

# AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

NO. 1417 G STREET, N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
1417 G STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 8, 1910

DEAR SIR:

The interval between January 5 and January 19, 1910, I spent on a trip to Florida.

My object was to inform myself as fully as possible regarding:

1. The productivity of the Everglades land.
2. The transportation facilities for the territory to be reclaimed.
3. The marketing facilities for the products to be raised on that territory
4. The probable rapidity with which the drainage work would be completed

I visited Fort Myers, ascended the Caloosahatchee, spent two nights at Camp Sewell on the south shore of Lake Okeechobee, carefully examined the horticultural work in progress there, descended the South canal, saw the dredge Caloosahatchee in operation at Fort Thompson, visited the Miami and Lauderdale canals, saw the three dredges there and the horticultural work in progress in those neighborhoods, visited St. Augustine, Jacksonville and Tallahassee and interviewed most of the men prominently connected with the reclamation project.

My conclusions are:

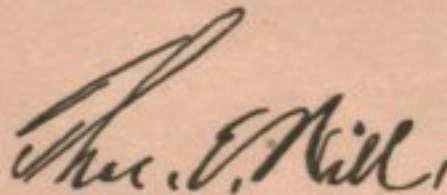
1. The productivity of the land, when properly drained, is unquestionable and vast.
2. Water transportation will be provided by the canals, good roads are already projected and may readily be constructed from the underlying coralline limestone thrown up by these dredges; and, as I am assured by high railroad authority, railroads will come as soon as needed.

The Citrus Growers Association, less than a year old, is modeled after and headed by the Secretary of a successful similar California association, and has already made good progress.

The influences which have retarded the drainage work-- skepticism, lack of money, corporate and political antagonism--have practically spent their force; money is plenty, the fights are over, foes of the enterprise have become it's friends, the practical administration of the work is, at this writing, on the point of being placed in first-class hands and the outlook for the efficient, aggressive pushing of the work is most encouraging.

With the natural advantages of the Everglades region in point of soil and climate, the growth of our population and the enormous advance in the cost of living, I regard that region as the future and early home of an abundant population of thriving people--the best "poor man's proposition" I have yet discovered.

Very truly yours,



Editor AMERICAN FORESTRY

NOTE--Dr. Will, who is the editor of Conservation, the official magazine of the American Forestry Assn., investigated all the land offered for sale in the Everglades, with the result that he purchased 100 acres south of the lake.

# Some Unsolicited Testimonials of the Everglades South of Lake Okeechobee

## Copy

On Board the Steamer "Southland,"  
Jan. 9th, 1911.

Florida Everglades Reclaimed Land  
Company.

Gentlemen:—

Our trip to the Everglades via the Caloosahatchee River, Lake Okeechobee and the great State canals in your fine new boat has been one of the most interesting and enjoyable experiences of our lives.

Considering the marvelous fertility of the soil, the climate, the monopoly of Winter markets, convenient access by rail and water to the great eastern markets, etc., we believe you have a wonderful proposition which we most heartily recommend, and which has not been exaggerated by your representatives or in your literature.

No pains were spared to make our trip most pleasant and instructive, and we assure you of our appreciation.

(Signed)

W. H. Roney, Engineer and Contractor, 557 Monadnock Bldg., Chicago.

L. S. Bitler, Onaga, Kansas.

Mrs. L. S. Bitler, Onaga, Kansas.

W. H. Roney, Jr., 557 Monadnock Bldg., Chicago, Ill.

H. B. Eby, 4470 Elston Ave., Chicago.

Geo. L. Spencer, 413 N. Central Park Ave., Chicago.

Godfrey Jaeger, 506 American Trust Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio.

Theodore Jessup, 1348 W. 64th St., Chicago.

Wm. Carstens, 226 W. 3rd St., Davenport, Iowa.

Fred L. Priest, Emporia, Kansas.

A. Michel, Wausa, Nebraska.

James McCarthy, 1827 West Main St., Fort Wayne, Ind.

Henry Symes, Cottonwood Falls, Kansas.

W. H. Anderson, Admire, Kansas.

G. F. Biggs, Pond Creek, Okla.

Chas. Foster, Emporia, Kansas.

E. J. Wilcox, Cottonwood Falls, Kansas.

L. Michel, Ft. Scott, Kansas.

Richard Schafer, Davenport, Iowa.

J. G. Wood, 468 N. Park Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Henry Fengel, Woodbine, Kansas.

Albert Schaefer, Davenport, Iowa, R. R. 1.

Dr. C. H. Brown, Emporia, Kansas.

W. E. Samuel, Emporia, Kansas.

## Copy

December 11, 1910.

J. J. Sorber, Gen'l Agent Florida Everglades Reclaimed Land Company, Pittsburg, Pa.

We have today visited the lands of the Florida Everglades Reclaimed Land Company and find that they are even better than we expected and every statement in your literature is fully substantiated. We feel that we can recommend this property to our friends and acquaintances as the best land investment we have ever seen.

(Signed) J. W. Matthewson.  
Ralph E. Carson.

## Copy

December 11, 1910.

J. J. Sorber, Gen'l Agent Florida Everglades Reclaimed Land Company, Pittsburg, Pa.

After investigating the land of the Florida Everglades Reclaimed Land Company, which took the form of a trip through the canal connecting the Caloosahatchee River with Lake Okeechobee and a trip down each of the three canals to the south from the lake, an examination of the soil along the canals as well as at the lake and views of the Everglades east, west and south of the present southern ends of the canals, covering an area about 30 miles by 15 miles, we feel justified in recommending the property as a safe investment and the best we know of. The description in the Company's literature is accurate except that it fails to make the reader realize the uniformity of surface and quality as our investigation made us realize it.

(Signed)

J. C. Lobdell, Fowler, Ind.

C. L. Nelson, Logansport, Ind.

Allan Bennett, Pittsburg, Pa.

U. D. Hoffman, Pittsburg, Pa.

O. W. Neely, Pittsburg, Pa.

S. Donaldson, Carnegie, Pa.

S. G. Hall, Pittsburg, Pa.

## Copy

On Board Launch "Southland,"  
Feb. 14th, 1911.

Florida Everglades Reclaimed Land Company.

Gentlemen:—

The undersigned are not land boomers. We believe in a square deal and are seeking investment in land that has the right look to it. Our trip to the Everglades via Caloosahatchee River, Lake Okeechobee and the great State canals in your new boat has certainly been one of great enjoyment and profit. The canals are progressing at a rapid rate and the strong current in them leaves no doubt that this smooth, level area South of Lake Okeechobee is high above sea level, and thus the drainage of the Glades, while an extensive enterprise, is a simple one. From representations of officials of the State of Florida, we are well assured that the project will be pushed with dispatch to a successful issue. The wide, level expanse of the Glades, the deep, black character of the soil bear their own testimony of well nigh inexhaustible fertility. Added to this, the ideal climate—this February weather being like a Northern June—and the accessibility of the large Eastern markets at a time when the produce raised here will command the highest prices, convince us that anyone having the opportunity to secure holdings here will be wise to avail themselves of the opportunity.

Your representatives spared no pains to make our trip pleasant and instructive, and, while you make strong statements in your literature,

they do not exaggerate the facts as we find them.

Accept our appreciation of the many courtesies of the trip.

(Signed)

H. S. Howard, Watkins, N. Y.

G. O. Howard, 312 Weston Ave., Aurora, Ill.

J. E. Parkinson, Emporia, Kansas, R. F. D. No. 7.

J. K. Renno, Mylo, N. D.

W. P. Matticks, Olathe, Kansas.

L. Michel, Ft. Scott, Kansas.

J. V. Dabbs, Ft. Scott, Kansas.

Miss Lulu Shaffer, Fulton, Kansas.

Mrs. Ed. T. Shaffer, Fulton, Kansas.

Mrs. Charles Warren, Sand Point, Idaho.

S. E. Johnson, 604 W. 33rd St., Kansas City, Mo.

Aug. Schnoor, Columbia, So. Dakota.

Herman Heesch, Davenport, Iowa.

Howard Carning, Girard, Kansas.

William Schoefel, Davenport, Iowa.

H. W. Walker, Dundee, Ill.

E. A. Burge, Ft. Scott, Kansas.

Wm. Heath, Ft. Scott, Kansas.

W. M. Burge, Mound City, Kansas.

Edwin Sherwell, Delavan, Wis.

C. E. Adams, Emporia, Kansas.

T. H. Smallwood, Ft. Scott, Kansas.

Adonna Norwood Chase, Emporia, Kansas.

Henry Wiese, Davenport, Iowa.

L. A. Champion, Ft. Scott, Kansas.

L. Franz, Strong City, Kansas.

A. G. Williams and Wife, Chicago, Ill.

T. G. Vincent, Girard, Kansas.

Arthur Emig, Marine City, Mich.

John Richards, Conway Springs, Kansas.

E. N. Turner, Gardner, Kansas.

Chas. Warren, Sand Point, Idaho.

R. T. Stout, Moran, Kansas.

Glenn V. Scott, Homeworth, Ohio.

R. J. Roehl, Davenport, Iowa.

A. Hendrix, 4619 Racine Ave., Chicago.

J. L. Piper, Emporia, Kansas.

Aurora Norwood, Emporia, Kansas.

E. P. Bates, Pittsburg, Pa.

C. E. Rice, Emporia, Kansas.

Mrs. E. B. Smith, Woodriver, Nebr.

G. C. Hall, Dundee, Ill.

## Copy

Emporia, Kansas.

C. E. Rice & Co.

We have today visited the lands of the Florida Reclaimed Everglades Land Company and find that they are even better than we expected and every statement in your literature is fully substantiated. We feel that we can recommend this property to our friends and acquaintances as the best land investment we have even seen.

J. S. Maning, Emporia, Kansas.

C. W. Protheroe, Emporia, Kansas.

Joe Dailey and Wife, Emporia, Kan.

Mrs. A. N. Chase, Emporia, Kansas.

J. R. Thorne, Olathe, Kansas.

C. E. Vegisad, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Geo. A. Gould, Independence, Mo.

J. F. Barteles, Cleveland, Ohio.

James Armour, Olathe, Kansas.

Lake Okeechobee, Florida, Nov. 20, 1910.

## FLORIDA EVERGLADES RECLAIMED LAND CO.

1215 First National Bank Building, CHICAGO, ILL.

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## SECRETARY WILSON

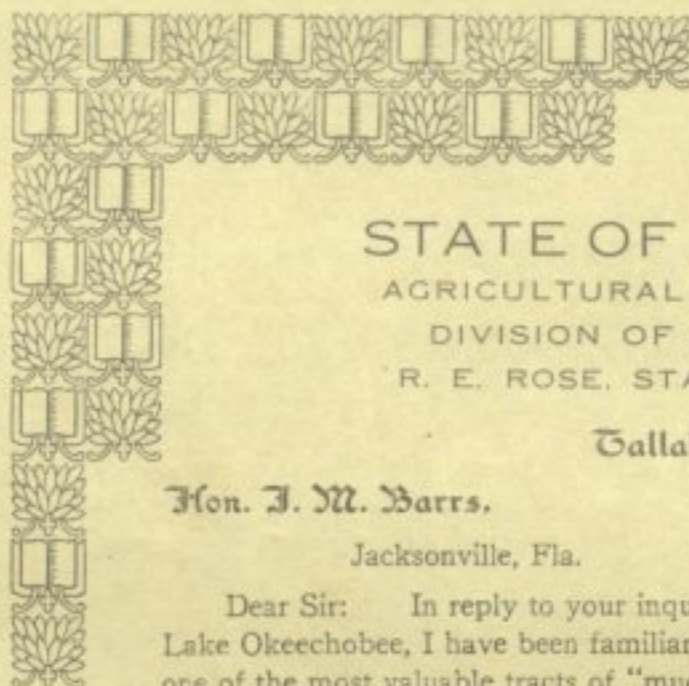
IN FLORIDA EAST COAST HOMESECKER  
FOR JUNE, SAYS:

"There is no large body of land lying within the boundary of the United States, in fact not in any portion of the world, that will, when the drainage is completed, be of so great value as the once despised Everglades of Florida. Between three and four million acres of rich alluvial lands, located in a climate that is almost absolute perfection, where crops can be grown the entire season through, where there are no long cold winters, no excessive heat in the summer, no malaria or other diseases. From the very nature of conditions Florida must become the paradise of the world. Here a thrifty careful tiller of the soil can make more clear money on ten or twenty acres than on a farm of 150 acres in the North and West.

The doubting Thomases, who are standing back and awaiting developments will in a few years see the folly of their acts and for the rest of their natural lives will regret that when they had the opportunity of purchasing these lands at a nominal figure, they had not done so. **There are no other portions of the United States where the climatic conditions are as near perfect;** there is no other section of the United States where the tiller of the soil secures so large returns per acre for land cultivated; there is no other portion of the State where the opportunities are so great to commence with a small capital and in a few years have a home and a competency."

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STATE OF FLORIDA  
AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT  
DIVISION OF CHEMISTRY  
R. E. ROSE, STATE CHEMIST

Tallahassee, Fla., Aug. 20, 1909.

Hon. J. M. Barrs,

Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Sir: In reply to your inquiry about the lands lying south of Lake Okeechobee, I have been familiar with this territory since 1882. It is one of the most valuable tracts of "muck" land in this or any other state. It is the highest land of the Everglades, being adjacent to, and slightly above, the level of Lake Okeechobee, which is 21.9 feet above tide at normal level.

These lands are therefore susceptible of perfect drainage, having ample fall. When so drained, they are exceedingly productive, making fine crops of corn, rice, fruits and vegetables, and particularly sugar cane-- a fertile soil with abundant rainfall, almost continuous sunshine and no frost. Frost to injure sugar cane has never been known in this locality.

On similar lands in Florida, I have grown for a number of years in succession fine crops of cane, with a maximum yield of 65 tons per acre, and a maximum sugar content of 17 per cent, with less than 1 per cent glucose, making an average of 35 tons of cane on 500 acres, with an average of 14 per cent sucrose. The average yield in available sugar was 8 per cent, or 160 pounds of granulated sugar per ton-- 5,600 pounds of granulated sugar per acre. This was by no means as much as should have been the yield, as the apparatus was crude and the labor unskilled.

The only thing necessary to make these lands the most productive in the United States is drainage. When properly drained, no soil will produce larger crops at less cost than will that of the Everglades, particularly those lands lying south of Lake Okeechobee, which, owing to their frequent exposure to atmospheric action by removal of water, have largely decomposed and lost their peaty character, and have become a rich black mold, requiring drainage only to make them enormously productive.

I have endeavored to be conservative, and have stated only facts of which I am personally aware.

Very truly,

R. E. ROSE,

State Chemist.