

# Royal Palm Sugar Cane & Planting Co., OF MIAMI

Planters of

**Sugar Cane in the Cape Sable District  
Dade County near Miami, Florida  
for Resident and Non-  
Resident Owners**

**Growers of Winter Vegetables for Local and  
Carload Shipment**

**Congress Bldg. Miami, Florida**

J. F. JAUDON, PRESIDENT

S. E. LIVINGSTON, VICE-PRES.

PAUL C. TAYLOR, SECY. & TREAS.

ROBERT RANSON, A.A.E.  
CONSULTING AGRICULTURAL  
ENGINEER AND SOIL EXPERT

LEON J. CANOVA  
INFORMATION, ADVICE & RESEARCH

FORMER CHIEF OF BUREAU OF  
INFORMATION, DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE AND  
LABOR, REPUBLIC OF CUBA

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MIAMI, FLORIDA

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January 8, 1924

Capt. J.F. Jaudon., President.,  
Royal Palm Sugar Cane & Planting Co.,  
Congress Bldg.,  
Miami, Florida.

My dear Captain Jaudon:

I wish to thank you for a very pleasant and most interesting visit to the Everglade land, 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.

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 feet, and see the gray marl is sufficient 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, anywhere 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



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of formation on a bed of phosphate bearing limestone, ready to  
produce crops.

It was amazing to see tomato plants, said to be only two weeks in the field, large enough to have blooms 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 \$800 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.

As I examined these samples of soil I was reminded of some enormous sugar cane found growing years ago on some savanna land, near Victoria de las Lunas, 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 Harbor. 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 (slipper 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 sugar and secured some samples of the sub-soil. 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

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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 equal ~~is~~ the best in Cuba, and with a somewhat colder 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 from the marl lands is an indisputable testimonial.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed)

L.J. CANOVA

LJC:H