

THE FORT PIERCE NEWS.

The first and oldest paper in St. Lucie County, the banner pineapple county of the State.

Published every Friday at Fort Pierce, Florida, the best town on the beautiful Indian River.

IN THE PINEAPPLE BELT.

ARTHUR B. BROWN, Editor and Proprietor.

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All communications or contributions must be accompanied by the name of the author. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications.

"For the good of Fort Pierce, St. Lucie county and the Indian River section generally and the people particularly."

THAT PINEAPPLE PRIZE.

THE following paragraph appeared in the editorial column of the Punta Gorda Herald last week.

"Notwithstanding the decision of the judges to the contrary, Commissioner Crouch insists that DeSoto county had the largest, finest and best exhibit of pineapples at the State Fair and that this was the opinion of all who saw the display. It would be interesting to have in detail the reason that moved the judges to award the pineapple premium to St. Lucie county. May we not ask of the Tampa papers to inquire of the judges and publish their reasons?"

Now, Editor Jordan is usually willing to admit defeat when he is defeated, but in this case he stands up and hints that something was wrong with the awarding of the prizes. Brother Jordan evidently wrote that as a filler or wanted to see how the words "largest, finest and best" would harmonize. He was not at the fair; he saw neither DeSoto's or St. Lucie's pineapple exhibit, therefore we fail to see by what right he questions the decision of the judges in awarding us the prize on pineapples. 'Tis true DeSoto county had a nice exhibit of pines and handsome specimens they were, but when it comes to saying that it was the "largest, finest and best" exhibit of pineapple at the fair, we beg to differ with him as did the judges.

We happen to know what we are talking about, for, unlike Brother Jordan, we were on the ground for eighteen days handling those same pineapples, and we saw DeSoto's exhibit. We are also willing to give them credit for having the largest pineapples, for they made a specialty of the Smooth Cayenne, grown under sheds, while ours were principally the Red Spanish, grown in the open fields with no covering except the blue canopy of heaven. The former variety and method of growing will produce larger fruit than the latter, but for commercial purposes we have them "skinned a mile." Just in this connection we would like to ask the Herald if they can ship their pines to European markets and get good returns for arrival there in good condition? We can and do.

This, however, is a sore subject for DeSoto county, for during former fairs she has carried off first honors for growing of pineapples. This, of course, was because this section of the State was not in competition for the premium. It is hard, we admit, for a little upstart like St. Lucie county, not yet three years old, to jump in and take the laurels away from the "great State of DeSoto." But when it comes to growing pineapples we have the world beaten. When DeSoto county ships a carload of pineapples the whole state is told about it in double column head lines. When St. Lucie county ships a trainload a day for six weeks—as she does every summer—no one thinks it remarkable.

Then again other DeSoto county papers besides the Herald have accused the fair judges of playing favorites and "making love" to other sections for commercial reasons to benefit Tampa. We want to ask what earthly excuse could they have for "making love" to St. Lucie county at the expense of DeSoto? Tampa cannot expect to gain anything from us, but on the other hand could gain by "making love" to DeSoto. They are sore—that's all.

Now for the edification, instruction and entertainment of Brother Jordan and DeSoto county as well as for the benefit of our own people who do not know these things we want to reproduce some figures from the report of Hon. B. E. McLin, commissioner of agriculture, on the crop of 1905. He shows in his pineapple table that the entire state crop was 572,159 crates, of which St. Lucie county produced 281,870 crates, and lead all other counties of the State. Next came Dade, then Lee, followed by Hillsboro, and fifth in the list appeared "the great State of DeSoto" with the magnificent number of 10,430 crates.—less than one twenty-seventh of St. Lucie's crop. These figures apply to the 1905 crop and are by no means a correct estimate of the present crop, for hundreds of acres have been planted and come into bearing since then and it is a conservative estimate to call the 1908 crop at half a million crates. Now we are also willing to give DeSoto credit for doubling her output which would make 20,860 crates, which is a greater proportionate gain than we claim. Gee, if Brother Jordan will come over here we can show him more pineapples than his wildest dreams ever imagined. They are more plentiful than fish in his own harbor. We can show him one hundred acres of pineapples in one field—and that is something he would not see at home in a hundred years. While the editor of The News was in Tampa in charge of the St. Lucie county exhibit, hundreds of residents of Hillsboro, Polk and DeSoto counties told him they had once started in the pineapple business but abandoned it because it was not profitable in that section. It is profitable here.

This, of course is away from the original question. The judges did not award prizes on what a county could do but what they did do and put up for exhibition. St. Lucie county put up the largest and best pineapple exhibit and won the prize on its merits, therefore it is up to Editor Jordan and DeSoto to admit defeat and come down as gracefully as possible.

We have carried elegant lines of clothing heretofore, but the

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A Beautiful Tribute.

The many friends of Allen E. Trowell will appreciate the following beautiful tribute paid by the Rev. Jas. L. Pattillo of Port Orange, at the church service held over the remains on March 4th:

On my own behalf, and in behalf of all present this morning, I desire briefly, to pay a tribute to the memory of our friend who has gone from our midst.

To his memory as a young man, who gave himself to a life of usefulness, industry and sobriety, and not to intemperance, reckless living and wasting of time and opportunities.

He was not a time server, but met every task and responsibility with his very best strength, shrinking no duty that came his way.

I would also pay tribute to his memory for his integrity, honesty and truthfulness, whether in friendship or in business.

In business matters, he was tried in most responsible positions, and in every instance proved true to the trust reposed in him.

Especially do I bear testimony to the integrity of his friendship, which was lasting, true and constant. If he was your friend to day he was your friend to-morrow; If your friend with you, he was your friend though separated from you, and as much your friend in time of adversity, as when success crowned your efforts.

I would pay tribute to his memory

as a lover and as a husband.

Only a few short years ago, and within a few hundred yards of where I stand today, I stood before him and the young lady who was to become his life's companion and pronounced them man and wife.

He was devoted and constant as a lover, but not more so than as a husband. His devotion to his wife and to his home life was very marked indeed, there being no place that had such attractions for him as the quiet of his home and the companionship of his wife.

I shall always cherish the memory of my visit to this home, brief it is true, but long enough to make me appreciate the value of true friendship.

And we would pay tribute to his memory as we knew him in his hours and weeks of suffering, so patient, so thoughtful of others, and so appreciative of the ministrations of loved ones and friends. In those hours when the faith and integrity of the strongest are sorely tried, he never wavered for a moment, and to the very last, was true to the highest and noblest impulses of life.

My friend, you have gone from our midst, but we shall ever cherish your memory, we shall not forget your virtues, and upheld by an example of your faith and trust in God, we hope to so live that we shall meet you again in the great beyond, where there is no sickness or suffering and where all tears shall be wiped away.

Resolutions.

Whereas: The All-wise Creator has seen fit to call from our midst Brother Allen E. Trowell, be it

Resolved, That while we bow in humble submission to the Divine Will, yet we mourn the death of Brother Trowell as a faithful brother and an honorable and upright citizen, and be it further

Resolved, That in expressing our deep and sincere sympathy, we extend to the bereaved family in the hour of their distress the open hand of Christian fellowship, and earnestly commend them to the care of Him, who alone can heal their wounds, and be it further

Resolved, That a page in our minute book be inscribed to the memory of our departed Brother, that a chapter be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days, that a copy of these resolutions be given each of our papers for publication, and a copy be sent to the family of the deceased.

J. T. LISK
B. K. MCCARTY
E. G. GUSLAFSON } Committee

Prospects at Fort McCoy are bright for a good peach crop, but late, severe frosts.

A turnip weighing 18 pounds was exhibited at Kissimmee, Fla. grown by C. D. Carroll.

Melrose oranges growers are preparing to forward their crop of bloom oranges which are colored from there.