

INTRODUCTION

BEING at present a permanent resident of Miami, Florida, I have been often surprised at the number of its citizens who are skeptical as to the feasibility of the drainage of the Everglades, and as to its desirability if it could be shown to be practicable. Nor is this sentiment confined alone to ignorant and illiterate persons, for I have found it entertained by many intelligent and well informed persons at home, and elsewhere.

The object of this pamphlet is to show if I may, that the project is not only feasible if energetically and properly handled, but is desirable from every point of view, except that of some secluded hermit or roaming Seminole, who may wish to pass his life in the solitudes of these vast inland plains.

Without any pretense of being a scientific expert on the subject, I have read attentively the work of authors, whose opinions are accepted as the best modern utterances on the subjects of irrigation, drainage, soil deposition, plant foods, soil bacteria, as well as the reports of Government, State and Corporation Engineers regarding the levels of the drainage area, and the latest bulletins of the U. S. Department of Agriculture by the Weather Bureau and Bureau of Soils. I have quoted largely from Professor Hilgard's standard work on "Soils," because of his familiarity with and study of the soils of Mississippi and Louisiana as well as of California; and further because his work is fortified by numerous authorities at home and abroad, which the limits of this article forbid stating more fully; for the last mentioned reason I have also quoted extensively from the valuable publications of the Weather Bureau and Bureau of Soils, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

From a careful study of the data mentioned, I have drawn deductions which I think cannot be controverted; and the result is a profound conviction that not only is the drainage of the Everglades perfectly feasible, but in view of the great and lasting benefits to be conferred upon the State of Florida at large, as well as upon the sections immediately adjacent to this development, it would be very culpable in the people of the State to longer neglect the opportunities presented by a kind Providence.

I hope that these convictions may be shared by those now differing with me in the belief above expressed.

I may say in conclusion that I do not own a single foot of Ever-

glade soil, nor am I interested in any way therein except so far as its reclamation will benefit me generally as a citizen of Florida, Dade County and the City of Miami.

S. RODMOND SMITH.

Miami, Fla., Nov. 13, 1909.

Rec

TH

The
thereby
level of
lake, e
itude 2
between
along t
this ext
from tw

The
Atlantic
eral de
apart,
rains to
ends to
and riv

So
120 mil
wards o
zation,
which is
to perm
and tha
freely is

And
subject,
Govern
investig
"be emp
been, by
mean le
one feet
ters, aft
charged.