

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 Hospital ity of a Cosmopolitan Citizenship

VOLUME XXIV — NUMBER 4

PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA, THURSDAY, JAN. 27, 1916

5c. A COPY; \$1.50 A YEAR

PLENTY OF POTASH IN THIS COUNTRY

Ample Supply Available in New England States

SAYS GEOLOGIST McGRILLIS

Also An Inexhaustible Quantity in Middle and Southern States Known to Agricultural Colleges Tested by the Government

Cambridge, Mass.—Why is potash selling at \$450.00 per ton when there is enough of it available in the New England States to supply the whole world for many centuries? Who is it that is keeping this fact from becoming generally known and what is the reason? Our State Agricultural Colleges well know of this easily available potash supply. They are also well aware, or should be, of its extreme cheapness and solubility for agricultural purposes, for many of them made tests as far back as 1889 and proved without a question the value of this enormous potash supply at our very door.

The Agricultural Department at Washington has made very extensive tests and found that this silicate of potash is soluble in the soil and as easily and quickly available for plant life as the German Potash Salts. These tests are all scientifically described in Bulletin 104, Bureau of Plant Industry, Agricultural Department, Washington, D. C. entitled "The use of Feldspathic Rocks as Fertilizers."

In most of the Middle and a large number of the Southern States there is an inexhaustible supply of potash feldspar that will run from six to fifteen per cent. potash. In the State of Georgia large deposits of potash feldspar can be found in Cherokee, Lumpkin, Rabun and several other counties. In North Carolina, deposits can be found in Alexandra, Buncombe, Hickory, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Mitchell and many other counties in unlimited quantities.

Professor Allerton S. Cushman, formerly with the United States Agricultural Department, states in the Bulletin above mentioned that the potash in these feldspathic rocks, when ground 200 mesh fine and mixed with the soil, becomes soluble and available for plant life very rapidly. There is scarcely a county in all New England that has not many large deposits of feldspar rock which will analyze from six to twelve and fifteen percent potash. The cost of quarrying and pulverizing on a fairly large scale should not exceed \$3.00 to \$4.00 per ton.

I would advise every farmer in this country to send to the Bureau of Plant Industry, Agricultural Department, Washington, D. C., and secure a copy of Bulletin 104, if he has any desire to obtain a supply of potash almost for the asking, which is without a question soluble and available when pulverized as above stated. If he is unable to obtain this valuable bulletin, owing to its being out of print, I would suggest that he make a request through the Congressman from his District that another edition be printed immediately by the Government for distribution.

The old doctrine claiming that plant food must be either water soluble or soluble in dilute acids before being mixed with the soil in order to become quickly available, has long since been exploded. It was always a delusion. The bacteria of the soil do not function or thrive properly except in the presence of an over-abundance of inorganic plant food and a liberal amount of humus.—W. N. McGRILLIS, Geologist.

As development advances all along the line in South Florida our people are awakening more and more to the wonderful possibilities of this country. Every season brings new surprises even to the natives as to what can be done here in the way of agricul-

ture and horticulture. Let us all encourage the growing tendency for more home pride, for more appreciation of our particular locality; a higher and fonder opinion of our local worth, the successes attained and the possibilities within reach, but without so much depreciation of neighboring localities. Choke the grouch and the knocker and let the booster spirit prevail throughout the land. When an Arcadia booster tells the stranger that Wauchula—only twenty-five miles to the north of us—is too cold for winter gardening he makes as big a jassack of himself in the eyes of that stranger as does the Punta Gordan when he tells the stranger that its too cold to truck around Arcadia. The same jassack is on the job at Fort Myers telling the same story about Punta Gorda. Every loyal South Florida booster knows and can prove that his own particular section is the choice spot of the entire United States, but he can do it without bearing false witness against his neighboring section. In short the truth is good enough for all practical and honest purposes when it comes to boosting South Florida.—Arcadia Enterprise.

Spray for Scab Before it Appears

Do not wait until scab and melanose appear before spraying for them. It will be too late to do anything then. Neither can be cured. They must be prevented, according to B. F. Floyd, plant physiologist to the University of Florida Experiment Station. Pruning dead wood is a good measure against melanose but it is about too late for that now.

Both lime sulfur and bordeaux are recommended for scab. The lime sulfur should be mixed in the proportion 1 gallon of 32 degrees Baume stock solution to 30 gallons of water. If the solution is weaker than 32 degrees, smaller quantities of water or more of the solution should be used. Bordeaux is recommended in two strengths, 3:3:50 and 5:5:50. The same spraying is thought to be effective in helping to control melanose.

DeSoto's School Progress

Prof. James O. Bickley, county superintendent of public instruction, in a letter to The Herald gives an interesting resume of the progress in educational interests made in DeSoto county during the past two years. The following is an extract from his letter: "The school term has been lengthened from five to seven months; we have delivered or have on hand for delivery, libraries for 51 rural schools; we have raised the standard of efficiency among our teaching force 100 per cent; manual training and home economics have been introduced into the high schools and provision made to extend this work into the rural districts; extension work among the girls has been inaugurated and successfully carried out through a special agent in co-operation with the State Agricultural College; to stimulate greater endeavors prizes aggregating \$400 have been and will continue to be given annually to rural schools for improvement along certain lines; arrangements have been perfected whereby all children who complete the 8th grade in rural schools will be given an opportunity to obtain a high school education. We have completed, have under construction or the money in hand to build 28 new school buildings aggregating in value with equipment more than \$235,000, besides the improvement that has been made on the old buildings in the way of painting the house, clearing and fencing the grounds.

"The total value of school property after I had been in office six months, amounted to \$103,399. In the face of all this progress, the County School Fund is free from indebtedness. In all that I have done, my thought and purpose were for the benefit of the children of DeSoto county."

Villa seems to be Mexico's him of hate.

BRIDGE PROJECT DISCUSSED

AT THE BOARD OF TRADE MEETING OF LAST FRIDAY

Peace River the Only Gap that Remains to be Provided for in the Tamiami Trail, and the Bridging of this Will Make Popular Through Highway and be a Great Thing for this Section — Citizens are Enthusiastic and in Harmony About it.

The most enthusiastic and harmonious meeting of the Punta Gorda Board of Trade held in many months was that of Friday night, when the matter of the construction of a bridge across Peace river between Punta Gorda and Charlotte Harbor was given special consideration.

It was a largely attended meeting, many representative citizens of Charlotte Harbor being present, and a number of inspiring talks on the subject were made. It was the sense of all that this project is the most important and most promising of all development and improvement enterprises ever proposed here. There was not even an indication of opposition to the undertaking.

A special district has been created from the southern portion of Manatee county and bonds voted for the construction of the Tamiami Trail to the DeSoto county line, at which point a hard-surfaced road now being constructed by Commissioner Jno. Hagan from Charlotte Harbor will join it, leaving only the gap over Peace river, which this

bridge will span, to make a through highway from Tampa along this coast south and through the Everglades to Miami.

Thus will be provided a thoroughfare that will be amongst the most attractive and scenic routes through Florida and will become one of the most heavily traveled. Commissioner Whitten of this district, heartily favors the project and has encouraged the undertaking ever since it was first suggested at a meeting in Charlotte Harbor a little over two months ago.

The plan now is to create a special bridge district and bond it in a sufficient amount to construct the bridge.

A committee consisting of E. O. Coram, Frank Robbins, J. E. Bowdoin and Mr. Christie of Charlotte Harbor, and C. M. Carrier, A. B. Tucker and R. C. Bolunt of this city, was appointed to go into the details of the matter, procure estimates on the cost of construction of such a bridge as is desired, draw petitions to the board of county commissioners for the holding of the

necessary election and take such other steps as in the judgment of the committee are wise and necessary.

The committee met and organized during the time that the Board of Trade remained in session and adjourned until Saturday afternoon when a second meeting was held. Estimates are now being made and other preliminary work done, and a report will be brought in at the next meeting of the Board of Trade, when it is expected that the petitions will be ordered circulated with a view to having an election called at the earliest possible date.

So enthusiastic are the people to whose attention this proposition has been brought and so apparent are the benefits to accrue that in the event a bond issue cannot be floated, a private corporation could be formed and secure a franchise from the county permitting the construction of the bridge and the collection of tolls from all who use it. The feeling is, "Let's have the bridge, if we have to have a toll bridge."

Fact is, some seem to favor a toll bridge constructed by a special district, the tolls to retire the bonds and pay for maintaining, if it can be legally built this way. The carrying out of the project, whatever the method adopted, will not only provide a scenic highway that will be heavily traveled by visitors to the state, but it will place this section within easier and quicker access of Tampa by shortening the distance, and thereby satisfying a long-felt want.

Brought to Attention of the War Department

J. E. Bowdoin of Charlotte Harbor, who is taking an active interest in the bridge proposition, went to Jacksonville recently to interview the army engineers and ascertain if the construction of the bridge across Peace river at this point would be authorized. He was given the following memorandum by Maj. W. B. Ladue, by which to proceed, indicating that if the bridge comes up to certain requirements, its construction will be approved:

1. Resolution of County Commissioners of DeSoto County authorizing construction of bridge.

2. Letter addressed to the Secretary of War, through the District Engineer, Jacksonville, Fla., requesting permission to construct the bridge.

3. Letter of request to be accompanied with drawings in quadruplicate showing the location of bridge and general type of bridge. Blue prints will answer. Not to exceed 8 x 12 1-2 in size.

4. From information received, it is thought that if the draw of the bridge is located in prolongation of the dredged cut, and if the draw provides for a clear opening of 50 feet between fenders with clear height of 10 feet above mean high water, that Department will approve the plans. This is subject to correction if the public hearing brings out anything new.

The Florida Indians

The general public has long thought that the Seminoles were the only Indians in Florida. Lucien Spencer, a special agent of the U. S. Indian Service, however, says there are only about 600 Indians in Florida, and of these only 200 are Seminoles, the remaining 400 being Miccosukees. The two tribes are distinct from each other and speak different languages. There are not a half dozen Indians in Florida at the present time who can converse in both tongues. The former tribe has a reservation of 2,000 acres, and the latter 23,000, both in the Everglades.—Tallahassee Record.

There are twenty-three bald headed editors in Florida, to say nothing of sixteen red headed ones. Twenty have black hair on their heads and eleven are blonds. The above was swiped from Pat Murphy's Political Guide.—Macclenny Standard.

CONTINUE ON THEIR TRIUMPHANT WAY

Through the Balkans — Austrians Have Taken Scutari

GARRISONED BY SERBIANS

Montenegrins Are Scattered and Only Enough Left to Carry on Guerilla Warfare—King Nicholas is in Lyons, France

London, England—The Austrians continue their triumphant advance in the Balkans. Scutari, the principal city of Albania, has been taken, the garrison of Serbian troops which defended the city being driven out. The Montenegrin towns of Podgoritz, Dailovgrad and Niskie also are in the Austrians' hands, and the small bands of Montenegrins which have been attempting to hold back the Austrians, resorting to guerilla warfare, are being harassed by Austrian aeroplanes, which are flying low and dropping bombs into their ranks, as well as using machine guns.

King Nicholas of Montenegro has reached Lyons, France, whether his queen preceded him some time since, and has established his government there. He was received with honors by the French people.

The Austrian advance guard has not yet come into touch with the Italian troops in Albania, but it is probable they will do so within a week's time, or less.

The compulsory service bill has been sent to the house of lords for action in that body. There is no reason for believing it will meet with opposition there.

In the western battle zone, the Germans claim to have taken some sections of French trenches in the Arras region. In the same sector the British have damaged German trenches near St. Eloi.

Advices from Mesopotamia are to the effect that the flooded condition of the Tigris, due to recent heavy rainfall, is hampering advance of the British army which has been sent to the relief of the beleaguered British garrison at Kut-el-Amara.

General von der Goltz has been made supreme commander of the Turkish forces in the Caucasus, where the Russian troops under Grand Duke Nicholas have been gaining victories over the sultan's men.

There is no news of importance from the Galician front, where the Russian offensive apparently has again been checked by the Austrians.

The renaissance of whiskers as a factor in modern statesmanship is coming forward with gratifying rapidity. Our great and good friend, Senor Carranza, the white hope of Mexico, who has shown himself the strongest personality and truest patriot that country has produced since Diaz, carries with ease and grace ahirsute facial adornment in which the rich luxuriance of his native tropics is blended with the firm and hardy growth suggestive of a color zone. Felicitous symbol of the new friendship he has inaugurated between his land and ours!—Lakeland Telegram.

Sixty days hence and the sand-asphalt roads will be under construction. That little, old Dixie Highway—Tamiami, Tropical Trail—Paradise Loop, or Perfect Peace Passage will be realized in the Sarasota-Venice district through to the DeSoto county line, a distance of 40 miles, before another season comes around, and the mainland will be connected with the key by a bridge, which will give the automobilist twice the variety here he can get anywhere else on the west coast.—Sarasota Sun.

The largest ballot ever handled by the electors of Florida will be voted this fall. There will be fifty or more names to select State and national candidates from.—Tallahassee Record.



A Glimpse of the Tropical Grounds Surrounding the McAdow Home, Punta Gorda, Florida

EVERY THING READY

Grand Pageants to be Exhibited at Tampa

Tampa—The South Florida Fair and Gasparilla carnival, which undoubtedly will be the greatest event of the kind ever held in Florida, opens here on Friday of next week and will continue through Saturday of the following week. The celebration will be extended to the following Monday for the benefit of the negroes of the state, who have a separate exhibit building and will celebrate among themselves that day.

Fourteen counties and scores of communities and individuals will be represented by products in the six exhibition buildings, and the period will be replete with brilliant features. Horse racing, without gambling, sensational aeroplane flights, parades, military spectacles, visits from warships, absolutely clean attractions, the best of which are free, and brilliant social functions in tourist hotels and American and foreign clubs, to which visitors are invited will be among the attractions offered. Low railroad rates will be in force from all sections, and Tampa is prepared to care for record crowds at reasonable rates.

Following is a brief synopsis of the program, which begins Friday, February 4:

Friday—Arrival of King Gasparilla X and Ye Mystic Krewe

of Gasparilla, who storm and subjugate the city.

Saturday—Entertainments of Florida editors, fireworks displays and other features.

Sunday—Sacred out-door concerts by many bands.

Monday—Designated "Cuba Day" in honor of Republic of Cuba, citizens of which will make merry in ways peculiar to Latins. Night street parade and dances, in which 50,000 people will participate.

Tuesday—Reception to former kings and queens of Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla.

Wednesday—Monster allegorical, historical, commercial and military parade with sham battles including air attacks.

Thursday—Grand coronation ball of Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla.

Friday—Varied features.

Saturday—Parade of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and other events.

And He Won

The Live Oak Democrat wonders if General Gilchrist is taking himself seriously about his race for the Senate. If the editor of The Democrat could hear General Gilchrist talk, he would become convinced that there was no monkey shins about his candidacy.—Apalachicola Times.

We don't know so much about that. There were three monkeys in his last campaign.—Live Oak Democrat.