

A representative of the Herald called on J.F. Jaudon President of Chevelier Corporation and asked him what he thought of the article in Sunday's issue on the subject or caption "Speeding up work on the Tamiami Trail" (this article having been written by William Stuart Hill after he had been assigned by the Herald to the subject and after he had made a personal visit ^{and inspection} to Lee and Collier counties, and after he had interviewed the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of each of these counties) Mr. Jaudon said the article was "fine" and the public generally ~~xxx~~ should be under obligations to the Herald for giving "The Truth about the Tamiami Trail" as they are being mis-led by published statements of issues and statements which have confused the public mind. ~~xxxxxxxx~~

He said "we have all been very badly mistaken in the time necessary to begin, build, and complete this "Greatest of Florida's Highways" " why he said I personally have quoted ~~xxxxxxxx~~ data and estimates of probable time of completion some being based on opinions given me by those engaged in the construction, naturally all were over optimistic but contractors and those interested were giving hopes, expectations, and estimates of the "possible" but physical conditions and unlooked for delays; ^{February} in 1922 I personally took a contract from Lee County with the purpose in mind of "speeding up the work" so that contract would not fall into the hands of dis-interested contractors; at Mr. Barron Collier's request I surrendered this contract so that a new one would be let to the firm of "Alexander Ramsay and Kerr" ^{one of Mr. Collier's Companies} which was done on July 2nd 1922, based on this fact I reported to the press and ^{to} Miami organizations that within a year we could have the Trail, unfortunately this firm was delayed in securing equipment and the McGrary Company who were building the Dade County link delayed reaching the Monroe County line and thus delayed Chevelier Corporation from beginning their work, in the meantime Collier County was created by the Legislature of 1922 and of course there was further delay in a "new County" beginning to function; as Mr. Hill says they

are really working hard and fast.

Just as soon (and without loosing any time) as the McGrery Co. reached the Monroe County line Chevelier Corporation assembled some of the finest road building equipment ever used in Florida, one machine an air drill being made on special design to enable it to penetrate the hard rock which delayed the McGrery Co. this machine and its equipment, including a Holt Tractor which apparat it cost over \$22,000; than early in February actual road construction began in Monroe County, the canal paralleling the Trail was changed to the south side of the road-bed and a wide roadbed constructed and a hard surfaced road is being built complete ready for the road roller and then traffic as they go along nearly five miles of as fine a road as is in Florida has been constructed by them and they have reached the pine timber section, thus the TAMPAH TRAIL IS ACROSS THE EVERGLADES OF FLORIDA to a point which is about twenty ^{five} ~~four~~ miles from the Collier County Tamiami Trail road-bed; the intervening distance is much easier road construction to both Collier and Monroe County than the portions which Wade, Lee, Collier and Monroe Counties have already constructed, for the reason that the land is higher, the rock is softer, ^{fire} wood for the furnaces of the steam shovels can be obtained alongside the ~~within~~ machines and the necessity of transporting same many many miles is a thing of the past (on Wade County's portion there was a stretch of over thirty miles where there was no timber large enough for fire wood),

Mr. Studon says that there is no real controversy as to what is needed now to have the Tamiami Trail within a year--Monroe County about twelve miles to build, Collier County about ten or eleven miles to build, (in this connection he calls attention to the Statement of Captain Geo. F. Stortor, Chairman of the Collier County Board ~~MEMBERSHIP~~ contained in Mr. Hill's article " when their (Chevelier Corporation's) road and ours parallel we will build south if they will build north so that the two roads can meet and the Tamiami Trail be opened sooner and every body

along the line derive the benefit from it" also to the statement of Captain W.D. Collier another member of the Collier County Board of County Commissioners who says ~~after~~ after he had personally visited the Dade Monroe County's work " we can have the Tamiami Trail within ten months if we join issues and have Collier and Monroe County's portions meet" .

Mr Jaudon's engineers have prepared a map and a copy has been furnished to the Herald which shows the finished and unfinished portions of the trail which are verified by the trip of Mr. Hill to Collier County and Captain W.D. Collier's trip to Dade-Monroe counties.

As to the official routing of the Tamiami Trail which seems to be the subject more discussed at this time than the TRAIL ITSELF, Mr. Jaudon said that he has been associated with the Tamiami Trail project since its inception, when begun he did not own a single acre of land along the line of the Trail, but since he has sold most of his Florida properties and owns himself or has equities in approximately a quarter of a million acres in Dade Monroe counties --- The Chevelier Corporation of which he is President did not sell a single acre of land of their more than two hundred thousand acre tract UNTIL they were actually constructing road on their own property at THEIR OWN EXPENSE; he says the ALL ~~THE~~ IMPORTANT THING JUST NOW is TO COMPLETE AND MAKE PASSABLE THE TAMAMI TRAIL FROM MIAMI TO FORT MYERS on the SHORTEST ROUTE, and QUICKEST TIME, if in the future there is arguments as which of the many roads that will surely be built in this wonderland of agricultural possibilities then the decision will be given to the BEST ROAD, he further says if he ~~still~~ had not known ~~that~~ or felt that the construction of the Tamiami Trail not only meant ^{THE} GREAT CROSS STATE HIGHWAY ACROSS THE EVERGLADES, but that it also meant the draining of hundred of thousands of acres of the finest agricultural lands on the world (especially adapted to sugar cane), and the construction in Dade, Monroe, Collier, and Lee County of thousands of miles of hard surfaced each superior to what we now know as the Tamiami Trail .

This is being done on the eastern edge of the Everglades bordering on Tamiami Trail by Southern Drainage District (of which he was the organizer and its first President) and will be done ALL ALONG THE TAMIA MI TRAIL, if we will but complete this GREAT HIGHWAY within a few years with the country drained, happy contented farmers and tourist getting along its entire length, ^{a perfect network} thousands of miles of fine roads will be the result; he said further " do you know the Tax Assessor's books of Dade County will reveal the startling figures that altho the Tamiami Trail road bonds built the Miami Canal Highway to Hialeah and to the Pennsylvania Sugar Co. plantations that along the Tamiami Trail along that new land which has gone on the Tax Books from the State to the individual, and increased tax values have increased the taxes derived to earn the county over thirty thousand dollars annually; thus the TAMIA MI TRAIL IS AN ASSET TO DADE COUNTY AND NOT A LIABILITY AT THIS TIME, WHAT WILL IT BE WHEN COMPLETED.

To complete the Trail and make it useable \$150,000 road bonds Dade County, before they can be voted, validated and contract let and finished the Trail will be finished to west line of Dade.

Monroe County, about twelve miles to build, will be complete and ready within ten months, this link being paid for by Chevelier Corporation and is financed.

Collier County, about ~~thirteen~~ twelve miles to build, one dredge on the job, another on the car ready to unload, financed, by taxes, time warrants, and bonds.

Lee County rushing the expenditure of 7524,000 worth of bonds which are sold, contract let to build a 16 foot asphalt macadam link.

What is Dade County going to do---we have no time to quarrel among ourselves?