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Tampa, Fla.

THE TAFT RANCH IN THE LONE STAR STATE

GEO. A. SCHREINER in The Tradesman.

Down on the beautiful Corpus Christi Bay within easy reach of the metropolis of the great southwest, San Antonio, where the days are warm and make things grow, and the nights cool to give them a rest—in one of the garden spots of Texas—is located the Taft ranch. It is a princely domain, one which in the olden days would have been coveted by kings and might have cost the head of the holder. Large enough to accommodate many a small European principality within its borders, it has a soil and climate hard to equal, let alone surpass. Being located in the rain belt along the Gulf of Mexico, the many acres on the ranch produce anything man wishes. Frost and snow are unknown and winter is a season when flowers bloom and men walk around in their shirtsleeves. Of course, in the summer the sun beats down pretty generally. But there is the breeze from the gulf that makes the shade delightfully cool and the nights Arabian.

For the average man it is hard to form an idea of the surface represented by 116,000 acres. In the language of the vernacular there is some land to such a stretch. Yet this is only a part of the Taft ranch. This section is located in San Patricio county and is known as "La Quinta." On it is located the Taft home recently completed. "La Quinta" is a tract located in Encinal and Webb counties, is larger than the former by many acres. No less than 240,000 acres form its vast expanse of rolling pasture land slightly timbered with mesquite and huisache.

How Charles P. Taft acquired this immense property in a very simple though interesting story. Dave Sinton, a pioneer ranchman of Texas, acquired these broad acres in the days when land in the southwest sold for as many cents, and more often less than it now costs dollars. "Dave," as he was known all over, had an only daughter and she later on became Mrs. Charles P. Taft. Simple enough, is it not?

For many years the ranch was of no more value than any other range. Then it struck Big Bill's brother that he might be able to turn the property to some account by bringing it in touch with progress. This was done. Today the ranch is practically a self-contained little domain. In a few months it will be this in a greater degree. The packing plant warca has been in operation for three years, will be increased to a capacity of 300 head of cattle per day and at least as many hogs and sheep. The expenditure necessary exceeds \$100,000. There is now being installed a 75-ton refrigerating and ice-making plant with access to as pure a supply of water as ever came to the lips of man and an electric light and power plant was completed some time ago. Cotton gins, oil mills, storage houses and the producing and manufacturing center, enjoying every convenience and comfort of the city, is thus being created.

Naturally a vast number of people live on the estate. In the little town of Sinton live 1,500, at Gregory 800, at Taft 500 and at Portland 400. All of these work on the Taft ranch. In the case of Sinton, however, this is not altogether true, for the reason that the land in its vicinity was recently cut up into small tracts and rented to northern farmers. The administration of such an estate is no small affair. As a matter of fact the Taft ranch enjoys a government of its own. John F. Green, the superintendent of the estate, exercises in some respects the authority of a county judge. He is the man who settles all disputes and acts as peace-maker generally. He designates justices of the peace, a number of constables and about twenty deputy sheriffs. Though liquor can be secured in the towns, intoxication means deportation from the property and for this reason is almost unknown. Crime is rarely met with on the estate. Undesirables are dealt with in practical fashion. Superintendent Green orders them to move on and after that the Taft ranch sees them no more.

The industrial department of the ranch is managed in the same thorough manner. There is a head to every branch of activity, a man who has gained his promotion by merit and seniority. All, however, are responsible to Mr. Green. At the present time J. Tomlinson is in charge of the cattle department and C. M. Williams manages the agricultural department, while a number of other people look after the packing, dairy, cotton and other industries. The smooth manner in which the affairs of the Taft ranch are being run is, indeed, a valuable lesson in practical sociology.

Largest Cotton Field. Ground for new acres is being cleared every day in the year. On the Taft ranch there will be located next year the largest cotton field in the world. It will be twenty-five miles long and will extend one mile on each side of the tracks of the San Antonio and Aransas Pass railroad, which traverses the estate. Corn, milo maize, Kaffir corn, sorghum cane, cow bean and other fields will take up large areas. Truck will be grown in great quantities. Nevertheless the big pastures of the property will not be narrowed down to any extent. These are now divided into 25,000 to 30,000-acre ranges and support over 32,000 head of cattle and many thousands of smaller animals, such as sheep, goats, hogs and all sort of fowl. The packery now in course of erection will keep busy taking care of these. The Taft property also owns miles upon miles of beach front and the finest fisheries along the coast. The cold storage plant now in construction will also aid in the development of the sea food industry.

It may be mentioned here that it has been claimed recently that the meat products of the Taft packery are principally intended for the use of the forces digging the Panama canal. This would mean the packing and shipping of from 300 to 400 head of cattle a day, and a government

contract would be necessary. There is no doubt, however, that Charles P. Taft is not counting on such a contract. The products of his packery are needed locally and can be disposed of at better prices than the government would pay.

West Republican. Taft, Texas, was the only town in the state that went solidly Republican during the last presidential campaign. Manager Green on the evening of election day wired to Big Bill: "Taft is for Taft." In one of the pastures, comprising some 28,000 acres, not a gun has been heard in fifteen years. Large number of deer, jack rabbits, wild cats, coyotes, and millions of quail are to be found in this pasture. The most interesting part of the hunt, no doubt, will be the chase of the wild or chaparral cat. This cat is about four times the size of the house cat and an ugly custom-wearer of cats and coats of them is match for the best dog, except he has been trained to become a "cat" hound. Among the fine pack of hunters on the Taft ranch there are three "cat" hounds, the leader of them being a big rawboned fellow, Jim Buster, who wears cats and coats of them in credit than any other dog in Texas.

A SHAKING UP may all be very well so far as the trusts are concerned, but not when it comes to chills and fever and malaria. Quit the quinine and take a real cure—Ballard's Herbine. Contains no harmful drugs and is as certain as taxes. If it doesn't cure, you get your money back. Sold by W. A. D'Alemberte, druggist and apothecary, 121 S. Palafox street.

HAS DELAYED THE EXTENSION

FLORIDA EAST COAST RAILWAY EXTENSION TO KEY WEST GIVEN SETBACK OF A YEAR BY HURRICANE.

The Miami Metropolis says: Reports that come from the Key West extension of the Florida East Coast railway are not encouraging. The first brief statement given out by the vice-president of the company that the property loss from the hurricane was supplemented here and there by fragments of information which lead to the conclusion that the completion of the work has been seriously interfered with. Some whose judgment may be considered competent are of the opinion that the hurricane, by displacing the cause for a delay of at least a year in seeing the enterprise completed. Nearly all of the floating equipment was lost and will have to be replaced before the work can be resumed with the same aggressiveness and strength with which it was proceeding before the disaster of last week. It will require therefore no little time—many months, perhaps—before the forces can be organized in the same effective manner that they were prior to the storm. This will constitute the first delay; then the replacing of the damaged portion of the roadbed and the trestles will take time, which will constitute delay number two. After a lapse of probably no less than a year the work will have reached the stage that it was three weeks ago. The loss to the railroad company is greater by far than the value of the equipment and the track destroyed by the storm. There is the cost of replacing it all in the quickest possible time, which will be more expensive than the first



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cost, and then there is the valuable equation of time—the loss of a year—under which the promoters and the engineers must necessarily fret when they reflect that they were within sight of the end and saw the work of head and hand swept away like a house of cards.

But more serious, still, to the great numbers of people who are interested in seeing this gigantic work completed is the question whether the extension will be made complete and permanent in the event of Mr. Flagler's death.

The ravages of the recent storm is said to have proved that all the earth-work on the keys will have to be covered with cement in order to prevent tropical hurricanes; the only manner to combat them is to fortify the work against their attacks. The keys are washed from shore to shore during these storms and the water is impounded by the embankments of the railroad higher on one side than on the other. No greater damage is done by the force of the storm itself than by the seepage through the earthwork which continues for days and weeks after the storm. This natural process is said to be most destructive to the solidity of the work and would be a constant menace to travel over the line. If this is true the engineers in charge of the construction are appraised of it and the difficulty of building this novel line becomes more apparent as the work proceeds. It is readily seen that the construction is in danger of being delayed longer and made more expensive as experience reveals the many obstacles to be dealt with.

It may be taken as certain that nothing short of total destruction of the line would deter Mr. Flagler from executing his plan of connecting Key West with the mainland by rail; no matter what the cost. But there is another side of the question which offers a field for speculation, at least. In order to complete the extension it became necessary for Mr. Flagler to bond his road to the extent of ten millions of dollars. There is reason to believe that this is the first step taken by J. Pierpont Morgan, who owns the Southern railway, to add the East Coast railroad to his Southern system. The Florida East Coast railway is mortgaged to Morgan & Co. for ten millions, and George Perkins, who is Morgan's right-hand man, is now a member of the board of directors of the Florida East Coast railway. If Mr. Flagler should die before the extension is completed it is likely that the work will be completed under Morgan's direction, or will Morgan & Co. take in the main stem of the system and let the extension stand unfinished?

FISHERIES OF GULF OF MEXICO

CENSUS BUREAU ISSUES INTERESTING REPORT, SHOWING OPERATIONS DURING YEAR ENDING DEC. 31.

The preliminary report of the census bureau of fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico for the year ending Dec. 31, 1908, has been issued.

These statistics are confined to the fishing industry and do not include wholesale fish dealers or canneries. The final report will contain an analysis of the totals and will present statistics for other phases of the industry. The preliminary report follows: Independent fishermen, number 5,802. Wage-earning fishermen, number 9,585. Vessels number 915; value, \$1,521,216. Outfit (bait, fuel, provisions, etc.), value \$442,778. Boats number 8,971; value, \$841,286. Apparatus of capture, total value, \$372,780. Dredges, tongs, etc., \$42,280. Gill nets number 2,418; value, \$70,069. Lines, \$14,170. Seines number 936; value, \$98,250. Sponge apparatus, \$76,440. Trawl nets number 498; value, \$26,120. Traps number 64,512; value, \$16,870. Miscellaneous, \$24,490. Shore and accessory property, \$47,690. Cash capital, \$246,920. Products, value \$4,824,280. Bluefish, pounds 615,890, value, \$20,120. Buffalo, pounds 1,682,700, value \$42,290. Catfish, pounds 3,982,690, value \$12,600. Channel bass or red fish, pounds 2,370,600, value \$111,610. Croaker, pounds 777,600, value \$39,770. Grouper, pounds 1,624,600, value \$9,810. Mullet (includes caviar), pounds 18,987,300, value \$533,870. Pompano, pounds 259,100, value \$32,250. Sheephead, pounds 1,126,900, value \$31,180. Snapper, red, pounds 12,545,700, value \$602,780. Spanish mackerel, pounds 1,456,600, value \$76,150. Trout or spottetog, pounds 4,089,600, value \$229,840. Crabs, hard, soft and stone, pounds 1,250,400, value \$59,050. Shrimp, pounds 12,561,500, value \$271,240. Sponges, pounds 622,500, value \$54,880. Taperin, turtles, tortoise shells, pounds 473,400, value \$46,120. Oysters, bushels 6,216,600, value \$1,585,830. Alligator hides, number 50,600, value \$9,770. Skins, mink, muskrat, and otter, number 108,400, value \$107,810. Miscellaneous fish, frogs, etc., value \$236,030.

Up Before The Bar. N. H. Brown, an attorney, of Pittsfield, Vt., writes: "We have used Dr. King's New Life Pills for years and find them such a good family medicine we wouldn't be without them." For Chills, Constipation, Biliousness or Sick Headache, they work wonders. See at all druggists.

HOW HE CURED BLOOD POISON

I didn't find out I had contracted Contagious Blood Poison until it had made considerable headway. I had heard a great deal of the value of S. S. S. as a blood medicine, in fact had a friend who had cured himself of the same disease through its use, so as soon as I discovered the nature of my trouble I began taking it. I got along splendidly from the very first and my recovery was steady. When I first began the use of S. S. S. my face was so full of sores and eruptions that I could not shave. Other parts of my body were similarly affected, but there is now not a blotch, pimple or any other sign of the disease. I was cured by S. S. S. and I know I am cured to stay cured as this was several years ago. There is nothing that equals S. S. S. for Contagious Blood Poison and I always recommend it in such cases. WALTER WEBER. No. 430 1/2 Fourth St., Evansville, Ind.

The acknowledged virtue of S. S. S. as a blood remedy induced Mr. Weber to commence its use when he found he had contracted Contagious Blood Poison. The good results he obtained is just another demonstration of its value as a cure for this disease.

Contagious Blood Poison is the most powerful and destructive of all blood disorders. Its virus permeates the entire circulation and this explains why any one afflicted with this malady usually finds its symptoms manifested in every portion of the body. From head to foot the insidious poison breaks forth. The hair and eyebrows come out, the mouth and throat ulcerate, skin eruptions and sores and ulcers break out on the body, the bones ache, glands in the groin swell, and frequently the nails on hands and feet are affected.

The only possible way to cure Contagious Blood Poison is to remove the cause by purifying the blood. This is just what S. S. S. does; and it is the only medicine that absolutely and thoroughly cleanses the circulation of every particle of the germs and virus of the disease. Mercury, Potash, etc., are often used by despairing sufferers in the hope that such strong treatment will kill the poison. But this cannot be done; the disease may be checked temporarily and the symptoms improved, but the old poison is slumbering in the blood, and when the treatment is left off the disease always returns.

The ability of S. S. S. to cure Contagious Blood Poison comes from its blood purifying properties. It goes into the circulation and removes every trace of the poison, makes the blood pure and healthy, and leaves no dregs of the virus to break out later on. S. S. S. is made entirely of roots, herbs and barks, each of which has a direct and

specific effect in purifying the blood. S. S. S. does not contain a particle of mineral in any form to upset the stomach, affect the bowels, or inflame any of the delicate membranes of the body. Its Nature's blood purifier, potent and healthful, and so valuable are its tonic effects that when S. S. S. has rid the circulation of the Contagious Blood Poison the entire system is left in fine physical condition.

We want to help every Contagious Blood Poison sufferer to get well, and for this purpose we have prepared a special book for Home Treatment. We will mail this book with any special medical advice free. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA.

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