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LOOKING at a map of the State of Florida, toward the southeast lies Lake Okeechobee, and to the south and east of it the great and fertile Everglades. Neglected for ages, this rich and fertile kingdom has been passed by man in his search for wealth and home, and a kingdom it is.

Covering over three million acres, lies this level, fertile, rich muck land, from two to twenty feet in depth with a base of coral rock, and full twenty-one feet above the sea level. This land, without a question of doubt the richest in the United States today, is being reclaimed by the State of Florida.

In various parts of our country there are small areas of land which nature has endowed most richly in climate and productivity. These might be termed "the little paradises" of the world. A few years ago a strip of barren land along the Columbia River in Washington was sold for two dollars per acre. A man with brains had discovered that by taking water and saturating the dry soil with it he could raise some of the finest fruits in the world. He acted upon his thoroughly tested convictions. This land is now selling for four thousand dollars per acre. Every similar spot in the great West was taken up and developed in the same way, bringing the value of these acres into millions of dollars where they had been fruitless and barren before. There, a man or woman can take care of a few acres, have an independent living and a good income.

The result of this primitive development has been that every tract which is favored by sunshine and the proper altitude, and on which water may economically be carried, has been transformed from desert and formerly worthless land into valuable orchards, producing fruit valued from \$500 to \$1,500 annually per acre.

This is very expensive land, and as the Government charges for the water alone on its projects from \$40 to \$65 per acre, the cost of perfecting a western orchard is about \$600 per acre.

The soil and sunshine and lack of frosts in that part of Florida where the Everglades are located places this section in a class by itself. The soil is far richer than any soil on the Western slope; there is no possibility of frost affecting the tenderest fruits; there is no lack of water, and instead of the necessity of irrigating at a cost of from \$40 to \$65 per acre, this land may be drained at a cost to the State of Florida of about a dollar an acre.