

Tropic Topics

By a Florida Cracker

Governor Broward and Drainage

No "write-up" of the development of the Everglades is really complete without a tribute to the late Governor Napoleon B. Broward and the results achieved by him while chief executive of the State.

When the Federal government in 1858 decided the Everglades to the State of Florida, drainage became a political issue and every campaign since then has given prominence to the topic. Pre-election speeches promised much for the glades. Candidates all had reclamation schemes to offer and the topic was quite a "chestnut" when Broward in his campaign promised to begin the work of reclamation. It is doubtful if his promises in this respect contributed anything toward his election for the people interested had all but given up hope.

True, Jennings who was then governor, had taken the matter before the Legislature, had secured appropriations for preliminary surveys and convinced the members of both houses of the legislature that the State was in honor bound to carry out its pledges made to the government in taking over the Everglades, but nothing tangible had been accomplished.

This was the situation when Broward entered upon his duties as Governor. His first message to the legislature gave evidence that his pre-election promises were not mere vaporings. He insisted that he had been elected on a platform promising reclamation of the Everglades and demanded that his promises be carried out.

The legislature responded to his plea, appropriations were made, dredges purchased and during the incumbency of Governor Broward the work was carried on with feverish haste. The Drainage Commission with a live executive to prod them on, were very active and the work progressed rapidly.



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(Tropic Talks Continued from Page 24)

it is the rule, and that the increase in live stock owned by these farmers is at least three hundred per cent in a little over three months. Staple crops such as Irish potatoes, corn and peanuts are doing finely with greatly increased acreage. At Moore Haven a two and a half acre field of potatoes on new soil will make at least three hundred bushels per acre. At this place there is a large field of sunflowers being grown for chicken feed. There is also an experimental garden containing most of the known varieties of vegetables. At the Davie Farm a field of fifteen acres of celery is looking fine while developments in special crops near Glade Crest promise interesting results. Altogether the report of this investigating committee will be decidedly encouraging to owners of Everglade lands. It is to be published in full by the Miami Chamber of Commerce for free distribution.

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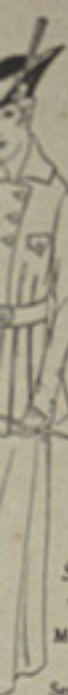
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