

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

conservatively; and while the maximum yield and prices have been frequently exceeded by the best growers, it is safer to assume that beginners will attain the minimum. They are as follows:

Vegetables.	Yield per acre, crates.	Price per crate, f. o. b. cars
Tomatoes	250 to 900	\$1.12 to \$2.02
Egg-plants	350 to 800	1.00 to 5.00
Peppers	400 to 800	1.00 to 4.00
Cucumbers	300 to 1000	1.00 to 4.00
Beans	200 to 400	1.00 to 6.00
Lettuce	400 to 600	1.00 to 3.00
Potatoes (white)	20 to 40 bbls.	5.00 to 8.00
Citrus fruits.	Yield per acre, crate.	Price per crate, f. o. b. cars
Grapefruit	500 to 800	\$1.35 to \$5.00
Oranges	300 to 500	1.00 to 2.50
Limes	20 to 70 bbls.	5.00 to 15.00

The above data is furnished by Mr. W. E. March of Miami, Florida,—a large grower of market vegetables, citrus and tropical fruits in that vicinity. It is substantially confirmed by the communications of Mr. Walter Waldin of Fernview, near Miami, Florida, and by many other conservative growers, to the public press of Dade county.

Owing to the comparatively recent production of budded Mangoes and Avocadoes on a commercial scale; and the very limited output, on account of the difficulty of grafting or budding these plants successfully, it is estimated by Mr. George B. Cellon, of Miami, who is the principal expert in this line, that there are not over 2,500 budded Mangoes, nor more than 5,000 budded Avocadoes in Florida and the West India islands. These delicious fruits are consequently a rich man's luxury, and readily bring prices which are hardly credible, but which can be easily verified by inquiry at Miami, Florida. The budded Mulgoba Mango sells by the single fruit and brings from 25 to 50 cents each. The budded Avocado sells from \$3.00 to \$6.00 a dozen, and I have known 75 cents to be paid for a single prime fruit after New Year. They are hard to get and command fancy prices.

Pineapples are raised very extensively and there are none of better flavor or of superior quality, than those grown on the East coast. They produce from 1,000 to 2,500 crates to the acre, and bring in the Northern markets from \$1.00 to \$3.75 per crate.

The cotton plant becomes here a perennial; and I have seen the long staple plant 5 years old in tree form with a trunk three inches in diameter.