

to its effect on the health of its inhabitants is concerned, it may be observed that a study of the climatic statistics at Miami and Fort Myers, discloses conditions of moderate humidity, even temperature and sunshine days, unequalled during the dry winter season by any portion of the United States; and that even in the wet summer season of abnormal precipitation, the temperature never rises above 96 degrees, and the average humidity is relatively low, because blue skies are the rule immediately after a downpour, and totally overcast days are almost unknown.

So it appears from the foregoing data, that if health is dependent on a mild equable climate, with only moderate humidity in summer and even less in winter; with but few cloudy days in summer and practically none in winter; with ample precipitation in summer and but little in winter; with the purest of ozone breezes from the ocean or gulf, and with blue skies and brilliant sunshine for over 299 days in the year, it may be better found and maintained here than in any other portion of our country.

Added to this is the advantage of a quickly drying soil, either of sand, loam or coralline rock formation, which rapidly absorbs the rainfall, rendering the formation of mud a forgotten fancy and damp feet a memory of other lands.

The winter climate of the lower Florida peninsula cannot be surpassed, and the summer heat never approaches the high temperature of the lands twelve hundred miles farther north. The climate of the entire year is temperate, enjoyable and conducive to health, and sunstroke is unknown.

The Flora of the South Florida Peninsula.

CHAPTER V.

Among practical hard headed farmers the kind of forest trees and their vigorous and symmetrical growth upon any land under observation has long been regarded as a reliable indication of the quality of the soil.

This conclusion is reached from the obvious facts that such trees as hickory, walnut, etc., in the temperate regions, and mahogany, dogwood, mastic, pidgeon plum, cocoanut, etc., in the tropical regions, attain full growth only on the richest soils; and that therefore if they are found growing without being stunted on virgin lands untested by the

plow, it is
are occupie

The su
with respect
the strengt
which seem
and constit

I have

is a knowl

exhibit here

on the slight

upon the ac

lar list of t

such adja

merated onl

observation,

newspaper:

They a

Native

in, Buttonw

to, Sea Gra

Tropica

sp. Guava,

Cotton Tree

Citrus

quat, Citron

Vegetab

Squab, Cuc

Caulflower

"market fru

Professo

trees in the

the Florida

merates 24

eucalyptus n

and number

Among

da peninsul

Wood, Yello

East India P

Leaf, Wild I

From th

plow, it is safe to assume that these lands, which by natural selection are occupied by such a growth, are rich and strong in fertility.

The successful farmer will closely gauge the character of any soil with respect to its excellence, by observing the variety of the plants and the strength of their growth, upon adjacent tracts under cultivation, which seem to have the same physical appearance in color, construction and constitution.

I have therefore thought it well, as affording an index by this means to a knowledge of the productive value of these lands, to collate and exhibit herewith a partial list of the kinds of forest trees found growing on the slightly elevated hammocks in the Everglade plateau, and also upon the adjacent hammock lands of the East Coast, as well as a similar list of the citrus and tropical fruit trees, and vegetables grown upon such adjacent lands. The list is necessarily incomplete, as I have enumerated only those trees and vegetables which have come under my own observation, or have been noted by casual visitors and reported in the newspapers.

They are as follows:

Native forest trees, Mahogany, Mastic, Dogwood, Live Oak, Palmetto, Buttonwood, Mangrove, Cedar, Cocconut, Cypress, Pine, Gumbo Limbo, Sea Grape, Rubber, Royal Palm, Castor oil tree, Pidgeon Plum.

Tropical trees, Mango, Avocado, Sapodilla, Mammee, Paw-paw, Sour-sop, Guava, Banana, Fig, Surinam Cherry, Mulberry, Tobasco Pepper, Cotton Tree, Camphor.

Citrus trees, Grapefruit, Orange, Tangerine, Lemon, Lime, Kumquat, Citron.

Vegetables, Pineapple, Watermelon, Tomato, Celery, Lettuce, Squash, Cucumbers, Onions, Beans, Peas, Peppers, Egg-plants, Cabbage, Cauliflower and generally all vegetables comprised under the head of "market truck."

Professor John Gifford of Cocconut Grove, Florida, in a list of the trees in the State of Florida, compiled for the Forestry Department of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs and recently published, enumerates 281 varieties, and not counting several species of citrus and eucalyptus not listed; and says that Florida possesses a greater variety and number of trees than any State in the Union.

Among these, and which are found growing only on the lower Florida peninsula and island keys, are Lignum Vitae, Tamarind, Satin Wood, Yellow Wood, Cinnamon Bark, Boxwood, Ironwood, Nakedwood, East India Rubber, Sausage Tree, Candlenut Tree, Joe Wood, Satin Leaf, Wild Dilly, Bamboo, Coffee, Date.

From the above data it will be observed that there is a great vari-

ety of plants and vegetables which find a congenial home in the tropical climate and rich soils of the Everglades and adjacent lands. The produce of these plants and vegetables find a ready market in the great cities of the North during a period when snow covers the ground and there is no competition from the local growers. That these products, which even now are very considerable, will be of great commercial value in the near future is indisputable.

With the settlement and cultivation of the drained and reclaimed Everglades, the increased production from this vast and rich territory will demand greatly increased transportation facilities. That railroads will follow the settler, penetrate this territory and compete for the carriage of these products cannot be doubted; and that the demands in the near future on the seaport facilities of Miami on the East coast and of Fort Myers on the West coast, for adequate water transportation will be very persistent, also cannot be doubted.

Neither can it be doubted that these demands will be met as they arise and that the needed facilities will be provided.

Fruit and Vegetable Products, Yield Per Acre, Etc.

CHAPTER VI.

From a study of the climatic conditions of the Everglade terrace, as exhibited in the foregoing statistics, it will appear that only on the lower Florida peninsula, and below the 27th parallel of North latitude, can such tropical fruits as the banana, mango, avocado, pineapple, coconut, sapodilla, sour-sop, mamee, dates, etc., be grown on a commercial scale; while grapefruit, oranges, tangerines, limes, lemons and other citrus fruits can be produced equally as well, and with more assurance of success from the absence of frost, as in any other part of the world.

The castor oil bean and the cassava, the tobasco pepper and the sugar cane all grow here with great luxuriance and hardihood, as well as the seisal hemp and rice.

The usual market truck vegetables are strong growers and mature their crops from December until the following May according to the date of planting. Three months from the seed to the crop is the general time allowance. Tomatoes, Egg-plants, Peppers, Cucumbers, Beans, Lettuce, Potatoes, Onions, and other market garden produce are all grown with great success.

The yield per acre, and the prices realized are stated below very