

# The Punta Gorda Herald

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DeLand Record:—Barring one or two frosts, the present winter is like the old time winters in Florida. Even tender vegetation has not been injured by cold, and the rains have been plentiful for early spring planting of crops, truck gardens and for a heavy orange bloom. The Florida people have very bright prospects for the year 1908. The orange crop will be a hammer, the truck fields are yielding immense crops, and the field crops will be larger and better than ever, if no summer drouth comes.

## Prosperous Florida.

"Florida looks prosperous," said Mr. Young, a member of a New York fruit firm, to the New York Packer man. "There seems to be evidence of prosperity on all sides. I noticed particularly that every little hamlet is getting a bank, and facilities for doing business and growing with prosperity. The late bloom of orange crop came on faster than was anticipated, consequently there was a great deal of fruit on the market by the first of the year. I understand that the average price of oranges on the trees was \$1.50 and grapefruit ranged from \$1.50 to \$2.50 on the trees, according to quality.

"I do not remember now which estimate among those which have appeared in the papers was considered the nearest to the mark, but I believe the State has two thirds of the crop of last year, and if we don't have a freeze or some sort of parasite does not affect the trees, I am of the opinion that there will be a pretty big crop next year, as the foliage looks fine and the trees healthy and strong."

The Fort Myers Breeze having alleged that eight-tenths of the newspapers of the State are supporting Mr. Stockton for governor, we have made a cursory glance at the list and have come to the conclusion that our Breeze friend is mistaken. There are about 150 newspapers published in Florida, and we cannot count fifteen of them supporting Mr. Stockton. About ten of them are supporting General Gilchrist; the remaining 125 appear to be non-committal or neutral. Will our Breeze friend please give us the list of newspapers that are supporting Mr. Stockton?

The Atlanta Journal, which opposed prohibition in Georgia, has the following report concerning its effect on Atlanta's police court business for the first Monday after the prohibition law went to in effect:

Nineteen adult cases and two juvenile cases, in recorder's court, Monday morning, was the sum total of the docket with which Judge N. R. Broyles busied himself on the first Monday after the advent of prohibition. The records demonstrated an astonishing comparison between these figures and those shown by the docket in the same court one year ago. On Jan. 7, 1907, there were 129 adults tried by the recorder, and 11 juvenile cases were heard. Of the adult docket there was a difference of 110 cases between the two years, in favor of 1908; and the juvenile docket showed a difference of nine.

## PUNTA GORDA'S PRAISES

### Proclaimed by the New York Packer Correspondent.

The correspondent of the New York Packer, who visited Punta Gorda two weeks ago and made a careful inspection of the town and its surroundings, wrote the following unprejudiced report to the Packer of Jan. 18th:

Punta Gorda is no doubt one of the finest located towns in the state; with the Peace river, three miles in width to the northwest and Charlotte Harbor bay to the west, with the broad Gulf of Mexico back of both, there is little danger of cold weather enough to freeze the most tender vegetation. The land is more than ordinarily rich and will produce anything in fruits or vegetables. Water for irrigation purposes is easy to be had and many fine flowing wells are now in here, one large well throwing its flow twenty-five feet above the surface.

Pineapples are the leading product, and the Punta Gorda pineapple is conceded to be the finest in quality and size of anything of its kind in this country, having been awarded first premiums wherever exhibited. Oranges and grapefruit do equally as well here, while those engaged in growing vegetables are meeting with encouraging success; yet what Punta Gorda needs most is more vegetable growers, and the wonder is why more people do not come here for that purpose, since land can be bought here for from \$15 to \$25 per acre, according to location, not quality, as all lands here are good for any purpose desired.

This is also by far the largest fish shipping point in the state, has a fine harbor and with extended and improved docks, which are now planned for in the near future, will have shipping advantages second to none in Florida. Punta Gorda is healthy to live in, has a sociable and most hospitable class of people, good stores, and, not least, an up-to-date newspaper, the PUNTA GORDA HERALD, A. P. Jordan, editor and owner, which has the reputation of being more quoted from and less criticised by the press in general than any other paper in Florida.

The growers and most interested people in the agricultural and horticultural growth of Punta Gorda include the following:

F. T. Perkins, Crescent pinery, has 5 acres in pineapples under shade cover and ten acres of oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, lemons, limes and kumquats, also many varieties of tropical fruits. A new variety of lemon is grown here which deserves special mention, as it is the most perfect fruit of its kind nature has produced. This is named the grape lemon and is of the usual size, a pure rich golden yellow, perfectly smooth, with a thin skin and full of juice and very heavy. This lemon is in every way superior to the imported article and ought to command the highest market price. Judging from the mammoth fancy pines now being shipped and the fine variety of other fruits grown here, Mr. Perkins must certainly understand thoroughly how to grow the best.

S. A. Giles has a fine little pinery from which he is now shipping fruit and also has grapefruit and orange groves.

M. M. Gaston has a pinery from which he is now shipping, also a fine young orange grove and hundreds of thoroughbred White Leghorns and Buff Orpington chickens. Mr. Gaston makes a specialty of shipping eggs for settings and selling this fine thoroughbred stock for breeding.

J. Hurton & Son have three acres of pines under shade cover and have a fine orange and grapefruit grove.

E. N. Brown has a 2-acre pinery and a fine young orange grove.

Wm. H. Rankin has one of the really fine homes in this section, fronting on the bay, and makes a specialty of growing pines, oranges and grapefruit. Mr. Rankin's grove is one of the best in this vicinity.

Wm. Renses has a 3-acre orange grove and a fine shedded pinery, from which he is now shipping fruit.

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## High School Notes.

It is highly gratifying to note that all the old students came back on time, thoroughly ready to begin the work of the New Year. We have quite a number of new students, also, who have entered the various departments of the school.

It is not at all seldom that a vacation of any kind is demoralizing to a school and results in carelessness and indifference on the part of the students toward their work. We shall have to make an exception of our folks just here. We have never seen students more energetic, any better behaved, or in any better spirit toward the school work than these are. There is no explanation for it unless we admit that these are a good body of students, anyway.

The attendance for the past month has been very good, the students of Miss Butler's room taking the lead. It ought to be gratifying to them to know this, as they are closely pushed by some of the other rooms.

The following is the Honor Roll upon which we notice many familiar names:

10th Grade — May Straughan, Undine Jordan,

9th Grade — Vic Straughan, Claire Sheffield, Dot Sewell.

8th Grade — May Huffman, Nellie Whittaker, Maive McCann, Vera Shaw, Maude Messer, Florence Hagan, Bettie Knight, Billie Knight.

7th Grade — Ruby Rasch, Bertha Keen, Helen Huffman, Coe Allen, Leon Mizell, Carl Anderson, Carrie Lewis, Burtram McCann, Mary Wilkins, Willie Mizell.

6th Grade — John Williams, Permelia Straughan, Frank Concannon, Karl Concannon.

5th Grade — Garret Taylor, Maudie Cothran.

4th Grade — Wallace Gaskill, Edward McCann, Dick Straughan.

3rd Grade — Lillie Gaskill, Cecil Bryant, Pearl Singletary, Ethel Addison.

1st Grade — Ula McGehee, Florrie Hankerson, Paul Bryant.

Send your orders for printed commercial stationery to this office.

## MUCH NEWSPAPER TALK

### Shows That General Gilchrist's Popularity is Growing.

Tampa News, Jan. 22:—General Gilchrist grows in favor as his campaign advances. The next Governor will hail from South Florida.

Tampa Tribune:—J. N. C. Stockton is beginning to get wise to the fact that Albert Gilchrist will give him plenty to attend to without taking up the cudgels for any of North Florida's senatorial candidates.

Dade City Star:—Honest, Conservative, Truthful, Big Hearted Albert Gilchrist, south Florida's candidate for governor, was in the city yesterday in the interests of his candidacy, incidentally paying this office a call. The general is certainly making a thorough canvass of the "field," and the gentleman from Duval had better look to his laurels. Gilchrist made a very favorable impression upon our people, and he will no doubt have a large following in this county.

Dunnellon Advocate:—THE PUNTA GORDA HERALD publishes Col. Gilchrist's cut at the top of their editorial column and heads it "Florida's next Governor." Brother Jordan has been here a long time, and if anybody should know what is what, it is this veteran editor. And there is no use talking, Gilchrist is a mighty popular man, taking what the best papers in the State are saying about him, as a source of our information—and no better information could be secured—and it wouldn't surprise us a bit if he should be elected.

Madison New Enterprise:—Candidate Albert W. Gilchrist who wants to be governor, is a humorist. His method of advertising himself and his candidacy is unique and "fetching." One of his methods is by the use of handsome post cards, adorned with a fine half-tone "speaking" likeness of his handsome face and, to offset this, the pictures of three monkeys with a legend. We fail to see the exact meaning of the monkeys, unless he intends to convey the impression that when the ballots are counted after the primary election, it will be seen that he has made monkeys of his opponents.

Lakeland News:—Gen. A. W. Gilchrist, candidate for governor, was a visitor to Lakeland last Tuesday. He met a great number of our people, and made a very pleasing impression on all. He distributed a number of his famous "monkey cards," and explained the moral inculcated thereby: "See, Hear, Speak no Evil." The genial General comes as near living up to his motto as anybody we know.

Gen. Gilchrist will get a large vote in this territory. He is a South Florida man, and has neighborly claims upon the people. Then, he is a man who makes friends wherever he goes, and of whom it is hard to find anything really objectionable. Gen. Gilchrist remarked that some of the temperance people have the mistaken impression that he is opposed to their policies. As a matter

Times-Union:—Gen. Gilchrist says in his platform: "The taxation of every little enterprise in the state throws a burden upon industry rather than on wealth." The occupation tax laws, state and municipal, seem to have been designed to discourage the poor from attempting to make an independent living. They are carried to a pitiful degree of detail. It is a broad principle of taxation that real estate and personal property should bear the burdens of the state. It is wrong in principle to tax any industry, large or small.

## Pardon Abuses.

Tampa Times:—A northern governor paralyzed a whole lot of philanthropists, busybodies and attorneys for the defense, by coolly refusing to see and hear a delegation who wished to appear before him and clamor for the release and pardon of a man who had killed his brother and his brother's wife so that he might come into their property. The wretch had a fair and full trial and was condemned to be hanged and the governor deserves the thanks of mankind for refusing to be bothered with maudlin proceedings against justice.

The truth is that the pardoning power of executives is much abused. The time to plead for a criminal is when he is on trial. Then is when his offense should be fully investigated and his punishment measured out according to law and justice. But of late years the task of prosecution is but half done when a man is convicted and sentenced. The whole business must be threshed over again before the pardon board, and somehow it seems that the board is softer than even the mellow run of juries.

Sunday Times-Union:—That "rare creature" described by the PUNTA GORDA HERALD and caught by Capt. McCann, may not be so rare after all, if it is what the fishermen call "the shrimp mother"—not a sport indeed and not the "mother of shrimp" at all, but fairly common along the coast and in the mud of tidal streams. It is "beautiful" and it is of horrid shape, but the books have it.

Times-Union:—THE PUNTA GORDA HERALD tells a nature story of a persistent and savage attack made by an otter upon a man who followed a cow into a bayhead and surmised that the otter was mad. Of course that might be, but otters have been known to attack and fight savagely in defense of their young. If Mr. Koon thought he was breaking up a home, he might have shown more consideration for the rage or terror of the little hero or heroine. The odds are largely in favor of the guess that a mother died to save her young, but only Roosevelt can know certainly now

of fact, he voted for prohibition in DeSoto county. He does not mean that he is in favor of prohibition, but he is not a hypocrite, we surrender any conviction office.

The race seems to be between Gilchrist and Stockton, rest nowhere.