

THE INDIAN RIVER FARMER

Vero, Fla. Davenport, Ia.

A monthly publication devoted to agricultural interest of Florida in general and the Indian River country in particular.

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The Editors will be pleased to receive contributions of interest on any subject pertaining to agriculture in Florida. Questions of subscribers or readers, if of general interest, will be answered in these columns.

Address all communications to Editors, Indian River Farmer, Davenport, Ia.

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ADVERTISERS TAKE NOTICE

THE INDIAN RIVER FARMER has a circulation of about 12,000 copies. It is placed in the homes of those who have already decided to move to Florida and those who contemplate going to Florida. It will put you in close touch with future business. Advertising rates furnished upon application Indian River Farmer, Davenport, Ia.

Engineering Notes

By R. P. HAYES
Engineer in Charge

April was a record month in the amount of excavating done. A total of 125,000 cubic yards was taken out, making a grand total of 900,000.

Excavator No. 11 had advanced a quarter of a mile north on Lateral A May 1, and No. 7 was making rapid progress toward completing the main canal. The dredge "Panama" was due to finish the north dike in about ten days.

J. T. Hallett, representing List & Clifford, who have the contract for the remainder of the excavation, has been at Vero for several weeks. Several Gades and one large Monigan drag-line will be used in the work. The Gades will be used on the sub-laterals and the south boundary ditch, and the Monigan will cut Lateral B. Sub-laterals will be cut on the north project as fast as an outlet is made by Lateral A.

Three miles of roadway have been completed on the south spoil bank of the main canal. After being graded the road was rolled, placing it in excellent condition.

VIEWS AND INTERVIEWS CAUGHT IN THE HOTEL LOBBY THRONGS.

"It pays to come to Florida," said Superintendent Adams of the Southern Utilities Company, yesterday in the lobby of the Seminole, "if for no other purpose than to get old time ideas of what the state is, out of your head."

"Every northern man, before he comes to this state, is certain that it is all sand and mosquitoes, or all water and alligators, while most have also a childish vision of oranges growing everywhere and waiting to be picked."

"I have just returned from a tour of the state with the J. G. White party, composed of prominent men, and their

Would You Trade Your Winter Fuel Bill for Something Good to Eat?

Poor Florida! How badly it has been treated by the unscrupulous land company. It is not any wonder that Prof. Rolfs of the State Agricultural College at Gainesville, Florida, writes me as he did in reply to my invitation to him to pay a visit to Vero, Florida, to personally inspect the development work that we are doing in Indian River Farms; and to use his exact language, I quote him as follows:

"Florida has been so shamefully treated by land companies that it is no wonder people in the northern part of the United States look upon every advertisement concerning Florida with a great deal of suspicion, and their suspicions are well founded. I shall avail myself at the first opportunity to see the work you are doing at Vero."

I must confess that I quite agree with Prof. Rolfs in many cases; the suspicions of the northern people are well founded. I presume there are today land companies which put out beautifully attractive literature in which the flow of language gives a delightful sensation to the ear and the beautiful pictures portray a more delightful sensation to the eye, with nothing to back up the pictures or the beautiful language, but in this, as in all other things, the innocent must suffer with the guilty.

In other words, the legitimate colonization company, developing in a legitimate way is unquestionably looked upon by the general public through the same pair of eyes as that which is used on the unscrupulous company. This, however, is not only true to Florida but to every state in the Union. It is not only true in the land business but in the butcher business just as well, in the grocery business or any other business that you might think of. There are the scrupulous and the unscrupulous in every walk in life. For indeed, it is sad to relate, we sometimes find the unscrupulous in the church.

There are, however, operating in Florida today a number of very legitimate companies who are developing acreage in an honest, legitimate way, and to these companies must be given the honor and credit of the upbuilding of that very wonderful state.

Entering it, through its natural gateway, Jacksonville, we find a city beautiful, one which is making very wonderful strides, the buildings are clean-cut and up-to-date and it keeps continually adding to, which is an indication that the people are coming and that the Northern capital is being invested.

On my trip to Vero a few weeks ago, which was the first one in nine months, I traveled down the East Coast Railroad in daylight. In all my trips to Florida for the past six or seven years I have never been so thoroughly impressed as I was on this trip. It seemed to me that at every point along the line great development was taking place. The villages which a year ago were hardly noticeable have grown into quite towns, and even the very atmosphere carried with it progressiveness.

Arriving at Vero, late in the evening, under a beautiful moon and starlit sky, I could see at a glance, great changes that had taken place there during my absence; while all during this nine months' absence from Vero I was in close touch with everything that had happened there and had even had pictures of the various improvements, yet I was unable to picture before my mind's eye the great development as it is. The following day after my arrival as I stood on the spoil bank of the great drainage canal which our company is constructing, it was then that I had my first real picture of the great magnitude of our own proposition.

Standing on those spoil banks I could see Indian River Farms dotted with houses as far as the eye could carry; a lot of the country which nine months before was open prairie and timberland is now fenced and in cultivation, producing crops of such magnitude and value that these lands are surely going to bring independence in a very few years to the man who has cast his lot with us.

As I stood there and gazed upon the wonderfulness of it all, I was startled with the magnitude of it, but was thoroughly impressed with the fact that whether we as a company or as individuals ever become one dollar better off financially on account of this proposition, we will at any rate have to our credit the accomplishment of a wonderful work, which cannot help but better the condition and the lives of many people.

I could not help but feel that the men or the women who have associated themselves with us in the building of that community are not only entitled to a financial reward but also to a portion of the credit and praise which comes from having done a good work, and while I stood there soliloquizing with myself I could not help but think of the many people who would be willing to trade their winter fuel bill for something good to eat which grows in that country twelve months in the year if they only knew the real, honest facts, for it is in but a small portion of the United States that the winter fuel bill is light, and that is mostly in that country of which I speak.

To those who are interested with us in the work of building that very wonderful community, whether they be interested in the way of tilling the soil or whether they be interested in the way of enlightening the man who is seeking a new location, an opportunity to better his condition, healthfully as well as financially, I extend to you credit and praise for what you have done and extend to you my hearty co-operation in your future work.

JOHN LEROY HUTCHISON,

General Sales Manager Indian River Farms Company.

wives and daughters, from all over the country; men who are educated and versed in business, and who would be at least annoyed should one tell them they know nothing of any particular state they have not visited.

"There was one particularly bright Philadelphian, a man about 35, who is a business man of more than local reputation. It was a pleasure to watch him on the trip.

"He had read of Florida as every-

body has done; but he had the same ideas that take hold of us, in childhood from our stories and descriptions of this state. He admitted every day that the Florida of his imagination is not the Florida he found. He was carried away with the state, and he goes home satisfied that a man can live here the year round and be healthy and successful.

"He had no idea that such cities as Jacksonville or Tampa or Miami, or

THE VALUE OF BEES TO THE FRUIT GROWER.

If the office of bees in increasing the 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 field 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 nectar, and, emerging, carries off much pollen on its fuzzy coat. Within the next blossom of the same species it visits 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.

If the bee is so useful in a climate so cold that the hives must be protected most of the winters, and the bees must be fed after a severe season in order to preserve them, how much more should the busy denizen of the hive be encouraged to thrive and multiply in a climate in which it can gather honey practically all the year, and in a land where fruit and vegetable growing is so great an industry. There is practically not a day in most of our years when the bee cannot find some blossom from which to gather honey—in a large part of Florida not a single day. This, therefore, should be a land of honey. Apiculture is so much easier a following in Florida than in more northerly latitudes—should be so much more remunerative—that we should have hundreds making it a livelihood.

Some fear their stings, but there are breeds that are gentle in disposition, not easily aroused to attack. Experienced bee-keepers often dispense with protection while working among their bees, having learned how to avoid alarming or rousing the resentment of their charges. Apiculture does not call for a large expenditure of money to begin it, nor a large area in which to conduct it. There are instances of profitable bee colonies being maintained on house roofs in large cities. It makes no great draft upon one's time, nor large drain upon one's pocketbook. Bees are, of all living creatures on the farm, the most able to take care of themselves, especially in a genial climate, and there is no more certain crop than that of the hives.—Times Union.

such towns as the many we visited, were possible in Florida. He was looking for the typical Florida of old repute, alligators and oranges, sand and swamp, in recurring succession. He found a prosperous land with great cities equal in building and ambition to any in the North.

"To him the trip was a voyage of discovery, and he was happier in his finding than a child with a coveted gift."