

FISHING INDUSTRY.

THIS IS ONE OF THE GREAT AND GROWING INDUSTRIES OF CRYSTAL RIVER.

Besides the "Regular" Fish Business. We Have Turtle Fishing, Oyster Fishing and Sponge Fishing as a Side Issue.—Sponging is an Especially Profitable Business in Crystal River.

This is an industry with many branches. Besides the dealing in the table fish proper, the turtle, oyster, and sponge fishing may be classed under the head of the Crystal River Fish Commerce. Of fish there are eight varieties which fill the main demand as "market" fish, the fish for the epicures—but there are many other varieties which are very good eating, but which natives who have such a freedom of choice would declare "second class." Nevertheless, with the advent of the canning factories, these really delectable fish will soon come into demand. Oysters, too, which now are shipped away in bulk (in the shell) will then be canned, and shipped in this handier and more condensed form. Turtles! Well, turtles are very slow-going, patient creatures and will submit to be treated in "most any old way." Now they are still being

shipped "dry so" on the flat of their backs, and many a turtle soup at Delmonico's in New York owes its flavor to the waters of Crystal River. But the time is not far distant when Mr. Turtle will arrive at Delmonico's seasoned and stewed and ready for the soup-plate. Sponging is carried on just out from Crystal River in the gulf, and is a very profitable branch of the fishing industry. The canneries which will be established principally because of the fish and oyster trade, will, nevertheless, be as well equipped for the canning of fruits and vegetables. Farmers have been slow to raise any very large quantities of fruits and vegetables, simply because there is no canning factory near to take care of such truck as, in the main, it is too perishable to stand shipping in its natural or fresh state. Even now, thousands of bushels of fruit, especially pears, go to waste, annually, because of the want of a home market.

Tropical and Semi-Tropical Fruits.

The July number of the Florida Fruit and Truck Grower contains an interesting article on this subject. Most of its statements are correct. The only criticism that we have to make is in regard to the list of orange growing counties. Probably many localities in other counties could show as fine orange groves as can be produced in the counties named. We know it to be a fact beyond dispute that there are some as good orange groves in St. Johns county as any of their age in the state. The last paragraph contains an error, the writer after speaking of strawberries says: "All other small fruits are very successful." As known at the North, the term small fruits includes currants, raspberries and gooseberries, none of which thrive in this state. In fact, we do not

Recovering rapidly from the disastrous and unexpected freeze of '95 the industry is now beginning to assume its former proportions, though several years will elapse before the annual output will reach that of '91-'95. The lesson learned by that cold wave has in many respects been a salutary one, and it has caused a tendency to locate the new groves further to the southern portion of the state. The business as now conducted is one of the most profitable imaginable and will continue so as long as proper care is taken in the location of the land on which the young grove is planted and the same business principles applied to the growing of the crop for the market as would achieve success in any other enterprise. As to location, we quote from "Florida," issued by the State Agricultural Department: "As a matter of course every body knows, or ought to know, that oranges can not be raised to profit in all parts of Florida ought to know because there seems to be some misapprehension abroad as to the real status of

sides. And as to Greece, Belgium and Switzerland, you might roll them up together, drop them down upon Florida's broad bosom and then have a snare hunt to find them amidst her lakes and forests.

"Neither the extreme northern nor the extreme southern counties of Florida are adapted to the culture of the orange. It can not endure the frosts of the former, nor does it flourish so thickly in the extreme southern portions of the peninsula as in the more central sections. The true orange belt of the state lies between the parallels of latitude 24 1/2 and 29 1/2 north and south, extending from the gulf to the Atlantic. While bearing trees are found in almost every county of the state, yet the favorite habitat of the golden fruit is unmistakably indicated by the extensive wild groves of the central lake regions, where once on a time they grow as luxuriantly in the section named. Here, located between the boundaries described, we find the true Florida climate. Here the orange reaches the climax of perfection and richness. To this region is due the fame of the Florida Orange. In this belt, so-called, are the counties which produce the great crops for commerce; they are Orange, Volusia, Marion, Brevard, Polk, Suwanee, Lake, Osceola, DeSoto, Lee, Hernando, Pasco, Hillsborough, Duval and Manatee. In this section orange culture attains its highest ideal.

Most of the soils within the orange belt will produce good oranges. But of course some are better adapted to its rapid growth than others. The richer the land the more vigorously the tree will grow, the more abundantly it will fruit. The orange tree is a gross feeder, and the more it eats, provided its home is a healthy one, the better for its owner.

Hammock lands are richer in humus and potash than the pine lands. Both of these elements of vegetable growth are specially needed by the orange; hence its growth on hammock land is quicker than on pine land. But this is true as a rule, only at the outset. In a few years the hammock grove will have devoured all the food "lying around loose," and then it must be fed, like the pine land grove, from its own pockets. Hammock lands in the same localities cost far more than the pine lands, both in the original purchase money and in the expense of clearing. There are magnificent groves on hammock lands, but there are also many others just as valuable located on pine lands. In fact, the adherents of the latter are growing in numbers year by year. The fact is there is little to choose between them. Both are the home of the orange. The one

South Florida offers to those who desire to engage in fruit growing. It is not alone a fruit producing plant, but possesses a fiber of special strength and fitness.

"Pineapples are grown in the following counties for market: Pasco, Duval, Monroe, Lee, Hillsborough, DeSoto, Orange, Polk, Pasco, Volusia, Lake and Osceola.

The pineapple is to some extent an air plant, and like most plants of that nature thrives best upon high, light, dry and sandy soil. For no plant is so particular as to the character of soil required for its perfect development.

"The physical characteristics of a soil are of primary importance and determine largely the adaptability of a soil to certain crops. Moisture is the all-important factor in controlling plant life and upon its supply depends, to a great extent, the kind of vegetation best suited to a soil. "In a general way, all our soils are shown to belong to the same type, a type which is marked by the absence of any appreciable amount of sand, silt and clay."

The banana, coccoloba, guava, sapindia, mango, alligator pear, banana, sugar apple, etc., are grown to some extent in South Florida, but the full possibilities for their extensive cultivation and marketing are but in their infancy. That their full development is not far distant is certain. Peach growing for the market is new in Florida, but remarkably successful and it will be but a few years before the Florida peach will become as famous as the Florida orange. Especially successful have the growers of this luscious fruit been in Volusia, Marion and Lake counties. Pears, pomelo-grapes, pears and apples all do well in most sections of the state.

Of the small fruits, the strawberry is beyond question king. In the early season the grove yields as high as \$1.00 a box (weighing down to 25 cents later in the season), while still later the home markets are supplied at lower prices. Many of the returns received by the successful strawberry grower seem fabulous. All other small fruits are very successful.

Standard in Trees and Fruits Generally.

It is much like going away from home to learn the news, to go outside of Florida to read Mr. Taber's views, but we found the following article in the Peach Grower of Savannah, Ga.: In his paper prepared for the West Baden convention, just before sailing



A SCENE ON CRYSTAL RIVER.

continued and increasing orders from those who know a good thing when they see it.

"As an illustration, I would mention my experience with a little fruit called Kumquat, a species of citrus and, therefore, related to the orange. I have for several years experimented as to the best way to handle this fruit and for the last few years have shipped it as follows: Cut the fruit in bunches with leaves attached pack in some heavy bushels in paper lined strawberry crates; have the top of each basket present the appearance of a full compact pack of select fruit and have in interior of each basket hang on the roadside the height, green foliage, unremoved, and contrasting with the hard-boiled yellow fruit and the whole effect accentuated by the fact of the strong, smooth paper used for padding the crates, which paper opens out smoothly when the lid is removed.

"Now, any one who has never seen this fruit packed in a manner similar to that described above, has no idea how his fingers will feel around for some loose coin in order to change ownership for one or more baskets of this non-perishing fruit. I shipped 145 crates of this fruit this year and the gross returns were \$7,623, a little over \$5 a crate average, but in my shipping

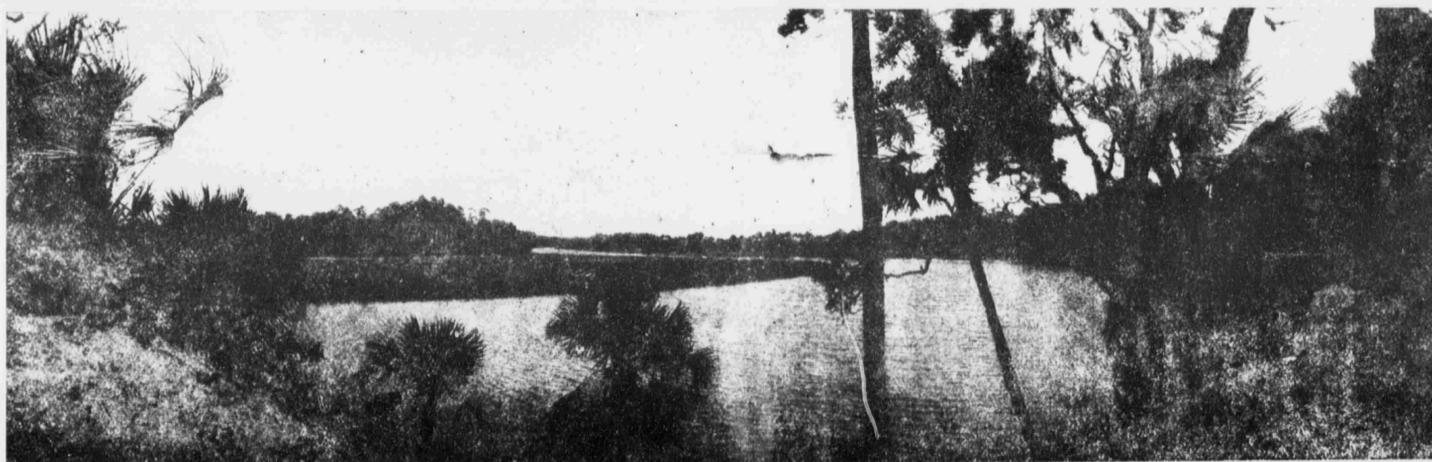
Every crate of this fruit was shipped to commission men, and therefore sold as nearly on its merits as fruit ever does. At the same time I was making these shipments and re-

ceiving these satisfactory prices, I was receiving numerous inquiries from other growers of kumquats, wanting to know what on earth they should do with their fruit; that they could not sell it and that consignments made brought no satisfactory returns.

Here is the inducement. "There is a very large contingent of buyers of either fruits or trees that is not only willing, but anxious to secure the best. The advanced price that really fancy stock will bring and the almost absolute certainty of disposing of it in large quantities if the standard is set up a notch over the other fellows, are, it would seem to me, sufficient inducement towards working to this end. The methods to be employed must be settled by individual shipper, but if he is determined to establish a deserved reputation for either fruits or trees, the methods will suggest themselves or at least come as a result of careful study and experiment. The man who is content with mediocre returns from a mediocre trade, the man who is anxious to attain the top rung of the ladder will

Teaching agriculture as a regular study is no longer an experiment in the high schools of Missouri. Superintendent Hays of the Columbia high school, in that state, writes of his work in this connection: "It affords me much pleasure to state that the class organized in scientific agriculture at the beginning of the second year of the high school is doing satisfactory work. The pupils are manifesting an enthusiastic interest, and the results which are being obtained are fully equal to our expectations. The work is a decided success in every respect."—New England Farmer.

"And his last end is worse than his first," quoted the Sunday school teacher. "What does this refer to, children?" "A bee," promptly answered the freckled boy, who had just joined the class.



A BEND IN THE RIVER.

think that currants or gooseberries can be grown here at all. We have ripened a few raspberries in Florida. If any one will take the necessary trouble and go to a little extra expense they may have raspberries every year. It is only necessary to order large clumps of red raspberry plants in the fall, set them out carefully on good soil and mulch them well. Next spring you will have some berries but by the following fall your bushes will all be dead. Nowhere in the world, in similar area, can there be found a section capable of supplying such a vast variety of fruits as Florida. In addition to most, or nearly all of the fruits produced in higher latitudes, Florida reigns supreme in the production of tropical and semi-tropical fruits, such as the orange, the lemon, the pomelo or grapefruit, the lime and other members of the citrus family. The Florida orange is especially famous, for both its delicious flavor and its admirable shipping qualities.

Florida in regard to size and consequent variations of temperature. The truth is that Florida is a very large state. Stretching north and south, her beautiful evergreen forests and sparkling rivers and lakes spread grandly over the face of the earth for a distance of four hundred miles. Now, we all know that four hundred miles from north to south anywhere in the temperate zone, is sufficient to cause considerable difference between the winter temperatures of places located at either extremity. And this is especially true of Florida. Each degree marks a decided change of temperature, far more so than the same distance in the mainland states. Just think for a moment! Florida is one of the largest states in the whole Union, the largest of any east of the Mississippi river. It is seven times as large as Massachusetts. It is larger than all the following states rolled into one: New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware and Rhode Island. It is one-fourth larger than the state of New York and eight and a half times larger than the state of New Mexico.

costs more at the outset in the price of the land and its preparation, the other costs more in fertilizing materials. With most persons, the great difference between the prices of hammock and pine lands is sufficient to determine the purchase of the latter. Where pine lands of the best quality can be bought from ten to twenty-five dollars an acre, adjoining hammock land is held at from twenty-five to one hundred dollars an acre, often even higher than this. Again, it costs not less than fifteen to fifty dollars an acre to properly clear hammock land, while the same result may be accomplished on pine land at from ten to twenty-five dollars. And by the word "properly" here we mean to thoroughly clean out the underbrush and small trees from the hammock, leaving large trees for protection of the grove, and on the pine land to leave the ground clear and smooth, no unsightly stumps to encourage the growth of weeds and the presence of wood lice. But there is one point that we would impress upon the intending grove owner. How much or how little the land may cost, it should invariably be selected near some assured shipping point, either present or prospective, when the trees shall have "come into bearing."

It is better to pay one hundred dollars for five acres near a railroad station or steamboat landing than to pay ten dollars an acre for fifty acres five or more miles distant. Of the other citrus fruits the pomelo or grapefruit stands decidedly most prominent, and has within the past few years reached a place in public esteem from which it can never be dislodged. It is in fact a hardier fruit than the orange, and at ruling prices is one of the grandest paying fruit crops in the world. The tree is extraordinarily long-lived, many fine bearing ones now have served through three generations. The lemon and the lime are only cultivated in almost the extreme southern portion of the state, but are very profitable.

Both on the west and the east coast of Florida the pineapple is grown with splendid success, and the industry is one of the most profitable which

for Europe, G. L. Taber, Glen Saint Mary's, Fla., said: "It seems to me that the best methods of improving our standards in trees and fruits is a subject that is of vast importance to us all, but one where nothing but individual effort can be of much avail, and this effort is, and necessarily will be superinduced more from the intensely practical dollar-and-cents standpoint of the individual shipper than from any other. Notwithstanding all the enlightenment and alleviation the centuries have brought, human nature remains much the same as when Adam capitulated to his other rib, and paid the asking price for the finest apple on the tree, by the way, we are free to infer it was not a Ben Davis. The precedent thus established—and more or less adhered to since—has made it incumbent upon some of us to hustle to produce a little better than those offered by the other fellow. The infallible method of procedure towards complete success remains, as it remained through the centuries to let the other fellow do the hustling and then appropriate the results—follow and all.

"Taking it for granted that a vote by this society would show a 100 per cent majority of production over any proposition, then what is there left for each of us to do, as individuals, but to produce and place on the market trees and fruits that shall command attention and sale when placed in competition with those of the rest of us?"

"Theoretically, we might improve our standards in either trees or fruits by unanimously 'resolving' to do so, giving a range of specifications to apply to each grade. Practical results, however, would continue to demonstrate each one's individual interpretation and inclination. You can not 'resolute' a box of fruit of medium quality into one that will sell as fancy; and there are other things than height and caliper that affect the appearance and the actual value of a tree. The problem of 'Improving our Standards' is one that the individual must settle for himself. The improvement, in whatever direction or directions it can be made, will be attested to by

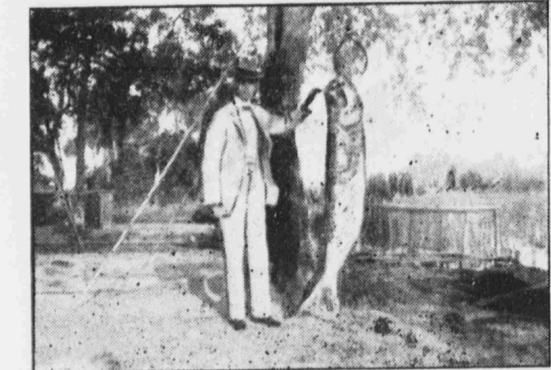
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anges they invariably buy Floridas, Florida will supply the fancy trade yet awhile, at better prices than California can hope for her fruit.

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A TARPON CAUGHT FROM CRYSTAL RIVER.



A FIFTEEN MINUTE CATCH ON CRYSTAL RIVER.