

irrigation, and that region is now beginning to look green and prosperous. These two experiments prove to me that the Everglades undertaking will be a magnificent success. The people of our country are land-hungry; and if the land is made ready for them, they are quick to swarm over it. More land for the people—that is the keynote of national progress."

So, to put the story of the Everglades into a sentence, we may say that J. E. Ingraham was the first to explore the whole region; Governor Jennings originated the policy of drainage; Governor Broward made it a popular issue, and R. J. Bolles had the money and the enterprise to make the undertaking a practical success.

The Everglades will be drained. There is no doubt of it. The work is now in charge of Engineer J. O. Wright, who made his mark as a drainage expert in Illinois and

TEN acres in Florida will work while you sleep.

along the Mississippi. And the whole matter is under the supervision of the big five of the State government—the Governor, Attorney-General, Treasurer, Controller and Secretary of Agriculture.

To the average American citizen, not in Florida, this project means that in a few years the United States will have a three-million-acre hot-house, which will be able to supply fruits and vegetables in the heart of winter.

THE PRAIRIES OF FLORIDA

(By Frederic I. Haskin.)

NOT one man in a thousand will see the Everglades for the first time without an exclamation of surprise. The name suggests to the minds of most persons a hazy idea of a tangled tropical swamp, a jungle concealing alligators and poisonous reptiles, a breeding place for insect pests, an immense stagnant pool with a miasmatic and death-dealing breath.

Expecting such a picture, what a surprise it is to come suddenly into a great open space, for all the world like an Iowa prairie, and to be told: "This is the Everglades."

To the eye, from the vantage of the rear end of a Pullman, the region has the appearance of a Western plain.

The water itself is a mystery. It is wonderfully clear, it is pure as crystal, it is palatable, and there is no place where it stands long enough to become stagnant. Perhaps the greatest wonder of the wonderful Everglades, is the absence of mosquitoes.

The Everglades, grass-covered, fresh-watered, healthful, is a very different place from the great swamp of the imagination of so many people.

The Beauty and Charm of the Everglades

By DR. JOHN N. MACGONIGLE

(Century Magazine, February, 1905.)

THE hammocks of the Everglades are covered with luxuriant verdant forests. The live oaks and bays are present in large numbers, interspersed with wild cucumber, wild lemon and wild orange. The papaya, custard apple and the prickly-ash are of frequent occurrence, and here and there, governed by the size and elevation of the hammocks are the cabbage palmetto and the pine. Wild rubber trees are also found in some localities growing to enormous size. Throughout the region there is an enormous growth of vines. The morning glory and honeysuckle attain great size and are everywhere. The wild fig, which fastens itself about the massive trunk of live oak or bay, lives its cannibal life until the supporting tree trunk has been destroyed.

There is a remarkable profusion of wild flowers. Water-lilies and spider-lilies abound. Orchids are found in great numbers and are of great beauty. On many of the hammocks grow giant ferns, the fronds of which measure ten feet in length.

Animal life is also abundant. Deer are found on both the eastern and western edges, and now and then a bear is seen. Otters, too, are plentiful.

The southern edge of the 'Glades was until recently a great breeding place for the egret, the ibis and the heron. The limpkin, a large duck about the size of the brant, and the Everglade kite are characteristic of the region, while the large waders are found in moderate numbers.

Fish such as bass, gar and perch inhabit the streams. The Everglade terrapin, not unlike his aristocratic namesake of Maryland, and a flat soft-shelled turtle, both edible, are fairly plentiful.

The commonly accepted idea that the Everglades teem with insects is a mistaken one, due, doubtless, to the generally received impression that the area is a great swamp. Free as it is from stagnation in either water or air, it furnishes few breeding places for insect life. Mosquitoes are not found in the interior of the 'Glades.

Seen in the perspective, the Everglades resemble far-reaching prairies, with here and there distinct clumps of trees outlining "hammocks." This level prairie-like effect has a peculiar calm to the eye. The sunshine sparkles over it all; drifting clouds cast their few somber shadows on the vista; and the soft airs blow gently, never with

the threat of the fierce and biting winter chill of the far-away north.

For the climate of the Everglades is almost faultless. It is singularly equable, showing no extremes in heat or cold and not subject to sudden change. Even a "norther," coming out of the region of ice and snow, is soon softened to the milder temperature; and the heat of summer is made genial, though the mercury may be well up in the eighties, by the ozonized air which is everywhere in the 'Glades.

The year is divided into the dry and rainy seasons. The latter may be roughly spoken of as including June and September, although sudden light showers in limited areas are likely at any season.

A lifetime might be spent in the region and no malaria discovered. Pure air that moves in gentle breezes (direct from the Atlantic and the Gulf) is the perfect assurance of health, as evinced in the fine physique, splendid coloring and athletic figures of the natives, who now have a monopoly of as fine a climate as there is on earth.

The Everglade rivers are not matched for beauty anywhere else in the world. Their beauty is unmatched because it is entirely of its own kind. All the rivers of the 'Glades find their way into the sea. In some cases they run directly through the rocky channels which their age-long floods have worn. Sometimes they make their way through miles of meandering curves. Near the sea the shores are lined with mangrove trees, which reach out like giant spiders, throwing their roots into the water until swaying acres of forest line the river's edge. The mangrove gives way to its next of kin, the cocoa plum, a tree of similar habit and growth. Farther up the cypress fills the shore line and lilies come into view. The whole voyage is a scene of shifting greens—the dark olive of the mangrove, the lemon-like foliage of the cocoa plum, and the lighter green of the cypress, touched into life by vivid sunshine, making a scene of unique beauty.

No descriptions of the physical features of the Everglades can possibly convey any true idea of their beauty and charm. Both are indescribable and indefinable, yet the one is as clear as the sunshine which brings it into view, and the other as keen as the touch of awakened love.

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