



W 5691
Souvenir

OFFICIAL OPENING
of the
GULF *to* ATLANTIC
WATERWAY *of the*
EVERGLADES
DRAINAGE CANAL
in Florida

by
Hon. A. W. GILCHRIST
Governor
and the Board of Trustees of the
Internal Improvement Fund

APRIL
23d to 27th
1912

Published by William L. Larkin

FOREWORD

THE newspaper men who investigated the Everglades of Florida as the guests of Governor Albert W. Gilchrist and Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, endorse the following account of the trip, written by William L. Larkin, but they feel that he has not gone far enough, and therefore have appointed a committee to make this preface to the booklet issued in commemoration of the journey. Mr. Larkin is too modest to claim the credit that is due him for assisting materially in making the journey an unqualified success and one long to be remembered.

With his unfailing good nature, his gracious and pleasing manner, his ever ready wit, his admiration for and loyalty to the Everglades Project, and his readiness to do all within his power, even at personal inconvenience, oftentimes, for the various members of the party, he did much to make the trip marking the official opening of the Gulf to the Atlantic Canal one of the most enjoyable and instructive ever undertaken by a party of newspaper men. Generous to a fault, kind to a marked degree, and with the happy faculty of smoothing over the rough places in life, Mr. Larkin is one man in a thousand, and we wish to assure Governor Gilchrist of Florida, that he made no mistake in appointing him as his personal representative. His good deeds began with a banquet in the Hotel La Salle, Chicago, a few hours before the departure of the special train for Florida and continued long after the party reached Chicago on the return journey. Here's to William L. Larkin, "the best ever!"

R. D. STRONG, *Record-Herald*,
T. A. MACNEAL, *Topeka Capital*,
WILLIAM J. ETTEN, *Grand Rapids News*,
MAJOR M. E. DIXON, *Chicago Examiner*,
W. H. MURPHY, *Inter-Ocean*,
GEORGE H. ADAMS, *Minneapolis Journal*,
Committee.

"To conquer the elements, defy the critics and put the second largest fresh water lake in the United States in chains, that a million farmers may drain or water their growing crops at will, is an enterprise that Florida alone would dare undertake and put into successful operation."—*William L. Larkin.*

SOUVENIR
OF THE
OFFICIAL OPENING
GULF-TO-ATLANTIC
WATERWAY OF FLORIDA

Under the Auspices of
Hon. Albert W. Gilchrist, Governor,
and Trustees of the

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT FUND
April 23d to 27th, 1912

Sold by Subscription only. Price 10c per copy. All orders should be
accompanied by express or Post Office Money Order,
addressed to William L. Larkin, Publisher,
163 Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.

*Photographs in this booklet by
Gibson, Sykes & Fowler,
32 South Wabash Ave., Chicago*

COPYRIGHT BY WILLIAM L. LARKIN
PUBLISHER
All Rights Reserved

Rogers & Hall Co., Printers, Chicago, Ill.



HON. R. E. ROSE
State Chemist

MAJOR J. O. WRIGHT
Chief Drainage Engineer

HON. ALBERT W. GILCHRIST
Governor

WM. V. KNOTT
State Comptroller

PROF. P. H. ROLFS
Director U. S. Agricultural Exp. Station
F. C. ELLIOTT
Official Surveyor

IT WAS just 8:15 p. m. by the big clock in the tower of the Twelfth Street Station, Chicago, on April 20, when the train, carrying Gov. Gilchrist's invited newspaper representatives, departed for the official opening of the Florida Everglades Gulf to Atlantic Drainage Canal. This was the beginning of an event in the history of Florida's great RECLAMATION PROJECT that had been eagerly looked forward to by anxious investors and the press of the entire country.

The party was made up of a corps of able writers, selected by the publishers of prominent newspapers and managers of news service bureaus covering nearly every state in the Union. Each man was determined to leave no stone unturned to either confirm or disprove the charges made by one of Florida's own representatives in Congress, that the Everglades Drainage Project was a failure.

No state in the Union contains any more thrilling chapter than the story of the Florida Everglades, their loss by the state, their recovery by Ex-Governor Jennings, and their redemption by the late Governor Broward, Governor Gilchrist and the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund of Florida, who share the honors in financing the greatest land reclamation project ever undertaken in the history of the world.

Accompanying Governor Gilchrist and the newspaper men were Ex-Governor Jennings; Major J. O. Wright, chief drainage engineer of Florida, the man who formulated the plans for the drainage work; Prof. P. H. Rolfs, director of the United States Agricultural Experiment Station at Gainesville, Fla.; Hon. R. E. Rose, State Chemist of Florida; Hon. William V. Knott, State Comptroller; Lincoln B. Hulley, president of the John B. Stetson University at Deland, Fla., and M. A. Brown, former private secretary to the late Governor Broward.

Throughout the trip the newspaper writers asked every question that could possibly have any bearing on the success or failure of this great undertaking.

The story of the Everglades Project, from its inception, was secured from Ex-Governor Jennings. Major Wright explained every detail of the engineering problem, in the construction of the drainage canals. Comptroller Knott explained how the funds were secured for financing the Everglades Reclamation Project. Prof. Rolfs and State Chemist Rose explained the analysis of the Everglades soil, its properties and its possibilities under cultivation.

Before the journey was ended the newspaper representatives secured every fact concerning this combined drainage and irrigation project, its progress, its feasibility and the results already secured by the engineers.

By personal investigation of the Experimental Farm on the south shore of Lake Okeechobee and the Davie Experimental Farm at Zona, sixty miles south of the lake, they convinced themselves of the productivity of the muck soil and the kind of crops it produces. They inquired into the possible need of irrigation and the practicability of providing it without cost to land owners, the question of transportation facilities, and all the important information of interest to those who have been eagerly



GOVERNOR GILCHRIST TURNING THE WATERS OF THE GULF INTO THE ATLANTIC
North Lauderdale Canal, April 25th, 1912

waiting for the time when the entire drainage district will be ready for settlement.

The greatest surprise was the revelation as to the actual character of the Everglades. It was not difficult to realize that the Everglades of popular conception had never existed. No more ridiculous fallacy was ever taught in the public schools of America than the description of the Everglades published in geographies since the first map of Florida was drawn. In place of a vast morass of swamp land, covered with impenetrable growths of tangled vines, with pools of stagnant water, infested with reptiles and wild beasts, the exploring party discovered a vast wilderness, as flat as a Dakota prairie, dotted at intervals with small hummocks, and covered with no other vegetation except the Everglades saw-grass. It was found to be a land which, for untold centuries, had been submerged under the clear, sparkling waters from Lake Okeechobee. Every acre within the range of vision on either side of the canal was drier than many western prairies at this season of the year.

None of the world's great explorers ever experienced more profound emotions as they gazed upon newly discovered wonderlands than the members of this party as they entered the Everglades through the beautiful Caloosahatchee river and the Gulf canal and looked out upon this misrepresented and misunderstood land of mystery. Every man predicted that the day was near at hand when this great inland empire would produce annually greater wealth than ever was taken from any gold field discovered on American soil.

Nature would have reclaimed the Everglades, but it would have required centuries to complete the work. While this method would be popular with a few, the majority of the residents of Florida wisely insisted on having the earning power of this great tract of virgin soil for the benefit of this generation.

God made the Everglades and He made them for a good purpose. He also made man to discover His purposes in Nature, and it is evidenced that man is doing so in carrying out the plans for the drainage of this great tract of land.

With rapid increase of population, the food problem taxes the conserving powers of man to the limit between seasons of production. Foreseeing the future development of North America, the great need for a section in which to grow truck, vegetables and fruits, while the balance of the land is in the grip of frost and snow, the Creator built a peninsula into the south Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. To take the bite out of the northwest wind, He placed Lake Okeechobee at the northern edge of the fruit-killing frost boundary. Included in the scheme of protection is the wonderful Gulf Stream, which has its inception in the warm waters of the north and eastern shore of South America, driven across the shallow banks between the Lesser Antilles into the Caribbean Sea; thence through the Yucatan Channel and into the Gulf of Mexico, where it forms a great river of warm water from twenty to fifty miles wide. It curves with the shore line, making a loop around lower Florida, and on



GOVERNOR GILCHRIST AND NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIVES
Visiting Thomas A. Edison's Tropical Home, Ft. Myers, Fla.

the eastern shore as far north as Palm Beach, it comes within two miles of the shore and follows at varying distances in a northwesterly direction. This tempers the north wind, and let it blow east or west or north, fruit-killing frost seldom reaches this zone, even in the smallest degree. This stream makes a half circle around the Everglades.

Any child can understand Nature's plans when they are uncovered. The Everglades were not made in a day. The bible says that "in six days God made Heaven and earth," but I believe He has been building the Everglades since the days of Noah. The Everglades is a great natural basin, which has been filled in with decayed vegetation for forty centuries or more. The great Builder was careful to protect this basin from erosion by making its rim, or banks, of a curious tough limestone rock, which the overflow could not wash away. Aside from a few comparatively insignificant fissures, there are only three creeks which have been the outlet for the rainfall for this vast region. The natural consequence is that the tall grasses coming to maturity die and decay, and with each succeeding crop add to the richness of the soil. The waters move so slowly that the bed is never disturbed.

Now comes man, driven by necessity to complete God's plan, and by cutting a half dozen canals from Lake Okeechobee, the central reservoir, to sea level, Presto! North America's tropical winter garden is made ready for the sower.

It is not generally understood that the plans for reclaiming this great body of muck land includes irrigation as well as drainage. It was J. E. Ingraham, vice-president of the Florida East Coast Railway, who insisted on the conservation of the waters of Lake Okeechobee as a great reservoir for irrigation, as well as waterway transportation.

A series of locks have and are being constructed in the main canals which insures water for irrigation as well as transportation at all seasons of the year.

On account of the combined drainage and irrigation method of reclaiming the Everglades, it can be truthfully described as one of the safest reclaimed land projects, from an agricultural or investment standpoint, ever attempted.

For those who are not familiar with this great project, the writer would advise every purchaser of Everglades muck land to include the construction of laterals in his contract, or deduct the cost of same from the purchase price of the land.

The Florida homeseeker will find upon investigation that there is much desirable undeveloped land in Florida available for settlement and improvement. The Everglades Drainage District, comprising 4,000,000 acres, embraces less than a fourth of the lands of the state that are subject to drainage.

The entire state of Florida contains approximately 35,000,000 acres, of which 18,000,000 acres are subject to drainage before it can be developed. There are many reclamation projects in the state now under way that are being developed by private capital. Florida offers to the



GOVERNOR GILCHRIST AND NEWSPAPER PARTY AT OKEECHOBEE
This Land Was Under Three Feet of Water Two Years Ago

homeseeker an almost unlimited range of selection of land for the growing of citrus fruits, cereals and for horticultural purposes, many sections being unsurpassed for the growing of certain crops. However, Florida has but one Everglades, and the muck soil of this great tract of land is not duplicated anywhere else in Nature for fertility, climate, productiveness and the variety and high quality of crops it will produce.

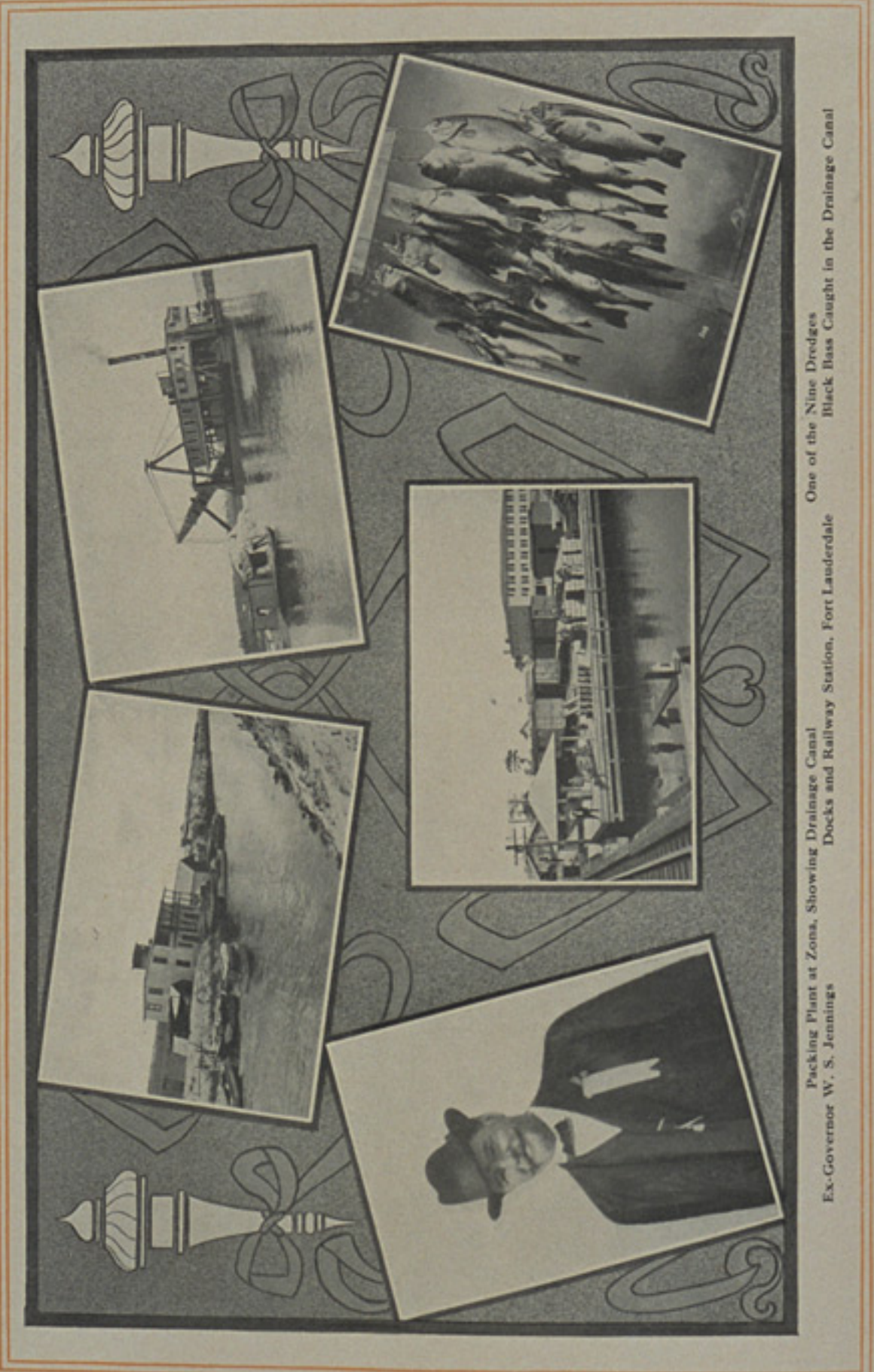
There will never be another Everglades! When these lands have been placed under cultivation, no other land of similar character will be obtainable by the American homebuilder. The Furst Clark Construction Company, of Baltimore, which has nine dredges working night and day, is under bond with the state of Florida to complete the drainage canals on or before July 1, 1913.

This wonderful, fertile region has been described by the newspaper men since their return from Florida. It is not probable that their stories will ever be collected for publication in a single volume. This little booklet is designed only as a souvenir of the expedition, to preserve some of the personal comments and individual opinions of the writers at the conclusion of their investigation. While many of the metropolitan newspapers expressed their regret at their inability to attend the official opening of the canals, every reader of this booklet will feel grateful to the publishers who did send a special representative to secure for their readers an unbiased report of the true story of the greatest reclamation project ever attempted in the history of the world.

The opinions of the newspaper writers who journeyed through the Everglades and investigated the drainage project from the Gulf to the Atlantic will be found in the following pages.

"To make history and achieve victory for the benefit of humanity and have the laugh on the enemies of progress is real fame."—*William L. Larkin.*

"But no man who can have a piece of land of his own, sufficient by his labor to subsist his family in plenty, is poor enough to be a manufacturer, and work for a master."—*Benjamin Franklin.*



One of the Nine Dredges
Black Bass Caught in the Drainage Canal

Packing Plant at Zona, Showing Drainage Canal
Docks and Railway Station, Fort Lauderdale

Ex-Governor W. S. Jennings

By WALTER WALDIN

AUTHOR OF

"TRUCK FARMING IN THE EVERGLADES"

In his address to the visiting newspaper representatives at Miami, Florida, he said:

IT WILL not be necessary to dwell upon the possibility of the drainage of the Everglades, as this has no doubt been thoroughly impressed upon our distinguished visitors. As to the value of the soil the best chemist in the world cannot give you such information as an actual test will demonstrate. I find that a liberal application of potash and phosphate is practically all that is necessary to bring this soil to such productive ability as will surprise the oldest horticulturist or truck gardener.

There is no doubt in my mind whatever but that the area known as the Everglades will produce fully twice as much as any equal area in the United States, after it has been thoroughly worked out. I consider this a very conservative estimate. As to the profits that have been derived from this land on different occasions I can do no better than refer you to my book on truck gardening.

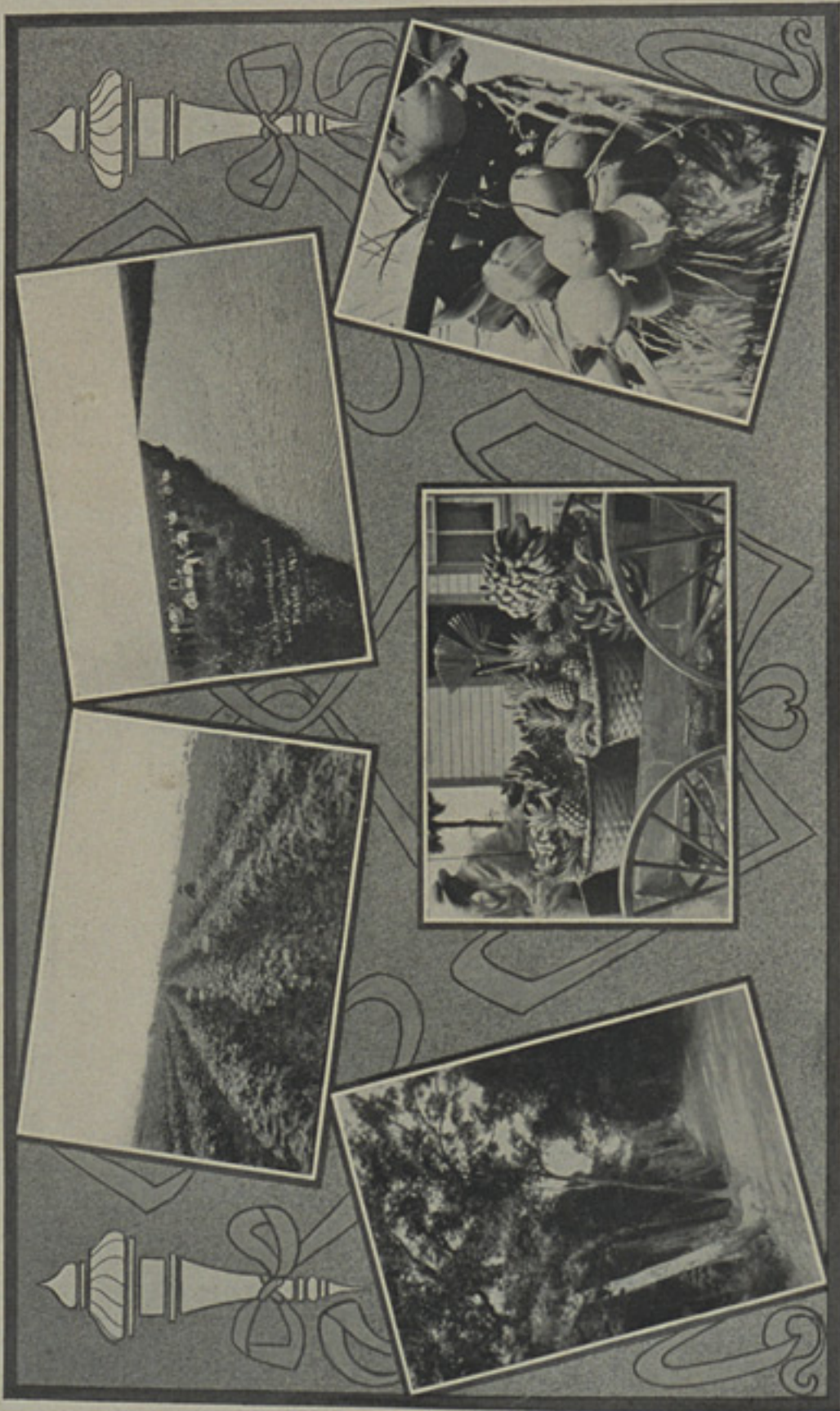
As to the possibility of growing citrus and other tropical fruits, it simply resolves itself into the question of thorough drainage. Such trees as the pecan and English walnut will be thoroughly at home in this soil.

I have, in the presence of Governor Broward, picked both oranges and grapefruit from the trees grown on muck soil that were of the finest in quality and held their juice and weight up to the standard at the time of picking, which was April 15th. At this same time we looked up the quotations in the Northern markets and found that the last tangerines had sold for \$9 per crate, and grapefruit were selling for \$5 and better. I was assured by the owner of these trees, Mr. N. Bouchard, that he had grapefruit, as well as oranges, on the trees up to the middle of July. Similar experience has been mine since that date. I have found fine fruit on trees grown on muck soil, on July 20th, 1911.

As to the growing of different grasses, I find that "para" grass grows here in the greatest profusion under the present semi-drained condition of the Glades. In fact it grows in such profusion that I virtually believe one acre would produce ample feed for any grazing animal.

There has been considerable question raised as to how well sugar cane can be grown on this soil. I am positive with the same culture given ordinary Indian corn, in the several States where that product is raised, that the largest crops of sugar cane can be grown here.

Such leguminous crops as velvet beans, cow peas, crimson clover, beggar-weed and alfalfa, and also all the weeds that are known to be of benefit as a soil enricher, such as the Northern rag weed or smart weed, will grow upon this land after it has been cultivated and aerated, in such profusion that anyone at all familiar with farming can not for a minute doubt the productive ability of this Everglades soil.



Drainage Canal, Near Lake Okerechobee
Sample Bunch of Coconuts, Miami

Fruit Vender, Fort Lauderdale

Potato Field, Davie Farm

A Picturesque Rock Road, Miami

"And if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed ye shall say to this mountain, Be thou cast into the sea, and it shall be done. Faith has turned the waters of 'The Everglades' into the sea."



JOHN B. STETSON UNIVERSITY
DELAND - - FLORIDA
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Miami, Fla., April 28, 1912.

Mr. W. L. Larkin,
Miami, Florida.

Friend Larkin:

Think of it! We went through the Everglades in three days- from Fort Myers up the Caloosahatchie, across Lake Okeechobee, and down the drainage canals to Fort Lauderdale. The Everglades of the old geographies are a myth. The genius of man has conquered them. Every mile of the journey brought new surprises.

The soil is the richest I have ever seen. The most luxuriant crops are growing on it. An area bigger than Connecticut and Rhode Island together, once a vast submerged prairie, is hereafter to be a garden of paradise. Seeing is believing. Governor Jennings, Governor Broward and others have done the seemingly impossible. It is a great triumph of faith. "And if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed ye shall say to this mountain be thou cast aside into the sea and it shall be done." Faith has turned the waters off the glades and into the sea.

Yours very truly,

Lincoln Hulley
President.

"I thought I was going into a wilderness, but I found myself instead on a great fertile plain, which is now and will be populated with prosperous farmers raising bounteous crops on the most productive land in the world."



THE CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD

Chicago, May 3, 1912.

Mr. W. L. Larkin,

Miami, Fla.

Dear friend:

After a three days tour of the Everglades of Florida, under conditions which gave me an opportunity to study every phase and detail of the drainage project at first hand and to draw conclusions of an unbiased nature, I desire to congratulate the people of Florida upon the work done. I found a vast prairie of incredible richness which has apparently suffered from annual floods in years gone by. Black muck soil of great depth covered practically every foot of the large territory I inspected.

The wonderful canal system now nearing completion will, according to all evidence obtainable, not only drain the entire everglades but will provide six great waterways to tidewater and throw open for settlement and cultivation approximately four million acres of the richest soil. The fact that the opening of the first of these great canals already has reclaimed thousands of acres indicates that when the other canals are opened the entire Everglades country will become a vast farming region, fertile to an extraordinary degree, where thousands of people will find pleasant homes and abundant riches through tilling the soil.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Young

Editorial staff

of Chicago Record-Herald.

"Some of us came here as skeptics, others as observers, some of us to learn, and we all came to help you boost this grand and glorious awakening of the Twentieth Century."



*You always first!
My dear Larkin
M. E. Dickson*



ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

Mr. William L. Larkin,
Miami, Florida.

Dear Mr. Larkin:

I have learned a lesson in agricultural development, a lesson that has taught me the wonderful possibilities of development on this little earth of ours. I have been through the Everglades. I have realized the dream of my youth that some time I might see this land of mystery and legend. In the Everglades I have been impressed with the purity, the cleanliness and the wonderful greatness of God's bounty and gifts to mankind in a land that was deemed uninhabitable and inaccessible. Here has been opened a vast empire, the future of which is surely beyond the comprehension of any man in Florida or elsewhere. It is an easy thing to see with the eye, but to conceive the possibilities of this vast territory of more than four million acres that has been redeemed by the great system of drainage canals, to foresee how great will become the population of this new land within the next twenty years, or how far-reaching will be its influence upon future enterprises of similar character in other countries and climes as well as in our own nation, is impossible. It will be grander than any man dares to hope.

I congratulate you upon having been interested in and connected with this humanizing project which is to do so much for this and future generations.

Your friend,

M. E. Dickson

Editorial staff.

Chicago Examiner

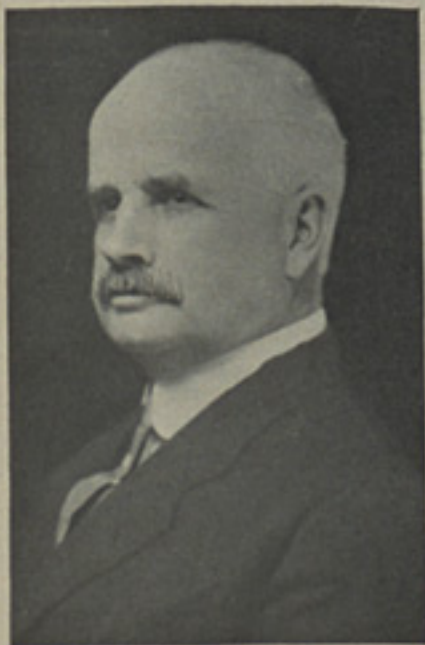
THE PAPER OF THE HOME
THE EXAMINER'S CIRCULATION IS GUARANTEED
BY THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN ADVERTISERS

DAILY - - - \$12.475
SUNDAY - - - \$48.000

Chicago,

April 29, 1912.

"The liar has no chance in Florida, for the truth is more impressive than any lie that can be told."



The Topeka Daily Capital

BY ARTHUR CAPPER.

The Only Newspaper in Kansas Published Every Day in the Year—The Only Morning Paper and Only Sunday Paper in Topeka.

May 2, 1912.

Mr. W. L. Larkin,

Chicago.

Dear Mr. Larkin:

I give you, briefly, my impressions of the Everglades.

The problem of the reclamation of the Everglades is one in which just three things are necessary—labor, money and gravitation. The laws of gravitation have not been repealed; the necessary money seems to be provided for and the labor is obtainable. The working out of the problem, therefore, is now only a matter of time. Once relieved from overflow the Everglades lands will be found to possess a fertility almost beyond the powers of belief and a range of possibilities in the way of diversified crops that staggers the imagination. In the course of time a large part of the Everglades region will be as densely populated as Holland is now and its aggregate wealth in proportion to its area will be greater than that of any other purely agricultural or horticultural community in the world.

Truly yours,

D. A. McNeal

Managing Editor, Topeka Capital.

"I'm speechless; actions speak louder than words—I have purchased one hundred acres of Everglades land, and wish I had the money to purchase more."



*Then - but
One Everglades
and Bill Larkin is at
Proprietor W. J. Etten
Grand Rapids
May 8, 1912*

THE GRAND RAPIDS NEWS
A. P. JOHNSON, PUBLISHER

Grand Rapids, Mich., May 7, 1912.

Mr. William L. Larkin,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Four days through the heart of the Everglades have convinced me of two things:

The Everglades can be practically completely reclaimed by the system of canals now in course of construction;

The land is wonderfully productive.

I have seen growing on a small experimental farm on the south shore of Lake Okeechobee fifty varieties of fruit, vegetables and grasses, the rate of growth being so rapid that it is almost unbelievable. The water surrounding this land has already been lowered one foot through a single canal. When the other canals now under construction are completed, the water will be lowered fully five feet more and the danger of flooding will be eliminated. So far as I can determine, the only problem remaining to be solved is which cereal, vegetable or fruit will yield the greatest returns. Everything appears to grow riotously.

My confidence in the Everglades is best illustrated by the fact that I have purchased 100 acres of Everglades land ten miles west of Fort Lauderdale.

Sincerely yours,
W. J. Etten
Managing Editor.

The man who refused to be photographed, but was snapped on a still hunt by our official "Kodaker"



"I've seen great drainage projects before, but the reclamation of the Florida Everglades has them all discounted."

The Minneapolis Journal

THE GREAT DAILY OF THE GREAT NORTHWEST

WILLIAM S. JONES, Business Manager

Minneapolis, Minn., April 28, 1912.

Mr. W. L. Larkin

Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

The Everglades, as seen in our three days of travel across the state, have proved one of the greatest surprises I ever experienced. I think all the members of Governor Gilchrist's party felt the same way. So wholly unexpected were the great stretches of magnificent country and the magnitude of the reclamation work already accomplished that I cannot conceive how anyone can intelligently discuss the matter unless they have first seen this great region. Having seen it they will be hard pressed to find words to picture the Aladdin-like development which lies just ahead for this section.

Yours sincerely,

City Editor.

"A trip through the Everglades is the most convincing evidence of the feasibility of the drainage project.. The wonderful fertility of the land now being reclaimed is shown by a variety of crops that cannot be equaled in the world."



ATLANTA
BALTIMORE
BIRMINGHAM
BOSTON
CHARLOTTE
CHICAGO
CINCINNATI
CLEVELAND
DALLAS
DENVER
DES MOINES
DETROIT
FARGO
FT. WAYNE
HOUSTON
INDIANAPOLIS

Editorial Rooms

Western Newspaper Union

Newspaper Auxiliary Service

521 WEST ADAMS ST.

KANSAS CITY
LINCOLN
LITTLE ROCK
MEMPHIS
MILWAUKEE
MINNEAPOLIS
NEW YORK
OKLAHOMA CITY
OMAHA
PITTSBURGH
ST. LOUIS
ST. PAUL
SALT LAKE CITY
SIOUX CITY
SIOUX FALLS
WURTA

WRIGHT A. PATTERSON,
EDITOR IN CHIEF

WAP-D

Chicago

April 30, 1912.

Mr. W. L. Larkin,
Chairman Program Committee,
Official Opening of Drainage Canals,
Miami, Florida.

Dear Sir:

A trip through the Florida Everglades such as I have made will certainly dispel from the mind of anyone any question as to either the feasibility of the drainage project now being completed or the wonderful fertility of the land that is being reclaimed.

Within a few short years this country will, I believe, exceed in value any similar area in any state in the Union.

Yours very truly,

J. B. Gaining

"In the Everglades you simply tickle the soil, and bounteous crops respond to feed hungry humanity in the over-crowded trade centers of the country. It's me for the Everglades."



The Des Moines Capital
Des Moines, Iowa

Lafayette Young
Publisher

Circulation 43000
Largest in the State

Miami, Fla., April 26, 1912.

Mr. William L. Larkin,

Miami, Florida.

Dear Sir:

Gone forever are the Everglades. In their place Florida today has 4,000,000 acres of tillable land, wonderfully fertile.

When the world was young the southern half of Florida was a barren plain of limestone. As the ages passed the rivers swept down rich silt from the north. This was deposited in the crannies of the stone plain. Wherever a bit of soil lodged vegetation sprang up. Aeons of time passed and the decaying vegetation added to the soil coating until the Everglades were created.

Ponce de Leon found them so and so they remained until the present decade. Florida has reclaimed them. Their rich earth, water-covered and useless until now, has been left high and dry by a great drainage system which cost \$5,000,000. After a journey through these canals I am satisfied that the drained area will undoubtedly add vastly to the land wealth of Florida and open to the world a new source of wealth. It will mean a greater Florida and a greater nation.

Truly yours,

Bert N. Miller

City Editor.

On the muck land I saw larger and finer crops of garden truck than are grown on some of the best farm lands in Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin.



Geo. W. Hinman
Editor and Publisher

The Inter Ocean

Samuel H. Sherman
Business Manager

Chicago, Ill., May 3, 1912.

Mr. W. L. Larkin,

Chicago.

My dear Sir:

The practicability of the Everglades drainage plans is now conceded by all who have observed the progress of the work of the engineers and the remarkable results already accomplished. The admission is made by even the most pessimistic of doubters, to which class I must confess having myself belonged. I had made several trips to the 'glades previous to my visit to attend the official opening, but had never seen this country before in all its tropical beauty or had explained and demonstrated to me its productive possibilities until my trip of last week through the Caloosahatchie river and the drainage canals from Fort Myers to Fort Lauderdale as a member of Governor Gilchrist's party that participated in the official opening program.

If the facts concerning the Everglades were generally known there would be a rush of settlers to Florida and the land of the Everglades that would see this wonderfully rich area thickly populated with thriving farmers from the North within a few months. Native Floridians are meeting with remarkable success in raising garden truck along with citrus fruits and this Everglades soil will produce more than eighty per cent of all the kinds and varieties of vegetables, fruits and cereals grown in the middle western states.

I found the greater part of the land comprising the Everglades composed of muck. On this muck land, formed by decomposed vegetation of centuries, I saw larger and finer crops of garden truck than are grown on some of the best farm lands in Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin.

W. H. Murphy

Manager, Land Department

"As an engineering feat the Everglades drainage project stands pre-eminent in the world's history of reclaimed land achievements."



The Columbus Dispatch
THE DISPATCH
CHARACTER
ENTERPRISE
INDEPENDENCE

COLUMBUS, OHIO.

THE DAYTON JOURNAL
DAILY AND SUNDAY

E. W. BURKHAM
PRESIDENT
F. D. McDONALD
V. PRESIDENT & BUSINESS MGR.
GEO. H. ZAHN
SECRETARY & TREASURER

The Davenport Democrat
and Leader
BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

FIFTY THREE YEARS UNDER ONE MANAGEMENT

DAVENPORT, IOWA.

Fl. Lauderdale, Fla. 4/26/12

William L. Larkin, Esq.,

Miami, Florida.

Dear Sir:

After my trip through the Everglades, I am convinced that the drainage project, now nearing completion, is the most practical that could be devised and should have the approval of every citizen of the state, and, in fact, of the entire nation.

The millions of acres of land which are being reclaimed through this system is naturally rich and productive and needs no artificial assistance and is, in my opinion, more valuable for agricultural and horticultural purposes than any other in the United States.

Very truly yours,

C. F. Felton

Special Representative of
The Columbus Dispatch
The Dayton Journal
The Davenport Democrat and Leader

"What I saw in the Everglades astounded me—the land, the climate and the opportunity is there. In a few years the entire tract will be drained, tilled and producing the winter crops of the world."



THE CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER

MORNING AND SUNDAY

LARGEST MORNING AND SUNDAY CIRCULATION

L. E. HOLDEN, President.
ELBERT H. BAKER, General Manager.

In replying
please confine each letter to a single topic.

CLEVELAND, O.

April 25, 1912.

Mr. Wm. L. Larkin,
Chicago.

My dear Sir:

Seeing is believing. Hence, to see the Everglades in their present state, with the drainage system only partially completed, is to believe -- to be certain for that matter -- that the absolute and complete reclamation of the Everglades is not a possibility but an assured fact.

For a person to visit the Everglades under the general and popular misapprehension which exists throughout the north concerning that vast territory, always until now shrouded in mystery, is a positive revelation. For myself I can only say that I have been surprised; I have been astounded at the vastness of the territory with its still more vast possibilities for development. I had a sort of hazy idea that it was an impenetrable swamp. It is very far from that. It is a wonderfully rich fertile field of which Florida may well be proud and in the cultivation of which thousands of men are to attain independent wealth.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. B. Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M".

City Editor.

"Florida must have been the first part of the world made, early Monday morning when everyone was feeling good without a care or worry."



CANADA MONTHLY

LONDON AND TORONTO

VANDERHOOF-GUNN CO. LTD. PUBLISHERS



HERBERT VANDERHOOF --- PRESIDENT
ALFRED DALBOE --- VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MGR
WALTER E. GUNN --- SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
J. B. MONTGOMERY --- SECRETARY
J. NIMMO SCOTT --- TREASURER



OFFICES
LONDON TORONTO
WINNIPEG CHICAGO

Chicago, May 28th, 1912

Dear Mr. Larkin:-

What I have seen on my trip through the Florida Everglades has entirely reconstructed my ideas about the state. The Everglades, which I had always supposed to be irreclaimable swamps, I found transformed into fertile farmland and showing every evidence of production and prosperity.

Of course I knew that wonderful things had been prophesied about the results that would follow the completion of the drainage canals in the Everglades, but what I saw on the trip made me realize the possibilities of the country as I never had done before.

Very truly yours

To
Mr. William J. Larkin,
Care the Record Herald,
Chicago, Illinois

*From the Chicago Office
Marquette Building*

"When cropped, the Everglades reclaimed district blossoms like a rose and in a few years will produce the winter vegetable and sugar supply of the nation."



B. H. YARWOOD

SPECIAL NEWSPAPER WRITER

Sioux City, Ia., May 6, 1912.

Mr. William L. Larkin,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Sir:

Just a word in appreciation of the Everglades by one who had read much, had heard more, but never had seen until as a member of the party of newspaper men who, under your able direction, attended the official opening of the Gulf to Atlantic canal.

Henry Watterson, Louisville's noted editor, has called this southern Florida region, "The Garden of Eden without a Serpent." Other nationally known men have spoken of it as "The Land of Opportunity," "The second Valley of the Nile," "The Great Utopia," etc. I can think of no sufficiently expressive adjectives and therefore simply say: "That's my sentiments."

Nowhere have I seen a region that equals this southern Florida country in the opportunities it offers to the settler and investor. The future of this four million acres of Everglades land can scarcely be imagined. Words cannot begin to tell what this country will be when the network of canals is entirely completed, when the deep waterway from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean finally becomes the passageway for ships engaged in international commerce.

Nowhere have I found a man who has personally investigated the Everglades drainage project who does not agree that it is entirely feasible. Since my return north I have been preaching the gospel of the Everglades and I believe every man of the party I accompanied is today an Everglade Evangelist.

The courtesies extended to me by the people of the Everglades country will never be forgotten. I can but add my thanks to you as director of the most pleasant sight-seeing journey I have ever made.

Sincerely your friend,

B. H. Yarwood
Special Representative,
Sioux City Tribune.

*"It were easier to change the name of
Everglades than to correct false impressions
concerning them."*



THE FIRST BIG MAGAZINE SUCCESS OF THE MIDDLE WEST—OVER 65,000 CLASS CIRCULATION

CHICAGO MAGAZINE

EDITED BY BARRATT O'HARA

1036 NATIONAL LIFE BUILDING
29 S. LA SALLE STREET

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS May 5, 1912.

Mr. W. L. Larkin,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Larkin:

After an exhaustive study of the Everglades drainage project, made upon the ground while touring the Everglades with the party that attended the official opening of the drainage canals as the guests of Governor Gilchrist and the trustees of the I. I. Fund, I am astonished that any citizen of the state should through ignorance, malice or selfish motive be guilty of obstructing this great project or interfering with the plans for the reclamation and development of this wonderful land.

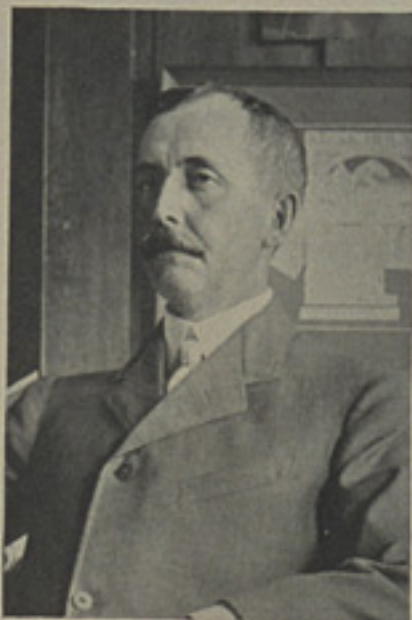
In my judgment any man who would criticize the unerring judgment and wisdom so amply demonstrated by the far-sighted men who have already wrought the redemption of a large section of the everglades is either woefully ignorant or else a traitor to his state and its people. Surely the men who conceived, promoted and carried to successful execution so remarkable an enterprise as this, the transformation of four million acres of waste land into an empire richer in the inexhaustibility of its resources than any gold mine ever discovered, must command honor and tribute not only at the hands of the people of Florida but from the entire world.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. A. Trick".

Associate Editor.

"Climate, soil and picturesqueness are some of the reasons why the drainage canal is making it a home land in truth. Merely to see it is to tempt me to stay and forget the dark side of life."



DAY ALLEN WILLEY
PORTER BUILDING.

CABLE ADDRESS "DAW BALTIMORE"

BALTIMORE, May 6, 1912.

Mr. W. L. Larkin,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

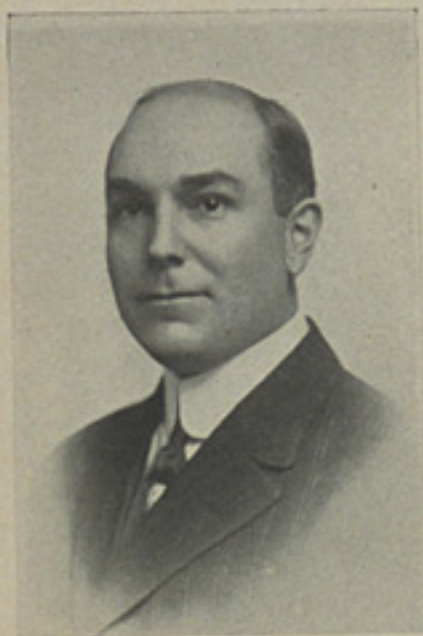
Homeseekers are more and more preferring the natural life of the country to the artificial life of the city. They prefer to live where the pure air, sunshine and flowers give rest and happiness and the few acres of garden enough income from its harvesting to pay the cost of living and set aside something for the "rainy day."

Where can they go and live this life? In the Everglades of Florida. This is a true home land, which Nature has created for the home. Climate, soil and picturesqueness are some of the reasons why the drainage canal is making it a home land in truth. Merely to see it is to tempt me to stay and forget the dark side of life.

Very truly yours,

D. Allen Willey

"If I can't live in Florida before I die, I want to go there after. It is near enough Heaven for me."



SUITE 210, SECURITY BUILDING
FIFTH AVENUE AND MADISON STREET

The Sunday Telegram

AMERICA'S FIRST SUNDAY AFTERNOON NEWSPAPER

CHICAGO

May 4, 1912.

Dear Mr. Larkin:

To believe without having seen the wonderful work that has been done by the drainage engineers in the Everglades is almost impossible, so there is some excuse for those doubters who have not seen what I and the other members of the party that last week traveled by boat from Fort Myers to Fort Lauderdale through the Everglades drainage canals have seen. The actual conditions as we found them were indeed a revelation to others in the party besides myself.

To the ordinary citizen in other parts of the country a true description of the fertility and possibilities of the soil of the Everglades, comprising four million acres, would read like the dreams of an over-enthusiastic native. But the most superlative adjectives are required to tell the bare truth and to give the actual facts. We have seen as we stood upon the land, not only the famous orange and grapefruit groves but the finest specimens of growing sweet and Irish potatoes, beets, parsnips, celery, artichokes, strawberries, sugar cane, peach trees, bananas, and, in fact, practically everything that grows anywhere.

It was not my intention to write what must sound like a land agent's advertisement, but one cannot begin to do justice to this embryonic paradise without seeming unduly enthusiastic and visionary. To the skeptical and unbelieving one can only say, "Go and see it." Our trip was an education as well as a great pleasure and I am sure we all returned to paved streets, smoke and dirt with regret and a homesick feeling for Florida and the Everglades country and with the hope that we may soon greet again the splendid people we met and by whom we were so cordially welcomed and so richly entertained.

Yours most cordially

Geo. W. Owen

Editor.

"Government and private land projects are as big as the ocean and numerous as the stars, but the Everglades combined drainage and irrigation project is one of the safest investments for the new home builder I have ever seen."



THE CHICAGO RECORD-HERALD

Chicago May 7, 1912.

To the People of Florida:

Through ignorance come many of the heartaches and crimes committed in the world. All the malicious articles published throughout the world on the Everglades drainage project, and all the injustice heaped upon the loyal supporters of this great undertaking, come through ignorance of the true situation. God will bless and posterity will do honor to Ex-Governor W. S. Jennings, who deserves all credit for starting the Everglades wheels of progress on the road to success.

Every loyal citizen of the state should revere the memory of the late Ex-Governor Napoleon B. Broward and pay tribute to Governor Albert W. Gilchrist and the board of trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund for the manner in which they have guarded the people's interests and discharged the duties entrusted to them. The glory of getting a fifty million dollar inheritance out of nothing, for the taxpayers of Florida and their descendants, is an achievement to be proud of.

To be able to make history and achieve victory for the benefit of mankind, and have the laugh on the enemies of progress, is immense.

Wm. L. Larkin
Manager, Farm Land Department.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE newspaper representatives who were guests of Governor Gilchrist and the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, at the official opening of the Gulf to Atlantic Waterways of Florida, were greeted with the most cordial welcome ever extended representatives of the press on any similar occasion. The program consisted of a series of banquets, automobile drives, and a three-day boat trip through the picturesque Gulf to Atlantic Waterways. Resolutions of thanks have been unanimously voted to the following by the visiting newspaper representatives:

To the Mayor, city officials, Board of Trade and citizens of Fort Myers for their generous entertainment, including automobile drives and a visit to the winter home and extensive tropical gardens of Mr. Thomas A. Edison; also for a band concert and for refreshments and entertainment provided on board the good ship, "Thomas A. Edison," on which the party embarked for the journey from Fort Myers to La Belle.

To the citizens of Alva for a cordial welcome extended to the Governor and his staff at a mass meeting on the banks of the Caloosahatchee river.

To the good people of Citrus Center, and particularly Mr. A. P. Haines, "the story-teller," as well as the ladies of that entertaining and hustling town, for a most cordial reception and enjoyable entertainment in the parlors of the new hotel, and for an automobile drive through the surrounding country.

To the Okeechobee Fruit Lands company and its representatives for placing at the disposal of the visitors the launch, "Queen of the 'Glades," in which passage was taken from La Belle to Okeechobee City, where the Governor and his guests were entertained at a banquet and made comfortable for the night at the new Okeechobee Hotel and conveyed on the same boat the following morning to the dam in the South Canal, thirty-five miles distant. The travelers took off their hats to the "Queen of the 'Glades," for that good ship landed the party at Okeechobee City one hour ahead of schedule, quite a contrast to being seven hours late at Jacksonville, over the "Hurry-up Limited."

To the Mayor, city officials, Board of Trade and citizens of Fort Lauderdale, for transportation in launches from the dam to the city of Fort Lauderdale, and for an entirely novel "Everglades Banquet," the menu comprising only edibles raised upon farms in the Everglades, the banquet being served to the visitors and two hundred leading citizens of the "Gateway to the Everglades City" in the spacious dining room of the Osceola Inn; also for a program of entertainment which included a boat trip to the Davie Experimental Farm in the Everglades, eight miles west of Fort Lauderdale, on the following day.

To the citizens of Zona, the first town built in the Everglades, Henry G. Ralston and Col. Dale Miller, for a warm welcome and the

opportunity to witness a most interesting and wonderful demonstration of the possibilities of Everglades soil, as shown on the Davie Experimental Farm at that place and upon the farms of settlers in the Panama and Canadian Colonies.

To the Mayor, city officials, Board of Trade, Miami Club and the citizens of Miami, for transportation by automobiles from Fort Lauderdale to Miami, twenty-four miles southward, over the fine boulevard which forms a part of the Quebec to Miami International Highway; for a long-to-be-remembered moonlight banquet served to the party on a houseboat moored in Biscayne Bay; for the hospitality of the proprietors of the San Carlos and Biscayne hotels and the Green Tree Inn and for the courtesy of a score of citizens in whose automobiles the visitors were shown the places of interest in and about "The Magic City."

To the Mayor, city officials and Board of Trade of St. Augustine, and to Mr. J. E. Ingraham, vice-president of the Florida East Coast Railroad, for a memorable sight-seeing trip in automobiles through the oldest city in the United States, including a visit to the old Spanish Fort and the Royal Ponce de Leon Hotel.

To Hon. R. J. Bolles of Jacksonville, for an automobile tour of the city and delightful ride to Atlantic Beach, eighteen miles distant, for a plunge in the surf; also for a sumptuous course dinner at Hotel Seminole, a fitting climax to the most enjoyable trip of their lives, so say the Everglades Old Settlers' Association.

To Mr. W. L. Larkin, director of publicity, by appointment of Governor Gilchrist, for a banquet tendered the party at Hotel La Salle, Chicago, on the evening of its departure for the Everglades.

To Honorable Barratt O'Harra, the next Lieutenant Governor of Illinois, who, in the absence of Hon. Albert W. Gilchrist, Governor of Florida, welcomed the departing guests in a very appropriate address and bade them Godspeed on their important assignment.

Upon the suggestion of Robert D. Strong of the *Chicago Record-Herald*, the newspaper men who accompanied the first expedition of white men across the Everglades, under the escort of Governor Gilchrist upon the occasion of the official opening of the Gulf to Atlantic Drainage Canal, will organize the Everglades Pioneer Association. It is proposed that the Association shall meet annually hereafter in reunion to exchange reminiscences of an event of the greatest importance in the history of their newspaper career as well as its significance in the history of Florida's future development.

"Consummatum Est"

January 22, 1912

(AN ACROSTIC)

By J. B. Killegrew

[Dedicated to Henry M. Flagler, Builder of the Florida East Coast Railway

Far down the sunlit golden sands
Lie gleaming rails—the twin steel bands
Of commerce—spanning verdant isles,
Running o'er the sea miles on miles;
In old Key West their mission ends.
Dreadnoughts to her each nation sends—
And wealth and fame all this portends.

Each year was wrought through storm and strife
Another link in the railway's life;
Safe and strong was each great arch made
That bore the rails from grade to grade.

Cities, hamlets like magic grew
Out of jungles the road went through,
And fertile farms now meet the eye,
Seen as the train goes roaring by
To old Key West, 'neath tropic sky.

Rearing an empire—man of might,
A toast I give. You've won the fight
In spite of odds—and they were great:
"Long may you live, high be your state;
Wealth, health, honor may you enjoy
All your life through, without alloy.
Yours to the end may God defend!"

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Premier Carrier of the South

FROM THE

North ——— East ——— West

with connections has best trains for

Florida and the Southland



Chicago Florida Limited

Through train between Chicago, Cincinnati, Chattanooga (Lookout Mountain), Atlanta and Jacksonville, Fla.

Kansas City Florida Special

Through train between Kansas City, Memphis, Birmingham, Atlanta and Jacksonville, Fla.

St. Louis and Louisville Limited

Pullman Sleeping Cars between St. Louis, Louisville and Danville, Ky.; Danville, Ky., and Chattanooga (Lookout Mountain), Atlanta and Jacksonville, Fla.

The Southern's Southeastern Limited

Through service between New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and Jacksonville, Fla.

Write Southern Railway Representative at any of the following cities for complete information as to fares and schedules:

719 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo.	619 Hippodrome Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio.
56 West Adams St., Chicago, Ill.	4th and Vine Sts., Cincinnati, Ohio.
Board of Trade Bldg., Kansas City, Mo.	264 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y.
124 South 4th Ave., Louisville, Ky.	823 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.
114 Endicott Arcade, St. Paul, Minn.	119 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.
705 Fifteenth St., N. W. Washington, D. C.	

