THE

# ST. LUCIE COUNTY TRIBUNE.

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## THE PROSPECT OF PINEAPPLES

### Prices for Coming Season Promise Most Flattering Returns

## IMPROVED CONDITION

### Depression of Last Year Had Benefits in Organization of Growers—No County More Promising Than St. Lucie

One of the strange traits of mankind is, the ease which they are influenced in any given direction, and as an illustration of this fact, we recall the depths of despondency which overhang the pineaple section on account of the extreme low prices that prevailed last season.

That these conditions were extremely disagreable and caused a good many of our growers to put on their thinking caps and do some figuring that they had neglected to do before, there is no doubting, but that the failure to realize a profit on the business should cause a general demoralization of the enterprise as some seem to believe, would have been to under estimate the spirit of our people, who have developed one of the most intensive systems of production and built and maintained a class of homes no where else to be found in the state of Florida out side of the cities.

It is an established fact, that last season's crop, with but few exceptions, brought the growers little it any profit over cost of production, but there is no other business that does not have its years of depression, unless if is the Standard Oil, or monopolies of that class.

We had labored under handicaps in various ways, which in our more prosperous years, we had submitted to without attempting to correct, but when our revenues were reduced, we found that our freight rates were out of proportion to those of our competitors in Cuba; this matter was taken up and intelligently placed before the Inter-state Commission in Washington with the result, that we got a reduction which amounts to a saving, (if the output should be the same as last summer) of at least $80,000. on the pineapple crop alone.

Various things were responsible for last year's depression in prices, chief among which was the fact that for the first time in the history of the pineapple business on the East Coast, the crops of Florida and Cuba came into the markets at the same time, and the further fact, that both had the largest crop in the history of the business.

These conditions were not fully understood or realized by those who had in former years, handled the output from the two sections, and before they knew it, they were loaded up with more fruit than they had ever been called upon to handle during the same period, and it is safe to say, without casting any reflection on any one who was handling them, that they were not prepared to take care of the increase that had so unexpectedly come to them.

No one thinks that there was any overproduction, but was simply a case of where the handlers were insufficiently posted as to what they were going to have to dispose of, and when they were given this unusual increase without preparation for its proper distribution, they went to pieces and got the markets so completely jammed, that they could not clean them up.

While this was the conditions that prevailed last season, it would be an almost impossible thing for it to happen again, even if the same amount of fruit was thrown on the market at the same time, for the dealers have had a lesson that they will not forget, and will be prepared to meet such conditions if they should ever have them to contend with again, which is not very likely.

We do not know if the above reasons have been advanced as one of the causes for the unsatisfactory results of last summer's operations, but that it was one of the main factors, there is no doubt. Possibly the dealers will take exceptions to this view of the matter, but it is the most charitable construction that can be placed on the results of their operations, and we think, the proper one.

That conditions for this season are materially different from those prevailing last summer is evidenced by the fact that numerous buyers as endeavoring to purchase the output from this section. Prices have been offered that are very flattering, but there is every reason to believe that pineapples will bring a figure beyend those now submitted, and few of our growers care to take less than the full market price which is likely to prevail as the season advances.

At the close of last season, when the ledgers of the growers were balancing up on the wrong side, there was never such a desire to desert a country as was experienced here, and if a few men with business foresight had stepped in with a little money, they could have secured bargains in some of the handsomest real estate, both from a point of beauty and intrinsic value that has ever been placed on the market.

During this time, some who were more timid than the rest, rushed off to other sections of the country, but as the pendulum has quickly swung back, and moral conditions have again asserted themselves. It is safe to say, that those who stamped under the first depression, will regret their hasty action, and long for the return of the time when they can resume their residence in the land of flowers.

We hear of lands of promise and plenty in the various sections of the United States, some of our citizens have at various times during the past ten years pulled up and gone in search of them, only to return, better satisfied with the Indian river section than ever before.

One thing our recent experience has taught us is the fact that we as growers must unite and stand together if we expect to get the full benefits that belongs to the pineapple business, also it has placed the enterprise on a more business like basis, for as things had been operating, there were hundreds of absolutely irresponsible people engaged in it, who were operating on or about the same plan as the floating vegetable grower, who buys his fertelizer, crate material and every thing else connected with it on time, and has no serious interest in it as a permenent profit producing enterprise; therefore, pay but little attention to the matter of what kind of fruit he grows or how he puts it up for market, for he has not one dollar of his own money invested, and as the records prove that they are not very prompt in paying for material bought on time, they are now being dropped out of business, for they cannot get credit as they have in the past. This is going to put the business in the hands of the responsible business man and grower, and thus eliminate the growing of crops by shiftless methods, which alway produce a poor grade of fruit and has been a curse to the trade.

It is never safe to judge a business by one year range of prices, but it must be taken for a term of years, and the future must be determined by some investigation of supply and demand, and when we put this test to the pineapple business of the East Coast and especially to St. Lucie County, we are forced to the conclusion, that no man is justified in selling his property here at a sacrifice in the vain hope that he is going to be able to better his condition in any of the Lands of Promise that we hear so much about in other sections for when they get there they will find the people there more anxious to sell than any man in Florida.

## AMPLE REASON FOR POSTOFFICE DEFICIT

One of the reasons the Postoffice Department is being run at a loss is that the Government is paying the railroad too much for the carrying of the mails. Congress has just appropriated $46,000,000 to pay for the carrying of the mails in the fiscal year 1911. The sum is more than double the amount the express companies pay for carrying a similar amount of like matter.

But another and more serious complaint can be justly made against the business of the Postoffice Department in the rental of Postoffice cars from the railroads of the county. In addition to paying the railroads so much a pound for the hauling of the mails, the Government in its unexampled generosity also hands over $4,800,000 each year for the rental of the cars in which the mails are hauled. A parallel case would be one which would require a person to buy a railroad ticket to a certain point and then pay a fee for the privilege of sitting in the car while being transported to the destination stamped on the ticket.

The most ridiculous feature of the car rental situation is yet to be told, however. While the entire cost of construction and equipment does not exceed $7,000 each, the Government pays an annual rental on these cars of $3,575.10. The average lifetime of a mail car is ten years. For a $7,000 car the Government pays $35,751 in rentals.

Is there surprise that the Postoffice Department is not self-sustaining under such business methods?

### Peoples' Candidates Active

"Zim is making a strong race against Frank Clark," said a well known political observer who is stopping at one of the local hotels. "The people who know Clark well are not going to support him and the more they find out about Zim the better they will like him. He is getting around, too, and you will see that Mr. Frank Clark is going to have the greatest surprise of his life. They are all taking it for granted that you can't beat Frank Clark, but they are going to be badly fooled. Zim is going to show 'em; now, watch and see. "Broward is doing some good work, too. He isn't making any fuss about it but the old filibuster is hunting, and don't forget it. He's getting about as he never did before and he is seeing the people. He never was more popular and he's making new friends all the while. Broward's a wonderful man, and he dosen't fail to impress his personality upon people whenever he has the opportunity. There is something, you know, in being of senatorial size. Broward is it. The people like him because he is honest, able, plain and sincere. He's a winner; don't worry."—Miami Metropolis.

## BACK COUNTY DEVELOPMENT

### Omaha-Florida Land Company to Colonize Immense Tract

## WEST OF FORT PIERCE

### Plans Submitted at Special Meeting of Board of Trade — Will Encourage Drainage of Prairies and Flats

A special meeting of the board of trade was held in the court house Tuesday evening, upon solicitation of members of the Omaha-Florida Land Co., who had been in this section for several weeks, investigating their holdings and laying plans for an immense colonization scheme which they expect to soon inaugurate.

This company is represented here by Messrs. A B. Hunt, of Omaha, Neb., W. R. Pedley, of Bertrand, Neb., Ben. I. Tanner and A. G. Bauder, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and have a tract of nearly 70,000 acres which they propose to have platted and laid out into farms of ten acres, and sell same to farmers in the far western states.

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Hemmings in the absence of President Penney and both of the vice-presidents, and Mayor R. Whyte was selected as temporary chairman.

Mr Hunt of the Omoha-Florida Land company, made a statement as to what his company proposed to do in developing their holdings, which extend from near Ten-Mile creek bridge, west as far as Fort Drum and north to the county line-alternating sections only. He stated that they needed no assistance in their project, but simply wanted an authortive statement as to the recent bond issue in this county, insofar as the same related to the proposed hard surfaced roads west of Fort Pierce and through their property on the flats. The subject was discussed by various citizens and upon motion a committee consisting of A. K. Wilson, A. B. Brown and James E. Andrews, was appointed to prepare the statement as desired.

Mr. Ben. I. Tanner addressed the Board on the subject of discrimination in homeseeker rates against the East Coast, stating that tickets can be bought from Chicago to Fort Myres for $6 less than to Fort Pierce—over exactly the same route as far as Jacksonville, making it evident that the discrimination exists on the Florida East Coast railroad. Mr. Tanner stated that the low rate to west coast points were attracting hundreds of homeseekers to that section who were becoming permanent settlers. He also called attention to the fact that the railroads had so far refused to give homeseeker rates at times when desirable farmers can leave their farms, giving as their excuse that it interferred with the tourist rates. Mr. Tanner showed that it was absolutely necessary to have the homeseeker rates inaugurated during December, January and February. Upon motion a committee, consisting of James E. Andrews, Fred Fee and A. D. Penney was appointed to take up this matter with the railroad officials and endeavor to have same adjusted.

The subject of drainage of the great country west of Fort Pierce was discussed by various members of the board, and by Messrs. Tanner and Bouder of the land company These gentlemen assured the board of their hearty support of the Broward drainage laws, and their willingness to have a drainage district declared in this section, through their lands, and asked for the co-operation of the citizens and other land companies.

Mr. Pedley addressed the board on the various subjects under discussion, and thanked the organization for the interest taken and courtesy shown the representatives of the Omaha-Florida Land Company.

Harry E. Hill, R. N. Koblegard and Gordon R. Broome were then proposed and elected to membership and the board adjourned.

Messrs. George and William Ruple and their neice, Miss Sue Keenhold, who have spent the winter at their pineapple plantation south of town, left Tuesday for New Milford, Ohio, where they will spend the summer as usual.

## INCOME AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

To the voters of St. Lucie County:

The income tax is a national matter and it is one of the few national questons which can be injected in to the state campaign. Our primary system enabling the people to vote directly on candidates for United States Senate goes far to divorce national issues from state politics, and it would perhaps be better if an issue like this of the income tax could be submitted directly to the people for the reason that it would undoubtedly be overwhelmingly adopted if so submitted, but if the matter is not agitated and the people express no interest, it is highly probable that those whose income might be taxed will muster a sufficient influence to defeat Florida's endorsement of this amendment.

The constitutional amendment submitted to the states is very broad in its terms and is not specific as to what kind of an income tax should be enacted but from the customs of other counties and from previous income tax laws enacted in this country, it may be said that an income tax usually, exempts an income up to a certain amount, as for instance a thousand or two thousand dollars and levies a tax on that part of a man's income which is above this limit. For example, if a man's income is $2500 and the exemption is $1000 this man will be called on to pay a certain percentage of $1,500.00 to the Government of the United States.

It has also become customary to classify incomes and require a higher percentage from the larger income. It will be seen that those states in whico the largest aggregation or wealth exist will be compelled to pay the largest amount of taxes, and also that those of moderate income will pay little of no tax.

Compare this with the present taxation by tariff and it will be seen that the tariff taxing sugar, coffee, tobacco and clothing taxes the necessities of life of the poor as well as the luxuries of the rich. We of this country would be very well pleased to have a protective tariff on pineapples, and if we could have our products protected we would find little or no fault with the tariff system, but as the tariff making is conducted we are compelled to buy in a protected market and sell our products in competition with the world, and there is no way of doing away with the present injusticies of the protective tariff system until congress is provided with an alternative way of raising revenue.

An income tax, while there are many objections to be urged to the means of collection, yet is in principal the most equitable method of taxation. It bests conforms to the principle of compelling payment of taxation by those who are the most able to pay.

It might also be said of this amendment that public necessities or emergencies may require additional sources or revenue and an income tax such as has been used before may be urgently needed at some future time when there is not time to secure the adoption of a Constitutional Amendment. No other candidate for the legislature of Florida appears to have declared himself upon this issue. FRED FEE.

## THE FAMOUS QUARTET NEXT FRIDAY EVENING

After two years of phenomenal success in their home city and surrounding Canadian territory, the Toronto Male Quartet is now making its second tour of the United States. The sympathetic blending of voices in ensemble, precision of attack, and brilliant forte effects produced, make it equal, if not superior, of any quartet now before the public. The repertoire is varied and extensive, including both classical and popular music, rendered in such a manner as to please the most critical of audiences. Scotch selection in costume and the playing of the novelty instrument, Maroharp, add variety to the entertainment.

The management of the Fort Pierce Improvement club takes pleasure in presenting this organization of high class artists next Friday evening, April 1st. They are young men of sterling character possessing voices of excellent quality.

The Marshalltown (Ia.) Republican says of their recent visit there. "The evening's entertainment by the Toronto quartet, which proved to be a group of four exceptionally strong voices, allcapable of solo work and each one was enjoyed in solo parts fully as much, if not more, than in the quartet singing. The tenor solo, "The Carnival," and its encore "I Am Awearin' for You" were especially strong. Mr. Gardner, as a reader, possessed more than ordinary ability, so that, with the selection of a program made up mostly of music new to the average audience, the evening's entertainment was of the best that four very talented musicians could give."

Reserved seats will be on sale next Monday at the St. Lucie Drug Company's store.

### The Creator of an Empire

John E. Strayer, of Johnston, Pa., a large purchaser of Everglades land, writes the Miami Metropolis: "As an enthusiast over the possiblities of the Everglades and as a purchaser of Everglade land from the Florida Fruit Lands Company, the information as to the alignment by which Governor Broward is to be eliminated comes as a distinct shock. But no matter what the politicians may do they can never take from Napoleon B. Broward the name that is rightly his as the creator of an empire. He has in fact made possible the birth of a new land; a land that is destined to be the homes of millions of contented and happy people and in whose hearts his image will be enshrined as the real savior who has given them the opportunity to get a home from their small savings that would have given them but a mere pittance elsewhere in this country."

S. C. Stewart, of Jensen, was a business visitor in our city Saturday.

## CANDIDATES TO FILE ACCOUNTS

### Giving on Oath Amount of Their Total Campaign Expenses

## NAMES OF WORKERS

### Statements to Contain Names of All Campaign Workers, Contributors to Campainn Fund and Loans Made

The following taken from the statute of the state of Florida, should be read by ever candidate and voter:

Notice to candidates Laws of Florida Acts of 1909. Chapter 5929—) No. 60). Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. That each and every candidate voted upon in the State and County primaries of the State of Florida, be and is hereby required to file in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of his county if he is a candidate for a county office, or in the office of the Secretary of State if he is a candidate for a national or a State office, not less than ten days before the Primary in which he is a candidate, a complete statement in itemized form of his campaign expenses. This statement shall include the names of all the contributors to his campaign fund, whether they be persons or corporations, firms or associations, and their relationship to him by blood, marrage, business or association, political, fraternal or otherwise, and all the expenses incurred as a result of his candidacy, and shall be given under oath. And each candidate voted upon in the State or County Primaries, as aforesaid, shall file not later than ten days after the primary in which he is a candidate another statement in the same place as is respectively provided herein for the first statement, and including any, every and all of the specifications, divisons and requirements of the first statement, as above required, up to and including the day of the Primary in which he was a candidate, and each candidate furnishing this last statement shall swear at the time, that the two statements of campaign expenses herein required, include a complete and full account of all the expenses incurred by him as a result of his candidacy.

Section 2. At the time the last statement required in Section 1 of this Act is given, another statement shall be furnished also under oath, by each and every candidate voted upon in any State or County Primary of Florida, giving the names of his political workers and telling for what consideration, if any, such work was done, the term "political workers" to refer to those who left for a time or part of a time their ordinary avocations to further his candidacy. This statement shall be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of his county, or in the office of the Secretary of State, according to whether candidate furnishing it was a candidate for a county or a national or a State office.

Section 3. At the same time that sworn statement required in Section 2 of this Act is furnished each and every candidate for a county or State office in the Primaries as hereinbefore mentioned, shall furnish and file in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court or his county or in the office of the Secretary of State, according to whether he is a candidate for a county, or national of a State office, another statement giving the names of all those persons to whom loans were made during his candidacy, which would not have been made had he not been a candidate. This statement shall also be given under oath.

Section 4. All the statements hereinbefore required, except the one to be furnished before the Primary in which candidate furnishing it is voted upon, may be sworn to at one time, and shall be given and filed on the same day and date.

Section 5. Any candidate refusing or willfully failing to obey any of the provisions of this Act shall be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars, and shall not be allowed to have his name printed on the official ballot at the next ensuing general election, or his name presented as the candidate of any party for the office of United States Senator to the next succeeding Legislature, according to whether he is a candidate for a State or County office, or for a national office, as the case may be

### Sudden Death of Estimable Lady

N. J. Cooper, of the East Coast Lumber & Supply Co., received the sad intelligence, Wednesday morning, of the death of his mother, Mrs. E. E. Cooper, which occured the early hours of the same day, at the home of her son, G. B. Cooper, at Oak Hill. The deceased was a resident of Tampa, and was making a trip to the East Coast to visit her two sons, when death overtook her. Mr. Cooper left immediately, and accompanied the remains to Jasper where interment was made. His many friends extends sympathy in his sad bereavement.

Miss Lena Orrel, of Hallandale, spent Saturday and Sunday in our city, the guest of her brother, R. C. Orrel.