

their yields.

On a "Canal Crossing" Non-locally so. Actually, No. Anath- of security. "Canals" by sec- tary.

Outlet eventually reach the ocean to east, west and south. But suppose water or a boat could go to sea; what then?

If it goes west, and thence down the Miami canal, it strikes, in Broward county, north of the junction with the South Canal, a DAM: there since 1924.

If it goes directly north, through the North Canal, over a route now pilot by 16 land-owners of the commune for lack of which Fort Everglades last winter—it flows near the 26-Mile Road another dam.

If it heads eastward, through the Cross Canal, it finds, at the Hillsborough, a bridge set on the bottom of the canal, with a few little culverts choked with water hyacinths.

Thus, through every outlet, west, south and east, both drainage and navigation have been destroyed; and water-hyacinths jam the canal from bank to bank, and from top to bottom.

Don Costly Canals

By whom? Through omission or commission, by officials, of course. Every one of these dead waterways, as well as the alleged roadway, is the child of some group of officials, directly responsible for it.

And these officials are delinquent, systematically, and effectively NEGLECTING THE BACK COUNTRY on which the farmers did very little of the Canal work, and all of South Florida, depend.

And our State Attorney General deliberately tells a congressional committee that certain Florida people want to "keep the people from coming in" to the Everglades; though, to do this, should make it necessary to "build a wall down there, and keep the military there."

And keeping them out is not

designed as an act of kindness; for, he states twice, those people "come from other states . . . and it is right to get people in other parts of the state interested in whether they perish or not." Jan. 13, 1925, Flood Report, U. S. R. of R., pp. 143-4.

Swamps Soak Cereus

Meanwhile, in our very midst, is a swirled something, who, entering not in themselves, give us chance to misinterpret facts; and to dissolve, discourage and terrify them about its entry and aid in hastening our day of deliverance.

And only, on the trail of desolation thus blasted, comes another group to end the struggle by the construction route.

Land which, for years, have been divided a higglerly manner in the tax-payers' wealth they have helped provide; and on which, by these methods, tapping has been officially and forcibly prevented, are to be seized, with no redemption in this world or that to come.

Chicago gangsters, we are assured, demand tribute of citizens; and, failing to receive it, apply dynamite. How much better are the above Everglades officials!

And, before it is not, every such blow of justice and reason in the Everglades is a shot at the very heart of most cities and all South Florida. Why wonder that our towns are bankrupt!

EVERGLADES PINEAPPLES

How One Pioneer Found Repel- lence, Health and Wealth

At present, much interest is developing in the pineapple. To help it along, the writer digs out of his unpublished files—beginning with such matter—the following, written about 1919.

Pioneer Pe'op Ey' tained

Facts like these explain his success and secure for the Lower East Coast policy—honest, wicked

and mischievous—"Play-Ground-Only", supplemented with the proceeds of liquidation from bootleggers, and gully gold from gamblers' victims; and his honest indignation at the fixed, parasitic policy of making and keeping Everglades conditions impossible, then stabilizing the region; also, lately refusing financial or other aid to it, or to persons' murdering Glades settlements; repelling and expelling Glades settlers; preventing them from paying taxes—for "benefits" never delivered—and, now, under rubber laws, made to order, preparing to steal the settler's lands by wholesale because three unwarmed taxes had not been paid.

When the non-paying BIG STEAL has been put over—if this crime is actually punished—and the thieves with their millions, plus the wisdom acquired, also profits, from the grafting experience of the pioneers, begin to garner it other and easier means, some may be inclined to record stories like the following from the pen of a pioneer.

Meanwhile, if Everglades owners have a friend on earth, it is high time to make himself known.

PAUL AN PEAR

"What can you raise in the Everglades?" This question is often asked.

Back in 1911, a bunch of us, at Oklawaha and Teesie, signed affidavits, showing to detail that we had, at that early date, raised, successfully, 25 bushels produce (including six hundred weight, 25 grams, and nine bushels; not counting 15 found with fresh Teesie, the lot is much larger.

However, a later arrival at Oklawaha, discovered, several years after arriving, one of the "very hot beds" which we had overlooked. It was the PINEAPPLE.

The settler was Mr. C. E. Reichel. He had switched to Belle Glade, where most of his land was

located, and stumbled onto this gold mine product.

The writer has known Mr. Reichel for some 20 years, and can vouch for his truthfulness. It is that it is not necessary, for the facts are outstanding, and speak for themselves. On a visit to Belle Glade, I checked up on them myself.

Natural Health Record

Mr. Reichel, a victim of indigestion, came to Florida in quest of health. He soon found it, in perfection; for all of an old-timer learned, long ago, that the Everglades country is a natural sanitarium. Doctors, surgeons and trained nurses are almost unknown; and almost, save in accident, or obituary cases, unknown.

Written, writing of the early Germans, said that, "among them, good customs took the place of good laws, elsewhere." So, in the Everglades, good, natural health conditions, take the place of good health institutions and elsewhere. Like others, Mr. Reichel raised a lot of fine things, bananas, papayas—a WONDER CROP, in it self—guava stuff, citrus, lemons, peaches, etc.; but his heart's delight is his PINEAPPLE FIELD.

Pineapple

About February, 1924, he planted about one acre of pineapples, 12,000 plants to the acre. In 14 months, these were in bearing. Since then, they have borne continuously, though the chief harvest falls in July, August and September.

This is a lucky time for the crop to come in, for the pine crop from elsewhere has been getting off the market; and Glades pines have the field to themselves; which does not hurt their price a bit.

Abundant, Delicious, Safe

And the returns! Twelve thousand plants will come pretty near bearing 12,000 bushels; but, to be conservative, Mr. Reichel prefers to estimate 20,000 as the number of fruits from one acre.

And the price! Here the off-season feature comes in. Many, perhaps most, will bring 20 cents each; but, again to be conservative, he prefers to put it at 18 cents each. Amount, per acre, \$3,600.

Not bad, you say? Not very bad. But we're not through yet. These pines bear ripe, good and marketable, for replanting, and marketing seasons. Five per plant makes 60,000 per acre. Cut it to 50,000. Price, each? Two cents. Another return, per acre, of \$1,000. Total, \$4,600.00.

And our brightest East Coast-ites, instead of raising pineapples in the Everglades, and getting rich, had in their pineapples from Hawaii!

Don't get excited over this. This is an exception in the matter of the way in which the Coast feeds itself. In the RULE! I have a stack of data right at my elbow to prove it.

But are these Everglades pineapples any good? Sure little more, isn't? Not on your life. They are big, magnificent fellows. And, as for taste and flavor, well, we ate a number of them right from Mr. Reichel's field, and laid on the hotel table at Belle Glade, and our party was UNANIMOUS that they were superb.

Risky to raise? Instead, they come about as near being proof against floods, droughts, frosts and fire as anything I discovered. Soiling, with successful water-control, these four troubles disappear.

And think of having them, the divine berries, "raw every morning", the year round, but having none from the other side of the globe!

And it is opportunistic like them, which buyers bought 20 years ago, and officials have kept unworkable and excluded the owners from, that jackals and vultures would see today; with redemption hereof, whether in this world, or in that to come.

EVERGLADES SETTLEMENT and DEVELOPMENT

ITS PRESENT STATUS AND WHY.

By

THOMAS ELMER WILL

President, Florida Everglades Home-Builders' Association, Founded 1918; and

President, Everglades Farming Association, Founded 1911; Both in Washington, D. C.

Founder of Oklawaha, Oct. 24, 1913;

First Planned Settlement in the Upper Everglades.

President, South Florida Development League, Organized, 1919; To Promote, in South Florida, an Economic System.

Signed up Membership nearly 400.

Address, Belle Glade, Palm Beach County, Florida.

Over twenty years ago, a vast, Everglades selling campaign, was launched every month of the United States. It sprang from the effort of Governor N. B. Broward to reclaim that region, as agreed by Florida in accepting the land from

the U. S. Government. To reclaim lands were essential. Those were sought by Gladys land-owners.

Buyers were secured for the land was rich, and would be speedily reclaimed by the State; and that they might soon scrape and use their lands.

In the Nation's capital, the interest ran high. In this, the writer led. He was especially active in organizing the buyers, and devising plans to make speedy, successful settlement and development possible.

In this effort, he came to Florida in 1918, to inspect; and, in 1919, to stay and work. He has lived here continuously since. He helped start the first settlement, namely, at Davis, in the Lower Glades, in 1911; and at Oklawaha, in the Upper Glades, in 1913.

On this work he has concentrated for 20 years.

But Everglades settlement and development do not go forward. Bearing results from a few millionaires, they go backward. The question is "WHY?"

As his answer, in part, the writer has recently published the following press stories:

KILLING EVERGLADES SETTLEMENT

I have said that "Everglades settlements were compelled to fail." Why say this? Because I can prove it, and court opportunity to do so.

The first Everglades settlement was at Davis (Davis). In 1911, I organized the first Everglades Farming Association, and sent its representatives from Washington, D. C., and New Jersey there. I knew the tragic history of early Davis.

On Oct. 24, 1912, I founded the first planned settlement in the Upper Glades, at Oklawaha. Its history I certainly know. The other new grass settlements—ex-

isting the wrecked French villages in No Man's Land—I have visited with eagle eye, and I challenge the wisdom of Everglades settlement and development to permit me to get before a court, or a competent investigating committee, with my facts, and show how these settlements were killed.

Organized, Supervised Settlements
In 1913, for use in connection with Oklawaha, I devised the first planned, organized, supervised settlement in the U. S. of which I ever heard. However, it did not include Government aid.

In 1917, California adopted the Mead plan, with State aid. I championed it for use in the Everglades.

In 1918, when the settlers were about to return, Secretary Frank B. Rowan, of the U. S. Department of the Interior, sought to induce Congress to provide such a plan for their use. Such a settlement for the Everglades was seriously considered. But the bill was killed, and the settlers given, instead, the wretched "bonus."

About 1919, Edward Mead, then chief of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, came here, to find a site for such a settlement. I tried, in vain, to get in touch with him. As it was, he selected the very site I had long advertised as best; though I owned not a foot of it; and which has just been bought by the president of the Broward Bank and Trust Company. Edward killed the Mead offer, following suit.

Mead Plan to Congress
Now comes the Mead Plan again, in Senate bill 4113—the only plan that carries a ray of hope for home-builders in the new grass country. I am for it. But who else is? Almost none.

Here from the ENGLISH. Very recently, from a traveler by name, I have learned of a garage attack, hatched at Tallahassee, against this bill. The grounds quoted were:

1.—The California effort has

not a large one and proved a disastrous failure.

2.—Edward Mead is wholly incompetent for such an effort.

3.—The wrong department of the Government is named as administrator.

4.—The plan, itself, is faulty against public policy.

Was Our Settlements
Why this attack on the latter and best effort? Because, if applied to the Everglades, it means speedy and assured success of its settlement and development.

This, we are informed, must not be. Who tells us this? Sen. Frederick B. Davis, Attorney General of Florida, and member of three Everglades State Boards.

Though this is not his own view, he frankly informed the Flood Committee of the U. S. House of Representatives on Jan. 13, 1920, that settlers and developers are not wanted in the Everglades. In speaking of Everglades settlers and Lake Shore dwellers, he said:

They "come from other states . . . and it is RIGHTLY HARD TO GET PEOPLE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE STATE INTERESTED IN WHETHER THEY PERISH OR NOT." (as in 1918, when some 2500 were drowned.)

Instead, these Florida people want to "KEEP THE PEOPLE FROM COMING IN THERE," though it should make it necessary "TO BUILD A WALL DOWN THERE AND KEEP THE MILITARY THERE." (This Report on Flood Control in Florida and Arkansas, pp 145-4.)

Then, with such a bill as Senate bill 4113 before Congress, why should not such Florida people get their?

The record shows that, for years, continuously and systematically, settlers have been kept out of the Everglades. If, by any possibility, they forced themselves in, they were driven out.

Methods Employed
The wall and arms were not necessary. Other methods, actual or used, were more effective, and

less liable to arouse suspicion. What were these methods? None a few—

1.—Drinking and bawling. Instead of reasoning.

2.—Misleading such casuals and tapping the citizens by demanding them up, said.

3.—Building the building of Everglades roads; and, if funds were, nevertheless, provided, seeing to it that this money did not go into the roads to which it belonged.

4.—Destroying such roads, if actually built. None:—

1.—Road west of Davis, on South Canal; 2.—Road on North Canal; one stretch below, and another above Lock No. 4; 3.—Road on Palm Beach Canal, east of Twenty-Mile Bend.

5.—Withholding financial aid from Gladys agriculture—starving it out.

6.—Liberating the region, and placing upon it, and upon Nature—the Cross-of-the-Vance for the results of the sins of; destroying its credit, and making it rank, among farming lands, as a hardy rank among respectable women.

7.—Converting Gladys settlers and developers into pariahs of the "man who went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thorns."

8.—Continuously raising Gladys taxes, though little or no benefit resulted. Taxing, heavily, for water-control, and then, not providing it. For taxing Gladys taxes to vital propositions.

9.—Providing worthless tax legislation, under which the Gladys owner—discouraged, or lured by poverty from paying more taxes—would, by quickly passed and un-amendable legislation, be robbed of his land and forbidden to re-claim it. Hence, first and for years, robbing him of his money; and then capping the climax by robbing him of the lands for which he has paid several times over.

This last, full moon, helped by recent legislation, is now on.

MORE MURDER OF SOUTH FLORIDA

For ten years, and more, I have labored to help build up in the Everglades a big, self-sustaining industry.

We know then and before that the argument is wholly on the side of the case question. The proof was obvious, indisputable, overwhelming.

Still the State was against in the land; seeking to do away the very soil.

And the home market did not exist.

True, it was fully covered, if only we would grow enough corn at one time. But getting that acreage grown? That was the snag. "No money?"

Corn Market Assured
Now the market is assured. A millionaire is financing it. It is pledged to be ready for us.

Next, how get down a little money to finance the crop? As well try to get the gold of the end of the rainbow.

But, moreover to relax, the money appeared. From outside, of course. But the land must be improved.

We make the trip. Soil unimproved. A climate outstanding that ever which Coast ports never and bottomless bay.

But, after wading around 25 miles of mud—nothing should be but 25, we came to the home stretch. It is but four miles long; but that is enough!

Order to Kill Roads
This course is not a road; not even a rambling of a road. It is a treasury, a digress; an insult to human intelligence and decency; an outrage; a crime.

In 1918, this local authority—the Michigan, withering curse—was BONDED for a good road.

Along with his petty four miles was 24 more miles of road serving its owner; running from Hillsboro canal west to Miami canal, and thence north to the Lake. Marcellus lands, bought

and paid for.

This whole 28 miles was bonded for GOOD ROADS THROUGHOUT. From the bond issue not one inch of these 28 miles received one cent. "But," said the fortune teller, "it will get built out of our local road funds."

Yes, funds have passed, multiplied hundreds of thousands of dollars have been added to the original bond issue. From these, 24 of these 28 miles have never yet received a pointed axhead.

And the remaining four miles—absolutely vital and indispensable to the southwest half of Palm Beach county, if that half is to enjoy the best beginnings of opportunity to live and thrive—has received what? The atrocious treatment that has called forth the outpourings of wrath of the one man—first in nine years—who has come over it with the full intent to finance a big crop of corn on one of the richest self-sustaining areas in the world.

That heard "read" on his wild, Ceres field. They could not do the subject justice.

And Settlements
Would it increase this thing? Verily not. There are places elsewhere on earth, where developers of agriculture can come without facing official notice:—

"All legs shambles.

To who enter here."

There are agricultural areas in civilized lands not obviously under the curse of officials brazenly defying their duties of office, harrying their pioneers out of the land, and deliberately doing to death the entire best half of a county.

But this was not all. Our explorer survived, to reach, at last, the usual recording; once the center of a line, flourishing, aggressive little settlement; leader in every move for the betterment and up-building of the Upper Glades.

What found he here? The barren landscape; hanging on by

**EVERGLADES
SETTLEMENT
and
DEVELOPMENT
ITS
PRESENT STATUS
AND WHY.**

By
THOMAS ELMER WILL

**President, Florida Everglades
Home-Builders' Association,
Founded 1910; and**

**President, Everglades Farming
Association, Founded 1911;**

Both in Washington, D. C.

**Founder of Okeelanta,
Oct. 24, 1913;**

**First Planned Settlement in the
Upper Everglades.**

**President, South Florida Develop-
ment League, Organized, 1928;
To Promote, in South Florida, an
Economic System.**

Signed-up Membership nearly 400.

**Address, Belle Glade, Palm Beach
County, Florida.**

Over twenty years ago, a vast, Everglades selling campaign was launched over much of the United States. It sprang from the effort of Governor N. B. Broward to reclaim that region, as agreed by Florida in accepting the land from

the U. S. Government. To reclaim, funds were essential. These were sought by Glades land-sales.

Buyers were assured the land was rich, and would be speedily reclaimed by the State; and that they might soon occupy and use their lands.

In the Nation's capital, the interest ran high. In this, the writer led. He was especially active in organizing the buyers, and devising plans to make speedy, successful settlement and development possible.

In this effort, he came to Florida in 1910, to inspect; and, in 1914, to stay and work. He has lived here continuously since. He helped start the first settlement, namely, at Davie, in the Lower Glades, in 1911; and at Okeelanta, in the Upper Glades, in 1913.

On this work he has concentrated for 20 years.

But Everglades settlement and development do not go forward. Barring results from a few millionaires, they go backward. The question is "W H Y ?"

As his answer, in part, the writer has recently published the following press stories:

KILLING EVERGLADES SETTLEMENT

I have said that "Everglades settlements were compelled to fail." Why say this? Because I can prove it, and court opportunity to do so.

The first Everglades settlement was at Zona (Davie). In 1911, I organized the first Everglades Farming Association, and sent its representatives from Washington, D. C., and New Jersey there. I know the tragic history of early Davie.

On Oct. 24, 1913, I founded the first planned settlement in the Upper Glades, at Okeelanta. Its history I certainly know. The other saw grass settlements—sug-

gesting the wrecked French villages in No Man's Land—I have watched with eagle eye, and I challenge the enemies of Everglades settlement and development to permit me to get before a court, or a competent investigating committee, with my facts, and show how these settlements were killed.

Organized, Supervised Settlements

In 1913, for use in connection with Okeelanta, I devised the first planned, organized, supervised settlement in the U. S. of which I ever heard. However, it did not include Government aid.

In 1917, California adopted the Mead plan, with State aid. I championed it for use in the Everglades.

In 1918, when the soldiers were about to return, Secretary Franklin K. Lane, of the U. S. Department of the Interior, sought to induce Congress to provide such a plan for their use. Such a settlement for the Everglades was seriously considered. But the bill was killed, and the soldiers given, instead, the wretched "bonus."

About 1927, Elwood Mead, then chief of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, came here, to find a site for such a settlement. I tried, in vain, to get in touch with him. As it was, he selected the very site I had long advertised as best; though I owned not a foot of it; and which has just been bought by the president of the Broward Bank and Trust Company. Rivals killed the Mead effort, following mine.

Mead Plan In Congress

Now comes the Mead Plan again, in Senate bill 412—the only plan that carries a ray of hope for home-builders in the saw grass country. I am for it. But who else is? Silence reigns.

Save from the ENEMIES. Very recently, from a trustworthy source, I have learned of a savage attack, launched at Tallahassee, against this bill. The grounds quoted are:—

1—The California effort has

cost a huge sum and proved a disgraceful failure.

2—Elwood Mead is wholly incompetent for such an effort.

3—The wrong department of the Government is named as administrator.

4—The plan, itself, is flatly against public policy.

War On Settlements

Why this attack on this latest and best effort? Because, if applied to the Everglades, it means speedy and assured success of its settlement and development.

This, we are informed, must not be. Who tells us this? Hon. Frederick H. Davis, Attorney General of Florida, and member of three Everglades State Boards.

Though this is not his own view, he frankly informed the Flood Committee of the U. S. House of Representatives on Jan. 11, 1929, that settlers and developers are not wanted in the Everglades. In speaking of Everglades settlers and Lake Shore dwellers, he said:

They "come from other states . . . and it is MIGHTY HARD TO GET PEOPLE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE STATE INTERESTED IN WHETHER THEY PERISH OR NOT," (as in 1928, when some 2300 were drowned.)

Instead, these Florida people want to "KEEP THE PEOPLE FROM COMING IN THERE," though it should make it necessary "TO BUILD A WALL DOWN THERE AND KEEP THE MILITARY THERE." (See Report on Flood Control in Florida and Elsewhere," pp 145-6.)

Then, with such a bill as Senate bill 412 before Congress, why should not such Florida people get busy?

The record shows that, for years, continuously and systematically, settlers have been kept out of the Everglades. If, by any possibility, they forced themselves in, they were driven out.

Methods Employed

The wall and army were not necessary. Other methods, actually used, were more effective, and

less liable to arouse suspicion. What were these methods? Note a few:—

1—Draining and burning, instead of reclaiming.

2—Mishandling main canals; and capping the climax by damming them up, solid.

3—Resisting the building of Everglades roads; and, if funds were, nevertheless, provided, seeing to it that this money did not go into the roads to which it belonged.

4—Destroying such roads, if actually built. Note: a—Road west of Davie, on South Canal; b—Road on North Canal; one stretch below, and another above Lock No. 4; c—Road on Palm Beach Canal, east of Twenty-Mile Bend.

5—Withholding financial aid from Glades agriculture—starving it out.

6—Libelling the region, and placing upon it, and upon Nature—or the Creator—the blame for the results of the sins of men; destroying its credit, and making it rank, among farming lands, as a harlot ranks among respectable women.

7—Converting Glades settlers and developers into parallels of the “man who went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves.”

8—Continuous'y raising Glades taxes, though little or no benefit resulted. Taxing, heavily, for water-control, and then not providing it. Switching Glades taxes to rival propositions.

9—Providing merciless tax legislation, under which the Glades owner—discouraged, or barred by poverty from paying more taxes—would, by quietly-passed and unadvertised legislation, be robbed of his land and forbidden to redeem it. Hence, first and for years, robbing him of his money; and then capping the climax by robbing him of the lands for which he has paid several times over.

This last, fell move, helped by recent legislation, is now on.

MORE MURDER OF SOUTH FLORIDA

For ten years, and more, I have labored to help build up in the Everglades a big, corn-growing industry.

We knew then and before that the argument is wholly on the side of the corn question. The proof was obvious, indisputable, overwhelming.

Still the liars were abroad in the land; seeking to deceive the very elect.

And the home market did not exist.

True, it was fully assured, if only we would grow enough corn at one time. But getting that acreage grown! There was the snag. "No money!"

Corn Market Assured

Now the market is assured. A millionaire is financing it. It is pledged to be ready June 1st.

Next, how get even a little money to finance the crop? As well try to get the gold at the end of the rainbow.

But, marvelous to relate, the money appeared. From outside, of course. But the land must be inspected.

We make the trip. Soil unparalleled. A climate outranking that over which Coast poets rave and boosters bray.

But, after winding around 95 miles of road—which should be but 53, we come to the home stretch. It is but four miles long; but that is enough!

Officials Kill Roads

This excuse is not a road; not even a camouflage of a road. It is a travesty; a disgrace; an insult to human intelligence and decency; an outrage; a crime.

In 1920, this local calamity—this blighting, withering curse—was BONDED for a good road.

Along with its petty four miles were 24 more miles of road serving its section; running from Hillsboro canal west to Miami canal, and thence north to the Lake. Marvelous lands, bought

and paid for.

This whole 28 miles was bonded for GOOD ROADS THROUGH-OUT. From the bond issue not one inch of these 28 miles received one cent. "But," said the fiction vendors, "it will get built out of our next road funds."

Ten years have passed, multiplied hundreds of thousands of dollars have been added to the original bond issue. From these, 24 of these 28 miles have never yet received a punched nickel.

And the remaining four miles—absolutely vital and indispensable to the southwest half of Palm Beach county, if that half is to enjoy the bare beginnings of opportunity to live and thrive—has received what? The atrocious treatment that has called forth the outpourings of wrath of the one man—first in nine years — who has come over it with the full intent to finance a big crop of corn on one of the richest corn-growing areas in the world.

That bastard "road" set him wild. Curses failed. They could not do the subject justice.

And Settlements

Would he traverse this thing? Verily not. There are places elsewhere on earth, where developers of agriculture can come without facing official notice:—

"All hope abandon,
Ye who enter here."

There are agricultural areas in civilized lands not obviously under the curse of officials brazenly defying their oaths of office, harrying their pioneers out of the land, and deliberately doing to death the entire best half of a county.

But this was not all. Our explorer survived, to reach, at last, the canal crossing; once the center of a live, flourishing, aggressive little settlement; leader in every move for the betterment and up-building of the Upper Glades.

What found he here? The barest handful; hanging on by

their eyelids.

On a "Canal Crossing?" Nominally so. Actually, No. Another travesty. "Canals" by courtesy.

Outlets nominally reach the ocean to east, west and south. But suppose water or a boat seeks to go to sea; what then?

If it goes west, and thence down the Miami canal, it strikes, in Broward county, north of the junction with the South Canal, a DAM: there since 1924.

If it goes directly south, through the North Canal, over a route once plied by 16 boats—parents of the commerce for lack of which Port Everglades languishes—it finds near the 26-Mile Bend another dam.

If it heads eastward, through the Cross Canal, it finds, at the Hillsborough, a bridge set on the bottom of the canal, with a few little culverts choked with water hyacinths.

Thus, through every outlet, west, south and east, both drainage and navigation have been destroyed; and water-hyacinths jam the canal from bank to bank, and from top to bottom.

Dam Costly Canals

By whom? Through omission or commission, by officials, of course. Every one of these dead waterways, as well as the alleged roadway, is the child of some group of officials, directly responsible for it.

And these officials are deliberately, systematically, and effectively MURDERING THE BACK COUNTRY on which the fortunes and very lives of the Coast towns, and all of South Florida, depend.

And our State Attorney General deliberately tells a congressional committee that certain Florida people want to "keep the people from coming in" to the Everglades; though, to do this, should make it necessary to "build a wall down there, and keep the military there."

And keeping them out is not

designed as an act of kindness; for, he states twice, these people "come from other states . . . and it is mighty hard to get people in other parts of the state interested in whether they perish or not."

Jan. 11, 1929. Flood Report, U. S. H. of R., pp. 145-6.

Buzzards Seek Carcass

Meanwhile, in our very midst, is a sleepless contingent who, entering not in themselves, miss no chance to misrepresent facts; and to dissuade, discourage and terrify those about to enter and aid in hastening our day of deliverance.

And now, on the trail of desolation thus blazed, comes another group to end the struggle by the confiscation route.

Lands which, for years, have been denied a beggardly share in the tax-produced wealth they have helped provide; and on which, by these methods, tax-paying has been officially and forcibly prevented, are to be seized, with no redemption in this world or that to come.

Chicago gangsters, we are assured, demand tribute of citizens; and, failing to receive it, apply dynamite. How much better are the above Everglades officials?

And, believe it or not, every such blow at justice and success in the Everglades is a shot at the very heart of coast cities and all South Florida. Why wonder that our towns are bankrupt!

EVERGLADES PINEAPPLES

How One Pioneer Found Happiness, Health and Wealth

At present, much interest is developing in the pineapple. To help it along, the writer digs out of his unpublished files—teeming with such matter—the following, written about 1926.

Plunder Policy Epitomized

Facts like these explain his contempt and scorn for the Lower East Coast policy—insane, wicked

and suicidal—of “Play-Ground-Only”, supplemented with the proceeds of liquid poison from bootleggers, and guilty gold from gamblers’ victims; and his burning indignation at the fixed, parallel policy of making and keeping Everglades conditions impossible, then slandering the region; absolutely refusing financial or other aid to it, or its pioneers; murdering Glades settlements; repelling and expelling Glades settlers; preventing them from paying taxes—for “benefits” never delivered—and, now, under robber laws, made to order, preparing to steal the settlers’ lands by wholesale because these unearned taxes have not been paid.

When the now-pending BIG STEAL has been put over—if this crime is actually permitted—and the thieves with their millions, plus the wisdom acquired, also gratis, from the gruelling experiences of the pioneers, begin to garner in other and easier millions, some may be interested to re-read stories like the following from the pen of a pioneer.

Meanwhile, if Everglades owners have a friend on earth, it is high time he made himself known.

Prize At Pawn

“What can you raise in the Everglades?” This question is often asked.

Back in 1915, a bunch of us, at Okeelanta and Davie, signed affidavits, showing in detail that we had, at that early day, raised, successfully, 52 food products (including six found wild), 13 grasses, and nine feeds; not counting 19 found with foods. Today, the list is much longer.

However, a later arrival at Okeelanta discovered, several years after arriving, one of the “very best bets” which we had overlooked. It was the PINE-APPLE.

The settler was Mr. C. E. Riedel. He had switched to Belle Glade, where most of his land was

located, and stumbled onto this gold mine product.

The writer has known Mr. Riedel for some 10 years, and can vouch for his truthfulness. Still, that is not necessary, for the facts are outstanding, and speak for themselves. On a visit to Belle Glade, I checked up on them myself.

Natural Health Resort

Mr. Riedel, a victim of indigestion, came to Florida in quest of health. He soon found it, to perfection; for all of us old-timers learned, long ago, that the Everglades country is a natural sanitarium. Doctors, surgeons and trained nurses are almost unknown; and almost, save in accident, or obstetric cases, unmissed.

Tacitus, writing of the early Germans, said that, "among them, good customs took the place of good laws, elsewhere." So, in the Everglades, good, natural health conditions, take the place of good health restoratives used elsewhere.

Like others, Mr. Riedel raised a lot of fine things, bananas, papayas—a WONDER CROP, in itself—garden stuff, citrus, bamboo, palms, etc.; but his heart's delight is his PINEAPPLE FIELD.

Pineapples

About February, 1924, he planted about one acre of pineapples, 12,000 plants to the acre. In 18 months, these were in bearing. Since then, they have borne continuously, though the chief harvest falls in July, August and September.

This is a lucky time for the crop to come in, for the pine crop from elsewhere has been gotten off the market; and Glades pines have the field to themselves; which does not hurt their price a bit.

Abundant, Delicious, Safe

And the returns? Twelve thousand plants will come pretty near bearing 12,000 fruits; but, to be conservative, Mr. Riedel prefers to estimate 10,000 as the number of fruits from one acre.

And the price? Here the off-season feature comes in. Many, perhaps most, will bring 20 cents each; but, again to be conservative, he prefers to put it at 10 cents each. Amount, per acre, \$1,000.

Not bad, you say? Not very bad. But we're not through yet. These pines bear slips, good and marketable, for replanting, and extending acreage. Five per plant makes 60,000 per acre. Cut it to 50,000. Price, each? Two cents. Another return, per acre, of \$1,000. Total, \$2,000.00.

And our benighted East Coastites, instead of raising pineapples in the Everglades, and getting rich, haul in their pineapples from Hawaii!

Don't get excited over this. This is no exception in the matter of the way in which this Coast feeds itself. Its the RULE! I have a stack of data right at my elbow to prove it.

But are these Everglades pineapples any good? Sorry little runts, eh? Not on your life. They are big, magnificent fellows. And, as for taste and flavor, well, we ate a number of them right from Mr. Riedel's field, and laid on the hotel table at Belle Glade, and our party was UNANIMOUS that they were superb.

Risky to raise? Instead, they come about as near being proof against floods, droughts, frosts and fires as anything discovered. Besides, with successful water-control, these four troubles disappear.

And think of having them, like divine mercies, "new every morning", the year round; but hauling ours from the other side of the globe!

And it is opportunities like these, which buyers bought 20 years ago, and officials have kept unavailable and excluded the owners from, that jackals and vultures would now seize; with redemption barred, whether in this world, or in that to come.