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INTERESTING FLORIDA FACTS

Information Gathered for the Seaboard Air Line Railway

GREAT EXTENT OF STATE

Larger Than Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont Combined.

The mercantile and industrial review of Jacksonville, which is now being prepared by the industrial department of the Seaboard Air Line railway for the purpose of interesting Northern investors in the possibilities of Jacksonville, Duval county and Florida, will reveal facts pertaining to the State that will astonish even its residents. Thomas K. Bates, the special representatives of the Seaboard, has been in Jacksonville for the past five weeks gathering material for the publication, and some idea of the progress he is making may be had from his review of the State, which we herewith produce:

Very few people have any conception as to the size of the State of Florida, its industrial and commercial possibilities and the innumerable variety of its products.

The combined area of Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maryland, Porto Rico and our own Tuitula islets in the Pacific, is 59,249 square miles, while the area of Florida is 59,268 square miles, making it the largest State east of the Mississippi river. The State has 1200 miles of sea coast and more splendid harbors than any other State. In the matter of navigable rivers and lakes Florida has no peer, there being within its bounds 180 lakes, 42 rivers and 99 creeks. Florida is 12,000 square miles larger than the state of New York. The distance from New York to Chicago is 917 miles, from Chattanooga to New York is 980 miles and from Jacksonville to New York is 984 miles. The distance from the western boundary of the State to its southern extremity is 996 miles, a good two days journey.

There are 3,217,920 acres covered by water, composed of rivers, ponds, lakes and 34,713,600 acres of land surface. On a basis of 600,000 population, this would give each citizen of the State 57 9-10 acres of land, while the resident of New York state has only 4 4-5 acres. There are only 5,000,000 acres in Florida held as farm lands and only a portion of that is in cultivation, leaving opportunities open for settlers that no other state can offer.

Key West is the largest city in the United States that has no railroad. However, this will soon be remedied by the entrance of the East Coast line to that city.

There are 46 counties and 2,426 cities and towns in the State, and Florida lays claim to 116 islands.

There are magnificent areas of valuable yellow pine, cypress and hardwoods representing 202 distinct varieties available for the manufacture of anything from a toothpick to a ship's mast.

The possibilities of the State from a stockgrowing point of view cannot be equaled; the water is here, the grazing land is here, and the winters are very similar to the summers in the North. The experienced stock grower should be able to appreciate these three points but he does not seem to take advantage of them, probably on account of his narrow-minded prejudice. When he does come to himself the State of Florida will remind one of the Chicago stock yards.

Florida has 12,800 acres of edible oysters and enjoys the distinction of being the only sponge bearing State in the Union.

Florida is a veritable paradise for the man who loves to hunt and fish. He can go gunning here for bear, wildcat, deer; wild turkey, geese, duck, quail, squirrel, rabbits, coon, and numerous birds and animals. If one would rather fish, the State offers sport in this line that cannot be excelled anywhere, you get them here from two ounces to two hundred pounds, and it is not necessary to wait a week for a bite.

This State contains unknown quantities of phosphate rock, which is proving a very valuable acquisition to the sum total of the State's wealth. It is used as the base for the manufacture of fertilizers.

The finest quality of tobacco grown in the United States is grown in Florida and sells for as high at 70 cents per pounds.

Florida produces sea island cotton, the kind that demands 30 cents per pound when the ordinary grades are a drug on the market at 10 cents per pound.

As a fruit, vegetable, nut and agricultural growing State, Florida has no equal. Here may be grown all the fruits and vegetables that are indigenous to a tropical climate and the hardier sorts of the North. Three and four crops per year can be grown on the same acre, and the farmer does not have to idle away half of his time trying to keep warm during the winter months, but can cultivate his crops every month in the year, and if he manages his farm intelligently he will have something to sell every three months, while his northern brother sows once a year, markets once a year and is broke ten months in the year.

The average soil of Florida is sandy, mixed with clay and other organic matter, but by the proper use of fertilizer it becomes very productive.

Recently large bodies of peat have been discovered in the State, and there is little doubt but what this discovery will add largely to the State's revenue.

All the grasses used in the manufacture of mattings, rope and straw goods grow profusely in Florida, and offer openings for manufacturing concerns along a line in which there is no competition and splendid profits.

The death rate of Florida is less than that of Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Virginia and Minnesota, the variation of temper-

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HISTORIC VESSEL HAS BEEN FOUND

A recent statement to the effect that the original vessel which brought the intrepid Ponce de Leon to Florida, had been discovered buried in mud and sand on the west shore of the San Sebastian river about a mile from St. Augustine has caused some surprise, not to say disbelief. A further investigation of the rumor has established the fact that on the land of E. Sanchez, an old Spanish galleon in a fair state of preservation, undoubtedly lies buried in the mud on the banks of the Sebastian river. Sufficient excavation has been undertaken to indicate the size and general construction of the ship. It is built of oak and put together with trenails, or wooden pegs. The planking shows the marks of a broad axe and was evidently not sawed, but hewn out. Some of the timbers and planking detached from the vessel were in a good state of preservation so long as under the water but on becoming perfectly dry, soon crumbled. The matter of having this valuable relic unearthed and properly cared for is engaging the attention of some of those acquainted with the facts and it is to be suggested that it is properly a matter for some branch of the government, such as the Smithsonian Institution to take charge of. Mr. Sanchez who is engaged in the mercantile business here, talks interestingly of this relic of unknown date and would be glad to see it properly cared for before its location is entirely forgotten.

Attractions Next Week

The theater going public are desirious of seeing vandeville—not trashy stuff but of a nigh class type such as The Pickerts give. Fort Pierce has been fortunate in securing this strong company. Mr. Willis Pickert, the world's greatest dancer, is in this attraction.

The Pickert Company will present while in Fort Pierce "The Westerner and His Wife" and "Oklahoma and the Inventor."

The Pickert sisters, supported by the best professional talent, will be in evidence. Watch the posters. Tickets on sale at the Drug Store on the 17th. 50 cents, 35 cents; children 25 cents. Remember that Cleopatra will appear on New Years night.

Geo. W. Drawdy, Jr., has purchased the lot on Orange avenue formerly owned by J. A. Newsome.

REPAIR SHOPS COME HERE

Car Rebuilding to be Done in Fort Pierce

WORK HAS COMMENCED

N. J. Trowell is Placed in Charge as Foreman of Work—Twenty-five Men to be Employed.

Another important move for the benefit of Fort Pierce is the decision of the officials of the Florida East Coast railway to establish at this place a branch of their car building shops for the purpose of repairing cars.

The officials of the road have found that it is not practicable to transport all cars for repairs to the shop at St. Augustine, neither have they room or equipment there to handle all such work, and Fort Pierce has been selected as the place to establish the branch as it will be located at about the middle of the line when completed to Key West.

Last week W. L. Singleton, master car builder of the road, was in Fort Pierce, the guest of N. J. Trowell, and while here selected the place for the beginning of operations, and Mr. Trowell was summoned to St. Augustine to complete arrangements.

It is the intention of the railroad company to at once erect a store room, 20 x 40 feet, which will be used to house the tools, hardware and paints. Work has already started in preparing the land for this building, at the point between the repair track and the railroad Y, and two carloads of lumber and a carload of materials and tools is expected daily. When this arrives the building will be immediately erected, and the work of repairing cars will be begun on the track adjoining the store room, and later a car-repairing shed will be erected.

N. J. Trowell has been placed in charge as foreman of the repair work, and he will be assisted by twenty-five men—painters, carpenters and helpers. Mr. Trowell has already engaged eleven men, and will fill the quota as soon as the work progresses.

This is another enterprise for Fort Pierce that will add to its population and the extent of its business. Now if we can secure a canning factory and a crate mill our immediate necessities will be alleviated.

Again, another necessity is brought to the front. Where are all these people to be housed? Is there no method of securing from ten to twenty-five house in Fort Pierce this winter?

OUR MERCHANTS ARE PREPARED FOR XMAS

With the approach of the holidays, only ten days off, the principal stores of Fort Pierce are making an especially strenuous effort for the Christmas trading, and they are using the columns of THE TRIBUNE to tell the people what they have in stock.

The advertisement of the big store of P. P. Cobb tells our people of the immense preparation that has been made to provide for the holiday shopping. This stock covers a wide range, from the toys and dolls for the little ones to perfumes, novelties, framed pictures, decorated china, crystal ware, Japanese goods and furniture, to say nothing of that endless variety of preserves, jams, pickles, fruit, candies and nuts which have their place in the Yule-tide celebration.

Prominent among the Christmas advertisements is that of W. J. Nesbitt. Here, too, any desire can be gratified. This store has a personally selected stock, and gift articles for every member of the family can be obtained here, ranging from the toys for the little ones, fine articles of adornment for the ladies, to beautiful rugs and art squares decorated china and bamboo furniture.

A. B. Lowry is also bidding for the Christmas trade. Nothing pleases a person more than to have a Christmas present arrive bearing the label of a jewelry store. That betoken a life-long present—something that may be kept for future years. Here will be found anything the heart may desire—leather goods, imported china, cut glass silver novelties and solid gold articles. If in doubt what to give father, mother husband, wife, brother, sister or sweetheart, just look at Lowry's ad.

Hendry & Penney, the new, yet the old clothing firm, are offering some substantial and valuable goods for Christmas. Nothing makes a better Xmas gift than a nice dress suit case, an umbrella, neck ware, hat, shoes, trousers, overcoat or a suit of clothes. If in doubt what to give your men folks just call on them.

Another Christmas advertiser is the City Market. What would the Christmas dinner be without a turkey? This necessity can be found at the City Market, also a full line of Florida and western meats, chickens, bread, cakes, pies, etc.

The Show is Coming

In the sunshine of success the Sun Brothers' new railroad shows have always kept faith with the people. At all times honorably conducted, truthfully advertised and truthfully presented; by which have gained the highest pinnacle of fame in maintaining the recognized leading position of the world's greatest show, over all enterprises of like nature.

Managers Sun Brothers have always had three principal objects in veiw, namely; Honesty, originality and excellence. The most important is the first; without it no enterprise can hope to succeed. The Sun Brothers' Shows come to you this season in an entire new dress, and are now touring the country with the finest train of cars ever built for the purpose. Will exhibit at Fort Pierce on Friday, December 21st.

Two preformances, at 2 and 8 p. m. Watch for grand free street parade day of show at 12 o'clock noon. No gambling or games of chance allowed with Sun Brothers' shows. We carry our own electric light plant.

MISS WIGFIELD STABBED AT DANIA

Miss Ella Wigfield, of Toledo, this county, who is teaching school at Dania was stabbed by one of her pupils last Wednesday, and up to last reports is recovering favorably. The Miami Record says:

A serious occurrence in the school at Dania took place Wednesday when the teacher, Miss Ella Wigfield, was stabbed just over the heart by a pocket knife in the hands of one of her pupils, a boy by the name of Dykes.

From the reports of the occurrence it would seem that Miss Wigfield had attempted to correct a younger brother of the boy who did the cutting, and that the younger brother called out to young Dykes to "cut her throat."

Acting on the suggestion Dykes drew his knife and inflicted a serious wound in the left breast of the young lady which narrowly escaped striking the heart.

She was at once removed to her boarding place and a physician sent for. Dr. DuPuis, of Lemon City, was called and attended the wounded girl.

The boy is in the custody of the officers and will be held to await the result of his murderous attack, and will be prosecuted in any event.

The Pickerts at Club Hall

The Pickert Company, which will appear in the Improvement club hall, Fort Pierce, the nights of December 20, 21, 22, was recently in Birmingham, Ala., and the Evening Despatch, of Nov. 27, says of their first appearance there: "The Four Pickerts and company are back with Wilmington theatregoers. They opened a week's engagement at the Academy last night and present in fine manner 'In Oklahoma.' The play is of western type and possesses many stirring scenes. Yet tonight the company is to entirely change the character of performance and in place of drama will present a pure comedy—one bright and sparkling in nature. It will be 'Miss Hobbs,' which was once a famous success of Miss Annie Russell. The play is a 'scream' from start to finish and will tickle the ribs strongly. The specialties last night were all clever, but new ones will be presented to night and will include little Miss Blanche Pickert in a merry dancing act." Reserved seats at popular prices at the drug store.

TWO BLOCKS TO BE PAVED

Town Council Has Ordered Rock Pavement for Fort Pierce

ESTIMATED COST $1,200

Council is Ordering Work Under State Law Compelling Property Owners to Pay Share of Cost

Fort Pierce is just entering upon an era of progress, not alone in industrial lines, but in municipal affairs as well, that bids fair for a splendid future for our town.

This spirit of awakening has been aboard for some weeks, but on account of the approach of the municipal election, with its uncertainties, no steps were taken until the election was over, and no sooner was this question settled than a special meeting of the council was called for last Friday afternoon, when a plan was adopted to at once begin the work of paving the streets under the provision of the State law requiring the property owner on each side to pay one third and the town the remaining one-third.

The first work under this plan has already commenced at the corner of High street and Orange avenue, and will extend down Orange avenue one block, then north one block to Palmetto avenue.

The council has established a uniform curb line for all streets at 12 feet from lot lines, leaving room for an 8-foot concrete sidewalk, and 4 feet for shade trees, the curb running outside. On Orange avenue and Pine street this will leave 41 feet to be paved.

The council closed a contract with the East Coast Cattle Co., to secure rock for paving from their pasture west of town at ten cents per cubic yard, in the pit. Also another contract with the livery stables for hauling and delivering the rock on the street at $1 per cubic yard, the town to furnish the labor to get the rock out of pit and to spread on the streets.

Tuesday morning the work was commenced at the junction of High street and Orange avenue, with Isham Williams as overseer. Here the rock is being placed nine inches deep, the first six inches being of heavy boulders and a dressing of three inches of soft rock placed on top. The street is given a curvature of four to six inches. This will make a first class street, and one that will be serviceable for years to come.

It will require 840 cubic yards of rock to pave the street for the two blocks as laid out, and it is estimated that it will cost about $1,200. Of this amount the abutting property owners will be assessed $800 and the town treasury will be called on for the remaining one-third—$400.

As soon as the present undertaking is completed the council propose to commence operations for the paving of Orange avenue from High street west for several blocks, Palmetto avenue from High street west for two blocks, and Magnolia avenue from Orange avenue north to the residence of A. C. Dittmar. This will give the west part of town, which has been neglected in the past, some needed improvements, and will open many valuable lots for building sites, and will give two avenues from the northern part of town.

All these improvements are under the direct charge of the street committee, which is composed of C. S. Tucker, chairman; D. F. McCarty and Ed Edge.

The council has also passed an order for the property owners on that part of Orange avenue and Pine street that is to be paved at once, to immediately place concrete curbing along their property.

Executive Committee Meeting.

A meeting of the St. Lucie County Democratic Executive Committee has been called for Wednesday, Dec. 19, 1906, at 1:30 p. m., to be held at the office of Hemmings & Andrews, Fort Pierce.

Next Thursday the season opens with The Pickerts. Reserved seats 50 cents general admission 35 cents; children under 10 years of age, 25 cents.