

THE CHAMPION

VOL. 14

ARCADIA, FLORIDA, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 30, 1908.

No. 31

ITS OF FLORIDA

OLEUM, PHOSPHATES, ETC., OUR WEALTH

menting on the interview myself published in your last the figures given as to the of phosphates in Florida, the cash paid therefor, and als paid for phosphate lands mining machinery, these were taken from the ns of statistics issued by the ical Survey of the United and they are safely modest, ightly inside the actual facts. of the most convincing of the profit-paying worth ida phosphate lands and is the truth that no stocks es in any phosphate mining ay are listed for sale in any exchanges in either domestic eign countries, and the fact that in every news- of recognized worth we find of bonds and gold, silver pper and other mined metals vestments being advertised eggingly hawked for sale here, while such money- g capitalists as J. Hull, J. Armour, the Swifts, the ys, and others of the great making investors of the are letting every kind of stocks go begging—leaving everly alone, and the indis- ate, proletariat, while they ery dollar they can obtain orida phosphate lands. years ago I claimed to find indications of petroleum ida, just west of and near Rosebank" plantation near lon: The claim created a of excitement in Florida y large tracts of land were near Bushnell, in Sumter and Citronelle, in Citrus and in other sections of These locations were by oil field experts, and ll wells were bored—one at ll, one near Crystal River, near Citronelle, just south Rosebank plantation—and e of these wells were ed." Mr. John W. Pearson he principal oil explorers ida, who was practically ly broke just prior to this tement, instigated or begun initiative, just nine years mining phosphate very big we read in the press dis- that he owns 30,000 acres best stock farm lands in t. Do people anywhere on outside of Florida, grow equal to the vast phosphate plants and thirty thousand ck farms in Missouri, cost- dreds of thousands of dol- boring "duster" or non- ng oil wells? now we find people from and Ohio and Pennsy- all over the peninsular of buying every available "cutover," denuded or for- at the beggarly price of lar and thirty-five centa Are the land owners of mostly d—d fools? Every sample of pebble analysed by Dr. R. R. n, of Lakeland, he has acres of petroleum. The truth is that the capillary n brings this petroleum up the earth to the surface. all of it that reaches

burden is speedily evaporated because of the penetrating influences of the sun's rays on the earth's surface. And on account of the density of the clayey, fossilized stratus bearing phosphates—the affinities of oil—some of the petroleum is retained in the matrix stratas and always found by the chemist who looks for it. One of the most successful oil field finding experts known rode with me in a buggy for days in Peninsular Florida four years ago and repeatedly said to me: "On account of being in the right latitude and with every known recognized surface indication, Florida promises soon to be the greatest oil producing territory in the known world." I declare there has been found oil or petroleum in a well bored in Florida and of a quality better than is found in the Texas fields. Is there any man in the United States who will dare deny the above assertion? Will Mr. John W. Pearson, of Ocala, make and sign an affidavit that I will dictate declaring he did not find oil or petroleum in one of the three wells he has bored in Florida? I dare him to do it. When all of the lands in the most promising fields of Florida have been scooped in by syndicate and trust agents and the time is ripe, very many people now sixty years of age will see oil "gushers" in Florida that will astonish civilization. During the last winter there came into Florida two of the most capable civil and mining engineers and geologists now living—one of them named Drake, from Chicago, and Mr. Banks, from Pittsburg. They spent a couple of months in South Florida looking carefully over the situation. Then they hired the best map-making talent obtainable, furnished them with field notes, topographical charts etc. from the Department of the Interior and set these experts to work to inspect personally the country and verify and perfect topographical maps and surveys of a very large part of Peninsular Florida. Are these capable engineers and experts carefully at work getting and compiling all these statistics and data for fun? If 420 acres of land at Medulla will justify the erection of a phosphate plant costing \$490,000 cash, what are all the lands in Polk county worth? If 920 acres of land on Howell Creek, three and one-half miles southwest of Plant City, justifies the erection of a mining plant to cost \$600,000 not to reckon the cost of a railroad into the plant what are the lands of east Hillsboro worth? What d—d fools these land-owning mortals must be? If only 171 acres of Mr. Joe Hull's Prairie Pebble lands produced \$9,000,000 worth of phosphate in fourteen years what are his 43,000 acres of carefully selected phosphate lands worth for phosphate alone not reckoning their timber and possible petroleum values? Is Florida an El Dorado? I would rather own Alachua, Levy, Marion, Citrus, Pasco, Polk, Hillsboro and DeSoto counties, in Florida, than to own all of Georgia, the Carolinas, Virginia and in fact all of the United States south of the Potomac and Ohio and east of the Mississippi, and

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News of the Week In DeSoto County

As Reported by The Champion's Excellent Corps of Correspondents A Resume of Current Events

Lily Locals

Our school will begin next Monday
Mrs. W. A. Hull is sick with fever
H. G. Murphy, of Zolfo, was a visitor here Sunday
Rev. Crosby ran a protracted meeting here last week
William Stewart made a business trip to Ft. Green last week
J. K. Reid and Aden Skipper are doing business in Arcadia today
Misses Mike and Lottie Coker, of Gardner, attended church here Sunday
J. A. Albritton, from near Gardner, was doing business here Saturday
Misses Leoline and Ethel Skipper spent Saturday and Sunday at Ft. Green
T. E. Mizell and Miss Zula Sellers, of Pine Level, attended church here Sunday
Miss Loma Stewart, from Manatee, visited friends and relatives here last week
July 29, 1908.

News Notes From Gardner

Gardner, July 27:—Mr. A. B. Royal went to Plant City today on business.
J. B. Prine came to Gardner this a. m.
Uncle Hillyard Lee has traded horses.
Prayer Meeting every Wednesday night.
Thos. W. Coker is breaking two yoke of oxen.
J. A. Powell was visiting in Gardner today.
Dr. J. R. Moore passed thro our little burg today.
Prof. J. S. Coker was up Sunday to see the home folks.
Mrs. Fannie Mercer was in the city this p. m. (Tuesday.)
Mrs. S. E. Ennis, of Arcadia, was visiting relatives in Gardner Sunday.
E. L. Williams has moved to town so as to be able to send to school.
Prof. T. O. Baldwin was shaking hands here today, as was also Prof. Edward Douglas.
Little Beaine Coker, who has been visiting at Ft. Meade, made her return today.
Thos. W. Coker and sister went visiting in the Lily country Saturday, returning Sunday.
Mrs. McCorquodale has been on the sick list for a few days past, but glad to say she is improving.
Mrs. Chas. Drawdy has been very sick for the few days past. We hope for her speedy recovery.
Mr. and Mrs. Prescott, two elderly people, passed thro our vicinity Monday, enroute to Nocatee.
F. M. Powell was doing carpenter work to-day in Gardner making room for T. E. Fielder's enormous stock of fancy dry goods and hats recently received.
Miss Lizzie and Grandma Doug-

lass will occupy the E. E. Worth house during school months. They are moving in this week.

Mrs. M. A. Drawdy and children, have gone to Cleveland, where they will spend a week with Mrs. Nipper, Mrs. Drawdy's sister.

Everybody is invited to the school house next Friday for the purpose of cleaning up the house and yard, moving benches, etc.

Geo. McCorquodale and family contemplate moving from Gardner in the near future. If ye scribe was allowed a sayso he would surely say, "Don't leave us Mr. Mc., for we can spare any one else sooner than you and your hospitable family."

Stephen Lund let his axe slip into his foot last Saturday while cutting crossties making an ugly gash the width of the entire axe and some two inches deep. Dr. Boston was called and dressed the wound and Mr. Lund is doing as well as could be expected.

H. H.

To Continue Drainage

That Governor Broward will make the continuing of the work of draining the Everglades obligatory upon the state so that the work cannot be stopped by a future Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund now seems very probable, says a Tallahassee Dispatch. It is believed that before his term of office expires he will endeavor to lift the drainage work completely out of the reach of politics and place it where the state must continue, regardless of who is the power.

He stated immediately after his defeat for the senatorship that he had much work of great importance to the state to do in the time intervening between then and the expiration of his term of office. As he has devoted his greatest energies to the fight for the drainage of the Everglades, it is believed by many that he had the making of the work compulsory upon the state in his mind at the time.

One of the last things the governor did before leaving for Denver this week was to have a conference with the representative of a dredge building concern of Ohio, said to be the biggest in the world, who submitted, at the governor's request, specifications of two additional dredges. There are two dredges already at work in the Everglades, and this action on the part of the governor so soon after his defeat for the senate makes it appear that he has no idea of giving up the drainage of the 'glades.

In fact, it is said to be his purpose to make some arrangement to insure the continuation of the drainage after he has quitted the office.

In other words, it is his desire and will be his purpose to place the great under-taking out of politics, and this might be done by making a contract with some firm or individual to drain and binding the state irrevocably to the contract.

The trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund could make such a contract, and this could not be touched, if it were legally made and rock-ribbed, for it is the obligated duty of the trustees to drain the lands, and no subsequent board could revoke it.—E. x.

A GAME PRESERVE

POLK COUNTY THE SCENE OF AN IMMENSE ONE

A corporation, under style of Lake Region Game and Fish Preserve, with its main office at Lakeland, Fla., has secured the exclusive hunting and fishing privilege on 66,000 acres in the lake region of Polk county, Fla., for a term of twenty-five years, and is establishing the largest game preserve in the south. This section has more quail than elsewhere in this country; they are everywhere in evidence and their number will increase with protection. Besides quail, wild turkeys, deer and bears are also found in large numbers in the upper part of this preserve, near the Withlacoochee Swamp.

This preserve will be transferred to the Seminole Club, now being organized, and will be used exclusively by its members. A nice clubhouse will be erected in some desirable location near Auburndale and hunting camps will be established in different parts of the preserve. Each membership in the Seminole Club carries with it a building located at Auburndale in order that every member may build a winter home there, if so desired.

The beautiful little village of Auburndale is located in the lake region of Polk county, on the main line of the A. C. L. Railway, between Jacksonville and Tampa, 197 miles from Jacksonville and 43 miles from Tampa, is one of the highest points in the state, having an altitude of 226 feet above sea level. It is claimed by surveyors that within a radius of ten miles of Auburndale over two hundred lakes can be counted, all of the purest water, abounding in trout, perch and bream, while the boating and bathing can be enjoyed the year round.—Metropolis.

Several good rains in this section this week.

Misery may love company but it is good cheer that makes friends.

Its hard to be cheerful these warm days, but let's do our best.

Prosperity

Who say dat beezaness ees blue
An' times ees hard? Eet ees no true.
You bat my life, I neeva see
Sooch trade like now ees com' to me.
Ah, lees'en, an' I tal to you.
Las' fall w'en first I com', my frand,
For keep dees small peanutta stand,
Eet was too playnta beega 'nough,
Baycause I sal so leetla stuff.
But now so many com' for buy
Banan', peanutta, cak' an' pie,
I soon mus' gat, I am afraid,
Fine beega store for serve my trade.
Den mebbe, too, gona see
To sal da coffee, milk an' tea
For customer dat aska me.
You 'be su'prise' for see how fine
Ees all dese customers of mine,
An' so polite dey eat deir food,
An' look so nice' an' talk so good.
Oh, dere ees wan, so beeg, so tall,
He ees da grandes' wan of all.
Ah, w'en he eat hees pit, my frand,
An' I am watch heem go an' stand
Ben doorway of dat beeg hotel
On Broadway, dat ees so swal
An' see heem peek hees teeth an' smile
An' bow een soccha granda style
To all hees frands das passa by,
I am so proud I like to die.

Ref times ees hard you s'pose I gat
So fina, beega trade likt dat?
From all dat I am tal to you
Can dees "bad beez'nees" talk be true?

Eh? wa'at?
I bal you, not.
—Catholic Standard and Times.