FORT PIERCE NEWS

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Recent Investors Are Well Pleased

Purchasers of the Merrill Plantation Interviewed by their Home Paper.

[Jameston (N. Y.) Post.]

Some time ago a party composed of red B. Smith, E. A. Donelson, James . Waters and H. A. Donelson, of this ity, purchased from the estate of the te David E. Merrill, a tract of twenty- ven acres of land at Fort Pierce, Fla. his land is in the orange and pineap- le growing section of Florida, and the en interested will incorporate for the rpose of raising tropical fruits for arket.

A few weeks ago Mr. Smith and E. . Donelson visited Fort Pierce to see e plantation and get some idea of the siness which the company proposes undertake, and a Post reporter has arned some interesting facts concern- g this section of the Peninsula state.

Fort Pierce is 242 miles south of cksonville and 58 miles north of alm Beach, and is near the Atlantic ast, being situated on the Indian iver. The town has grown in a few ars from a few fishermen's huts to a llage of 2,500 inhabitants, with mod- rn buildings.

"Fort Pierce," said Mr. Smith, "is e fisherman's and hunter's paradise. lmost any kind of fish can be caught the Indian River, in fact this is con- dered one of the best fishing places in e world. Many people make their ing by fishing and hunting."

"How long has Fort Pierce been own as such a place for tourists?" as asked.

"I don't know," he replied. "Mr. rry Hill, one of the leading business n, whom I met, told me he came re from Titusville, Pa., about twelve rs ago. He has prospered and is on the road to prosperity."

"How does the temperature in Fort rce compare with that in Chautau- a county?" was asked.

"When we were there in January thermometer registered from 75 to degrees at midday. It was ideal mmer weather, as we consider such Chautauqua county."

Mr. Smith stated that the Hotel Le ach, one of the leading hostelries in rt Pierce, was as good as any hotel Jamestown, and that everywhere re was an air of hustle for business. would advise, however," said Mr. ith, "that persons in this city who e any idea of investing money in rida land should investigate before give up their money. The adver- ments in the magazines seem allur- but there are thousands in Florida which you could not raise any- g, not even a disturbance. One of best men in judging the values of rida land is Judge Jas. Andrews, of Lucie county, who has made a study conditions there. He told me he willing to answer any question re- ding investments in Florida and tell true situation. He warned me inst sending money in advance for perty and said people desirous of sing should see, or learn from peo- hey knew were responsible before ding money.

Mr. Smith stated that the soil at Fort rce is sandy and that the various grow without much cultivation. the plantation purchased by the estown men oranges, bananas, grapefruit, guavas, pineapples, s, mangoes and cocoanuts grow undance, and it is the purpose of company to ship this fruit direct from the plantation to Jamestown. He said that the East Coast of Florida is much better for fruit raising than the West Coast, as there are never any frosts on the East Coast.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Donelson brought back with them numerous samples of the soil and fruits grown near Fort Pierce as well as many photographs of the country and vicinity. Many people have seen the souvenirs and pictures and have become much interested in the country.

Fort Pierce Entertaining Many Visitors This Week

Board of Trade's Advertising Campaign Shows Results and the Guests Are Enthusiastic over This Section.

Awakening with a start to the vast possibilities and resources of Fort Pierce and the surrounding territory the Board of Trade waged an advertising campaign during the past week that resulted in the sale of fifteen hundred acres of land by the various agents and land companies here, and sent scores of tourists and homeseekers to their various homes filled with enthusiasm at the royal manner in which they were entertained and the beautiful sights they were shown.

Less than two weeks ago the members of the Board of Trade met in special session, and after a few brief talks in which it was shown that the resources of this locality, while far superior in every way to other sections of the State, were not being made known to the hundreds of homeseekers who had been touring the State for several days,

Once enthused, the members voted the appointment by President Penney of various committees, and those named to represent the Board of Trade fell to the work before them with a will that insured nothing but success from the very moment of its inception.

At the expense of the Board Messrs. R. L. Goodwin and W. R. Brandean were hastened to Fort Lauderdale, where a Fort Pierce booth was opened and in which fine specimons of Indian River oranges, grapefruit and pineapples were shown and distributed free among many hundred homeseekers from practically every part of the country.

The homeseekers were tendered an invitation to visit Fort Pierce and were assured that they would be met at the trains by the business men of the city with automobiles and carriages for the purpose of showing them not only the city proper but the many interesting points within a radius of 15 miles.

That Messrs. Goodwin and Brandeau succeeded in convincing the homeseekers that their stay in Florida would be sadly lacking unless they accepted their cordial invitation and saw for themselves the beautiful groves and plantations described by them was evidenced as the homeseekers began to arrive during the early part of the week.

As promised, the tourists were met at the trains by the citizens owning automobiles and carriages, and those who declined the invitation to pay the city a visit were given circular letters prepared by the Board of Trade setting forth the golden opportunities of this section.

Each train from the south was met by business men, and while they made their way through car after car extending a general invitation to passengers ts spend a few hours in the city Mr. Goodwin gave a rapid-fire talk from an impromptu stand that sent hundreds away with ears ringing and mouths watering over the wonderful things he told and exhibited.

After being assured of hotel accommodations the visitors were taken by auto to the groves of the Allapattahatchie Fruit & Vegetable Company, Dan T. McCarty and others, the truck farm of Mr. K. B. Raulerson and others and ths vast acreage of undeveloped landt to the west of the city.

So pleased were many of the homeseekers with the excellency of the soil in these undeveloped districts that they lost no time in purchasing tracts of from forty acres upward, and in nearly every instance where a sale was made the purchasing party announced the intention of returning in a short while to begin the improvement of their new accessions.

Not only were the visitors accorded a welcome at the depot, however, but the thousands of yards of bunting and the hundreds of Ameaican flags which adorned the various business houses and residences of the city showed that the citizens were intent upon making all who accepted the invitation of the Board of Trade feel that they were, indeed, welcome, and that nothing that would add to their comfort or pleasure was too much trouble.

The greatest influx of homeseekers came on Wednesday when, it was estimated fully sixty-five men and women, from vrrious states, made Fort Pierce their destination, and on that day alone twenty-seven building lots and over nine hundred acres of farming lands were sold.

Many of those who came to the city on Wednesday with the idea of remaining only until that night decided, after a few hours of sight-seeing, to extend their visit several days that they might better see and enjoy more of this favored and fertile section.

Boat rides for the visitors only added to their enjoyment, and the better shows that the business men and citizens alike are sincere in their efforts to let the entire country know of the vast opportunities of Fort Pierce and the immediate vicinity.

While not to be continued on so large a scale the Board of Trade proposes to advertise the city throughout tne country, and in this end will have the assistance of the business men and land companies.

While practically every member of of the Board of Trade assisted in welcoming and entertaining the city's guests, the general plans were outlined by the Entertainment Committee, composed of Messrs. R. Whyte, J. K. Williams, Jr., K. B. Raulerson, F. H. Fee, J. G. Coats and R. N. Koblegard.

Revival Services.

Rev. P. M. Jones, State Evangelist of the Florida State Board of Missions, will begin a series of protracted meetings, under the auspices of the Baptist church, in his large tent, on the vacant lot opposite the postoffice, on Tuesday evening, April 4th. All the Christian people of the town are invited to come and receive a special spiritual uplift, while the unsaved are invited te come and find the "way of salvation." "Come and go with us and we will do the good."

Judge F. L. Hemmings returned Tuesday from a business trip to Atlanta and a pleasure trip to Washington, D. C., where he visited an uncle.

What Fort Pierce Needs.

Editor Fort Pierce News:

Dear Sir:—Although perfectly well aware that unsigned communications are frequently consigned to the waste paper basket, I am taking a hundred to one shot and hope, if the odds are not too great, that no offense will be taken.

For weeks I have noticed in your valuable paper two series of sentences, showing to readers what Fort Pierce has, etc., but never yet have I noticed anything setting forth what Fort Pierce needs and needs badly.

So as a suggestion, how about this:

FORT PIERCE NEEDS

The elimination of mossbacks
Wide-awake merchants and
Co-operative citizens
An electric light plant
A sewerage system
A water plant,
Free information bureau
Country-wide advertising
Better roads
Paved sidewalks
A street sprinkler
A new depot
More hotel facilities.
An automobile supply house
And——But what's the use of going further? Let's get to work, go off together, put our shoulders to the wheel and start off anew. What's the use of making the town a grave-yard, anyway?

C. U. S. GOE.

Change of Schedule.

Trains No. 33 and 34, known as the Palm Beach Limited of the Florida East Coast Railway, have been discontinued, and on Tuesday, April 4th, the new schedule affecting all passenger trains on this road will go into effect. The Limited New York trains will be discontinued, but through sleeping cars for New York will be operated daily on trains 37 and 38 via both the Seaboard Air Line and the Atlantic Coast Line, two cars operating from Knights Key and Miami and two cars from St. Augustine. Trains 29 and 30, the local day trains, will be continued practically as at present and trains 37 and 38, the night trains, leave Jacksonville at 4:00 p. m. and arrive at Jacksonville at 9:50 a. m. respectively.

The young people will enjoy another elite hop, good music and choice refreshments at the Improvement Club hall tonight when the "Homeseekers' Hop" will take place. All invited to come and make the occasion a jubilee.

Big Auction Sale of Building Lots

Fort Pierce Heights Property in Big Demand and Brought Good Prices.

On Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 the big auction sale of building lots at Fort Pierce Heights was opened and the first day's sale was a tremendous success, there being twenty-seven lots sold at an average of considerably over one hundred dollars each.

Fort Pierce Heights is owned by the Home Investment Company, the moving spirit of which is Mr. A. M. Kitchen. The auction sale is being conducted by Lancaster & Mills.

On Wednesday, previous to the sale Mr. Kitchen spread a big free dinner which was partaken of by scores of visitors to the city who were here for the occasion.

At twelve o'clock autos, carriages and all kinds of vehicles began traveling westward on Orange avenue and before they were through serving dinner on the grounds nearly five hundred people had gathered to witness and participate in the sale and purchase. The Fort Pierce Band furnished music on the streets and at the scene of action.

A number of presents were given away before the sale and when Auctioneer Chas. F. Lancaster placed the first lot under the hammer enthusiasm was high and bidding began at a lively rate, the first one going at $130. Then followed a dozen or more lots fronting on Orange avenue, each of which brought considerably over the hundred mark, the highest being $140.00. Those back from the front street on Florida and Georgia avenues ranged around $75 and $100 abd a few on the canal were sold for less, the cheapest one being $50.00.

Mr. Lancaster kept the crowd in a good humor all the afternoon and proved himself an artist in his line, which is attested by the good prices he succeeded in getting for his offerings. Practically all of the lots sold on the first day were bought by home people who believe in the future of that section of the town.

Presents were given away at frequent intervals and the lucky ones were more than pleased.

These sales continued yesterday and will be held today and tomorrow at 1:45 o'clock, and those who have not already attended should do so today or tomorrow.

Hon. Duncan U. Fletcher has been elected President of the Southern Commercial Congress, an organization second to none in the land. The Senator is worthy the honor and esteem reposed in him.

W. Wesley Smith, principal of the New Smyrna High School, is an instructor of original and progressive ideas. He does not limit his school work to the use of the text-books but is constantly on the alert for new and useful means of imparting knowledge to his pupils. His latest innovation is to use the weather map in the Times-Union to interest his pupils and teach them to make practical weather forecasts therefrom, thus starting their minds along practical and useful lines. Times-Union.— Some teachers never see a newspaper, and a weather map looks like a crochet pattern to them.

Fort Pierce is just now wearing the glad smile—tourists, visitors, big land sales, big catch of Spanish mackerel and a good rain coming down.