CROPS OF FLORIDA

Official Data Given in Report of Commissioner of Agriculture.

ENORMOUS INCREASE SHOWN

Acreage and Value of Crops Compared for Severel Years---Producs Are Necessities.

Tallahassee, Fla.—Taking the state of Florida as a whole and considering its vast area, the statistics concerning farm crops does not make a very great showing, but when compared with the statistics of former years the report for the year 1907-08, shows a most wonderful increase in acreage and value of crops.

The following data concerning acreage and values is taken from the last annual report of the commissioner of agriculture of Florida, and is therefore official:

"The acreage of field crops for 1907-08 does not appear as great as it would have, had all the counties reported, although the present acreage of 1,085,341 is greater than that of 1906, by 156,144, a substantial increase, it is true, but not what it should rightfully be.

"The acreage of field crops for 1907-08 shows an increase over that of 1905 of 6,075 acres, and of 10,194 acres over that of 1906; the acreage of 1907-08 being 42,357.

"It will be noticed that although there is an incresae in the acreage of field crops, and the tables also show an increase in the volume of products that there is a decrease in their value of $685,969. But we do not have to look far for the cause; it is found, of course, in the effect of the panic, so called, suddenly created for political reasons in the fall of 1907. The necessity for money and the failure in the demand for farm supplies, forced the farmers, vegetable and fruit gorwers to accept less for their products; thus we see a loss of nearly three-quarters of a million dollars on one class of products alone. The greater portion of the loss referred to fell upon the short staple growers of the state."

In the crop year of 1907-08, the total acreage in field crops in Florida was 1,085,341; vegetable and garden products 42,357.

The total value of field crops was $11,856,340; value of vegetable and garden crops, $3,928,657; value of fruit products $6,260,299; value of live stock $20,817,804; value of dairy products $1,728,642; value of miscellaneous products $91,145. Total valuation of farm products $46,371,320.

In 1898 the total value of farm products was $17,906,060.

In 1903 the total value of farm products was $30,904,365.

The above statistics show a tremendous increase, but the manner in which the state is now setting up, and the great increase in acreage under cultivation will make a big difference during the next two or three years.

In referring to the tables showing the increase mentioned the commissioner of agriculture says:

"When we read these figures we realize that our delicious fruits that were once luxuries which the rich alone could enjoy, have practically become necessities, and are demanded and consumed by all classes of people throughout this broad land. They have in every sense become standard articles of commerce that the world demands in ever increasing volume, and whether climatic disasters come in the future or not, the fruit industry of our state will continue to grow and be one of the most important industries.

"Again we realize that in our immense corn crops we have a cereal food unequaled by any other. In the form of grits or hominy, no cereal food manufactured of other grains under fancy labels with high-sounding titles begins to compare in excellence and healthfulness, and none surpass it in nutritious properties for food for man and beast.

"Our vegetable industry, once a small experiment, has grown to such proportions that its impress upon the public taste and family wants have become so firmly established that its products have become world-wide necessities, that all the markets of the world demand.

"Our live stock interest has grown from the small sum of $5,500,000 in 1898 to practically $21,000,000 in 1907-08, or 400 per cent in ten years; thus it is no longer an infant industry."

"These are the products whose bountiful yields and values make prosperous, contented people.

'Our cotton, which is one of the greatest of all agricultural products, is not surpassed in quality. The long staple variety equals in quality the far-famed products of the Atlantic islands, and it has brought to the growers of the state values that bring happiness and comfort in turn. Few there are who realize the value of cotton. It is the most wonderful, the most remarkable, and the most useful of all the plant creation known to man. It has clothed the world from remote antiquity to the present day. It was the universal raiment in India, 800 B. C., and it has continued to supply the principal covering to the human body wherever civilization has spread its benign influence.

'These are a few of the products that bring prosperity to the people of Florida, help to build up its greatness and spread its fame throughout the world."

MANY IMPROVEMENTS TO FORECASTING THE WEATHER

Pensacola, Fla.—What is claimed to be the highest weather signal tower in Florida has been completed for use of the local weather office by government contractors, who have been engaged in the work for the past two weeks. The tower is located upon the roof of a ten-story building, and from the point where the storm warning signals to the street below is a distance of 178 feet.

GOVERNOR GILCHRIST CALLS ATTENTION TO MESSAGE

Tallahassee, Fla.—In a special message to the legislature Governor Gilchrist calls their attention to the clause of his first message recommending that Lincoln's birthday be made a legal holiday in Florida. Some of the senators criticised the wording of this clause, which was "the three greatest men in American history—Washington, Lee and Lincoln."

The governor calls their attention also to the fact that he should have said "among the greatest men."

Women Who Are Envied.

Those attractive women who are lovely in face, form and temper are the envy of many, who might be like them. A weak, sickly woman will be nervous and irritable. Contsipation or kidney poisons show in pimples, blotches, skin eruptions and a very wretched complexion. For all such, Electric Bitters work wonders. They regulate stomach, liver and kidneys, purify the blood; give strong nerves, bright eyes, pure breath, smooth, velvety skin, lovely complexion. Many charming women owe their health and beauty to them. 50c at S. W. Rowley.

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In the Good Old Days.

"In the old days, as I remember them, on a Southern plantation," said Major E. G. Eldon, of Vicksburg, Miss., at the Hotel Kernan, "there was always the most lavish consumption of eatables, and the good housewives never failed to load their tables with five times the quantity of food necessary for the family use.

"This lavishness—indeed, waste is the better word—grew out of the cheapness and abundance of food material. Every family grew many times the amount of vegetables it needed. Many things that command a high price now had hardly any money value in the days of which I speak. If, as happened at rare intervals, eggs got over 10 cents a dozen the price was deemed exorbitant. A big fat fowl was thought well sold at 25 cents. Nobody ever dreamed of selling fruit, and peaches that are now a source of great revenue, were given to any one who asked for them."—Baltimore American.

SOME

RARE BARGAINS

AT

Earnest Co's Department Store

PALATKA, FLA.

At the close of our Big Mill-Factory Syndicate Sale we find a great many Short Ends, Remnants and Odd Lots that

Must Be Closed Out

And we have put a price on them that insures their speedy departure from this store. They consist of all classes of goods throughout our store and will be closed out almost regardless of cost.

Don't Fail to Get Your Share of These Great Bargains.

All mill goods on hand will be closed out at mill prices. New goods arriving daily keeps our stock complete and our prices are always right. Come and see us.

The Earnest Company,

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