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EXCAVATOR IS NOW AT WORK

Huge Ditching Machine in Action On Fort Pierce Farms

TO DRAIN LARGE AREA

Main Waterway and Laterals to Extend Thirty Miles—Development Project Of Great Magnitude and Importance

The vast development project undertaken by the Fort Pierce Farms company has been referred to at length on several occasions in this paper, and detailed description given of the magnitude of this gigantic colonization enterprise, invovling a tract of some 36,000 acres, embracing what is beyond doubt the finest body of undeveloped land in Florida. Additional interest is lent to the project now that the work of constructing the immense drainage ditch is well under way, marking the inception of a series of plans for development which will result in populating this entire area with a colony of successful farmers, whose fields will produce abundantly of diversified crops.

Through the courtesy of J. E. Andrews, sales agent of the company, the TRIBUNE representative was driven over the tract in Mr. Andrew's touring car, Monday. After a general tour of that portion of the land which is cleared of timber, parceled off into forty acre tracts and now on the market, a visit was made to the point where the excavating machine is at work. The main ditch commences on the south east portion of the tract, thence will run due west several miles, thence north and north west, so that with its laterals, the main ditch will reach the uttermost portions of the large area which is cleared and ready for settlement. A concrete dam with wing abutments, measuring some forty feet over all, has been constructed where the ditch intersects Taylor creek, and the latter stream is being widened out so as to readily accommodate the entire drainage flow; the creek emptying into Indian river. The dam is of massive co struction, its foundation being sunk five feet below the ditch bed, and the abutment wings serving as an effectional barrier against sand being washed into the ditch from either side.

The main ditch, which is twenty feet wide at the bottom and has sloping walls extending the width at the top to a maximum of forty five feet, is being cut with considerable rapidty, considering the handicaps usually experienced in commencing this character of work and adopting the faciliters to existing conditions. The huge excavating machine, in charge of Engineer McKinzie, is removing soil at the average rate of 1000 cubic yards each twenty-four hours, working both day and night shifts. It is a wonderful piece of massive mechanism, mounted on a short section of track, the engine proper surmounting a revolving pedestal which turns to either side at will of the engineer, a long steel beam from which swings the excavating bucket, controlled by steel cables. This bucket, a recent improvement in digging apparatus, has four petals shapped sections, curved in the form of claws, which as the bucket descends to the earth are driven deeply into the soil, closing solidly and gathering a compact mass of earth which is lifted rapidly, swung to either side and dumped by an automatic opening of the bucket jaws. The solidity of the soil, the presence of stumps or roots, nothing apparently bars the way of this insatiate monster which is rapidly and steadily clearing the earth on its way towards consummating a project which will redound to the benefit of thousands who will till the soil for their sustenance.

Some idea of the magnitude of this waterway can be gathered from the statement that the main ditch and laterals now in contemplation and included in the present contract, will measure thirty miles, draining an area of over 15,000 acres. The lateral ditches to be constructed one-half mile apart along the line of the main ditch, will be fourteen feet wide and five feet deep, their location being such as to furnish ample drainage to each forty acre tract in the area which is now offered for sale. The contract calls for the completion of main ditch and laterals by January 1 of next year.

It is the intention of the company to widen the main ditch later on, making the bottom forty feet and the width of top of side walls sixty-five feet, also extending it to the extreme western portion of the tract, which will also be placed on the market. The lowest point on the vast area of forty acre tracts encompassed by these drainage ditches is six feet above the bed of the ditches, thus ensuring ample fall and unfailing drainage.

It is also the intention of the company to provide facilities for irrigation as well as drainage, and with this in view, they will secure a well-drilling outfit and bore artesian wells on all sections on the tract whereever the farmers desire them. This work will be done at the mininum of expense, this being made possible by the character of machinery used and the company's intention to purchase curbing and other needed material in large quantities.

Nothing that might be said or written can do justice to the magnitude of this project, and the benefits which will accrue to this section in general and to Fort Pierce in particular are manifest to anyone who will give the matter a moment's earnest consideration. Although only on the market since January 1 of this year, over 8,000 acres, in forty acre tracts, have been sold to bona fide settlers in the north and east, all of whom anticipate locating on the land, cultivating it with the diversity of crops to which its varied soils are adapted, and thus swelling the population of our county andi ncreasing the wealth of this community.

As an instance of the stability of this development work, and the sincere purpose indicated by the promoters—all of whom have other local interests identifying them with the progress of this section—it is stated that on the completion of the plans regarding this 36,000-000 acres, it is the determination of the company to acquire additional tracts, which will be developed and improved in like manner.

Surely this is a project which merits the endorsement, approbation and help of everyone who has faith in the future of this section, and the construction of this immense drainage waterway is another step towards the consummation of an enterprise marking an era of unprecendented growth and prosperity in St. Lucie county.

REDUCE FREIGHT ON FLORIDA FRUIT

Material reductions in freight rates on citrus fruits from Jacksonville to points in the Central and Western States, were ordered last week by the Interstate Commerce Commission. Reductions range according to distance, from seven to about twenty per cent.

In February, 1910, the commission, in deciding the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Shippers' Association case against the Atlantic Coast Line Railway and all other carriers operating in Southern, Central Freight Association and Western trunk line territories, held that rates on citrus fruit from Elorida points to destinations in Central and Western States were unreasonably high and reductions to eleven principal markets in these sections were ordered.

The roads were directed to put corresponding reduced rates to all other destinations in same territories. Commissioner Prouty, in a supplemental opinion and order, indicated that original order was not carried out or "apparently for reason that carriers will not be able to agree among themselves about divisions of rates when named."

The commission has fixed definite rates to points of destination named, and the rates become effective October 2nd.

AVOCADO PEARS MOST PALATABLE

Just now when the avocado is coming into the market and strangers to the delicious fruit-vegetable—fruit because it grows on a tree and because some transported Yankee named it "alligator pear"—vegetable because it contains a whole meal in itself and needs pepper, salt, vinegar, mustard and olive oil to be converted into the best salad ever made—there is real need of making public the ways to serve the mystery.

In order to make the avocado marketable, a number of growers are taking the sensible plan of sending recipes along with a crate of fruit, of which a little pamphlet gotten up by Charles Montgomery, of Buena Vista, is especially comprehensive—avocado soup being on the list.

The avocado—Persea gratissima—of the order of Lauracea, known also as alligator pear, midshipman's butter and aguacate, is one of the best tropical fruits. It is the most nourishing of all natural foods. The best varieties contain over 20 per cent of fat, according to government statistics. The most delicate person can eat avocado with a relish when they cannot partake of fat from animal sources.

When ready for use the fruit will yield to slight pressure of the thumb. flesh of the ripe avocado is about the consistency of well made butter.

New Books in Library

A set of boys' books by Robert Louis Stephenson, was donated to the library last week by Mrs. C. G. Roehr. The volumes are as follows:

Kidnapped, Merry Men, Treasure Island, New Arabian Nights, and The Master of Ballantrae.

We gladly welcome all who will visit the library. Kindly call and renew your yearly subscription, which is only $1.20 per year.

Library open on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday of each week from 2 to 4 p. m.

JONNIE VAN DITTMAR, Librarian.

SPIES AFTER U. S. SECRETS

Foreign Countries Seeking For Military Information

IN VARIED DISGUISES

Startling Revelations by Secret Service Officers—Discoveries are of Such Nature as to Cause Alarm

Newspapers throughout the country have given publicity to the statement from Washington intimating that the department of justice had received information that emissaries of foreign countries have their spies at work in portions of the United States taking note of means of defense, methods of government, etc., for what purpose, however, was not clearly divulged.

Additional interesting speculation on the subject comes from Washington in the following comments:

Startling evidences of the pernicious activity of foreign spies is in the possession of the army general staff which accounts for the serious consideration that is now being given to the most trifling reports at attempts to discover the military secrets of the couutry.

Some of these incidents are of comparatively recent date and it was upon the submission of such information to a secret session of the judicial committee of the house that legislation was secured at the last congress providing for the severe punishment of spies in time of peace.

An Englishman in Calcutta picked up in the streets a small package of blue-prints showing every detail of the defences of Corregidor island, the main stronghold of the United States in the Philippines. The prints were not copies of any drawings or charts prepared for use of the United States, but evidently were the result of a careful and deliberate investigation of the official and confidential records of the United States.

The existence of the blueprints made it evident that there were other copies in existence.

The Englishman sent the papers to the war department in Washington, but the most careful investigation failed to discover the means by which the information had been obtained.

A waiter in a Seattle hotel was found to be a foreign officer in disguise, possessing many drawings and notes he had made of the Pacific coast defenses.

An American ambassador notified the state department that a certain captain belonging to the army of the country where he was stationed had been detailed to spend three years secretly investigating the American countries and studying their military conditions.

Even the Panama canal has not escaped; one of the engineers found a foreign officer, an attache to one of the American countries, secretly studying the canal from a strategic standpoint and he understood that there were six or seven other officers of the same nationality in the United States gathering military information.

A New York policeman arrested a man for a trivial offense and found in his trunk military maps and information which convinced the officials that he was in the employ of a foreign government, but the incident that convinced the judiciary committee of the necessity for the protective law occurred less than a year ago in the Philippines. An enlisted man in the engineers was offered $25,000 by two foreign officers for the plans of the defenses of Corregidor island. Being the official photographer he had ample opportunity to get all the necessary pictures, having first informed his superior of the attempt.

A trap was laid and the two foreign spies were captured, but habeas corpus proceedings were obtained and they were released as there was then no law in the Philippines or United States under which they could be prosecuted.

Geo. K. Koplin, of Winter Haven, who keeps an accurate accounting of his citrus business, shows a net profit of $4,003 11 from his 7 1 2 acre grove, for last season. The net returns on fruit shipped through the Citrus Exchange was $1.98 a box, and through his mail order trade, $2 77 a box. Mr. Koplin has a high-class mail order trade he has been dealing with for years, and the net price he receives proves the oft made assertion that Florida fruit, when its superior qualities are fully known, will command 50 cents to $1 00 a box more than the growers are now receiving.

EXERCISES WERE VERY IMPRESSIVE

Very impressive were the concluding exercises of the summer Normal at the University of Florida when the 106 teachers in attendance met in chapel for the last time this year. A number of excellent speeches were delivered. A beautiful solo was rendered by Miss Gayman of Dade City. On behalf of the student body, Mrs. Howz. of Palmetto presented a gold handled umbrella to Miss Nellie Stevens, of Ocala, instructor in primary methodology. Prof. Harry Shaw, of Tarpon Springs, likewise presented an exquisite chafing dish to Dr. and Mrs. John A. Thackston of the University. Dr. Thackston happily expressed his thanks, urging all in attendance to come back next year, when they would find the finest pedagogical library in the State ready for their use.

After a stirring address by Capt. George M. Lynch, the University Summer Training School Association was organized. Officers were elected as follows: President, Capt. Lynch; Vice President, Prof Terrel; Secretary, Miss Handcock, and Treasurer Prof. Keene. The Association will hold a banquet in Jacksonville during the Christmas holidays, while the Florida Educational Association is in session in that city. The Banquet Committee Consists of Prof. Cawthon of Pensacola, Prof. McMullen of Sutherland and Capt Lynch of Gainesville. Prof. Cawthon was elected toast master for this occasion and a large attendance and splendid entertainment are assured.

UNIQUE METHOD OF SHOWING FLORIDA

The Union Realty Compapy, of Ravenna, Ohio, are arranging to bring a large crowd of prospective locators to Florida, and have prepared a unique plan by means to which the comfort of the travellers will be assured. They have chartered a special train of Pullman sleeping and dining cars and will bring a train load of homeseekers to this state, bearing all expenses and charging only $94 for the trip which will last 25 days and will cover the whole state. It is intended to enter Florida at the extreme west and go to South Florida, stopping a day or so at various points, thence back up the eastern side of the state. The towns where the train will stop are requested to furnish a picnic or barbecue for the excursionists and making arrangements for showing them the surrounding country. Twenty-five days in Florida will give the homeseekers a better idea of the resources and possibilities of this state than a carload of literature would do. It is to be hoped that Fort Pierce real estate men and the Board of Trade will arrange to have this train visit our city. The start for this state will be made in September.

CANAL WORK TO BE HASTENED

Advocates of the proposed ship canal across Florida to connect the Gulf with the Atlantic have been put on notice that the measure is one of the many matters of vital interest to the South that will receive consideration before this year comes to an end. Congress will get further details of the proposition and more weight than heretofore will be brought to bear on the scheme to get favorable action.

The use of St. Mary's river and the Suwannee river for a greater mileage of the canal than reported is said to have been found possible with a little dredging. It is not known who is backing the expedition, but a recent investigation starting from the eastern end of the proposed canal has about completed the preliminaries and will make report in time to aid the movement.

Culls for Home Consumption.

It is understood that all oranges sent out by the Florida Citrus Exchange have been scrutinized seven times to see if there is anything the matter with the fruit, and each of the seven times the person examining it is under instruction to call every doubtful orange a cull. Of course the culls are not shipped, but are left at home, for the home people seldom if ever get anything but these. It is often the case that the people in this state pay more for cull oranges and inferior vegetables than our Northern friends pay for the very best of Florida fruit products.—Gainesville Sun.

Secretary W. B. Powell, of the Tampa Board of Trade, while admitting that there is considerable truth in the above statemen,, hold out the hope that the remedy will come with the advent of fruit juice concerns, thus providing an adequate and continuous source of consumption for the culls.

Harry N. Atwood, the Boston aviator, who started from St. Louis to the Atlantic Coast in a biplane, arrived at Springfield, Ill, on Monday, completing the first leg of the long journey without a mishap. He covered the distance from St. Louis, 98 miles, in two hours and 25 minutes, without coming to earth After resting up and being entertained by citizens of Springfield, he arose for his flight to Chicago, 198 miles northeast, reaching the Windy City without accident and being hailed by enthusiastic thousands who thronged the streets and gave him a noisy welcome. He is now on his way east and will probably finish the flight in record time.

WILSON, MAN OF COURAGE

Woodrow Wilson's Staunch Attitude on Public Questions

HIS IDEAS OF REFORM

Extracts From Various Speeches Made During the Past Few Months are Index to His Theories

We wish that every right minded American citizen could find time to read the series of public utterances made by Governor Woodrow Wilson during the few months that have passed since he won his single handed victory for popular government in regenerated New Jersey's memorable session of the state Legislature.

Entirely apart from politics, present and future, we countit no exaggeration to declare our opinion that no other American has approached more nearly to Jefferson and Lincoln in wonderful facility and felicity of stating the problems which touch real Americanism from every angle.

The people will hear much privilege-inspired censuse of Woodrow Wilson as a demagogue, an ambitous selfseeker and all the like worn out methods of attack, unvaried from the days of the Gracchi to those of Roosevelt and La-Follette, whenever a formidable advovate of popular rights and exponent of popular aspiration has risen.

In advance of such certain misrepresentations we have taken the liberty of depicting Woodrow Wilson, the man and his ideals and purposes, in his own words. We have endeavored to do this by grouping scattered extracts from fifteen of his public addresses, as follows:

"We, the people, have not free access enough to our own agents or direct enough control over them There are barriers to break down and processes to simplify, which we liberals believe we know how to get at. We mean, by one change or another, to make our government genuinely popular and representative again."

"We are cutting away anomalies, not institutions. We are clearing away the jungle and letting in the pure light and air, not destroying the wholesome forest or creating waste places where there was productive growth."

"Such tasks are typically American. It has always been our privilege and our happy capacity to show how they can be done—without revolution, without strife or hatred or injustice, without the necessity of drawing, in De-Tocqueville's memorable phrase, 'a single tear or a single drop of blood from mankind."

"The man object of what we are attempting, both in state and nation, is to establish a close connection, a very sensitive connection, between the people and their government, both in the states and in the nation, in order that we may restore in such wise as will satisfy us again the liberty and the opportunity in whose interests our governments were conceived."

"But some men put a false interpretation upon this. There is a certain unreasonable fear in the air, as if the process we have been going through were, in some degree, vindictive, as if there had been bitter feeling in it and the intention to discredit those who opposed it."

"The crash of political organizations has been the only crash of those that did not comprehend, but resisted when there was no right reason for resisting, and forgot that their very reason for being was that they might serve opinion and the movements of the people's will. If any systems of polical practice have collapsed, only those have collapsed which were unsuitible to the object which they professed to serve."

"We are no longer in the temper of attack. We are ready for remedy and adjustment, and begin to see where to begin and in what direction to move. A promise of statesmanship follows a threat of revolution. There can be no mistaking this. Programs are taking the place of philippics; and programs can be soberly examined and assessed, as unqualified criticism and denunciation cannot be."

"We look beneath the label to the man and his thought. Whichever party proves most fit to conceive and put through a wise progressive program will become the liberal party of the nation. Tories will be welcome to resort to the other and enjoy the privilege of minority."

"What is necessary in order to rectify the whole mass of business of this kind (the trusts) is that those who control it should entirely change their point of view. They are trustees, not masters of private property, not only because their power is derived from a multitude of men, but also because in its investments it affects a multitude of men. It determines the development or decay of communities. It is the means of lifting or depressing the life of the whole country. They must regard themselves as representatives of a public power. There can be no reasonable jealousy of public regulation

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