

IF YOU LAY THE FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS YOU CAN ALWAYS GET CREDIT WITH WHICH TO GO ON BUILDING

SUITED TO A FRAZZLE.

Fort Pierce, Fla., Feb. 20, 1914.—(To the Florida Grower.)—After fourteen years residence in Florida I took a vacation up north to my old home, to find out if the flesh pots held out any attraction after so long an absence. I took in the theatres, the public libraries, second-hand book stores, public parks, and places of amusement and after seven weeks of excitement returned to "the dear old Indian River," contented and satisfied in my mind that Florida is good enough for me and that the "deadly grind" has passed out of my life forever. In 1899 I broke down with nervous prostration as a result of the grind of soliciting life insurance for several years. Florida attracted me as being a place where I could live a lazy life, work and live in the open, be lazy when I wanted to and in fact make an easy living without having a boss. That I have succeeded is without question. I work when I want to, which is most of the time, and be lazy when I want to, which is not much of the time. I make an easy living, but have not been able to get away from the boss. I am married. It used to be told me that when a northern man came to the south, he would get lazy and lose energy. This has not proven so in my case, as I do as much work as ever, but the work is different from what it was when I came to the state. When I first came to the state I could not do a good day's labor; physically unable. I had very little capital to employ negroes and had to do the best I could, so got a job at light work in the fields till I gained strength enough to do harder work. Naturally a man with ambition will not be contented with hard physical labor when he can accomplish more by directing the hard work that can be done by unskilled hands. In time I promoted myself to the skillful work, like packing fruit and putting the personality in the package, and using my brains toward marketing the products to better advantage. After the regular carlot season is over I leave all the pineapples on the plat to ripen and market them on the mail-order plan. The plan is a hard one, as it calls for every crate to be packed personally and the correspondence is enormous.

Along the west bank of the Indian River is a high, narrow strip of sandy soil about twenty-five miles in extent, and this is the far-famed Indian River pineapple belt through which the Florida East Coast railroad passes. West of this high ridge lies some fine lands suitable for citrus growing, trucking and some pineapple land. The lands there are generally low, some of which requires draining, some of it drained and some in process of being drained. Like in all sections of the state, some of the land is good and some poor. One piece of land good for grove, another for trucking. Hard-pan lands, lands with clay subsoil, muck land and hammock land. There are good lands for potatoes, celery, tomatoes, and in fact suitable for any product grown in a sub-tropical country. I believe that every product grown in the state of Florida can be found growing in St. Lucie County. Where home is that's the place for me! The pineapple section suits me to a frazzle, and I would not exchange for any other location, but it is not the only place. I have been over a good part of Florida

and I will say this: If I was taken up in a balloon and landed in any part of the state where I have been, let me make a selection of land within fifteen miles of where I landed. I could not only make a living, but could acquire a competence in ten years. I have lived in eight states, and Florida has got them all skinned a block when it comes to making a living easy. In the pineapple belt there is generally no natural fertility in the soil, as it is sand all the way down. Humus and fertility may be added to the soil, so that a home garden may be grown with the aid of irrigation. Fourteen years of residence in Florida have dispelled some of the illusions that real estate literature puts in one's head. For instance, a northern man receives literature from all parts of Florida, and the information therein contained is shuffled around in his subjective mind, and "the subjective mind never forgets." Then friends who have seen Florida tell him all about it. When he gets to Florida he expects to find cantaloupes, watermelons, pineapples, corn, cassava, oranges and alligator pears, and running around among the vines alligators, snakes, mosquitoes—all this in the family garden in any place and any time. He expects to step into a boat, cast in a line and catch tarpon, mullet, eels, shark, porpoise and oysters, with the possibility of landing a manatee. He looks for a rainy season and the heavens to open and flood everything, even the sandy roads so he can use a motor boat to go to the postoffice to get his mail. He wonders just how dangerous the Florida crackers are, and looks for razor-back hogs at every station along the road, and would not be surprised to see some long-haired son of a gun who totes a pistol jump from the side of the road to start a circus just to see a sick Yank run like blazes. He expects that a wild cat might start a rumpus under the house any night, and there is a possibility that he could keep the St. Louis market supplied with coons, opossum, hides and aigrets as a side line.

Yes, lots of illusions to lose for the average man.

Says a man to me recently, "Why don't you grow some sweet potatoes on your pineapple ground?" My answer was: "My friend, that piece of ground produces five times as much profit in pineapples and I can afford to buy my sweet potatoes and have money enough left over to pay for gasoline to run to town in the motor boat or automobile after them. See the point?" He saw.

I used to try to attract people to the state by telling them about all the nice things to be found here, but I have I found that people do not always see things as I do, and sometimes they criticize the one who told them such flowery stories about the land of perpetual sunshine, of beds of ease and the charms of an earthly paradise.

My advice is now to any possible future resident, is to come, look, listen at the worst time of the year. In the pineapple section the worst time is from June to October. Mosquitoes come at periods in these months. The heat in the fields is nearly as bad as it is in Massachusetts, and along in September we get wind storms almost as strong as the ones along the New England states. Worst of all is the fact that we have to work in harvest-

ing our crop of pineapples as much as ten hours a day, six days a week for six weeks and do not have time to go fishing more than a couple of days a month in the busy time.

AN EAST COAST OPTIMIST.

KEEPING BEES IN FLORIDA IS VERY PROFITABLE.

Tallahassee.—If the office bees took in increasing yield from plants were fully understood, there would be many more apiaries in Florida than there are at present. It is said that encouragement of bee-keeping in a certain district of Nebraska, where much alfalfa is grown, resulted in the addition of more than 200 per cent to the yield of good seed of high germinative powers in the fields of that valuable legume and hay plant. We have heard of a citrus grove in South Florida which bore well for some years. Year before last someone discovered a bee tree near this grove, cut it down and thus dispersed its inhabitants. The following year there was almost no crop from that grove.

Not only fruit growers, but observant truckers, are aware that they are much indebted to the bees. The little honey gatherer dives into the depths of a blossom in search of a nectar, and, emerging, carries off much pollen on its fuzzy coat. Within the next blossom of the same species it visits it rubs much of this pollen on the pistils, securing the fertilization of the ovules and the consequent formation of fruit. Cross fertilization, so essential to the stamina of plants

and animals, is made more certain by the visits of the bees. So well is the useful agency of the bees understood in many parts of the North that fruit growers maintain bee colonies in their orchards—not so much for the honey, which is regarded rather as a by-product, but for the sake of increasing the yield of the trees.—Florida Grower.

HOMESEEKERS' CATECHISM.

Question: Are not mosquitoes a perfect pest in Florida?

Answer: This seems to be another bug-a-boo for the knocker. Mosquitoes there are, but they are not nearly so prevalent as in almost any part of the northern states. On the high lands they are conspicuous by their absence, while on the lower lands, especially near the coast, they may at times be a little troublesome, but never what might be called a pest. In these latter sections it depends very much on the direction of the wind. If it blows from the land there may be some annoyance from them, but if the breeze is from the sea then they are hardly noticeable. For comfort have your windows screened and one end of your porch, but there are many people who never screen their porches and do not seem to see the need of it.

Question: Is lumber easily procured for building purposes?

Answer: Yes; there is hardly a spot where you would not be in close proximity to a saw mill that can turn out all the lumber for an ordinary house.

Question: What is the best building material in Florida?

Answer: Lumber is the most universal as it is so easily obtained. Brick can be procured in many sections where it is made. But we believe that concrete will be found the most satisfactory and cheapest in the end where permanency is desired.—Florida Grower.

The Florida Grower

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WHAT THE FARMER SAID
A FARMER who was carrying an express package from a city mail order house was accosted by a local merchant: "Why didn't you buy that bill of goods from me? I could have saved you the express and besides you would have been patronizing a home store, which helps pay the taxes and build up this locality." With characteristic frankness the farmer asked: "Why don't you patronize your home paper and advertise? I read it and didn't know you had the goods I have here, nor do I ever see your name in the paper inviting anyone to come to your store"