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WASHINGTON, D. C.

321 N. W. 12th Avenue,
Miami, Florida,
January 8th, 1924

Captain J. F. Jaudon,
President, Royal Palm Sugar Cane
and Planting Company,
Congress Building,
Miami, Florida.

My dear Captain Jaudon:-

I wish to thank you for a very pleasant and most interesting visit to the Everglad~~e~~lands, or lands which I had always thought of as "the Everglades". I never expected to go upon those lands on horseback, in wagon, or in buggy, and certainly did not expect to make a 100 mile trip through them by automobile, such as I recently made with you.

My trip out to the Chevelier Corporation tract, on the Tamiami Trail, was a revelation. My recollection of those lands was that the water stood waist deep, and deeper on them, and although I understand that the terminus of the present rock road on the Tamiami Trail, is at one of the lowest spots on the entire survey of that road, only a few inches of water covered them. I can assure you that years ago I have poled and paddled boats over such lands and have waded over them with water sometimes to my arm pits.

This proves conclusively that the conquest of the Everglades is being steadily accomplished and that the surplus water which falls over that wide area, and the overflow from Lake Okeechobee are being gradually and definitely disposed of. When the Chevelier Corporation finishes building the Tamiami Highway through its lands, it will have a dike, or breastwork adequate to turn aside the waters which spill out of the Okeechobee basin, and by repelling this foreign invasion of upstate waters the drainage problem on that tract will very nearly be solved. Smaller drainage ditches will then provide sufficient outlet for the local rainfall.

On the trip southwest from Homestead, over the Ingraham Highway, I saw marvellous improvement over old time conditions. To the far south in that section I hunted years ago, and had to wade many times in deep water, and continuously in some water. Now, as far as the eye can see on either side of the Ingraham Highway, there lies a wide expanse of fine grass lands, pleasing to the eye of the new comer and fascinating to me, because they represent a wonderful transformation. Leagues and leagues of this fine land, a delight to any lover of the soil, were seen on that trip.

But the most striking impression was made upon me when the soil was sampled. In former days I had never thought of any of this Everglade territory as soil, but as water. To walk upon these lands, springy but dry under foot, and see the gray marl is sufficient to

to cause one to stop and marvel at the wealth made available to man by the drainage work done within the past few years. But, when Professor Robert Ranson took various and sundry samples of this soil, sampling down to the rock, anywheres from two and a half to five feet below the surface, a better realization of the value of this great territorial storehouse was reached. Pure virgin alluvium, enriched through centuries of formation on a bed of phosphatic bearing limestone, ready to produce abundant crops.

It was amazing to see tomato plants, said to be only two weeks from the seed, large enough to have bloom on them. When we saw men plowing, with a single mule, deep furrows about six feet apart, apparently to serve as small ditches in case of rain I was surely astonished to learn that no other preparation of the land was required. That when these furrows were finished the grass between them was burned and the seed sown without further ado. Really, the work of man and mule for putting in the crop in this fashion should not be more than \$10. per acre, and yet on single acres from \$150 to \$1,000 have been made--a dependable average being \$200. net per acre--and that for a crop which steps lively and quickly gives way for other plantings. It is a land of ease and plenty.

The two preceding paragraphs apply as well to the Chevelier tract, both as to soil and productiveness. The samples of soil taken there were the same as those secured along the Ingraham Highway.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX As I examined those samples of soil I was reminded of some enormous sugar cane found growing years ago on some savanna land, near Victoria de las Tunas, Cuba, where there is now a large sugar plantation and one of Cuba's most successful mills. On the occasion I refer to I was making a tour of Central and Eastern Cuba with Professor Hurd, of the University of Ann Arbor. We had stopped late one afternoon at a small country home, and that evening our host brought in some tremendous cane, which he crushed with a rudely fashioned hand press and boiled the juice, converting some of it into delicious syrup, and precipitated the remainder with some small pieces of guasima (slippery elm) bark, instead of lime. The stalks of cane were so thick and long that it amazed me, for I was fairly well acquainted with Cuban soil and had not expected to find such noble specimens of cane on that kind of land. The next morning we went out with a soil auger and secured some samples of the subsoil. It was marl. Our host assured us that wherever we found marl we could make just as good cane as he grew. Later, also in Cuba, I had this proven on another tract of land, where the cane was said to have produced continuously for twenty years without having been replanted.

My conclusions are that if homeseekers or investors will acquire any of the lands I visited and will plant a portion to truck crops and the balance to sugar cane, they will attain the nearest approach to perfect farming insurance that is possible--provided arrangements are made to supply them with milling facilities.

Sugar cane is a staple, certain crop. The production on these lands should be equal to the best in Cuba, and with a somewhat cool-

er climate, a higher extraction of sugar should be attained. Cane is an easy, safe and profitable crop. It does not require the close attention the more delicate crops demand, and on the rich marl lands of southern Florida should produce for ten or twelve years profitably, without replanting.

In Cuba, with raw sugar selling at six cents per pound, a grower who plants on his own land, should get from \$90. to \$180. per acre, according to the yield of the land. This means that he should receive that much from his sixty percent of the product, the rule being that the mill get from 40 to 45 percent of the sugar for its work in such cases. The percentage of the mill is greater when the crop is grown on its land.

The splendid samples of sugar cane you secured from the Indians on the Chevelier tract is an indisputable testimonial .

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "L. J. Canova". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed closing.

LJC/1