

The Punta Gorda Herald

PUNTA GORDA — In Tropical Southwest Florida, a Seaport on the Famous Charlotte Harbor — a Town that is Known for its Natural Attractions and the Hospitality of a Cosmopolitan Citizenship

VOLUME XXIII — NUMBER 53

PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA, THURSDAY, DEC. 9, 1915.

5c. A COPY; \$1.50 A YEAR

TO INVADE MACEDONIA IN CAMPAIGN AGAINST ALLIES

INTENTION OF THE TEUTONS

Plan an Extensive Campaign Directed Toward the Persian Gulf Bulgarian Mutiny

London, England—The campaign against the main Serbian army having been closed it is expected General von Gallwitz, with his German forces, will join the Bulgarians in Macedonia in an effort to crush the French and British armies before they become much stronger.

Information from Berlin indicates that the German forces engaged in the earlier movements in the Balkans have now been detached for the purpose of sharing in the attack on the Franco-British forces along the southern Macedonian front.

Dispatches from Athens partially corroborate this theory, as it is reported two German divisions are cooperating with the Bulgarians near Strumitza.

There is little report from the other fronts save the usual minor operations. The French, however, are carrying on a particularly energetic bombardment of the German lines in the Champagne. In Mesopotamia the Germans are beginning to show considerable interest in the campaign, which is developing in favor of their Turkish allies.

It is reported from Geneva that the Germans under Field Marshal von Der Goltz are preparing an extensive campaign which will be directed toward the Persian gulf by way of Bagdad.

Further impetus is given to peace talk by the papal consistory at which Pope Benedict delivered an address calling upon the belligerents to make a just and immediate peace.

The effect of the dismissal of the German military and naval attaches at Washington on the German public is not ascertainable as the German newspapers have not been permitted to publish even the bare facts of the incident.

An unconfirmed report of the mutiny of a Bulgarian infantry regiment received in Amsterdam from Frankfort was forwarded by the correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph company. This report is to the effect that the regiment was ordered to proceed to the Gallipoli peninsula to fight with the Turks, and that when it refused to obey the command 300 of the mutineers were shot.

Dade county grower shipped 18 crates of alligator pears to Philadelphia and New York which netted him \$8 per crate of 28 to 32 pears. More of this fruit should be planted in Florida. The alligator or avocado pear does well in this section. Just west of the ladies Rest Room on the premises of Alex Matchett is a large alligator pear tree capable of producing a crop of 1,000 pears or 33 crates, which at \$8 per crate would amount to \$264 for the fruit from a single tree. An acre would support 70 such trees and the income, figured as above, would amount to \$18,480. At least, that is the way it figures out on paper. It would scarcely do so in reality unless under highly exceptional conditions which would include the planting of varieties which ripen in the fall or winter or early spring, as the summer ripening varieties retail

as low as three for a quarter and are rarely more than 15 cents a piece.—Clearwater Sun.

William Bloxham Crawford of Kissimmee, an attorney well known and highly popular throughout the state, honored Punta Gorda with his presence for only about ten minutes, Monday, and then went to Arcadia to attend circuit court. He is a valued official of the Southern Utilities Co.

RED CROSS SEAL FIGURES

225,000,000 Holiday Stickers Already Distributed in the United States

Few people have any conception of the magnitude of the Red Cross Christmas Seal Campaign. Here are a few figures that will show what a gigantic movement this is. Already 225,000,000 have been printed and practically that entire number distributed to agents in every state and territory of the Union from Alaska in the North to the Canal Zone in the South and from Porto Rico in the East to Hawaii in the West. Advertising circulars, posters, cards, etc., to the number of several million have also been distributed. Not less than 1,000,000 personal letters asking people to buy seals have been sent out. It is estimated that the army of workers, nearly all of whom are volunteers, engaged in selling the seals numbers well over 500,000. The advertising and publicity donated to the campaign amounts to several hundred thousand dollars. Every effort is being put forth to sell 75,000,000 seals, or less than one for every man, woman and child in the United States. This will mean \$750,000 for the anti-tuberculosis campaign in the United States, and particularly all of the 1,200 anti-tuberculosis associations of the country derive their support from Red Cross Seals.

Will Plant Seventy Acres in Potatoes

Punta Gorda truckers have contracted with J. T. Thomas of Plant City, to plant seventy acres in potatoes. Mr. Thomas came here recently and spent several days making written contracts with various growers. He will furnish the seed, which are to be paid for out of the crops raised, and he will also supply the hampers in which the potatoes are to be shipped. The planting is to be done this month, and the crops are to be delivered aboard the cars here not later than April 1st, 1916. Mr. Thomas will pay spot cash for the potatoes, the price named in the contracts being a very liberal one. He was here last season and bought truck from our growers, and his conduct was such as to inspire them with great confidence in him. In fact, wherever he is known, he has the reputation of being a very reliable man. The deal he has made with our truckers insures them very remunerative returns.

A dispatch from Winsted, Conn., says that a skunk which someone had placed in the piano broke up the dance. Details not being given we presume the animal, incensed over its confinement, must have injured the mechanism of the piano.

TO THE FRIENDS OF EDUCATION

The Board of Public Instruction, in response to a demand from more than 25 per cent. of the qualified voters of DeSoto county, has ordered an election to be held January 1, to decide whether it is the will of the people of the county to have the compulsory education law passed at the legislative session of 1915, made effective in DeSoto county.

While the present law does not embody all of the requirements, yet it is far better than no law at all and the best way to get a better one is to make use of the one that we have.

You ask has the state the right to compel a parent to send his child to school? Does the law interfere with the liberty of a parent? Is a compulsory law a necessity in DeSoto county? Is attendance just as great without the law? Would we be able to meet the additional expense imposed by the enforcement of the law?

To the first question we give the answer of Prof. W. H. Hand, state supervisor of high schools, South Carolina: "If a universal school tax is justifiable on the ground that popular education is a necessity, compulsory attendance by the State is also justifiable. For the State, under the mandates of law, to collect taxes for the education of its children and fail to give the education to the legal beneficiaries is a moral crime, if not a statutory one."

In answer to the second question, we ask why not offer the same interrogatory to laws requiring men to serve on juries, to obey the summons of the sheriff to aid in arresting criminals, to serve in the army and navy in the time of war, to compel the parent to feed and clothe his child? There are laws on our statute books prohibiting owners from treating cruelly dumb beasts; is it not equally as humane and just that a parent be restrained from dwarfing the mind and debasing the character of his child? When we speak of the rights of the parent, should we not at the same time consider the rights of the child? The child has a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Do you not rob him of the power to enjoy all these blessings when you deny him the opportunity to develop those God-given abilities which will enable him to use them.

Let us apply the principle of a "square deal." We are justly proud of the magnificent progress DeSoto is making in the construction of good roads. This work has necessitated bond issues to the amount of \$750,000, payable in thirty years. A movement is now being pushed to increase these issues \$350,000, making a total of \$1,100,000. Who will pay the major part of the principal of this great debt? The boys of today will have to meet these obligations. Since you have not consulted their wishes in the matter of placing this debt upon them, is it not your duty to give them every opportunity to prepare themselves to meet it with the least possible burden? Before you decide to vote against the adoption of an attendance law, gather the boys of your community together, grip their hands, look them squarely in the eyes, and tell them of the stupendous obligations you have elected them to meet when they become men. Make your decision to act with justice and equity, not with the

boys, but with the MAN in each boy before you.

The third question may be answered decisively in the affirmative and the average attendance published in the biennial report of the state superintendent offered as unanswerable proof of this necessity. When we measure the efficiency of the schools in terms of attendance as compared with school population, the necessity for a compulsory attendance law needs no further emphasis. Over 38 out every day during the year! In other words 38 per cent of our boys and girls are annually denied the privilege of preparing themselves for intelligent and serviceable citizenship. Can a county as proud, progressive and rich as DeSoto permit this continuing illiteracy?

It is contended that the attendance of children will not be increased under a compulsory law. This is only another way of saying that the law will not be enforced. We pledge you that we shall exercise every power vested in us by the law for its enforcement. This objection is coupled with another, which, on its face appears more cogent, "You can't make a boy learn by law; you can't remove ignorance by an order to educate."

True, we may fail in some instances. Laws against felony, burglary and other crimes do not prevent these crimes altogether. Prohibition laws do not stop the selling of liquors altogether. Because these laws have never been able totally to remove the crimes at which they are aimed, should they be repealed? Certainly not. We may not be able to make a child learn by law, but we can place him in a school where intellectual influences will be brought to bear upon his life; where "the example of his teacher, the emulation of his fellow students, the sweetness of success, even the stimulating impulse of not irretrievable defeat, open to him a new and heavenly vision, and voices without call to a long silent voice within, and at last it answers, 'I am here, A MAN.'"

Would we be able to meet the additional expense imposed by the enforcement of the law? I shall answer this question by asking one. Is the school tax levied to provide educational opportunities for a part of the school population, or for ALL of it? Every child is a legal beneficiary of the school taxes and he should be given his proportionate share of training and instruction offered by the educational agencies operated by the county. It is quite possible that we may have to hold up work along some lines, for a short while, but these economies would not weaken the dynamite of our present educational forces. In only one school district would our resources be taxed to a degree that would require extraordinary measures to meet the increased demands of this law. A way will be found to meet the needs of that district.

Briefly, we have answered the questions that have come to us from those who are opposed to the adoption of the attendance law. We are glad to note the strong sentiment favorable to the adoption of the law and we urge upon every one a supreme effort to make our schools effective and to blot out illiteracy in our proud and progressive county.

Give the MAN in every boy a chance to find himself.

PRODUCTIVE FARMS THAT ARE OWNED BY THE STATE

Count the cost of your vote for compulsory attendance, both personal and economic, and then gather recompense in the wise words of old, "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory, while we look not at the things which are seen, but to the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."—JAS. O. BICKLEY.

IS AGAIN IGNORED

No Provision for Charlotte Harbor is Made in the New Rivers and Harbors Bill

As has been the rule for the past fifteen or twenty years, Charlotte Harbor and Boca Grande pass are left entirely out of the new rivers and harbors bill, which has been prepared for presentation to congress.

The following are the appropriations recommended for Florida: Channel between St. Johns river and Cumberland sound, \$1,000; Apalachicola bay, \$20,000; Hillsborough bay \$390,000; Pensacola, \$30,000; St. Lucie inlet, \$200,000; St. Petersburg, \$14,500; Sarasota bay, \$2,500; Tampa bay, \$6,000; channel, Clearwater harbor to Tampa bay, \$3,000; channel, Apalachicola river to St. Andrew's bay, \$10,000; Anclote river, \$3,000; Apalachicola river, \$12,000; Blackwater river, \$5,000; Caloosahatchee river, \$3,000; Hillsborough river, \$6,500; Holmes river, \$2,000; Indian river, \$20,000; Kissimmee river, \$3,000; Manatee river, \$5,000; Oklawaha river, \$10,000; Orange river, \$1,000; St. Johns river, Jacksonville to sea, \$300,000; Jacksonville to Palatka, \$16,000; Palatka to Lake Harney, \$16,000; Withlacoochee river, \$5,000; removing water hyacinth throughout the state, \$10,000; Choctawhatchee river, \$30,000.

Wild Fruits Should be Domesticated

Is there anything better than huckleberry pie? If there is it must be mighty good. Huckleberries grow wild in Florida, but on most farms no place has been left for them. A small plot near the house should be devoted to this and other wild fruits. C. K. McQuarrie, state agent for the University of Florida Extension Division is urging farmers to preserve such native wild fruits as can be found in their respective localities.

Blackberries and dewberries could be domesticated and would amply pay for the attention given them. Dewberries should be trained up on trellises or wires and cultivated. They respond wonderfully to a little care.

A few mulberries should be planted on the farm. Mockingbirds, blue jays, woodpeckers and other birds are very fond of them and will not bother other fruits when they can get the mulberry. Mulberries also make good pies. These fruits should be planted during the winter before they have started growth for the following season.

The most heroic deeds never become public property—and let it be used that the most heroic part of a heroic deed is not to brag about it.

CULTIVATED BY PRISONERS

Some of the Men are Ingenious and Make Valuable Inventions Lands are Fertile

T. E. Andrews, connected with the office of the Commissioner of Agriculture, has just returned from a visit to the State prison farms at Raiford. Mr. Andrews says that the farms, while only two years under State direction, are surprisingly well tilled and productive. They are under a high state of cultivation. He has had sent to the Tallahassee Boosters Club a bundle of sugar cane that was grown there, and it can be seen at the club's headquarters.

The State grows potatoes by the hundreds of bushels, and the hogs, milk cows and chickens, he says, are the finest he has seen anywhere. Four of the big porkers will be on exhibit at the Ocala fair, but not as prize winners, of course. Their aggregate weight will be over two thousand pounds.

There are about two thousand acres under cultivation and being made ready for spring planting, worked by the six to seven hundred prisoners. The health of the prisoners at the farms is excellent. Deep well water, perfect sewerage. Few men are under guard. Most of them are worked on honor as trusted men. D. W. Purvis is universally liked by all, being a firm warden with consideration and kindly withal.

The State prisoners make nearly all of the farm implements fit use. It is illustrated that men in confinement, who are detained there for long periods, often develop mechanical skill and latent inventive genius, which under other environments might never be known.

One life prisoner has invented a sort of barrow that holds seed and can be used at the same time as a bedder and coverer, opening, planting, fertilizing, bedding and covering at one time. Another has invented a horseshoe that will cure "narrow" foot. A shoe with a hinged toe, having an expanding screw at the heel, is fitted to the deforming hoof and each day is expanded by turning the screw a little. After the "heel" of the animal has become normal a regular shoe is used. It is pathetic that these men will never reap the reward of their genius.—Tallahassee Record.

Do your Christmas shopping early, and kindly remember the home merchants. They have invested money to have in stock the things you need. The more business you give them the larger and better stock will be kept on their shelves for you to select from. Buy at home and keep the money in circulation here.—Clearwater Sun.

A little care in picking and packing the citrus fruits will be amply repaid by better prices when the fruit reaches market. Bruised fruit soon deteriorates because the injuries admit organisms of decay. The commission man and retail dealer soon learn from whom such fruit regularly comes.

A good many Punta Gordans are attending circuit court in Arcadia this week. Some of them are lawyers; others, jurors, witnesses and litigants.