

Citrus Prospects Fine, Says H. A. Marks, After Inspecting Many Large Groves in State

Trees Are Full of Thrifty Fruit and Rains Came in Time to Stop Threatened Dropping—Large Addition to Grapefruit Output This Year

"From all indications the next citrus fruit crop of Florida will exceed the crop of last year by more than a million boxes," was the statement of H. A. Marks, a well known orange man from the West Coast section of the state, yesterday while in this city.

Mr. Marks has been over a large part of the state and says the rains have started just in time to prevent the shedding of fruit which was threatened and had begun in some parts of the state.

He said he never saw the trees and the young fruit look better for the time of year than it does now, and that as there was the heaviest bloom the past winter that was ever known in most parts of Florida the trees can afford to shed heavily and still make more fruit than was made last year.

"I have never seen anything like the number of young groves coming into bearing, especially the grapefruit groves, and the crop of this delightfully popular fruit will be the largest in the history of the state. Even in sections where heretofore the people have paid little attention to citrus fruits there are being planted every year acres of trees, which in a few years will add much to the value of the crops now going out of Florida."

Mr. Marks does not believe the output of grapefruit will catch up with

the growing demand for many long years, and since Florida is the only state in the Union which can raise the grapefruit to perfection, this state will always have a practical monopoly in this product.

The rains, which are expected, and which seem now to have begun over the citrus belt, he says will cause a good June bloom, and this will mean a pretty fair crop of late oranges and grapefruit next summer.

Mr. Marks has been in the citrus industry for many years, and every year becomes more satisfied and enthusiastic over the quality of fruit Florida puts on the tables of the world.

One additional crop which Mr. Marks believes will become profitable in many sections of the state is peaches. He says that in the lower part of the state even, some of the finest peaches he ever saw or tasted have been grown this year, and he is confident that in parts of the state there will be found lands to grow peaches equal to if not surpassing the famous Elbertas of the Georgia and Carolina sections of the fruit belt.

"Florida is in a fine condition for its next big crop of fruit," said Mr. Marks, "and with conditions continuing favorable, there will be thousands of dollars more brought to the state next winter and spring than ever before from the citrus industry."—Fla. Times-Union.

Florida Fruit the Most Delicious

There is one thing that seems strange to the northern man in Florida. He soon is convinced of the very great superiority of the Florida oranges compared to those he has been accustomed to at home.

Some California fruits are good. They produce fine prunes, grapes and olives. The oranges are thick skinned and tasteless, or too sour as compared with the sweet, russet-coated beauties that he finds on the peninsula. People eat oranges in Florida because they are delicious. The regulation breakfast dish is half a large grapefruit eaten with a little sugar. During the day oranges are eaten at any time that one happens to be passing a grove or a fruit stand. Many people who seldom eat oranges in the North, because they see only the California product, soon get to eating them on their arrival in Florida. Quality is the only explanation. People who go down there will never be satisfied with a substitute. Fruit growers' organizations will reach out for the northwestern trade and the big fellows will come this way. Inasmuch as an orange will keep on the tree for weeks after it is

ripe enough to ship, it would seem that there is no necessity of shipping green fruit. Ripe oranges can be delivered in iced cars and they are sweet and delicious.

There are a number of kinds of fruit in Florida that are produced for home use only. They are not easily transported, being too delicate. These fruits are strictly tropical, and as they do not ripen in the winter months, northern people do not learn much about them. There are the mangoes, the guavas, the alligator pear, and the Japanese plum. The guavas are very common and are used largely for making jelly. The alligator pear and the mango are expensive fruits and the writer was told that one tree of good size often produced \$50 worth of fruit in a season. Then there are the bananas; several varieties are produced, but none for export. They are better, are juicy and sweeter than what we have in the markets.

Some Florida orange groves of ten acres cost \$15,000 when ten years old and in good bearing, and pay 25 per cent on the investment after paying the expense of cultivation.—"The Yankee," Bloomington (Wis.) Record.

Bees and Fruit

Honey producing is only one of the missions of the bees. Indeed, for actual profit, the honey is but a minor item.

Some years ago I moved to a small place up the Hudson river. I wanted a bee farm and selected for that purpose a spot among apple, cherry and plum trees, some of which had never borne fruit, others none for years past. My landlord told me I might cut down certain trees, as they were worthless, and he intended putting on some fine nursery stock.

Being busy, I did not cut the trees down. They blossomed freely, and, of course, we paid no further heed to them than to break blossoms by the armfuls when we wanted floral decorations.

The cherry trees were, much to the owner's astonishment, loaded with very large, perfect fruit. He could not understand it; such a thing had not happened for years.

Early in the autumn, while waiting for a swarm of bees to settle, I observed a number of fine apples upon one of the smaller condemned trees. When the landlord's attention was

called to them he was completely mystified and called in his neighbors to see the wonder. Later we gathered from this tree nearly a barrel of finest fall pippins ever seen in that vicinity.

No argument would convince the man that "them pesky bees" had anything to do with the yield of the fruit on the place. He insisted that some sort of fertilizer must have been used.

Since that time I have demonstrated by scores of experiments that trees which had for many seasons borne little good fruit, or possibly none at all, have been brought up to a high standard of productiveness by the presence of bees. They carried the pollen, fertilized the blossoms and a beautiful harvest was the result.

Regardless of the honey crop, every fruit grower should have a few colonies of bees. If when the blossom season is past there is so little nectar in the midseason flowers that the bees must be fed, it is a decided economy to feed them, as in cases where a strict account has been kept the cash value of orchard products alone has been doubled by their assistance.—The Rural Home.

Another Epoch in Vero's History

Saturday, July 11, was another important date in the history of the Indian River Farms company's development work. On that day the last bucketful of earth was thrown from the big main canal through the company's tract and another step in the development work was completed.

The canal has been opened for its entire distance since last January, but a part of it was only cut half its width. The big job is now completed and the excavator which has been at work on the canal has been moved by Contractor Fred M. Crane to a new job in southern Illinois.

It was a year ago last February that the excavation of the main canal was started. Since then two drag line excavators have been at work on it night and day for most of the time. The canal is nearly five miles in length and to dig it required the excavation of approximately 1,000,000 cubic yards of earth.

Excavators are now at work on three of the lateral canals that will empty into the main canal, one leading to the north and two to the south. Sublaterals are being dug into the north lateral at a rapid rate and complete drainage is established on a large number of acres.

WE'RE going on—better come along. There's lots of room in front. All the chances are there. The struggle is back where you are. People who won't think and dare will find their plight sterner every day. It's so easy to get good machines to supplant listless, dull, unambitious human workers that we have neither time nor money to waste on those who won't use themselves to the utmost of their possibilities.—New York Journal.

Fruits Handled Through Florida Citrus Exchange Bring Big Prices

The official figures of the fruit auction companies of the eight most important cities in the country show that the Florida Citrus Exchange secured for its growers considerably higher prices during the season just ended than were obtained by the other operators in Florida fruit.

The accuracy of these figures absolutely can be depended upon. They show that in every auction market prices obtained by the exchange averaged higher than those secured by others. It is significant that the higher prices were secured by the Exchange

both in markets where it sold more fruit than the other operators and in the markets where they handled a greater volume of fruit than it did. The figures are as follows:

	Fla. Citrus Exchange	All Other Operators	Bxs. Avg.	Bxs. Avg.
Baltimore	31,961	\$2.29	70,772	\$2.03
Boston ..	140,529	2.53	177,580	2.25
Chicago .	63,479	2.73	38,366	1.95
Cleveland	36,233	2.34	65,376	2.32
New York	426,247	2.58	476,807	2.45
Philadelphia	143,251	2.42	563,136	2.28

The inner half of every cloud
Is bright and shining.
I therefore turn my clouds
about
And always wear them inside
out
To show the lining.
—Alice Wellington Rollins.

through the Exchange lost nearly \$300,000 by reason of this fact. To verify the accuracy of this statement one has but to multiply the number of boxes of fruit sold in these markets through other channels than the Exchange, by the difference in the price per box received by the other operators and by the Exchange.

Baltimore	\$ 18,400.72
Boston	49,722.40
Chicago	29,925.48
Cleveland	1,307.52
New York	61,984.91
Philadelphia	78,839.40
Pittsburgh	14,178.67
St. Louis	25,151.62

Total loss in only eight markets \$279,510.36