

Nothing to it, Florida is All Right.

Dr. P. H. Martin Has Just Returned From a Trip on the East Coast.

THE FARMING LAND

Is Tilled by the Southern Farmer for Big Returns on a Small Acreage.

Back from the land of celestial sunshine with his face beaming with southern state real estate talk, Dr. P. H. Martin, Alexandria dentist, touted by his friends as a real southern farmer, consented to an interview today with a Times-Tribune representative, and after a half hour's conversation with the doctor one could readily see that he is wrapped in the brilliant future of the tropical lands along the Atlantic coast. In glowing terms Dr. Martin discussed the state of Florida from one end to the other in an agricultural way. The doctor is a firm believer in the old adage "seeing is believing," and to satisfy a desire to gaze upon the southern land he accompanied forty other Hoosiers on a trip to the Southland ten days ago.

Bought Ten Acres.

In the party that left Indianapolis for Vero, Florida, to inspect the Indian River farm land on the east coast of Florida were twenty-five Chicagoans who returned to their homes yesterday highly elated over the prospects in the southern country. Several tracts of the Florida land were sold to the Chicago people. Dr. Martin had previously purchased ten acres and a half from the land company. Mrs. Chambers of Alexandria paid \$2,700 for a bungalow home just erected in Vero, Florida, and she will move to the south for future residence. Landseekers from all sections of the Northern states are taking advantage of the tourist rates on railroads entering Florida, and in the last two months hundreds of excursionists have visited Vero. The colony at Vero is composed mostly of bankers and physicians from the Northern states and everybody in the little town is well satisfied with the farming district.

Bathed in the Ocean.

With a party of friends the Alexandria dentist was taken in a launch across Indian River, and landing on the east side the party walked to the lighthouse along the Atlantic and prepared for a bath in the ocean. North-

westerners who had already become acquainted with the rolling waves of the ocean found great sport in enticing the newcomer out into deep water. Dr. Martin fell a victim to the persuasions of a friend, and when twenty yards from the shore a big "breaker" rolling several feet high struck him and knocked him thirty feet toward the shore. One of the bathers, in an attempt to "duck" the Alexandria man, was hit by a big wave and forced to swallow almost a gallon of salt water.

Finest Kind of Climate.

In speaking of the southern climate Dr. Martin had the following to say: "The climate and temperature of the east coast of Florida absolutely cannot be beaten. Vero, Fla., is a small town slowly rising to an important position in the commercial world of Florida. In six months this little town will have a surprising population. What was once upon a time nothing but wilderness for miles around the present site of Vero will soon be a farming community with rich soil. One hundred and fifty cars of potatoes shipped from Hastings, Florida, north of Vero, brought \$5.50 a barrel on the market. A ten-acre tract of land owned by an Indianapolis man planted in tomatoes yielded the owner from \$400 to \$600 on the acre in four months time. Pineapple Ridge is only three miles from Vero. It is here that eighty-three per cent of the pineapples in the United States are raised. The county of St. Lucie in Florida is noted for pineapples. Eight and one-half acres cleared the owner \$9,000 in one year. Grape fruit was grown. Twenty-five acres of land brought \$15,000 for a crop of pineapples.

Cool in the Evening.

"The hottest day during my recent visit was 70 degrees. A cool breeze from the ocean in the evening forces the inhabitants to sleep under blankets. Vero, Florida, is located two hundred and thirty-seven miles below Jacksonville and the train accommodations are excellent. At St. Augustine we drank from the fountain of youth discovered by Ponce de Leon. Last Monday the Confederate soldiers in Florida observed Decoration Day by decorating the graves of the departed soldiers. Florida certainly is a great country."—Alexandria, Ind., Times-Tribune.

GROWING IRISH POTATOES

(Continued from page 3)

cost in preparing the land for planting, and purchasing the seed and fertilizer; so that the cost up to harvesting is nearly the same for a poor stand as for a full stand. An imperfect stand may be due to planting immature or diseased seed, too deep planting on soils with poor drainage, too shallow planting where there is insufficient moisture, or planting the seed in land that has not been thoroughly prepared. One must avoid these unfavorable conditions in order to make Irish potato growing profitable under the expensive cultural methods usually practiced in Florida.

Irish potatoes require frequent cultivation. If the weather is unusually dry frequent cultivation is most important to conserve the moisture. When the rainfall is plentiful, especially on soils that have a tendency to become compact, frequent cultivation is necessary to keep the soil in a loose condition and to hasten the growth. Grass or weeds growing in the rows take both moisture and fertilizer, and must be kept down. When the crop is planted in high ridges a

V-shaped cultivator that will stir the bottom of the furrow and the sides of the banks does the best work. Where the ridges are not so high, an ordinary cultivator will serve the purpose; and in the event of heavy rains the dirt may be thrown back to the banks with a plow.

Many potato growers prefer to use the disk cultivator. This helps to keep the rows ridged up. The inner disks are set higher than the outer ones, very much as is done for making the ridges.

For marketing it is not necessary that the Irish potato should be thoroughly ripened. When the crop has reached a marketable size, and the skin slips on pressure of the thumb, the potatoes are ready to dig, but where the tubers are to be used for seed, they should be allowed to remain until about mature. If the crop has had no setbacks, it should be ready to dig at from seventy to eighty days after planting. The tops usually die down in from ninety to ninety-five days, and the growth of the tuber nearly stops. Where several acres are planted, it will pay to use a potato digger. In small areas

NOT ON TREES.

The wife of a Chicago man, an Exchange member, who has just been in South Florida, demanded to be shown the "pineapple groves," explaining that she had been eating pinapples all her life, and now she wanted to see a "tree." She really looked rather disappointed when shown the pinery and saw nothing like a tree, but the flavor of the pines picked directly from the field rather resigned her to their lowly style of growth.—Florida Grower.

CHEER UP!

When things ain't going right with you, and you can't make them gee; when business matters look real blue, and you fear bankruptcy; when cobwebs gather on your stock, and customers are rare; when all your assets are in hock, don't cuss and tear your hair. Just listen to this sage advice, and take it if you're wise: Give every article a price, and then go advertise. And advertise from morn to night, don't overlook a day, and soon you'll see the world grow bright, and things will come your way. Invest in good publicity, and Fortune you will greet, and in a little while you'll be way up on Easy Street.—Luke McLuke.

it may be best to dig with hand tools.

There is usually a good market for the spring crop of Florida grown Irish potatoes because of the shortage of new potatoes on the markets during April and May. To reach this market economically the potatoes must be properly barreled and graded, and shipped in carload lots. Seventy-five barrels per acre is considered a heavy yield.

An average yield should be about forty barrels per acre.

In all sections of Florida Irish potatoes can be used in a rotation of crops. In the potato growing sections it is a common practice to plant during January, and the potatoes are ready to dig about April. Immediately after the last cultivation corn is planted and the digging of the potatoes is the first cultivation the corn gets. The corn is mature about July 20th, when cowpeas are planted between the rows, giving a third crop off the land. Where cowpeas are not grown, the land usually grows up in crab grass, which is cut off for hay or turned under to form humus. Such a rotation gives a variety of crops and keeps the land in a good physical condition. This same land is again set in Irish potatoes the following winter, but it would be better if Irish potatoes were followed with a different crop the following year.

As Irish potatoes grow best in a cool soil holding plenty of moisture, irrigation will go a long way toward ensuring a profitable yield when the rainfall is only average or below. When rains are frequent and the soil is deeply prepared and in a good physical condition, irrigation will not be necessary on low hammock or flatwoods land. On high hammock, rolling pine lands, or even in drained-out muck ponds or lake bottoms an irrigation system will be a great help to ensure a satisfactory yield almost every year. In unusually dry seasons there is a great possibility of failure in nearly all Florida soils without some artificial system to supply water to the crop, as the tubers will stop growing unless they have sufficient moisture.

In the artesian areas of Florida where the land is level, surface irrigation from artesian wells can be practiced economically; but when the water must be pumped into a reservoir and then piped into the field the cost of installing is greater, and the cost of applying the water is so increased that the advisability of installing such a system for Irish potato growing alone is questionable.

LOOKING TO THE SOUTH FOR CATTLE.

That the South is peculiarly well fitted to solve the problem of our future beef supply is the opinion of the Wall Street Journal, which quotes figures from the last census to show that she is not doing her part in producing beef, for which the country is clamoring.

"There is room in that section—and need, too," says the Journal, "for thousands of cattle." That is putting it mildly. There is room and for millions more cattle in the South.

The present number of milch and beef animals in the southern states could be quadrupled and then there wouldn't be too many. It is hard to set a limit beyond which it would be inadvisable for southern farmers to go on raising cattle.

The Journal says the last census showed that there were 5,766,000 head of cattle, worth \$72,000,000, in the 48,715 square miles of the two Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. That is 16.5 head to the square mile.

In New York and Pennsylvania there were 4,010,000 head worth \$140,000,000 on 94,330 square miles.

So it appears that not only have New York and Pennsylvania proportionately more cattle than the South, but better cattle. And nobody will maintain for a moment that those two states are nearly so well fitted for cattle raising as the southern states.

The average beef or milch animal in New York and Pennsylvania is worth twice as much as the average animal of that kind in this section. That makes it very evident that the South has a double task before her. She must not only greatly increase the number of her cattle, but must greatly improve the stock. Efforts with both ends in view have been made recently in some portions of Florida.

Says the Journal: "If the farmers of the South will be satisfied to raise more corn and forage and learn to look upon well graded cattle as mills to condense the feed for market, they can raise an equal amount of cotton on a smaller acreage because of more fertile soil due to the cattle. Incidentally, also, they will be on the way to solving the question of rural credit."

One thing about which everybody seems agreed is that the prices of beef are going to remain high for some time. It would not be at all surprising if they climbed much higher than their present level.

The southern farmer then has an opportunity to bring many millions of dollars to this section by raising more cattle and improving his stock. The formation of stock clubs, the importation of high grade breeding animals, the raising of corn and hay can not go forward too rapidly in the South.

Packing houses may be expected to spring up as the cattle supply increases, since there are wide awake farmers and business men in all of this section who will see the possibilities of money making in such enterprises.

The advantages for raising cattle in the South are so apparent that the wonder is that so few farmers give attention to it.—Florida Homeseeker.

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