

CLIPPING: THE MIAMI DAILY METROPOLIS, SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 1921

WALKS OVER PROPOSED TAMAMIAMI TRAIL ROUTE FROM GULF TO OCEAN

J. F. JAUDON AND GEORGE STORTER MADE NOTABLE JAUNT TO INVESTIGATE ROAD BUILDING CONDITION.

J. F. Jaudon, who initiated the Tamiami Trail movement, and has been closely identified with it since its inception, together with George W. Storter, a pioneer Indian trader, settler and merchant of Everglades, Florida, and a Seminole Indian who carried their supplies, arrived in Miami Wednesday morning, after making one of the most remarkable trips ever undertaken in Florida---walking from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic ocean over the approximate proposed route of the Tamiami Trail.

They started from Deep Lake Railroad and property recently purchased by Barron G. Collier of New York city, on Saturday afternoon, July 30, and proceeded to a point on Turner river where they camped that night. Early Sunday morning they proceeded in a general easterly direction, following a route which would be most practical to make a temporary road which could be used by January or February 1922--in fact, selecting a route from which the timber could be cleared and the muddy places bridged and a temporary road constructed connecting Lee county's portion of the Tamiami Trail with that already constructed by Dade county, was the purpose of the trip. They traveled all day Sunday in a general easterly direction, following flat woodland covered with small scrub cypress, and in instances beautiful stretches of open pine land and x prairie. They camped on Sunday night at or about the southeast corner of Lee County. On this Sunday stroll of about 25 miles they saw three deer, and a large quantity of small game grazing on the open prairies.

Captain Tony's Camp

On Monday morning, August 1, they struck an Indian trail and deviated from the route of the proposed temporary road to follow the trail to the Indian camp of Capt. Tony--a Seminole Indian--and Billie Buck, where they found magnificent crops of sugar cane, bananas, oranges, grapefruit, guavas, lemons, limes, Indian corn, pepers, sweet potatoes and other fruit, field and farm crops. At these camps were a number of Seminole Indian women grinding the fresh picked corn into corn meal from which they make the wonderful indian food "Sofkee". They found both of these Indian camps well supplied with game and food--in fact, these Seminole ~~Indian~~ Indian villages could live for almost an indefinite period without any communication with the outside world.

After receiving directions from these Indians as to the location of the ~~Tamiami Trail~~ new line of the Tamiami Trail made westerly from the point where the Dade County dredge is working to the Monroe county line, which was described to them by the Indians as being about three miles due south of their camp--they proceeded to walk southward, but inadvertantly passed the line of the survey and proceeded all Monday afternoon south and made camp in a hammock island about

five miles south of the survey line.

#### MADE TEDIOUS PROGRESS

On Tuesday morning the party was entirely worn out. Mr. Jaudon had lost an extra pair of shoes from his pack which he had tied on with a shoe string, and had only a pair of rubber bottom shoes or sneaks. The Seminole Indian traveled barefoot the entire distance, and George Storter with a pair of new army shoes which he found on the walk to be mostly paper, hence the party was almost barefoot--five or six miles south of the line that they had intended to strike--feet cut and bruised from rocks--they were a most forlorn trio. In this condition on Tuesday they made slow progress and worked their way over the rocky prairie through dense hammocks and jungles and saw grass sloughs covered about ankle deep in water, to station 1476 on the Tamiami Trail, which is a distance of about 35½ miles due west of Miami, from which point they walked on the new line of the Tamiami Trail survey to the Dade county dredge, where they found only a watchman in charge, work having been shut down by the J. B. McCrary Company pending a plan of procedure to complete the work by the county commissioners of Dade county.

At this point they secured the services of Samsie Willie, a Seminole Indian, who took them down to the camp of Argyle Henry, a Tamiami Trail planter, where they spent the night.

They completed the trip by auto early Wednesday morning and immediately drove to Biscayne bay and the Atlantic Ocean, thus completing, no doubt for the first time in history a direct trip from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic ocean, in a period of three days' walking.

#### TEMPORARY SHORT-CUT

It is the opinion of both Mr. Storter and Mr. Jaudon that if the drag line shovel now being operated by Lee county, which is in charge of the four Taylor Brothers--most competent and capable young engineers, who claim they can work the machine both night and day--is steadily used, it will be no trouble for them to reach Turner river by January 1, but it has been suggested that a caterpillar machine be put on at or about Deep Lake Grove which can not only handle the muck for the roadbed but, if the line of the roadway is blasted it will also provide the hard surfacing necessary to complete the road in place of having to hard surface same with shell, which will be necessary on the greater part of the road from Naples to Deep Lake Grove railroad. It is also the opinion of Mr. Storter and Mr. Jaudon that if Dade county substitutes its present floating equipment for a walking ~~six~~ steam or other power shovel, by January 1, the six or seven miles of Dade county's portion of the Trail can be completed and the gap left in between these two machines--a distance of approximately 20 miles--can be made passable by constructing a temporary road, as there is no water on this area from December 1 to May 1 of each year. They say it will be necessary to bridge some three or four cypress sloughs to make the trip absolutely safe, but the distance of this causeway work through all the sloughs would not exceed one mile. They think considerably less. They find little water over the entire line, except in these cypress sloughs, and for the last six miles approaching Dade county dredge. The entire line of this temporary construction of the Tamiami Trail follows marl prairies underlaid from six inches

to one foot with silicious limestone rock and flat woods, pine-timbered land, over which it would not be an expensive nor laborous job to construct a temporary road, so that the Tamiami Trail can be usable for the winter season of 1922.

Both Mr. Storter and Mr. Jaudon are sunbrowned and tanned (almost as brown as their Seminole guide), foot-sore and weary, but they say the hardships of the trip were as nothing compared to the pleasures of it, and the ~~distinction of~~ distinction of, no doubt, being the first white men, or Indian for that matter, who have actually started on the line of operations of the Tamiami Trail in Lee county on the Gulf of Mexico and followed it to the operations on the Tamiami Trail by Dade county, and on to the waters of the Atlantic ocean.

Lee county engineers, of course, surveyed the line to the Dade county line and Dade county engineers to the Lee county line, but a direct walk from dredge to dredge and from gulf to ocean, has perhaps never been done before.

#### OUTWALKED A TELEGRAM

Thirty-six hours after reaching Miami Captain Jaudon received in person a telegram which he filed at Everglades last Saturday addressed to his secretary in this city. The telegram was filed Saturday morning with a regular representative of the telegraph service at Everglades. From that point it was to be sent by boat to Caxambas, thence by auto truck to Fort Myers, where it was to be given to wire. An hour after filing the telegram ~~at~~ in Everglades Captain Jaudon's party began the walk across the Everglades and beat the telegram as stated 36 hours.