

# The Punta Gorda Herald

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PUNTA GORDA, FLA., THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1913

\$1.50 A YEAR

## Commissioners' Meeting

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at their office in Arcadia, August 4th, 1913. Members present were V. W. Surrency, chairman, W. G. Welles, Joseph Crews, John Hagan and H. J. Downing. Minutes of the previous meeting were read, and upon motion same was duly approved after eliminating that portion of said minutes.

Upon motion made by John Hagan and seconded by H. J. Downing, the clerk is hereby authorized to make formal application to the Commissioner of Agriculture for the hire of ten state convicts to be worked on the public roads of DeSoto county.—W. G. Wells, John Hagan and H. J. Downing voting yea, V. W. Surrency opposing said order and Joseph Crews not voting.

Petition was submitted to the Board asking road running from a point on Arcadia and Nocatee road 150 feet south from the northwest corner of the Buchanan tract, thence west across the Buchanan tract thence west across the A. C. Justice tract, thence west across the A. C. L. R. R., thence across the William Truebger tract and terminating on the west side of the Truebger tract. Same was approved and road granted. M. W. Brasson, J. C. Justice and J. W. Buchanan are hereby appointed blazers.

County Treasurer and county judge filed report.

It is hereby recommended to the Comptroller that Andy Moore be allowed to redeem the following land from all tax sale at face value without interest to wit: Lot 19, block 2, in the town of Gardner, (certificate No. 366 of sale of August 1906.)

Petition for public road from east side B. F. and W. G. Welles' grove to southeast corner F. Tyler's grove was submitted to Board same was laid over till next regular meeting of this Board.

Robert Pierce and Mrs. Ellen Welcher were placed upon the pauper list.

Blazer's report for First Street, Cleveland to City Limits of said town was duly received and accepted. Same was duly advertised by posting notice on courthouse door and mailing notice to J. G. Stokes, Cleveland, Fla., to be posted on said road.

Deputy Sheriff's bonds of J. H. Hudson, J. H. Lipscomb and D. E. Gillett were submitted to the Board and approved.

Bids for doing the plumbing and placing of fixtures in county jail were received. Vann Plumbing & Supply Co. bid \$158.70. A. C. Freeman bid \$135.20. Bid of A. C. Freeman was accepted.

Bill presented by J. Ed Raulerson for slabbing the saw grass road from Lily to Limestone, as per agreement recorded in commissioners' minutes for October, 1910, was unanimously rejected.

T. D. Powell and M. Eugene Albritton submitted bids for road superintendent. Powell's bid was \$110.00; Albritton's bid was \$125. Both were rejected.

Notary bond of Harriet Husted with D. L. Skipper and J. I. Roberts as sureties, was approved.

Be it Resolved, That the Board of County Commissioners request that the white fly commission furnish to this Board, at its September meeting, a report or inventory of all machinery and other equipment that has been heretofore purchased by this Board and delivered to the said whitefly commissioners and further request that all tents now on hand be brought in and stored in the county court house.

Road petition from citizens of Avon Park and Sebring, asking for a road from Avon Park to Sebring, was granted.

The Board passed the following resolution: Resolved, That the old Charlotte Harbor and Arcadia public road, where same crosses Mrs. Sallie Lanier's and Jasper Howard's land, be and the same is hereby discontinued.

Notice having been duly posted according to law on road formally granted to run from county line between DeSoto and Polk counties to the town of Fort Green same was declared a public road.

Notice having been duly posted according to law on road formally

## SISAL HEMP INDUSTRY

Being Developed—Plant Near Here To be Operated Soon

The plant for the manufacture of hemp rope and cordage, which is being installed at St. James City, near here, by the Sisal Hemp Development Co., is about ready for operation.

For a time the company will manufacture its goods from imported fiber, a shipment of which has already been imported from Honduras. It owns several thousand acres of land on Pine Island, which is peculiarly well adapted to the growing of henequen, the sisal hemp plant, and great plantations of hemp plant will be set out and the material grown there. The company also has laid out a considerable town, called St. James City which is already assuming the proportions of a live, thriving community.

The Sisal Hemp Development company is backed by some of the largest capitalists in the country and apparently has a great future ahead of it. Also it means the beginning of an industry that should mean much for Florida.

The history of the company has an element of romance in it, says the Tampa Times. Mr. Knowles came to Tampa a couple of years ago from the Bahamas, where he was born and reared. He had a thorough knowledge of the sisal hemp industry, from growing the plants to manufacture of cordage. While looking over the city he noticed a number of henequen plants growing on the grounds in front of Sacred Heart Catholic church and some in Tampa Bay park grounds. He saw that the plant thrived well here and then and there resolved to make sisal hemp-growing and manufacture a big industry in Florida. He succeeded in interesting capital in the project and the big industry is about to have its real beginning.

granted by this Board to run from the northeast corner of Section 16, Township 33, Range 24, to the town of Fort Green same was declared a public road.

Notice having been duly posted and advertised according to law on road formally granted by this Board to run from Sebring to (Concluded on Page 8)

## PHOSPHATE PRODUCTION

Large Output Past Year—Florida Leads all Other States

Phosphate rock, which is the principal source of one of three fertilizing elements necessary for plant growth, was marketed in the United States last year to the extent of 2,973,332 long tons, valued at \$11,675,774. This was a slight decrease in both quantity and value compared with the figures for the preceding year, but the amount of phosphate rock mined was greater than in 1911, excepting in South Carolina. In Florida the increase was 3 per cent, in Tennessee it was over 12 per cent, and in the western phosphate field it was over 10 per cent.

Stocks of phosphate rock on hand also increased in the two main producing Southern States, Florida and Tennessee. On the whole the industry in the main southern phosphate field was active.

The production of phosphate rock in Florida was 81 per cent of the entire output of the United States. The output of this State, which at the present time leads in the phosphate industry, was with one exception, that of 1911, the greatest in the history of the State. The quantity marketed for the year was 2,406,899 long tons, valued at \$9,461,297—a slight decline both in tonnage and value compared with 1911. Tennessee furnished 14.2 per cent of the phosphate marketed in the United States in 1912, the total production of the State being 423,331 long tons valued at \$1,640,476. In South Carolina 131,490 long tons was marketed, valued at \$524,760—a considerable decline compared with 1911.

In the Western States the production of phosphate came from Idaho, Utah and Wyoming and amounted to 11,612 long tons, a gain of 10.5 per cent compared with 1911. The value of the product increased considerably, the average price per ton being greater in 1912 than in 1911.

The United States Geological Survey has just published an advance chapter from "Mineral Resources, 1912," by W. C. Phalen, giving, besides statistics of production of phosphate rock for the whole country, figures showing the production of the individual States for the last five years. Tables showing imports and exports of fertilizer materials are also given, as well as the production of phosphate rock in the principal countries of the world. The phosphate industry in the different States is briefly discussed, and the author gives general information of interest to those engaged in the phosphate trade.

The report may be procured without cost by addressing the Director, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington D. C.

## Visitor's View of Florida

Mr. E. W. Barber of Jackson, Mich., who spends the winters at Crooked Lake in Polk county, through his home paper, the Jackson Patriot, furnishes a fair view of Florida to northern readers. We quote from his writings and what he says with reference to the bugbear of our dreaded summer climate is especially interesting just now:

"Florida has a longer coast line than any other State in the Union. We are in the latitude of Tampa, south of the 28th parallel. Florida's temperature winter and summer, is modified by the water of the Gulf and the Atlantic, making its climate equable the year round. Official reports show that in the vicinity of Tampa, the average for the year is 70 degrees, an average maximum of 80 degrees, but never having reached 100 degrees—96 the highest since weather observations commenced. Its admirable climate has made Florida the winter garden of the country. A northern man, who lives in Tampa and has been there for three years, told Mr. Welling last week that he likes the summers there better than he does those of

Wisconsin, the State he came from.

"Much of the Florida land is sandy; some of it is very poor, worthless; many purchasers of that which is worthless have been badly stung; but a great deal is very productive. The State ships annually, with less than two million acres under cultivation, a round hundred thousand car loads of fruits and vegetables annually to northern and western markets; it produces 40 per cent of the sea island or long-staple cotton of the United States; it raises from 200 to 300 bushels of sweet potatoes to the acre, and from 100 to 300 bushels of Irish potatoes, from 400 to 600 crates of vegetables; from 500 to 800 quarts of strawberries; several hundred boxes of oranges and grapefruit; from one to three tons of pineapples; large yields of sugar cane; one-half of the phosphates of the United States one-third of the phosphates of the world, Polk county leading in this production; and the lumber, naval stores and fisheries are of great value. The oranges and grapefruit of this county are among the very best grown. A poor specimen of these leading market fruits we have not seen this season.

"Naturally the eyes of the world are upon Florida. At the beginning of November the summer ends and citrus fruits commence to ripen. Next there are seven months of mostly delightful weather—cool spells only following the severest northern blizzards—and April and May are two of the pleasantest months of the year. Many northern settlers say the summer months, when there is the least work to be done, are not uncomfortably hot. Those who imagine that Florida is a land of stifling heat are far from the truth. Through the summer months beginning with June, breezes fan the State from the Atlantic or the Gulf, and frequent showers, which set in as the weather warms, help to bring comfort for this latitude during the summer season."

The Department of Agriculture, through the Weather Bureau, has inaugurated a plan of supplying a regular daily weather bulletin to all vessels and radio stations within range of the enormous wireless stations at Arlington, Va., and Key West, Florida. Each night, a few minutes after 10 o'clock, the two big radio stations will make a broadcast distribution of a weather bulletin which will deal particularly with wind conditions and barometric pressure and give special warning of severe storms along the coast. The daily bulletin will consist of two parts. The first part will give in code letters and figures the actual weather conditions at 8 p. m. (75th Meridian time) at certain points: Sydney, Nantucket, Atlantic City, Hatteras, Charleston, Key West, Pensacola and Bermuda.

The Buffalo herd on the Wichita national forest, Oklahoma, now numbers 48, 10 calves having been born this year. When the buffalo were introduced on the Wichita in 1907 there were 15 head.

## ADVERTISING FLORIDA

Atlantic Coast Line Circulating Neat Booklet About the State

The Nation's Garden Spot is the title of a very attractive booklet that has just been issued by the Atlantic Coast Line railway and which advertises the various states traversed by the road in the South together with their products.

The edition is known as No. 11 and is issued by the agricultural department of the Atlantic Coast Line railway for distribution throughout the North and East this coming fall. It is handsomely illustrated and is bound to attract favorable comment wherever seen. More space is, perhaps, devoted to Florida than any other state. A number of pictures show various crops which are raised in the Peninsular state. In fact, the frontispiece shows cucumbers being picked on a Florida farm, while another shows acres planted in tomatoes the fruit of which are being gathered. One of Sanford's famous celery grounds is shown with its celery products banked for bleaching, and following this are other illustrations of growing patches of cauliflower, onions and other truck.

A patch of velvet beans is also shown and in connection with this picture it is stated that the velvet beans is a fine soil improver and an excellent feed for hogs and cattle. The orange is not forgotten, a grove being shown with fruit nearing maturity. There are also pictures of grapefruit groves.

These booklets will be taken by Capt. Wilbur McCoy, agricultural and immigration agent to the various state fairs and expositions which will be held in New England and Canada during the next three months.

Things in our town sometimes go wrong, but we cannot stub our toes kicking at ourselves.