

The Punta Gorda Herald

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PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA, THURSDAY, DEC. 2, 1915.

In 1833, Indians in the vicinity of Quincy, Fla., sold wild turkeys to the white folks at five cents each. Now, aren't you sorry you didn't live there then?

The Tallahassee Record certainly is a "warm member" and it threatens to become really hot. It became hot once, about six weeks ago, and fired a shot that completely silenced an enemy battery at Trenton.

Tampa Tribune says that, in the third district, four men are running for congress,—Smithwick, Kehoe, Lindsay and Stephens. When The Herald counted them three months ago, there were eight. Where are the others? Tallahassee Record might tell.

The Tampa papers report that George W. Adams, the "live-wire" newspaper man who founded the Zolfo Truth, is making preparations to start a newspaper at Wauchula and that he will advocate the division of DeSoto into four counties. It is safe to say that he will not get much advertising from Arcadia.

Editor Caldwell of the Jasper News, pronounces the fiddle "the greatest musical instrument in the world and the one that discourses the sweetest music." That depends upon the player, but, even if he be a Paderewski, the fiddle must take rank below that instrument which is composed of the vocal chords in the throat of a beautiful woman.

Of two men whom Editor Lee of the Winter Haven Chief, wishes to meet, one is the fellow who started the fad of putting fringe on a bed-spread. When Lee finds him, we hope he will kill him, and then hunt up and kill the man who invented the coat shirt and the other wretch who started the practice of putting on men's shirts buttons of the smallest possible size.

The DeLand Daily News has appeared, and "Thorn" of the West Palm Beach Post, says that it has no editor. But it carries at its "masthead" the name of Chris O. Codrington, president of the Florida Press Association; and if "Thorn" isn't careful, he may become the subject of a "red-hot" editorial, which Chris knows well how to write. The Herald wishes the News the greatest success.

The newspapers are giving expression to many complaints about the inaccuracy of the state census. We believe that, if the census had been absolutely complete, it would have shown that Florida has a population of over a million. But a perfect census cannot be secured for the pay that is given. No really complete census, state or federal, has ever been taken of any town in which this writer has lived.

Everglades Schemers

Col. John G. Hanna, the accomplished editor of that admirable weekly, the Auburndale News, was moved last week to print a column editorial criticizing The Herald for its brief commendation of Editor McCreary of the Gainesville Sun, for "exposing the schemes of the Everglades land speculators." Col. Hanna says that he was surprised to read such an expression "in The Punta Gorda Herald, which," he remarks, "is certainly one of the fairest and most impartial papers in the State," and he, therefore, asks in the head-line, "Will Editor Jordan explain?"

The only thing to be explained appears to be The Herald's expression quoted above, "the schemes of Everglades land speculators," for that is what seems to have provoked Editor Hanna's criticism, and he appears to regard the expression as "abuse of the people in the Everglades territory," "hurling a torrent of abuse at the good farmers who were actually living on and developing Everglades land" and so forth and so on. At any rate, he enlarges on the subject of "schemes" and vigorously defends the Everglades farmers against being attacked and "abused" as "schemers".

Now, if this is a correct statement of the casus belli, as it seems to be, an explanation is easily made.

First, the offensive words were not intended to apply and do not apply to any of those actually engaged in cultivating Everglades land, nor to any innocent purchasers of such land nor to any reputable and honest dealers in land, not even to R. J. Bolles and his associates, who were indicted in a United States court charged with being promoters of fraudulent "schemes" in selling Everglades land. The Herald believes that Bolles and associates dealt fairly and honestly, but there were others—one other, at least—who "schemed" to make the state a cat's-paw and at the same time deceived innocent farmers and others into buying their lands.

Editor McCreary fully explained how these schemers attempted to "put one over" on all the taxpayers of the state by getting the state officials or the next legislature to put the credit of the state back of the Everglades drainage bonds, notwithstanding they had solemnly promised not to do this very thing. And when God sent a flood of rain over there that overflowed the lands of the victims of the "schemers," these shrewd "schemers" diverted the wrath of their victims to the Internal Improvement Board, and indignation meetings were held in Miami and insulting telegrams and letters were sent to Governor Trammell and the other members of the board, and the people over there were so wrought up against our state officials that they threatened to send a thousand men to Tallahassee to "get justice" or know the reason why.

Surely, Editor Hanna read all about this in the East Coast and other newspapers. Surely, too, he read the answer of the abused and insulted state officials, in which they charged that the chief instigator of all the trouble and uproar was a "schemer," one who had bought Everglades land at six or eight dollars an acre and was selling it for thirty to sixty dollars. Doubtless he had deceived farmers into buying his lands, telling them that the state would immediately drain them; and when they became submerged, fearing the wrath of his victims, he cunningly directed it against the state officials.

And Editor Hanna surely remembers that, when the state officials "hit back" and the Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach people endorsed them, all the uproar in the vicinity of Miami quickly subsided.

Here are two "schemes" expos-

ed by Editor McCreary: First, to pledge the credit of the state to the Everglades drainage bonds contrary to solemn promises to the contrary made by the "schemers"; second, to hold the state officials responsible for the destruction of the farmers' crops in the Everglades that the "land-sharks" who deceived these farmers might escape their wrath.

Both Editors McCreary and Jordan, as well as all other people throughout the state, truly sympathize with the Everglades farmers in the loss of their crops and, far from abusing them, as Editor Hanna indirectly charges would place the responsibility where it justly belongs, upon those who deceived the farmers into believing that the state had contracted to drain the lands and would do it immediately.

Arcadia vs. Punta Gorda Babies

If Editor Carter of the Arcadia Enterprise, values those ebony locks that deck his massive "gourd," he had better take to the woods whenever he sees a Punta Gorda mother coming. He refers to the superb babies of this town as "ammoniated runts," whereas everybody who has seen them knows that they are just the finest ever, and would take premiums over princes and princesses in all the courts of Europe. Discussing The Herald's proposition to enter them as sure prize-winners in any better babies contest that may be put on at the county fair, Editor Carter has the nerve to say:

"Now you are getting into deep water, Bro. Jordan. So long as you stick to pineapples and fish stories, you are safe. We yield to no one in our praise of Punta Gorda pines, and we'd take the Herald's 'fish' editor right off the grass and trot him against any cornfield liar in the country and back him to win. But when it comes to babies, Arcadia has got the goods. They are cupid-bred and orange-fed—the world's finest, made famous in song and story. When you pit your ammoniated runts against our thoroughbreds, you might as well throw your money in your medicated well and stop its flow, for we understand this better-baby business from a to z. Our confidence in the 'Made-in-Arcadia' brand is such that we are perfectly willing for Bro. Jordan to serve as one of the judges to distribute the premiums in this department."

STATE PRESS COMMENT

Tampa Tribune.—Editor Jordan's Punta Gorda Herald is always readable. A splendid weekly newspaper that is a credit to its town and its makers.

Sarasota Sun.—Once more Straub and Powell and Brown have made a billion dollars for Pinellas county by pulling the good roads program thru. Again we ask, "How much is a good editor worth to a community?"

Macleary Standard.—Mr. Gilchrist, one of the best looking and affable candidates in the field for United States Senator, is campaigning in West Florida and states that he is making all of the county fairs. He's going to get a larger than a fair vote too.

Clearwater Sun.—Pure Food Jordan, after rounding up "fish stories" for Punta Gorda, is now playing on the greatness horticulturally. He now claims his section is producing the first ripe strawberries of the season. Huh! We had strawberries here last May and June.

Ocala Banner.—The former governor (Gilechrist) is unique, picturesque and original. He has a heart in him as big as an elephant's and as sympathetic as a woman's. He is as guileless as a child, as honest as a centurion of ancient Rome, and no plainer democrat ever lived, nor was the "simple life" ever defined or exemplified more clearly.

THE HOME OF QUALITY GROCERIES



35

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The Sure Thing

Concrete Building Blocks will never Rot or decay. We Manufacture Blocks that will stand both the rain and the sun—the kind that will never wear. If you contemplate building let us manufacture your blocks.

CLAYTON L. PORTER, TAYLOR STREET, PUNTA GORDA.

BARTOW STEAM LAUNDRY

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The best equipped laundry in South Florida. If you are the least particular about good work leave your laundry bundle at

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BASKET CLOSERS EVERY TUESDAY AT NOON.

Fresh...
...Choice **BEEF and PORK**

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HOME MADE SAUSAGE OUR SPECIALTY

We also handle an exceptional line of groceries and canned goods. Your patronage solicited.

J. H. DAUHTRY & SONS,

In the sheet iron building on King Street. Punta Gorda, Fla.

Cleveland Steam Marine Railway

Yacht and Boat Storage

Boats Built and Repaired. Build and Repair Barges and Dredges

Geo. Brown, Prop. Cleveland, Florida
Near Punta Gorda.

MERCHANTS & MINERS TRANS. CO.

"QUEEN OF SEA ROUTES"

First-Class Fares From Jacksonville to

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Chicago, Ill. 26.15	Buffalo, N. Y. 27.80
Detroit, Mich. 26.15	Elmire, N. Y. 25.75

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