon eating it two or three times, the most fastidious fall into the increasing line of "alligator" pear enthusiasts. The oil is easily digested with most people, and is very nourishing.

The Miami Metropolis published an article on this subject in which it was said that theoretically the avocado ought to be (and this is borne out by the reports of many who know) a fat-producing food, especially in the cases of people who have physically run down by the ravages of disease. But this cannot be taken as a rule to fit all cases. Most all fruits, in fact there are none known, that do not have ill effect on some people.

It is not a juicy fruit, and in its natural state, the edible portion resembles cheese. Being classed with the salad fruits, there are various ways of preparing it, but in Punta Gorda and neighboring towns it is generally eaten with simply pepper and salt, the pear being cut in halves and these sprinkled on it.

Doubtless the popularity of the avocado will in the near future attain somewhat to the proportions of that of olive oil. So, persons who are wise, will put out avocado trees in corners and other unoccupied parts of their lots about town, and reap the benefits that time will bring to them.