

America's Winter Garden

*An Outdoor Paradise for the Farmer, the Fruit
Grower, the Sugar Planter and the Rice Planter.*

SUNSHINE LAND OF HEALTH AND PLENTY

By WILLARD L. BRAGG

LAKE OKEECHOBEE is one of the largest fresh water lakes in the world.

Lake Okeechobee is entirely within Palm Beach county, Florida, in its northwest quarter.

Palm Beach county, Florida, contains lands not surpassed in the world, even by the Nile Delta.

The area of Lake Okeechobee is about 392,000 acres.

The total area of Palm Beach county is about 2,250,000 acres. Deducting from this the area of Lake Okeechobee will leave about 1,858,000 acres of land.

The far-famed Everglades make up the greater proportion of the area of Palm Beach county.

The Everglades are formed by the out-flowing waters of Lake Okeechobee over the lower lands to the south and east, causing a rank growth of vegetation that has gradually formed the deep alluvial muck that is now so highly valued.

Palm Beach county is the most eastern county of Florida, and Palm Beach is the most eastern point of Florida. The Gulf stream flowing northward from around Cape Florida comes close to the shore until it reaches Palm Beach when it tends more to the eastward, away from the land, in its northerly course.

The practical immunity from frost and the entire absence of weather cold enough to kill citrus trees, enjoyed by Palm Beach county is ascribed to the water protection of Lake Okeechobee on its northwest and the Gulf stream on its eastern shore.

West Palm Beach is the largest city in Palm Beach county and is located immediately across Lake Worth about one-half mile from that world-renowned resort, Palm Beach.

In the southeast corner of Palm Beach county is the Hillsboro Inlet, the outlet of the Hillsboro river and the drainage from what might be called the Hillsboro valley extending northward to West Palm Beach.

The eastern shore of Palm Beach county is washed by the waters of the Atlantic, where the beach is composed of a hard

white sand. Bordering this is a narrow strip of land extending north and south the entire length of the county, almost entirely covered with a heavy growth of hammock. Just inside of this lie the Indian river, Jupiter Narrows, Hobe Sound, Lake Worth, Boca Ratone Lake and Hillsboro Sound, all connected together by the Florida Coast Line Canal.

The western shore of these bodies of water is composed of a variety of soils, most of it sand, now covered with a heavy growth of spruce pine, but admirably adapted to the growth of pineapples. There is also much heavy muck land from which extraordinary returns have been derived in the growing of vegetables.

Just west of these lands which vary in width from one to two or three miles is a depression extending north and south the entire length of the county, 14 to 18 feet above the sea level, but just low enough so that the water accumulation cannot go eastward to the coast. This is the valley of the Hillsboro river and is practically the beginning of the Everglades, as here are found exactly the same kind of lands as those throughout the entire country to the west. The soil is heavy black sand mixed with muck and in many places underlaid with marl or clay. On it there is growing the long-leaf pine, the magnificent monarch of the forest, from two to three feet in diameter, with straight shaft-like trunk towering 60 to 80 feet in the air.

There are prairies where at present only rank grasses are growing, but whose soil varies all the way from clear muck, muck and sand or marl and sand, to pure yellow sand of that fine quality which is known to be the very best soil in the world for citrus trees.

Scattered here and there are solid bodies of muck in shallow ponds, which, when drained, have produced the biggest crops ever known to have been produced anywhere in any agricultural country.

As one travels due west these prairies and muck lands become larger and larger in extent and the pine lands gradually diminish until they have almost entirely dis-

appeared, and the country is dotted here and there with islands of pine and hardwood growth and the Everglades proper are reached.

All statistics and big crop stories that have been published about the fertility of the Palm Beach county lands are reports of results gained on the lands adjacent to the coast that are at present available for settlement and cultivation.

There are thousands of acres of land in Palm Beach county that are available for immediate settlement, lands the fertility of which are not surpassed anywhere. There are thousands of acres more that will be available when local systems of drainage are completed. This is outside of and in no way connected with the tremendous operations of the State that are being conducted to drain that vast territory of Everglades lying to the westward.

The richest section of the Southeast Coast of Florida is what might be called the Hillsboro valley, including the lands adjoining the coast from one to two to three miles west of the railroad and extending southward to the Hillsboro Inlet at Deerfield and at Pompano. These lands are now open to the public and are available for settlement, and it is on these lands that the present population is located. It is here that there are now open for immediate occupancy thousands of acres of the most valuable lands in the State, close to transportation and to city and town privileges.

The Florida Coast Line Canal extends north and south throughout the entire eastern border of Palm Beach county.

The Florida East Coast Railway extends north and south throughout the entire border of Palm Beach county.

The settlements of the East Coast are the only settlements today except that here and there a hunter has pitched his camp in the wilderness and that the noble race of Indians—the Florida Seminoles—make their home in the fastnesses of the Everglades in the central part of Palm Beach county.

Stuart is the most northern town in Palm Beach county, and is situated near the junc-

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tion of the St. Lucie and Indian rivers, nearly opposite Gilberts Bar Inlet. Gilberts Bar derived its name from a pirate who made this place a rendezvous during the days that piracy was rampant on the high seas.

The soil near Stuart is excellently adapted to the growing of pineapples, grapefruit, oranges and all citrus fruits. Some of the finest pineapple plantations on the coast are located here west of Stuart, and there are splendid vegetable lands. Stuart has many natural advantages not enjoyed by other places. Its location is one of the most beautiful on the East Coast, as the St. Lucie is a very picturesque river, whose broad, deep waters are teeming with fish. It is a progressive place, with good stores, schools and churches. Its future is assured, as the United States government army and navy engineers have recommended an appropriation for the deepening of the inlet at Gilberts Bar, making it a port of entry and a harbor of refuge where vessels drawing not over eighteen feet of water can enter with safety.

With the immense quantity of fine cypress timber growing west of Stuart between there and Lake Okeechobee, it is a fair commercial prophecy to say that Stuart will eventually be one of the large lumber shipping ports on the coast.

Aberdeen is the next town south of Stuart, then Gomez and next Hobe Sound, located on that inland sheet of water of the same name, which is a most attractive place for winter tourists and winter homes. There are here hundreds of acres of muck lands along the borders of the sound, where men are not only growing winter vegetables for the early markets, but some of the best orange groves in the State.

Hobe Sound is the headquarters of an English colony under Mr. John H. Grant, who has made a remarkable success in the conduct of the affairs of the community. The lands adjacent to this section are high and rolling and admirably adapted to the growing of pineapples and citrus fruits. The prairie and 'Glade lands to the west will eventually become profitable vegetable farms.

Jupiter, located at the mouth of the Jupiter river, near Jupiter Inlet, is a particularly attractive place. It has a lighthouse and a wireless telegraph station under the charge of the government; on the beach there is a life saving station. This is one of the oldest settlements on the lower East Coast, being first occupied by the government when the lighthouse was erected. The principal occupation is the growing of pineapples, fruits and vegetables.

West of this place are the orange groves of Geo. W. Lainhart, Dr. H. C. Hood, E. N. Dimmick and others. The oranges from the Lainhart and Dimmick groves took the World's Gold Premium at the World's Fair

in St. Louis, in competition with fruit grown not only in other parts of Florida, but in California and the Southwest.

There are no better citrus lands in Florida than are to be found west of Jupiter and southward throughout Palm Beach county.

West Palm Beach, located on Lake Worth, is the county seat of Palm Beach county. It is a city of some two thousand inhabitants. The city has five miles of paved streets, a perfect sewerage system, entrance to which by every house is required by law; magnificent water works, electric light, and an up-to-date ice plant.

The county high school at West Palm Beach will compare favorably with any building of its class in the country. It is built of artificial stone and cost in the

about which have been written so many stories of tremendous profits per acre. Here begins the so-called valley of the Hillsboro, which extends south to Deerfield, including a tract of land of some 90,000 acres of inestimable value, all tributary to West Palm Beach and the other towns on the Florida East Coast Railway.

Lantana is the next town nine miles south of West Palm Beach. Two miles further on is Hypoluxo. Both are located on the shores of Lake Worth. They have a good store and a school building located half way between the two towns. This is an important vegetable growing section.

Lake Osborn is one mile west of Lantana. It is a deep, broad lake some four miles in length, where there is splendid trout and bass fishing. A little to the south-



The Arm of a Mighty Dredge

neighborhood of \$60,000. The faculty are governed by rigid educational requirements and the graduates from this school are admitted to the higher educational institutions without preliminary examination.

Right here it may be well to state that the splendid high and primary school facilities at West Palm Beach are free to every resident of Palm Beach county.

The famous Okeechobee road that is meant to eventually reach Lake Okeechobee, begins at West Palm Beach and has been built across the marshes, opening up a magnificent farming section west of the city. It is the real beginning of the rich farming lands of the county, to which West Palm Beach will be the open door.

From West Palm Beach west and south throughout the entire county are the lands

west of Lake Osborn connected by a small canal is Lake Webster.

These lakes form part of the drainage system of the Hillsboro valley. The lands west of these lakes are of the same high quality as are found throughout the county and are now open to cultivation and settlement.

Boynton, the next place south, and the last town on Lake Worth, is thirteen miles from West Palm Beach. This is one of the best and most thrifty places on the coast. It is inhabited by a class of people who thoroughly understand the cultivation of pineapple, citrus fruits and vegetables. The town is well laid out, has good schools and churches and a number of prosperous stores and other mercantile establishments. From this point there is a rock road one and a

THE HOMESEAKER

quarter miles west through the pineapple section and plans are on foot to extend this road several miles to open up the farming lands that are already being sought by the settler. At Boynton there are lands now available for immediate settlement.

On the ocean beach at Boynton is located the Boynton Hotel, a noted winter resort, that is thronged with visitors throughout the season.

Delray, five miles south of Boynton and eighteen miles south of West Palm Beach, is a thrifty village on the Florida East Coast Railway, lying in the midst of a splendid pineapple section where there are now growing several very fine orange and grapefruit groves. Delray has schools, churches and a number of stores and a canning factory. It contains a large settlement of Germans of the best class who are thrifty and rapidly accumulating wealth from the land.

There is a road extending west of Delray several miles that opens up the farming lands in that vicinity and three miles west of Delray there are immense prairies of the very best of land. These lands, at least in part, are overflowed during the rainy season, but the water subsides before planting time and some of the best crops of vegetables raised on the coast are grown from these lands, all of which are now open to sale and settlement.

Yamato, the little Japanese colony, is five miles south of Delray. Here in a small village one-half mile west of the railroad station are located some twenty-five to thirty Japanese who are doing well in the growing of pineapples and vegetables. They are a thrifty people who are taking out naturalization papers and becoming citizens of this country.

Boca Raton is twenty-six miles south of West Palm Beach, and is the shipping station for a large area of vegetable lands.

YOU will leave drought behind, all ye who enter the Everglades.

very little of which has been taken up by settlers owing to the overflow of the Hillsboro river. But with the draining of this stream, plans for which are now going forward, this, with Deerfield, two miles south, will eventually become the most important of the vegetable shipping points on the East Coast.

Deerfield, twenty-eight miles south of West Palm Beach, is located on the Hillsboro river, and it is at this point that some of the large drainage canals of the State, extending from Lake Okechobee, will have their outlet. There are at present several stores in Deerfield, two hotels, a school, a church, and a number of large packing

houses. The lands west of Deerfield and Boca Raton are not surpassed by any in the entire Everglade region. They are not only adapted to the growing of vegetables, but many acres of them are among the very best citrus fruit lands in the State.

Pompano, six miles south of Deerfield, is the last town in Palm Beach county, and is one of its largest vegetable shipping points at the present time. There are some large pineapple plantations here, as well as vegetable farms. Pompano already has a road surveyed west through the farm lands. Within a distance of three miles there is a large rock-pit from which it is intended to secure rock to pave this road. Every variety of land known to the State of Florida is to be had within a radius of three miles of Pompano, and with the present vigorous growth of that place, there is no doubt that it will eventually become a large sized town.

The particular advantages enjoyed by the lands extending north and south along the eastern border of Palm Beach county are immediate accessibility and splendid transportation facilities. In quality the land is the same as the entire Everglade region and is now open for settlement.

This section of country is being rapidly improved. Roads are planned extending

DURING my business career I have predicted three of the greatest land booms in this country. I predict that the next movement will be towards the Everglades.

—P. J. Franklin, Beet Sugar Manufacturer, Colorado.

west from all the towns that will open the back country and when these roads are paved with the natural lime-rock they will be splendid highways over which the produce of the country can be hauled.

The cost of living in Palm Beach county is no greater than in any average section of the United States. The cost of clothing is less than it would be in any other section of the country. Malaria is unknown in this county. In fact it is unknown on the entire East Coast. This is not a malarious region, although it is marshy and wet. But its being marshy and wet does not mean that it is low and unhealthy, for on the contrary the lands are high, fourteen to eighteen feet and in some instances twenty-two feet above the sea level. The water from these wet lands is in constant motion, is perfectly pure and clear and can be drunk with impunity.

The cost of erecting a house in this county can be estimated on an average of about \$100 a room, for a house made of finished lumber within and without. The lands can be bought in tracts from five acres up and at extremely low prices.

The principal crops now grown on these lands are tomatoes, eggplants, peppers,

string beans, peas, squash, cucumbers, Irish potatoes, cabbage and lettuce; but nearly every other kind of vegetable is also grown in greater or less quantities. The Irish potato industry in this county is in its infancy, but it has been demonstrated this year, and by the few crops grown last year, that these lands are admirably adapted to this purpose and another year there will be a much larger acreage planted.

The very highest prices have been obtained from Irish potatoes grown on these lands from the fact that they are put into the Northern markets four or five weeks earlier than those from any other section of the United States. This year the returns have been seven and eight and in some instances nine dollars per barrel.

This is also an ideal country for poultry and the local demand is good at high prices.

With the drainage of the vast territory of the Everglades, in Palm Beach county, will commence growing sugar cane and rice, as these lands are admirably adapted to both crops.

As soon as the State completes its drainage plans Palm Beach county will become one of the most important agricultural counties in the United States, and it is prophesied that it will eventually produce

a higher return in cash than any other county in the United States.

It is not a too optimistic prophecy to say that within ten years' time there will be more people in Palm Beach county than there are now in the entire State of Florida. It is hard to keep within the bounds of belief in foretelling the future of Palm Beach county, as the possibilities here are probably greater than in any other part of the Union. The resources are unlimited and the opportunities are unsurpassed for all branches of agriculture and horticulture.

With the prosperity that is in view for this section, the prices at which the lands are being sold appear ridiculous, but there is no question but that with the turn affairs have now taken and with the impetus that has been given to immigration to this State, there will be a rapid change, and lands will soon be sold at higher prices commensurate with the value of the soil. Meantime, it behooves everyone who contemplates coming to Florida to buy land for land will not run away, and will keep until the owner is ready to come here and settle. To the man who comes immediately there is every opportunity in the world to become independent in a land of health.

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soil. Nothing of that sort in and clovers and sand land. The success is now assured.

Mr. J. M. H. 19-20 miles from the Florida coast. Contrasted by the Florida soil. Hassell first made his first Florida land. Experimenting after exhaustive that the clover those lands succeeded in growing.

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