



E. D. Ingham, a Lincoln, Neb., banker, started in life as a farmer, but he thought he was weaned away from the soil until he went to Vero and saw the Indian River Farms Company's lands.

It didn't take him long to decide that he wanted a farm in Florida, and being a man of action, he selected eighty acres of raw land and paid for it on the spot. Then, instead of going home to wait until the country became more settled, Mr. Ingham started in to transform his eighty acres into an up-to-date farm. He bought a wagon and a team of mules and hauled out lumber for a barn. While building the barn he lived in a rough shelter made from the lumber. When the barn was completed the banker and his carpenter moved into the loft and lived there until his house was finished.

With an attractive house to live in and a comfortable barn for his mules, Mr. Ingham began to whip his land into shape. Besides fencing most of his land, clearing a portion of it, setting out three acres of tomatoes and preparing ten acres for fruit trees, Mr. Ingham has found time to earn \$90 plowing and hauling for neighboring farmers. Only two working days have been lost since Mr. Ingham began developing his place and then he and his man were kept indoors by rain.

Mr. Ingham thinks so well of the Indian River Farms Company's land that when an opportunity came to buy ten acres across the road from his eighty-acre tract, he immediately embraced it.

The experience of the Lincoln banker constitutes a valuable lesson for the tired business man. Mr. Ingham's business judgment tells him his undertaking is a profitable investment, but better than that is the pleasure it has given him. He declares he has had the time of his life in Florida and the knowledge that he is developing a farm that will be a credit to the state and a testimonial to its great agricultural possibilities is a greater source of satisfaction than will come from his profits in dollars and cents.

Mr. Wm. C. H. Heuck of Davenport went snipe hunting at Vero, Florida. Very meager news advises us that the catch was simply marvelous. This no doubt places "Billy" in Class "A" as a snipe hunter. While "Billy" had lots of help in the hunt, we are au-

thentically advised that it was "Billy's" party and that his "bag" was the best of the season.

Vero Court, No. 8, Tribe of Ben Hur, was organized on the night of March 17 and on the following night the new organization gave a benefit dance at the Vero hall, which was largely attended. Thirty-two memberships were received the opening night and the court starts with the promise of a most successful future. C. E. Wilkinson, state manager of the order, was present from Jacksonville. The court elected officers as follows: Past chief, O. Roach; chief, Ralph P. Hayes; judge, F. M. Smith; teacher, Mrs. Lela Long; mother, Mrs. O. Roach; scribe, H. L. Conway; keeper of tribute, Miss Luba King; master of ceremonies, J. H. Huey; Ben Hur, Kenneth C. Huston; Arrius, J. C. Rogers; Tirzah, Miss Mattie Tooten; captain, Quintius Bobo; guide, Walter Kitching; keeper of inner court, Miss Mary Roberts; keeper of outer court, J. W. Knight; physician, Dr. E. E. Rollins.

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in Vero with an alligator hunt, which was enjoyed immensely by everybody but the "gator" and "Tony" Young, one of whose lots was extensively dug up in the search. But the "gator" had the last laugh. After spending one day as the first attraction in the Seminole Park zoo, he climbed over the fence of the enclosure that had been hastily constructed to receive him and made off to dig him a new hole.

A gang of workmen engaged in clearing Mr. Young's lot discovered the alligator's cave and loud grunts and roars issuing from the interior indicated that it was inhabited. R. P. Hayes immediately organized a hunting party. After much digging, which was participated in by most of the male population of Vero and watched by a large part of the female contingent, Mr. Gator was drawn to the mouth of his hole by a hook attached to a long pole and a rope was slipped around his neck. After being dragged into the open he was carried to a pen

that had been built of chicken wire at the side of the artesian well. He hid under a board all day, but when night came and Vero was asleep he quietly climbed over the fence and hurried away.

Fifteen years of successful vegetable growing at Vero has convinced Frank Ayres that this part of Florida stands on a par, if it does not surpass, any other agricultural section in the United States.

Not only has Mr. Ayres made a success at Vero, but he believes every other man who goes there has an opportunity to do the same.

"One of the big advantages of this section is the great variety of crops that can be produced here at a profit," he says. "The farmer here does not need to confine himself to one or two crops. He can make money growing nearly all kinds of vegetables and cane, corn, cotton and hay as well. I believe that sugar cane can be made to yield an average profit of \$300 an acre and \$400 can be realized from Bermuda onions. They can be grown as successfully here as any place in the world.

"My crop from 1½ acres of English peas this year brought me \$608. I shipped 152 crates, which sold for an average price of \$4 a crate. The biggest watermelon I ever saw was grown on my farm. It weighed eighty pounds and sold for \$1.25."

Three brothers, James, Louis and Charles Harris—all native Floridians have demonstrated convincingly what can be accomplished by intelligent farming at Vero.

They started in business for themselves about twenty years ago without a dollar in the world and in debt. Today the three own 225 acres of good land near Vero and are adding to their holdings every year.

"The only mistake we ever made in land in this locality was to sell it," Louis says.

Vegetables and pineapples have been their main sources of revenue. They have 2,000 grapefruit trees, 500 of which are in bearing. This year's fruit crop netted them \$3,000.

Charles Harris is the most extensive vegetable grower of the three.

"My average profits from tomatoes are \$500 an acre and beans have netted me an average of \$100 an acre," he says. "Sweet potatoes bring me \$200 an acre and I have made \$250 an acre on Irish potatoes. Energy and common sense are the only things

necessary to make a success of farming here."

Among the recent purchasers of an Indian River farm and living within a few miles of Vero, are three ladies who are distinguished by their talents, as follows:

Mrs. M. J. Bartell, who has been a well-known piano player in many of New York's leading theaters and also for the motion picture plays.

Mrs. Watts' pretty daughter, Miss Leah Watts, who acted for the motion pictures while in St. Louis, and who is also a musician and sweet singer.

Mrs. M. J. Travis, who writes for several well-known magazines and papers, and among them the Florida Grower and Indian River Farmer. Mrs. Travis also writes the Motion Picture Plays and composes her own songs, and three are now being published.

Eli Walker's eight-acre orange and grapefruit grove at Vero netted him \$4,000 this year. His bearing trees range from five to seven years of age.

"I expect the revenue from my grove to increase \$1,000 a year from this time on, until it brings me from \$1,000 to \$1,500 an acre," says Mr. Walker.

Mr. Walker owns 160 acres of land in the heart of the Indian River Farms Company's tract. His grove is conceded to be the finest one in the vicinity of Vero. The company still owns hundreds of acres of land exactly like Mr. Walker's.

March 20th, 1914.

Indian River Farms Co.,
609 Putnam Bldg.,
Davenport, Iowa.

Gentlemen:

I have visited Vero and inspected Indian River Farms, looked over the drainage and road system and also made a careful inspection of the soils, all of which I found to be fully satisfactory. I visited a number of citrus fruit groves and pineapple fields in and around this property and was specially well pleased with the quality of fruit I found there. I consider the climate of this section of Florida to be ideal; altogether, I found Indian River Farms fully as good and better than I expected. I consider your proposition one of merit.

Wishing you the success that you deserve in this great undertaking, I am,

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) E. E. GENTZLER.

Mattoax, Va.

LATE GRAPEFRUIT for April to July market assured the planter of Bowen, Florida, Standard and Marsh Seedless varieties. Sold reasonable prices for A No. 1 stock at

OCKLAWAHA NURSERIES, Tangerine, Fla.

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