

REPORT OF J. F. JAUDON

TRIP TO HOPKINS TRACT

September 14th to 25th Inclusive, 1917.

Accompanied by F. K. Ashworth, our Civil Engineer, and one assistant, Harley Stout, I left Miami and by appointment was met at Long Key, by D. R. House, who lives at Chokoloskee.

We proceeded by launch to the property and during the trip entered same from Lossmans River #5, made a thorough inspection of Lossmans and Coot Bay and up Lossmans River to the pine land. We also extended our trip through almost all the inland bays of our property.

At the Watson place I found that W. F. Brown, the lessee of the Watson place, has a very satisfactory crop of egg plants and tomatoes growing and I made arrangements for Harley Stout to stay with him and expect to occupy him regularly in growing plants and cuttings for use on our property, and also planting seed beds for our use later.

The trip was made for the purpose of being on the property at the maximum high water or rainy season period and no better time could be chosen as it had rained constantly for days prior to my reaching the property and almost incessantly on us while we were there. I am still of the opinion that we should make arrangements for entering this property from Lossmans River #5 and planting experimental crops at that point, but I believe the item as shown by the budget heretofore submitted of the sum of expenditure at that point could be better transferred to the opening waterway from the mouth of Sweetwater Creek east to the proposed site of Chevelier. In fact, I believe that the major part of our initial expenditure could be better made at this point than by distributing it at three points as suggested by the budget submitted. However, this will not cut down the proposed immediate expenditure, but by making the greater part of the expenditure all at one point, a better showing can no doubt be made than by distributing equally at three points. However, the Southwater and Chevelier site improvements are identical, as they are located at almost the same point. My reason for believing that Lossmans River #5 should be opened up and some crops planted there is that the character of the prairie land is entirely different from that around Sweetwater and Chevelier.

I believe that a waterway could be opened from the mouth of Sweetwater east to the site of Chevelier at very little expense and that the budget submitted will be sufficient to start this work so that we can show the property to advantage this coming winter and also establish the camps and plant the vegetable crops as suggested in the budget.

I made arrangements with W. F. Brown to plant additional vegetable crops, including tomatoes, egg plants, pepper, onions, and Irish potatoes, not on any extensive scale, but suf-



efficient to demonstrate what can be done. We can extend these crops at the points named in the budget, but confining our expenditure as I have said to the opening waterway and road from the head of Sweetwater east to proposed site of Chevelier.

There is very little I can add to my former report except that I made occasion to investigate more closely the size and quality of the large cypress trees in the points marked "Strands" on the map and I find there is unquestionably some very fine milling timber and that where these large cypress grows, there is also water oak, popash, maple, and other trees which would classify this land more as hammock than as what we know as swamp land and when this land is cleared of its timber, in my opinion it will have very great agricultural possibilities and value.

There is no question but that to be able to enter this land satisfactorily, that an opening waterway must be created and it will be more economical and practical to do so on a straight line east from the mouth of Sweetwater River than to attempt to open, widen, or deepen Sweetwater or Southwater Creeks.

Naturally no great amount of work can be done with the funds available from the assessments suggested by me, but it will be sufficient to demonstrate the agricultural value and possibilities of the tract and also provide a satisfactory method of entering the same.