



MAP OF OKEECHOBEE DRAINAGE CANAL.

whose pale straw-color is brought out against the distant vaporous, velvety bronze and green of the red bay. It sits on a stool twenty-five feet above the sea, and five feet above the terrace of the Everglades. We crossed under a high wind, December 9, from the Kissimmee to the mouth of the Drainage Canal.

The axe-men had penetrated the fringe of custard-apples, and revealed through the opening the welcome pillar of smoke

ond canal through the soft chalk rim of the outer basin. Curiously Captain Menge, engineer of the dredge, found here the remains of an old cut of the Spaniards, showing that even the project of drainage of Governor Westcott was not the first.

An earlier United States survey makes the fall from Fort Thompson, at the southern extremity of Lake Flirt, to Charlotte Harbor, less than two feet. This would make a descent from the chalk ridge of the outer basin of Okeechobee—a distance of ten miles—two feet to the mile. It was found necessary to dam at that point in order to get water to float the dredge-boat.

South of Fort Thompson is the beautiful current of the Caloosahatchee, flowing between high banks, terraced in the characteristic manner of the topography.



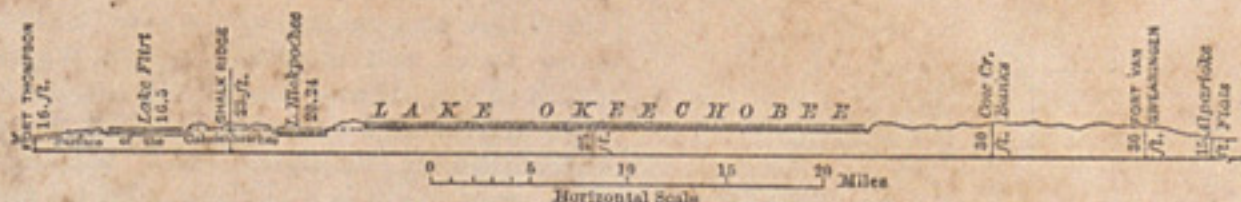
CHARLOTTE HARBOR AND THE VALLEY OF THE CALOOSAHATCHEE.

of the dredge. The stratification as developed in the cutting beginning from the bed-rock is clay and marl under white sand, overlaid by a deep bed of muck. The depth and rankness of this superficial deposit are extraordinary. It needs no scientific acumen to discover that the successful drainage of such a deposit will develop an area of fertility unrivalled even by the loamy bottoms of the Mississippi.

A canal twenty-two feet wide, having an average fall of one foot to the mile, connects Okeechobee with Hiokpochee, and this is connected with Lake Flirt by a sec-

This feature, peculiar to all river valleys, indicates the manner in which the grand trowels of nature have built up the watershed of all South Florida. Here in the soft marl or loam are exhibited everywhere the escarpments seen in the harsher features of parallel roads in the geology of more northern latitudes. In that is the explanation of the overflowed lands of Florida, and the key to their successive drainage, terrace by terrace, to the Everglades.

Again the scenery has changed. The tall silken plumes of the saw-grass and



SECTION OF BASIN OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE.