

Do as Much Today as You Are Going to Do Tomorrow— Luke McLuke

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER RUN FARM ALONE.

Vero, Florida, April 3, 1914.

As we are among the many satisfied purchasers of Indian River Farms, I will just drop a line to let you know how we are prospering and to let you know that some women are capable of managing and running a farm alone.

On May the first we purchased a twenty-acre tract of land near the demonstration farm, and in December after a few pleasant weeks spent at Sleepy Eye Lodge (the cozy little hotel here at Vero) I and my daughter moved into our bungalow beneath the pines in January, and started farming in good earnest.

I purchased a horse and light wagon, also a registered flock of 38 Rhode Island Reds, which are doing well; have built a small barn, also hen-house and yard.

We have our tract all fenced, and eight acres under cultivation, planted as follows: Two acres of Rhodes grass, two kinds of millet, 8,000 thriving tomato plants, also a splendid variety of garden vegetables, and we intend planting out our citrus fruit trees as we go along, later on.

I have done all of my own hauling of lumber, fence posts, fertilizer and household supplies; we did all of our own harrowing and helped with all of the hardest work and all of the over-seeing.

We will be pleased to talk to and show our skeptical brothers or any one who thinks or says that a woman is not capable of running her own farm.

We are pleased and happy with our purchase, and hope prosperous tract, and have gladly exchanged a thriving business in the great dusty city for a free and ideal spot in which to enjoy God's beautiful handiwork, far away from snow and ice.

And now with the southern fruits and fields around us, the perfume of the fragrant orange blossom mingled with the aroma of flowers and the fresh, gentle breeze from the Atlantic, with our health and strength, what more could we ask?

I would like to thank the Indian River Farms Company's agents here in Vero for their kind advice to us, also for their courteousness extended to myself and daughter while at the hotel, and we will be proud to show any would-be purchasers our humble little cottage beneath the swaying tropical pines at any time in the future.

Wishing every success to the Indian River Farms Company, I remain,
Yours respectfully,
MRS. F. M. WATTS.

At an age when most men are ready to retire from active life, Henry Ridenour went to Vero and started on one of the biggest jobs of his long career as a farmer and mine operator.

That was five months ago. Today Mr. Ridenour has sixty acres of his 160-acre farm under cultivation, with excellent prospects of clearing enough money from his first crops to more than pay for his land.

Visitors to the Ridenour place find it difficult to believe that so much could have been accomplished in so short a period of time. There is nothing to indicate that the cultivated portions of the farm had never been touched by a plow until last November. The soft, mellow fields covered with rows

of tomatoes, beans, peppers, cabbage, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes and corn bear eloquent testimony to the readiness with which the land at Vero can be brought under submission.

It was just a year ago that Mr. Ridenour, then sixty-nine years old, made his first visit to Vero. He had a lifelong experience as a farmer in several states behind him, but at that time was operating a gold mine in Col-

and tomatoes are planted side by side, some of the rows being half a mile in length. By the time the tomatoes are picked the beans will be ready to bear. Mr. Ridenour has twenty-five acres in tomatoes and more than half as many beans. In one field cucumbers are planted with the beans and tomatoes.

A curiosity on the Ridenour farm is a year-old grapefruit tree with a small grapefruit on it. The tree was set out



W. B. Bohart.

F. C. Burke.

Mr. Burke is manager of structural elevated railroads in the city of Chicago. Photo taken in the E. C. Walker Grove, Indian River Farms, Vero, Florida.

orado. The condition of his health made it necessary for him to seek a lower altitude and reports of big opportunities in Florida led him to that state. At Vero he found development work on the Indian River Farms Company's 44,000-acre tract well under way and most of the land awaiting settlers. His experienced eye quickly convinced him of the quality of the land and after looking over the tract for a location that exactly suited him, he purchased a quarter section seven miles northwest of Vero and 2¼ miles west of Quay, which is his shipping point. Having built a house and barn he returned to Colorado for his family and in November they came back to Florida to live.

Since that time but few days have been lost on the Ridenour place. The entire farm has been fenced outbuildings have been erected and the biggest vegetable crop ever seen in the vicinity of Vero has been planted. Within a month after their arrival the Ridenour family was eating vegetables out of their garden. Plants and seeds that were put into the ground sprang into bearing almost over night. A small patch of tomatoes set out near the house were bearing fruit large enough for use at the end of six weeks. In his vegetable garden Mr. Ridenour has tomato vines that, when supported, stand as high as his head, and he is six feet tall. Sweet potatoes, peas, beans, sweet corn, onions, lettuce and radishes are some of the other products of the Ridenour garden that supplied the family table during most of the winter.

Out in the fields the garden may be seen reproduced on an extended scale. Notwithstanding his large acreage Mr. Ridenour believes in intensive farming, and wherever practical the same land is made to produce two or even three crops at the same time. Beans

by Mr. Ridenour when he first arrived and it has had a remarkable growth. He expects to begin setting out a large grove next fall.

The Ridenour farm is the best example on the Indian River Farms Company's tract at present of what can be done by a practical farmer at Vero. It has taken hard work, lots of it, to accomplish what Mr. Ridenour has done, but in no other place would the same amount of work produce such great results. Four o'clock in the morning is the regular time for starting the day's labors on the Ridenour farm and Mr. Ridenour works harder and longer than any other man on the place. Strong of frame and rugged of feature, he is the kind of a man who does things in all walks of life, and the type whose lives knock Dr. Osler's theory into a cocked hat. Pioneering presents no terrors for men of his stamp. Mr. Ridenour served in the union army throughout the Civil War and had reached the rank of first lieutenant when a wound caused him to leave the army. But for the wound he would still be a soldier, he declares.

In addition to being the biggest, Mr. Ridenour is one of the most enthusiastic Vero settlers. He believes in the future of Florida and the Indian River district particularly.

"All we need to do is to work and stick to it and success is assured, in my opinion," he says. "The land and the climate are here and the only thing needed is men to reap the benefit from them. My advice to the settlers is to keep a stiff upper lip until they have given the country a fair trial. I have made some mistakes and done things which I would not do again. Any man who attempts to farm in a country that is new to him must expect this. My crop prospects at present could hardly be better and I am full of confidence as to the outcome."

In twelve years E. B. Walker has made himself independent by growing fruit and vegetables in the neighborhood of Vero. During that time he has acquired and paid for 415 acres of good land, about 80 acres of which is now cleared and under cultivation.

Mr. Walker is one of the most extensive and successful of the older Vero farmers. He recently put down artesian wells on two of his farms and purchased an automobile.

One of the most significant facts in connection with the development of the Indian River Farm Company's lands at Vero is the type of men who are purchasing property there. A large percentage of them are shrewd business men or experienced farmers—men who do not rush into a business proposition blindly and are not likely to be carried off their feet by first impressions.

The Indian River Farms Company is not afraid to have men of this kind go to Vero to investigate the property. On the other hand it is making a special effort to induce them to come. The company believes that the better business judgment a man has the sooner will he recognize the value of an investment in its lands.

That this assumption is sound has been fully demonstrated and it is resulting in the company's lands being taken up by probably the most substantial class of purchasers that ever became interested in a similar proposition.

The excursion of March 17 was typical of the class of men who are buying land at Vero. It included such men as D. Kennedy, superintendent of the Colorado Light, Heat & Power Company of Colorado Springs; James K. Kennedy, a large wholesale paint dealer of St. Louis; Thomas P. Daly, of Carlinville, Ill., a member of the Illinois State Senate and a practical farmer and stock grower; William Amerman and J. L. Marshall, large retail grocers of St. Joseph, Mo.; F. C. Burke, superintendent of a large structural iron construction company in Chicago; Dr. O. A. Olson of Concordia, Kans., and E. Grant of the Missouri Valley Trust Company, St. Joseph.

These men purchased land and all of them went away enthusiastic boosters for Vero. They were not long in deciding that the Indian River Farms Company's proposition is a sound one and that it is an investment which they could not afford to overlook.

The type of men being brought to Florida by the Indian River Farms Company means much to the future of the state. They are men who have done things in their own communities and are capable of equal accomplishments amid the more favorable conditions that Florida affords.

Vegetables have brought Mr. Walker most of his money. Beans and tomatoes are his principal crops. Four acres of beans brought him \$900 last December and this is a fair indication of his average profits. Recent experiments with Irish potatoes lead Mr. Walker to believe that they can be grown as profitably at Vero as in any other section of Florida, not excepting the famous Hastings potato district.

Six acres of bearing orange and grape fruit trees have also been a big money maker for Mr. Walker and he is extending his grove as rapidly as possible.

Readers of the Farmer will purchase the goods herein advertised.