

Punta Gorda's Trucking Industry

Growing vegetables for market is a comparatively new industry here, the business for the past few years having been rather of an experimental character. The first comers here were mostly fishermen and merchants who knew but little about gardening and did not care to embark in the business, while people coming later found no object lessons to show them the adaptability of the soil to the cultivation of vegetables. An occasional successful experiment, however, began to convince our people of the superior advantages of this location for growing vegetables, that not only is the soil eminently adapted to their cultivation, but the immunity which we enjoy from injurious frosts insures the successful production of all kinds of vegetables throughout the winter months, when in other less favored sections the liability to severe frost makes winter gardening uncertain and precarious.

After it was thus demonstrated that virtually all kinds of vegetables could be successfully and profitably grown here throughout the winter, people began to buy lands and embark in the business on a small scale. One result was that lands just south of the town, previously considered of little value and offered at \$3.50 to \$5.00 an acre, almost immediately advanced in price to \$30.00 and \$40.00 an acre, and we doubt of any of them can now be bought for less than \$50.00 an acre.

Notwithstanding the proof furnished of the adaptability of the soil and the unsurpassed advantage of our mild climate, the trucking industry has by no means reached proportions commensurate with the opportunities and advantages presented and is now limited to the cultivation of less than a hundred of the thousands of acres suitable for the business. In fact, the total number of acres now in cultivation is only one hundred.

Less than a dozen gentlemen are engaged in the business. The names of these and the acreage planted by each have been furnished THE HERALD through the kindness of Dr. McQueen and Senator Cooper. They are as follows:

J. F. Githens—Tomatoes 5 acres cucumbers 5, egg-plants, peppers and English peas, each 1½;

Dr. Stone—Tomatoes 9, beans 4, egg-plants 6, peppers 2;

Geo. A. McLane—Cabbage 7.

James Stephens—Cabbage 2¼;

E. W. Smith—Egg-plant 1, peppers and lettuce, each ¼;

S. J. Chadwick—Cabbage 2;

J. J. Haslett—Tomatoes, peppers, egg-plant and potatoes, each 2—total 8;

Mr. Wilson—Cucumbers 5, okra and pepper, one, each;

J. M. Aikenhead—Egg-plant 3, cucumbers 2, peppers 2½, tomatoes and potatoes, each 1½—total 10½;

W. R. Collins—Beans and potatoes, each 4; cabbage and cucumbers, each 2; okra 1; strawberries, half acre.

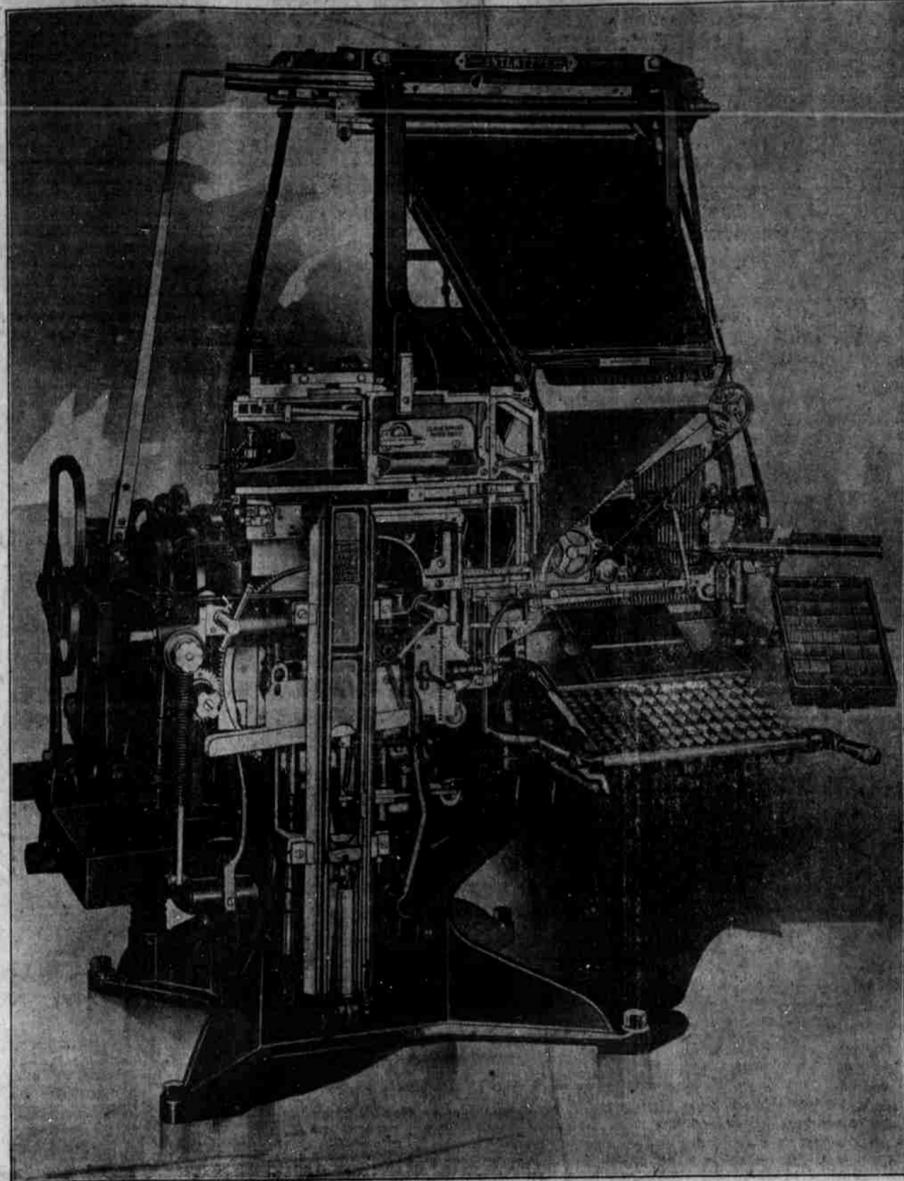
L. A. Hawkins—One acre each in cabbage, egg-plant, pepper and okra.

B. E. Perkins—Cucumbers 1½; Continued on last page.

Concluded from first page. pepper and tomatoes, one acre each.

A. P. Hatch—Cabbage, one. Joshua Mizell — Tomatoes 6; cabbage, one.

Besides the foregoing, the Acline Farm Company is fencing 200



Intertype No. 280, which has recently been added to The Herald's Equipment

acres of land preliminary to clearing and planting. This company owns 1000 acres of land near Acline which is said to equal in fertility the finest lands of Illinois. The company is composed of A. F. Dewey, J. R. Sandlin, J. J. McCann and J. H. Treadwell.

All the crops mentioned above are flourishing beautifully, an impetus having been given them by the recent good rains. Anyone who wishes to see lovely gardens growing here in the middle of the winter with vernal luxuriance has only to go a mile or so south of town where most of our truckers are working.

A good many vegetables, chiefly beans, egg-plant and Irish potatoes, have already been shipped and many more are ready for marketing. Thus far prices have been good and the growers are encouraged and satisfied.

The conclusion is that anyone who wishes to engage in truck farming, growing vegetables through the winter for the northern markets, cannot find a better location than Punta Gorda. (N.B.—The editor of THE HERALD, by whom this is written, has no land to sell.)

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR.

Think what it is not to hate anything but sin, to be full of love to every creature, to be angered at nothing, to be sure that all things will turn to good, not to mind pain because it is our Father's will, to know that nothing—no, not if the earth was to be burned up or the waters come and drown or—nothing could part us from God, who loves us and who fills our souls with peace and joy, because we are sure that whatever he wills is holy, just and good.—George Eliot.

THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS SPENT IN PUNTA GORDA DURING PAST YEAR

SHOWS TOWN'S PROGRESS Substantial Improvements Made in Buildings and Other Properties

During the year now closing, a great many improvements have been made in Punta Gorda. These include new buildings erected, old ones repaired and enlarged, extensions and additions to public utilities and many minor improvements, all aggregating in cost a considerable sum for a town of this size and having as little capital.

A full and complete record of these things has not been made; but with the assistance of an observant friend, we are enabled to give a list, which though not full and may be, in some instances slightly incorrect, will serve to show that our city is making gratifying progress. The following is the list of improvements made

during 1913, prepared as correctly as possible under the circumstances:

Punta Gorda Cigar Factory, new building, burned last Friday night, \$3,500;

Norman C. Hewitt, new cottage, \$1,000; M. V. Williams, two cottages, \$1,000 each, \$2,000; J. H. Hancock, residence, \$2,500; John Hurton, Sr. cottage, \$2,250;

E. W. Rountree, five tenant houses, \$2,500; S. J. Chadwick, enlarging dwelling, \$1,000; Fred Bell, cottage, \$800; Octave Bell, cottage, \$800; additions and labor on the electric light system, \$2,000; same things, telephone system, \$2,000;

Repairs on railroad dock, \$1,000; addition to railroad warehouse, \$750; Mrs. Mary L. Sandlin, improvements on residence, \$750; J. M. Driver, new cottage, \$1,250; Colored Odd Fellows, new hall, \$1,000; Dr. E. W. Welsh, re-

HEALTHIEST TOWN ON EARTH

According to the records kept by our health officer, Dr. George S. Stone, Punta Gorda is the healthiest town on earth. His records show that, during the year 1913 just ended, there was only one death within the corporate limits of the town, that one being the death of an infant seven months old.

The last census, that of 1910, gave the town a population of 1200 and, since that census was taken, it is estimated that the population has been increased by at least 200. Dr. Stone's report, however, includes Solana and other suburbs, the population of which added to that of the town proper, brings the total estimated population up to 2,200.

The death rate, therefore, according to population, is lower than that of any other town in the world in which a record has been kept. The doctor attributes this wonderful healthfulness to the location of the town, the climatic conditions, and the rigid sanitation, which has virtually eliminated flies and mosquitoes and thus made it impossible for either typhoid or malaria to exist.

Vital Statistics of Punta Gorda For the Year 1913

Report to the State Health by George S. Stone, Health Officer:

Births, 24 — males 11, 13.

Deaths, 1.

Deaths distributed and caused as follows:

January 0; February 0; March 0; April 0; May 0; June 1*; July 0; August 0; September 0; October 0; November 0; December 0.

*Male, age 6 months — ileo-colitis.

Communicable Diseases:
Tuberculosis 0; Diphtheria 0; Hydrophobia 0; Scarlet fever 0; Measles 14; Typhoid Fever 0; Malarial Fever 4; Smallpox 1; Whooping Cough 12; Anterior Poliomyelitis 0.

Population 2,200.

We are proud of the fact that Punta Gorda is the healthiest community on the American continent. This is due to its location and climatic conditions and our rigid sanitation. No flies, no typhoid fever; no mosquitoes, no malaria. We will make Punta Gorda even healthier by driving out what few flies and mosquitoes may remain.

I certify that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Signed) GEO. S. STONE, M.D.
Punta Gorda, Fla., Dec. 30, 1913.

Sworn and subscribed to before me on this 30th Dec., 1913.

(Signed) John H. Hancock,
(SEAL) Notary Public.

pairs and alterations on business block, \$1,000;

THE PUNTA GORDA HERALD, brick veneer building, \$2,000; type-setting machine and other equipment, \$3,000—total, \$5,000; George Dewey and Henry Ainsworth, equipment for pressing club, \$300; H. R. Dreggors, moving and altering cottage, \$200; J. F. Corbett, painting and repairing dwelling, \$150; Mrs. Sadie B. Farrington, ditto, \$200; P. W. McAdow, sundry improvements on property, \$200; C. M. Carrier, ditto, \$400;

Mrs. Minnie Quednau, new tenant house, \$500; F. S. Strobhar, painting and repairing cottages, \$200; Mrs. Wall, moving and repairing cottage, \$100; George Brown, painting cottages, \$100; M. E. Church, south, brick and other materials for new building, \$1,500; James S. Goff, improvements on dwelling, \$100; cost of setting shade and ornamental trees along the streets, \$150; H. R. Dreggors, tin roof on brick building, \$250;

Punta Gorda Ice Company:—1,000-ton storage building, \$10,500; new boiler plant, \$2,835; 25-ton ice plant, \$18,600; Repairs to building, \$16,000; new office building, \$675; electric plant, \$3,758; railroad track and dock, \$5,760—total, \$43,728.

Adding up the above amounts, it will be seen that the total value of improvements made during 1913 amounts to \$79,228.

Now, if we include in this the \$60,000 of bonds voted for a water and sewerage system, we have \$139,878 as the grand total.

Comparing this with the total assessed valuation of property in the city, which is \$500,000, it is shown that the improvements made and voted for amount to 33.13 per cent. of the taxable wealth of the town. We doubt if any other town or city in the state can show a greater per centage of improvements in proportion to wealth and population.