

The Punta Gorda Herald

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\$1.50 A YEAR

Great Day at Bermont

Saturday was a great day at Bermont. A gathering at that place, which is had been understood was to be strictly an occasion for getting together on a good roads movement attracted a large number of citizens from Arcadia, Fort Ogden, Charlotte Harbor and Punta Gorda. And even though some of the Arcadia leaders saw fit to bring up the county division question and discuss it from the stump, the good people of Bermont, with characteristic hospitality made things pleasant for everybody. They provided a fine dinner and made the visitors feel welcome, and all had a good time.

Twenty-five automobiles conveyed the visitors from here, Fort Ogden and Arcadia, and other vehicles were used by those who lived less distant from Bermont. In the aggregate more than two hundred and fifty people assembled on this occasion, which proved not only enjoyable but profitable, for these gatherings when characterized by good will, draw communities closer together and bring about mutual benefits. It is this latter result which our Bermont friends seek to accomplish and in their efforts in that direction they are to be heartily commended.

After the dinner, which was served in the open air upon tables provided for the purpose, about two hour's time was devoted to speech-making. E. E. Bailey of Bermont, acted as master of ceremonies and introduced Senator F. M. Cooper as the first speaker. Mr. Cooper spoke only a few minutes, but gave assurance that he favored and would use his best efforts in behalf of any movement which he felt would do the most good to the greatest number of people.

Representative W. C. Langford of Arcadia, followed Senator Cooper and took occasion to again present several of the planks of the platform upon which he was elected, and when he brought up the division question by declaring his uncompromising opposition to the proposed creation of new counties, he sprang a surprise on all who had not expected a discussion of this agitated question to take place. His remarks indicated that though evidence were presented to show that a majority of the people of the county desired division he would still oppose it, but he said nothing about the fact that there may be a majority of fair-minded men in the legislature to whom such evidence would appeal strongly enough to be considered.

Col. J. H. Hancock of Fort Ogden, replied to Mr. Langford, presenting some convincing facts showing that the proposed new county to be cut off from Southern DeSoto is amply able to take care of itself and will suffer no increase of taxes.

T. S. Carlton of Arcadia, was the next speaker and confined himself to the subject of good roads. W. J. Bowling of Charlotte Harbor, when called, deferred to T. A. Stephens, whose remarks were brief but of an appropriate nature. Judge Holcomb of Arcadia, expressed himself as opposed to a

division of DeSoto county chiefly because of sentiment. Rev. E. F. Ley of Arcadia, offered an argument for the construction of a road from Bermont to Arcadia.

Rev. W. A. Weir of this city, elicited thunderous applause when he likened the situation in DeSoto county to that where a young woman who wanted to marry a young man against whom no reasonable objection could be urged met with the opposition of a step-father because the latter would lose control of a large amount of money when the girl married. He referred to the sixty-nine thousand dollars of taxes paid toward the government of DeSoto county by this southern portion and said that it seemed to be a case where the parent-county opposed division because it would lose control of this money.

Pres. Ed Scott of the DeSoto County Good Roads association, presented a plan for the construction of a system of good roads which was devised by the government engineer. He advocated consideration of this by the county commissioners and early action looking to carrying out a plan that will provide improved roads in the near future.

Commissioner H. J. Downing of Fort Ogden, in a short talk explained that a shortage of funds

ANNUAL MEETING

Florida State Horticultural Society to Convene at Deland April 29th

The twenty-sixth annual meeting of the Florida State Horticultural Society will take place at Deland, Fla., beginning Tuesday, April 29th, and lasting through Wednesday, Thursday and the forenoon of Friday. The members of the Program Committee are now hard at work, and they expect to have something interesting, and are trying to get some noted speakers on horticultural topics.

Deland is one of the prettiest and most attractive inland towns in the State. It is the seat of the John B. Stetson University, and it will be well worth the trip to see the buildings and equipment of this fine school, to say nothing about the Horticultural meeting.

The Entertainment Committee of Deland is preparing for all of the entertainment that the members can indulge in and not conflict with the regular meeting.

At present there is a movement on foot to wind up the Horticultural meeting with an excursion to Panama, stopping at Colon, Panama, Kingston, Jamaica and Havana, Cuba. The steamer will leave Key West on May 3rd, which will just fit into the dates of the meeting. Last year a similar trip was taken by the society to Cuba, and everyone claimed that they had a most enjoyable time. This trip will be a longer one, and will include a visit to the much-talked of "Big Ditch" in Panama, and a stop-over at Kingston, Jamaica, taking eleven days for the trip. Members anticipating taking this trip should notify the Secretary, Mr. E. O. Painter,

prevented him from making some needed improvements on roads in this district before fall. Rev. T. R. Woodson of this city, spoke of the advantage of good roads in connection with deep water in this harbor. J. L. Jones of Arcadia, took up the matter of a board of trade and spoke of the advantage of concerted action in any movement for the public good. J. E. VanCamp of this city, concluded the speaking program by inviting the Bermont people, ladies especially, to the fish fry in this city, which took place Tuesday.

Bermont, like other places, needs good roads; but at the same time, that section needs drainage and transportation—it is a fine section and has fair prospects of soon getting what is needed in these respects; and rapid development will follow, for a cosmopolitan class of good energetic people have settled there and will make it a flourishing country.

SOME THOUGHTS FOR TAXPAYERS

EDITOR HERALD:—Our friends in the mud and pond flats about the county seat talk as if the county was a thing created for their special benefit and should not be divided without the consent of all the county. Under the rule, how long would it likely be before Arcadia would be willing to have any part of the county set up business of its own? It may be safely stated—never, as long as they could by any hook or crook prevent it. So, what is the use of them pretending, that some time they would concede the right?

Have they not one of the slickest schemes right now to bond the county for half a million dollars to build 50 miles of brick roads? Once vote bonds, the county will be in perpetual bondage and financial slavery for all times to come. Talk about paying the bonds in 20, 30, 40 or 50 years—starting with half a million, it is safe to say that in 50 years there will be five million dollars in bonds.

There is no end to the road problem and any man that imagines the road problem can be solved by dumping a large amount of money on a few spots is, to say the least, either an interested knave or fool.

We have in DeSoto county a very few men who have become monomaniacs on the subject and do not hesitate to preach, publish, pretend and state the most preposterous and deceiving conclusions. The wonder is, do they really believe the taxpayers silly fools, or are they daft on the mooted question of good roads? One peculiar feature, none of them ever see very far away from their environments, which would tend to show that they are in fact selfish schemers.

Let taxpayers beware of them now and forever, and instead of perpetual bondage and financial slavery, let them adopt the safer plan of making the most of the opportunity at present existing.

With illegal outstanding warrants to the tune of \$130,000 and a tax rate 34½ mills—\$34.50 on each \$1000 tax value—it is about time for the average taxpayer of DeSoto county to pray for deliverance from any more extortionate taxation.—TAX STUDENT.

Jacksonville, Fla., and send in their membership fee of \$1.00. All members are given the advantage of any special rates that may be made.

Don't forget the date of the meeting, and don't forget to send in your membership fee.

To Utilize Cull Oranges

Experiments by which the Florida Citrus exchange hopes to find a market for what has largely been a waste product, namely, its cull oranges and grapefruit, have been concluded by Robert Duncan, a famous scientist and will be tried out on a commercial scale next season in order to test Mr. Duncan's theories and to see if they can be carried out at a profit.

The term "cull" does not mean rotten oranges. The association knows what to do with them. They bury them. Culls are the rough skinned, the slightly bruised, the somewhat imperfect oranges that are not thought best to pack under the exchange brand.

Some packing houses have 10 per cent. of them. Some run as low as 2 per cent. Frequently the houses with the lowest per cent of culls sells its fruit at the lowest prices, too. There is something uncanny, until you understand it, in the frequency with which the two figures coincide.

In this state the big sizes of both grapefruit and oranges are practically culls because they do not sell as well as the smaller sizes. They are good fruit but they don't bring the prices.

What to do with these culls has been Mr. Duncan's problem.

Orange juice is the first and most natural thought.

BOARD OF ENGINEERS

Committee to Give Hearing on Improvements of Our Harbor

As a result of the efforts of Congressman Sparkman, supplemented by the good work done by Representative L'Engle in presenting the claims of our harbor to the Board of Engineers of the United States War Department, an opportunity is given for the presentation of further evidence to secure a favorable report that will lead to the improved desired.

Major J. R. Slattery of the Corps of Engineers, advises that a committee of the Board of Engineers will visit Punta Gorda, arriving at 7:40 a. m., April 10th.

At 2:00 p. m. on April 10, 1913 the Board will hold a hearing in the Punta Gorda Hotel in the matter of the further improvement of Charlotte Harbor, Florida, report upon which is now before the Board.

In this connection your attention is invited to circular letter from the Board of Engineers dated February 24, 1913, advising you that the Board is not convinced of the advisability of the United States undertaking any additional improvement at that locality for reasons stated therein.

The Board will be glad to hear from any one who may care to appear in behalf of the matter. While oral arguments are of value, matters of importance to become of record should be submitted in writing.

It behooves the citizens of this city to lend every effort toward securing and compiling accurate and reliable data on present and prospective commerce that makes the desired improvement necessary.

It is the solution, too, but there are many difficulties to be overcome before it was a commercial proposition. In the first place orange juice does not keep well and the exchange resolved on the start that it would not try to keep the juice by putting in some preservative. Grapefruit is prepared by a formula that was for a long time a secret of one firm, and others could not break into the field. Grapejuice does not present the difficulties that orange juice does either, for orange juice when heated, is apt to take on a scorched taste. It must be kept for at least two years if it is to become a commercial product.

In his experiments Professor Duncan found that he could make a pure orange sugar from which the flavor of orange juice could be had by merely adding pure water. However, the sugar has a great affinity for water and takes it up so freely that it could not be kept in granular form.

This trouble has been overcome it is believed, by stopping the process short of the granular form and leaving a product that is viscid enough to flow slightly. So far this has kept well and it is believed that it will solve the problem.

In connection with this another by-product has been evolved in orange oil derived from the peel. This can be used for extracts or wherever the orange oil is of value. It has a most delicate flavor and is a fine product. There is not to exceed two ounces of it in a box of oranges.

The way to make the products having been evolved, it is now up to the exchange to see if they can be made at a profit. In one or two of the largest of the exchange packing houses a plant will be put in this summer. After a year's test the exchange hopes to know what can be done along this line and in the way of finding a profitable market.

If a market other than shipping the culls can be devised, the exchange hopes that the fruit will be kept at home. This by grading up the general fruit, will add to the prices the state receives, and it is hoped to make some profit at least on the culls, there will be a general benefit.—Tampa Times.

Lakeland Telegram:—The stranger who will come into a State, predisposed against it, perhaps, from inherited prejudices, hunt industriously around until he has found its weakest native types of people and then insist that they are representative of the whole, and on all occasions, regardless of company make it a point to sneer at the native Florida Cracker, is not only incapable of intelligent generalization on any subject where more than the smallest measure of ability is required, but is without the tact and consideration which are everywhere all over the world, amid all races and in all climes, the hallmark of a gentleman. Such a light-weight smart-aleck with a hair-trigger tongue could with entire propriety go to the Cracker for both brains and breeding.