

This reclamation is in a land of perpetual summer, in the only part of the mainland of the United States which is truly tropical, and where the productive capacity of the land is many times greater than in Northern climes, where a much greater variety of crops can be produced than elsewhere in this country.

The soil is usually a black muck, in places several feet in thickness. Under this is usually a layer of marl; under the marl there is sand, and under the sand there is limestone rock. There is considerable mineral matter mixed with this muck, and although it will shrink some, I doubt if the shrinkage will ever prove a serious drawback. By the application of lime, etc., this soil can be kept at a maximum state of fertility, so that five acres would be ample for the support of an ordinary family.

IN SHORT, WITH THE FERTILE EASILY-WORKED SOIL, AN ABUNDANCE OF WATER FOR IRRIGATION, A TROPICAL, HEALTHFUL CLIMATE, CANALS FOR TRANSPORTATION, AND ALL WITHIN EASY ACCESS, BY BOTH WATER AND LAND, TO OUR NORTHERN MARKETS, THERE IS A COMBINATION OF FAVORABLE CONDITIONS WHICH PROBABLY CAN NOT BE EQUALLED ELSEWHERE IN THE WHOLE WORLD.—*Conservation.*

DR. JOHN GIFFORD SAYS

THE drainage of the Everglades is being done at the insignificant cost of about one dollar an acre; and when done, the land will be ready at once for the plow and for the production of tender crops, the like of which can not be produced elsewhere in the United States, and at a time when the rest of the country is frost-bound.

This is no small area. It is many miles in extent, and is capable of yielding, at small outlay, enormous crops of the most delicate tropical products, as well as northern vegetables in mid-winter. A visit to this region will convince the most sceptical person that this is no idle dream or wild land scheme, but a feasible, practical piece of good business.

After inspecting this work, one naturally wonders why it was not done long ago. It is not a complex engineering problem. It is merely a matter of digging, so that the water in this great Everglade basin can flow to the sea. Behind the giant maws of these dredges which, when they work day and night, are literally eating their way through rock, mud and sand at the rate of a mile a month per dredge, there are left broad, navigable canals, which are equal to those of Holland, and which will afford miles of placid water-courses, avenues of traffic for the product of the land, and a never-ending source of enjoyment to pleasure craft.—*Conservation.*

Facts About Palm Beach County

Compiled by the Curtis Investment Company, West Palm Beach, Florida

THE County of Palm Beach was created out of the northern half of Dade on July 1, 1909.

The city of West Palm Beach, situated in about the center of the eastern side of the county, is the county seat by an election which establishes it permanently.

West Palm Beach was incorporated by special charter in 1903, but was platted and laid out in 1893. It now has five miles of paved streets and sidewalks, a complete sewerage system throughout the entire city, a splendid water works system, electric light and ice plant.

The resident population of West Palm Beach is about 2,500, of which 500 are colored. The winter population is about 6,000.

The population of Palm Beach county is about 5,000, of which 1,500 are colored.

The assessed valuation of the county is \$4,000,000; in the city, \$500,000; based on one-third actual value. The State, county and city taxes altogether amount to 1 per cent on actual valuation.

The new county of Palm Beach is bonded for \$200,000 for rock roads.

The city of West Palm Beach has the best public school of any city of its size in the entire South, and better than any town twice its size in Florida.

In the summer of 1908 the business men of West Palm Beach started to build the \$20,000 rock road across the chain of lakes west of town to the splendid farming lands in what is known as the Okeechobee country.

These lands, together with the removal of the county seat to West Palm Beach, means that the population will easily increase three-fold in 5 years. Ten years will show a solid farming and fruit country from West Palm Beach to Lake Okeechobee, 25 miles west.

West Palm Beach is the natural coast town for Lake Okeechobee and adjacent lands and the western boundary of Palm Beach county is the western shore of Lake Okeechobee.

The entire lake is in the county. A company has already applied for a charter to build a rock road to Lake Okeechobee.

The gold medal for oranges at the St. Louis World's Fair was won by Palm Beach county fruit.

Palm Beach county has more Everglade drainage land than any other county in the State, and the taxes from the large cor-

porations on these lands are available for the development of the populated area.

Lake Okeechobee is the largest fresh water lake in the Southern States. It is 60 miles long and 40 miles wide, and its maximum depth is 20 feet. Its elevation is 22 feet above sea level.

The Royal Poinciana is the largest hotel in the world, and Palm Beach is the world's most famous winter resort.

The motor boat races held at Palm Beach every winter are an event of the boating world.

The Washington Birthday Ball at the Royal Poinciana Hotel is the most fashionable event of the winter season in the United States, and is the mecca for tourists even from across the Atlantic.

Lake Worth, upon which are situated both Palm Beach and West Palm Beach, is the most beautiful body of water in Florida. It is 21 miles long, about one-half mile wide and 15 feet deep. Near its inlet are famous fishing grounds, and amongst the many kinds of fish to be caught are bluefish, Spanish mackerel, trout, sheepshead, pompano and many other varieties.

The average death rate is less than one per cent per annum through the entire county.

Lumber is \$22 per thousand feet, and the average carpenter's wage is \$3.50 per day.

Temperature—Winter 60 degrees; spring 72 degrees; summer 80 degrees; fall 76 degrees; annual 74 degrees.

Rainfall—Winter, 9.3 inches; spring 10.7 inches, summer, 14.6 inches; fall 21.7 inches; average 38.7 inches.

Palm Beach county has an ideal year-around climate, and a soil that will produce everything that grows, and owing to this it is the garden spot of the Union.

RALPH D. PAINE SAYS

THERE is no malaria or fever in the Everglades proper, and mosquitoes are found only near the coast. When dry, these three million acres will be like prairie land, as flat as a table to the eye, and swept by cool winds from Gulf to Ocean. They will have the immense advantage over the irrigated regions of the West that the black vegetable mould needs no fertilizer and can be cultivated the year through, in a climate where frost is almost unknown. Twenty acres planted in a winter crop of tomatoes will yield profits of from two hundred to five hundred dollars in a working season of only four months.—*Everybody's Magazine.*