

# DRAINAGE COMMITTEE MEETS ON MONDAY

## Proposed Key Largo Canal Discussed and Prompt Action Advised

First real progress on the Key Largo road was made on Monday of this week when the drainage committee of the Redland District Chamber met with Frank J. Pepper, of Pepper & Potter, Miami, and explained to him the aims of the committee in regard to the canal. Mr. Pepper is the representative of the Model Land Co. which owns or controls the majority of the lands covered by the proposed drainage district. By the decision of these parties the canal proposition will rise and fall.

Mr. Pepper asked what provisions had been made for having the lands surveyed, which had to be answered in the negative.

County Commissioner J. D. Redd stated that \$50,000 of the Key Largo road money would be available early in the coming year and that they were to start their survey then. Mr. Pepper inquired if the Chamber of Commerce could not finance a survey, which was estimated by W. J. Krome to cost not less than \$2,500, the money of course to be refunded from the first receipts from the bond sale.

### County Might Finance

Mr. Redd brought out the fact that the county might be induced to finance the project, inasmuch as the Chamber of Commerce was back of it, provided that body would guarantee the payment thereof. The generous offer of Mr. Redd to intercede with the commissioners was accepted.

Seventy-five percent of the land in the proposed district can be drained and made tillable, according to A. R. Livingston, himself a surveyor. Mr. Livingston has a working knowledge of this part of the county and believes that all except the extreme southern part can be properly drained and make good farm land. We must have more farm land, Mr. Krome pointed out, and here is the way to get it. Mr. Krome also brought out another good point. "This question has been talked pro and con for a number of years and it seems to me that it would be to the interest of all concerned to get an opinion from the majority property owners, as to whether they favor it or not, before too much money is spent on preliminaries."

Mr. Pepper, who has been authorized to make a general survey of the land asked if arrangements could not be made to look over this land in the near future. The date was set for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week when Mr. Pepper, A. R. Livingston, Harry Hunter and possibly others will penetrate the tract at several points. One day will be spent cruising east from Woodall; another farther up, and on the third the party will probably take a boat to Turkey Creek and examine the country from there. Mr. Pepper is to report on the type of land, its apparent height and fertility and the adaptability to drainage. If the report is favorable, action is looked for from St. Augustine in a reasonable length of time.

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*Homestead Enterprise  
12/15/23*