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FLORIDA

The Coming

"SUGAR BOWL"

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Report on  
SUGAR CENTRALS and PLANTATIONS for  
SOUTH FLORIDA

by G. W. CHANCE.  
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CLIMATE and SOIL

SOUTH FLORIDA is adapted to sugar cane cultivation in many localities. The particular value of the sugar land soil is that its nitrogenous content is all that is required and it is naturally well limed, being underlaid by a coralline rock or a marl high in carbonate of lime, or an oolitic limestone.

Mr. J. F. Crawley, of the CUBA Experiment Station, attributes the good qualities of the sugar land soil there largely due to the lime therein, making an alkaline soil, which is the best for the purpose of cane growing.

The climate in South Florida is about the same as that of Cuba, in the cane growing country, and the annual rainfall and its distribution, is practically the same as in Cuba.

CUBAN SUGAR COSTS

As a whole, Cuba produces sugar at a lower cost than any sugar exporting country. In considering Florida as a sugar producing country, it is well to compare then conditions now existing there, and others that may arise in the development of the sugar industry, on a large scale there, with similar conditions in Cuba.

SHIPPING FACILITIES

Where the best sugar lands are located in South Florida, the sea coast is generally not far distant and the interior lands have rail transportation. In many sections of South Florida, particularly the Everglade Section, the limestone rock is in places close enough to the surface to be used as a road base, and where canals are dug, the limestone rock which is sometimes excavated is often used for road building purposes.

COST OF LABOR

In normal times and even at present, the cost of plantation and mill labor in South Florida is comparable to Cuban costs. According to careful statistics collected by the U. S. Department of Commerce the costs of plantation labor on sugar plantations in the countries given, in the year 1913-'14 was as follows:-

	Laborers	Cane Cutters
Hawaii.....	\$0.97	\$1.04
Porto Rico...	.63	.70
Louisiana....	.78	1.23
Cuba .....	1.26	1.60

The above figures are much changed by war conditions, but the ratio between localities is not very much different and will hold practically the same in normal times. High class mill labor is paid more money in Cuba than in the United States, as a general rule.

#### COST of MATERIALS

In general, the cost of construction material for mill and plantation work is greater in Cuba than in this country.

#### PRODUCTION COSTS

In the year 1913-'14 U. S. Government Statistics show the cost of production of 96° cane sugar as follows:- per pound-

Hawaii.....	2.70 cts.
Porto Rico....	2.83 "
Louisiana.....	3.975 "
Cuba.....	1.72 "

It should be noted that the Louisiana costs include considerable refined sugar.

#### POUNDS of SUGAR per ACRE

From the same statistical source and in the year last noted we have acre production as follows:-

Hawaii.....	10,992
Porto Rico.....	4,539
Louisiana.....	3,620
Cuba.....	4,912

#### SUCROSE CONTENT

The sucrose content in South Florida cane varies between 12 and 18 percent. It averages, where land is well chosen, as high as in Cuba.

On account of cold weather in Louisiana, the cane has to be cut early and much of the sucrose is undeveloped, also for the same reason cane has to be planted more frequently than where the cane ratoons, as in South Florida.

#### ADVANTAGES of SOUTH FLORIDA over CUBA for CENTRALS

- 1st- Lower Cost of Mills
- 2nd- New Plants will be more Modern
- 3rd- More Efficient Labor
- 4th- One Cent U. S. Duty

It is safe to say, that with the intelligence in land culture and mill methods used in South Florida as are common in Hawaii, 6000 pounds of sugar per acre can be produced as an average.

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COSTS of PRODUCTION and PROFIT

With present conditons prevailing, sugar should be produced in South Florida at a cost of 3 cents per pound for 96° sugar, which is about 1/2 a cent less than Cuban costs as estimated. It is believed that the Cuban Profit is about a cent a pound, this with the 1 cent U. S. Duty on 96° Cuban sugar, would mean a present profit in South Florida sugar of 2 1/2 cents per pound for 96° sugar.

With conditions more normal, this profit would get down to about two cents a pound.

But please note that when Cuba is making but a very small profit, South Florida Centrals should make over 1 1/2 cents a pound on raw sugar and probably a half a cent more on white sugar.

LARGE CENTRALS

Large Centrals and Plantations are the only possible solution of the South Florida Sugar Problem. The day of small mills is past, as to sugar production; they may be used successfully to make syrup, but not sugar in competition with that of large sugar producing districts.

A mill to grind 1200 tons of sugar cane a day should be the smallest considered.

LABOR SYSTEM

The Colonos System of Cuba of independent farmers selling their product to the Central under contract, can be improved on where the Central owns, as it should, the bulk of the cane land. In Hawaii, the cane is raised by Central employees, in the main.

It is thought a combination of the good points in each system can be adopted to advantage.

The use of farm tractors, highly efficient transportation systems and the supervision of soil culture, by trained Central supervisors and experts is desirable. It is believed a system can be worked out to meet local conditions, that will be a great improvement on the Colonos System.

The Central should provide good living quarters for all its employees in a new section, unless such employees wish to build their own homes. This may be done at an advantage that is mutual. The spirit of cooperation and mutual benefit should prevail in relations between the Central management and its employees.

Eventually, it is desirable for all Central employees to become landowners.

ROOM for ALL in SUGAR Making

Over production of cane sugar is hardly a possibility in the next generation.

The "Sweet Tooth" of the peoples of the world is growing or developing much faster than production.

The beet sugar industry will continue to grow, but not as rapidly as the cane sugar industry; cane sugar is forging ahead and now has a good lead on beet sugar, which it is not at all likely to lose. A close study of economic conditions will satisfy the investigator as to this statement being correct.

A healthy rivalry is a stimulant and not to be feared.

When the cane sugar industry is as carefully and scientifically supervised, as a whole, as the beet sugar, the lead that now exists will greatly increase.

Cuba is rapidly growing rich on sugar production. Last year's production was valued at about \$400,000,000.

The United States annual sugar consumption is about 4,000,000 tons, of which we produce less than half and the per capita consumption is increasing at the rate of about 25 percent in a decade.

WHY are there no LARGE CENTRALS  
Now in SOUTH FLORIDA?

South Florida is about the oldest and youngest of our discovered Western Hemisphere Lands.

It is very old in history, but very young in modern development. Cuba was for a long time the same way and Mexico is another illustration. All a matter of settlement as to permanency and to the fact that wheat must be had before sugar, bread before candy.

South Florida had little or no transportation facilities below Ft. Myers until within the last 20 years.

Miami, the Magic City is like a western town as to growth. It is like no other as to a beauty all its own. Palm Beach, Moore Haven, Ft. Myers and Miami are the recent result of transportation through rail connection.

The West Coast south of Ft. Myers is still without any rail transportation, although the town of Moore Haven on Lake Okeechobee has such, but in a year or more it is expected to see the Coast Line extending through Naples and the Chevelier Bay District to Miami, and then all the latent wealth of the Southwest Florida Country will be developed rapidly and the TEN THOUSAND ISLANDS of the SOUTHLAND will become famous, perhaps more famous than the THOUSAND ISLANDS of the NORTHLAND.

The Best Sugar Lands in the United States I believe lie in South Florida and when transportation of the right sort, water or rail, is utilized or made available to such lands, they will have a very rapid development.

South of Ft. Myers to Cape Sable, excluding a small strip of coastal land, the country is virtually a Terra Incognita to any but pioneers, sportsmen and land owners, except in parts of Lee County.

#### The TAMAMI TRAIL

141 miles long, from Miami on the East Coast, west across the Everglades to near Chevelier Bay, then northwest to Ft. Myers, will change much of the great district it traverses from a place of habitation of tropical birds, the great hunting ground of the Florida Peninsula, to a district of diverse activities.

The Trail will have, when finished, about 60 miles of Canal and Roadway together and 81 miles of Highway only. The Canal drains the bordering land and will be a great COAST TO COAST WATERWAY.

About 83 miles of the Trail are nearly finished, including 24 miles of drainage Canal and Roadway together.

Right across the Glades it goes, a fine straight drainage and transportation waterway, with a splendid automobile road along its bank, right out into the Land of Enchantment, with its wonderful sky and life giving air, its Isles of Mystery lifting their Tropical foliage to the horizon. The habitat of the heron, the crane and many beautiful and rare Tropical birds and animal life. With its pure and sweet water bubbling out through fissures in the limestone rock of the bottom of the great basin, covered with some of the richest soil in the world, it will indeed make a picture to the traveller from the ice bound Northland as he speeds across from the East to the West Coast and on through the Cypress and Pine to the Coastal Prairie towns to the north.

An ideal climate, with a tonic and indefinable breath of joy in the air describes the airplane or auto journey or sojourn in this district.

When the Tamiami Trail is completed, it will make the trip by auto from Miami to the West Coast at Chevelier, something over an hour and to Ft. Myers from Miami, four to five hours.

Sugar interests will undoubtedly develop much of the great country south of Ft. Myers and soon will come the rush of settlers; and the whirr of the auto and puff of the engine are but a little time away.

Let South Florida come into her own and make Sugar for the World.

"Sweetest and Sourest",

Sugar and Limes and Grapefruit more

FLORIDA FOR BOTH

MAR 20 1919

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TAMIAMI TRAIL and CAMAL  
20 miles west of MIAMI



SUGAR CANE LANDS  
South Florida

EXCHANGE

• FLORIDA •



SUGAR CANE with BLOOM  
South Florida



SUGAR LAND HARBOR  
South Florida

• SUGAR LANDS •