

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

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WANTS LATIN COMMISSION

TO SETTLE ALL DIFFERENCES

Mexican Ambassador Has Approval of His Government of Tentative Plan to Have International Body Act—No Decision

Washington—Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican Ambassador designate, called on Acting Secretary of State Polk Tuesday, just before the latter went to the White House for the Cabinet meeting. It is understood Mr. Arredondo had received instructions from his government approving a tentative plan for the settlement of the differences with the United States by means of a joint international commission.

Members of the Cabinet after their meeting said that whether a commission would be agreed upon to settle the differences the question had not been fully determined.

General Funston asked the War Department for \$500,000 to construct temporary shelters for army horses and mules along the border.

EXCHANGE SHOTS OVER LINE

Mexicans Fire on Guardsmen, Who Reply—None Hit on American Side

El Paso, Texas—A party of mounted Mexicans exchanged fire with L Company of the Ninth Massachusetts Infantry near here Tuesday.

According to reports the Guardsmen were doing outpost duty when the Mexicans rode up on the opposite bank of the Rio Grande and opened fire. The Guardsmen suffered no casualties, but reported they believed they had killed one Mexican.

Captain Hickey of Dorchester, Mass., commanding the company, estimated the number of Mexicans at fifteen, but asserted that he was unable to determine whether or not they were soldiers. Approximately fifty shots were fired on each side, it was said.

Both General Bell, commanding the El Paso military district, and Lieutenant-Colonel Muelon, acting garrison commander in Juarez, denied that they had received official reports of the incident and both said that it seemed trivial.

Forest Problems of South Discussed by Chief Forester

In an address before the Southern Forestry Congress at Asheville on July 11, Henry S. Graves, Chief Forester of the United States, emphasized the importance of the timber supply of the South and pointed out methods by which it may be perpetuated.

"Nowhere in the whole United States," said Mr. Graves, "can the naval stores industry or the protection of hardwood timber be carried on with the same natural and economic advantages as in the Southeast. Forests occupy more than half the total land area of the South. Southern pine is the principal softwood used in fully two-thirds of the country east of the plains. Backed by a supply of some 325 billion feet of yellow pine and about 20,000 sawmills, the pine industry holds today a commanding place in the country's lumber market. By their very magnitude the forest problems of the South command attention."

In addition to the value of the timber, the southern pines, said Mr. Graves, furnish annually about 35 million dollars worth of turpentine, rosin, etc. This income is in danger of being entirely lost through failure to properly care for and perpetuate the forests.

"The turpentine industry of France is a man-made industry. A century ago the barren sand-dunes could be bought at any price one was willing to pay. Today the poorest pine land covered with 2-year seedlings sells for \$90.00. Stocked with 30-year old pine it is worth \$80, and with

50-year old \$160 an acre. In this country the turpentine industry has had the advantage of a great natural forest. Instead of being founded on preserved by the diligence for man, its destruction will be brought about unless steps are taken to perpetuate it. The growing of timber for turpentine purposes is a profitable undertaking at present."

Sixty-one per cent of the hardwood supply of the country is located in the South, Mr. Graves pointed out. Moreover, many of the most important hardwoods are supplied wholly by the southern forests. The Appalachian region now produces about fifty per cent of the hardwoods used in the country, and forms the chief remaining source of supply. At the present rate of cutting the existing supply of high-grade hardwood timber will not last for many years. Under proper methods, however, the Southern Appalachian region alone can be made to grow four-fifths of the hardwood timber which we now require.

There is no great need, said Mr. Graves, for more of the States to provide for forest fire protection under the Weeks Law, in cooperation with the National Government. The lumber companies should also combine to prevent fires in their holdings. This can best be done by protective associations such as have been formed elsewhere.

Once the fire problem is controlled the possibilities of forestry in the South are almost unlimited. When the people of the South wake up to the value of the resources at stake and take necessary steps to prevent their destruction and waste, the forests of the South may be made to yield a continuous supply of lumber and other products.

In Mexico it may be necessary to set the clock up a couple of hundred years in order to bring that country up to date.

Mrs. J. Jaek is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Hanson, in Arcadia.

GROVE INSPECTION LAWFUL

Supreme Court Uphold Action of the Plant Board

Two recent decisions of the Supreme Court of Florida are of much interest and importance to the citrus growers of the State. Both decisions were in cases brought against the State Plant Board in connection with the work of eradicating citrus canker.

In one case the owner of a citrus grove requested an injunction restraining the inspectors of the Plant Board from inspecting his property for citrus canker, alleging that the Florida Plant Act of 1915, authorizing such inspection, was unconstitutional. The Circuit Court of Dade County held the Plant Act to be constitutional and sustained a demurrer to such bill, and upon an appeal, the Supreme Court affirmed the decision of the court below.

In the other cases certain nurserymen whose citrus nurseries were located within one mile of infected property, and hence under quarantine by the provisions of rule 5 of the Plant Board, filed a bill to enjoin the enforcement of such rule, and praying for its modification so as to permit the movement of nursery stock situated within an infected zone, although such nursery stock might have been subject to infection, if in fact it did not show, upon inspection, evidence of infection. To this Bill the Attorneys for the Plant Board filed a demurrer, contending the Circuit Court was without jurisdiction to control the discretion of the Plant Board or review its findings, or to grant the relief prayed, and that there was no equity in the bill. The Circuit Court overruled this demurrer, but the Supreme Court reversed the decision of the Court below, holding that such bill did not state any grounds for equitable relief, and that no facts were alleged showing that the State Plant Board, in making and enforcing Rule 5, had exceeded its authority.

FARM AND GROVE IN FLORIDA

Agricultural News Service University of Florida College of Agriculture

Cultivation of Sweet Potatoes Pays

Sweet potatoes are so easily raised that they usually raise themselves. The average farmer considers his task completed when he sets the plants, according to C. K. McQuarrie, state agent for the University of Florida Extension Division. Sweet potatoes do not need much cultivation, but the little they do need is essential. There is probably no crop which will respond more generously to a little care.

After the vines have formed and covered the beds they can be depended upon to care for the weeds and grass, but until then they should be cultivated. Until the plants become established they are not capable of competing with weeds and are apt to be smothered or stunted. With a little cultivation they will make quicker growth and an earlier crop.

Cultivation should be continued only until the vines have become large enough to cope with the weeds. If it is given later than this it is apt to interfere with the formation of potatoes and with the root system.

Caterpillars Attack Sweet Potatoes

Caterpillars attack sweet potatoes almost every year. In some sections they may not be troublesome but in others they may defoliate the crop. They are between one and two inches long and are marked with broad dark, narrow orange, and brown stripes. They feed on the leaves of sweet potatoes and on a number of other plants.

They may be controlled in the sweet potato field by poisons, according to J. R. Watson, entomologist to the University of Florida Experiment Station. Lead arsenate is probably the best poison. Use one pound of the powder or two pounds of the paste to 50 gallons of water. Spray the vines until they are thoroughly wet. If dusting is preferred, each part of the lead arsenate powder should be mixed with four parts of air slaked lime. Dust the leaves until they are well covered with the mixture.

One treatment is usually enough. However, if the first is not thorough another will be necessary. The broods are about a month apart.

Plants With Pot Bound Roots Do Not Thrive

F. F. Halma, assistant horticulturist to the University of Florida Experiment Station recommends that potted plants be examined occasionally to see whether their roots are pot bound. If upon removing the plant from the pot the roots are matted around the outside of the soil, a larger pot should be provided. If, however, a larger pot is impracticable the roots may be sheared, new soil introduced and the plant replaced in the same pot.

During the rainy season is a good time to transfer plants and they are apt to need repotting owing to the growth made during spring and summer.

Where soil is needed for flower pots, Mr. Halma recommends equal parts of muck soil, well rotted manure, and sharp sand. If these ingredients are not available a good garden soil will serve. A small plant should not be placed in too large a pot because the soil is apt to sour. It is better to repot as the plant grows.

Bradford Knapp, of the United States department of agriculture, says that the average farm value of the hay per acre in most of the cotton states was more than the farm value of the cotton in the fall of 1914. In 1915 the value of hay produced per acre was greater than the value of cotton produced per acre in some of the cotton states. Wonder why more folks do not raise hay?

Stem End Rot Likely to Follow Scale Insects

Scale insects not only damage citrus fruit themselves, but they are likely to be the forerunners of stem end rot. Stem end rot is caused by a fungus which is unable to enter the fruits except where a wound or weakened tissues give them entrance. That the disease is usually found at the stem end is because it finds conditions for entrance favorable there.

Scale insects usually collect at the stem end and weaken the tissues around the stem. Since the spores of the fungus are usually abundant infection is almost sure to occur if the disease has been in the grove during a year or two previous. The fruit drops and decays late in the season decay may not develop until after the fruit is picked and shipped.

H. E. Stevens, plant pathologist to the University of Florida Experiment Station, recommends that growers watch closely for scale insects. If they become numerous they should be sprayed with a good contact insecticide. Spraying may have to be repeated once or twice to keep the fruit from scales until the picking season.

Pruning the dead wood is also a good precaution. The fungus lives over in dead wood and is ready to infect fruit when favorable conditions arise. Dead wood should be removed and burned. This will lessen greatly the chances for spread of the disease.

Budwood Must Not Be Moved Without Inspection

Under the Florida Plant Act of 1915 and under the nursery inspection laws of practically every state, budwood is considered nursery stock. The reason for this classification is obvious when one remembers that insect pests and disease can be transferred as easily on budwood as on nursery stock. Growers and nurserymen who wish to move budwood should apply for inspection to F. M. O'Bryan, nursery inspector to the State Plant Board, University of Florida, Gainesville. If the wood is clean permission will be given to move it.

To move stock without certification is a violation of the law and offenders can be held responsible. It is probable that some growers and nurserymen have not thought of budwood as nursery stock. If this had been understood a great deal of trouble could have been avoided. The movement of budwood has been responsible for the introduction of cottony cushion scale, scaly bark, canker and other citrus diseases into many communities where such diseases did not exist formerly.

The regulations apply not only to wood sold to another person, but also to wood moved from one property to another. Inspection must be made before the stock can be moved.

Pure Culture Method of Applying Fungi Apparently Successful

Several weeks ago the county agents of the citrus counties met at Lakeland with Frank Sterling of the State Plant Board to receive instructions in the application of pure cultures of whitefly fungi. The Board is furnishing pure cultures of the red fungus at cost, because restrictions have been placed on the transportation of fungus material from one grove to another.

A. P. Spencer, district agent for the University of Florida Extension Division, reports that the results obtained by agents in distributing the material have been satisfactory. In Brevard county the agent, A. R. Nielson, has sprayed the material into several groves and has found a rapid distribution of the fungus. He believes that this method is much more rapid than the old method

of placing the material in the trees on leaves and twigs.

Pure culture eliminates the possibility of introducing diseases. A number of diseases could be carried to a grove on cultures that were not pure or on dried fungus material from other groves.

Expose Grown Roots of Foot Rot Trees

Foot-rot of trees always develops rapidly when the soil and atmosphere are moist. It is advisable to keep the crown roots exposed and especially during the rainy season, according to A. P. Spencer, district agent for the University of Florida Extension Division. This allows the areas to dry out and hence checks the disease. Sometimes further treatment is given by applying *Avernavarius Carbolineum*.

Mr. Spencer says that a great many of old foot-rot groves in Florida that were almost past bearing have been brought back to profitable bearing. About the only treatment those trees were given was the removal of the earth from the crown roots.

Crop Residues Harbor Disease

The favorite resting place for diseases which attack plants is in the remains of those plants which are left in the field after harvest. It is customary to leave the cull fruits and stems of spring truck crops in the field. Any diseases which attack those crops are thus encouraged to attack future crops. Insects and the spores of fungus diseases are capable of living over in the residue of spring crops or in the soil. They are thus ready to attack when another crop is planted.

C. K. McQuarrie, state agent for the University of Florida Experiment Station, suggests that the remains of such crops be collected and destroyed as soon as the harvest is over. To leave them in the field invites failure. The winters are not cold enough to interfere with most diseases and insects and they gradually accumulate unless something is done to hold them in check.

THE CITRUS CANKER FIGHT

Less Canker in State Today Than in Dade County a Year Ago

Today there is less citrus canker infection in the whole State of Florida than there was in half of the county of Dade twelve months ago. This is the highly pleasing information divulged by members of the State Plant Board, which met in Jacksonville Monday.

Within a little more than a year the State Plant Board, with the cooperation of the government and individuals, has practically rid the state of citrus canker. They have within this marvelously short time practically saved the State from one of the most destructive plant diseases known, and saved for Florida one of her greatest assets, her citrus fruit industry.

May, 1915, the Florida Legislature created the State Plant Board, and appropriated \$65,000 a year for two years to be expended in the eradication of citrus canker. Added to this something like \$150,000 was given by the Federal government and although this latter sum was appropriated only a few months ago it has been practically expended.

Because the Board, with the State and Federal appropriations, had a fair amount of money to operate along well organized and extensive lines, it has been enabled to make wonderful progress. It has curbed a pest that threatened to destroy the citrus canker industry of the State in its entirety.

The members of the Plant Board and the others whose efficient work and judgement is evident in the great progress made in the eradication work, are all deserving of highest praises. The former give their services to the State and their only hope of reward is the knowledge that their efforts are appreciated, that they have performed faithfully and well.—Jacksonville Metropolis.

The latest hyphenate is the Moose—Elephant.

BRITISH GAIN MORE GROUND

ALLIES' CRUSHING OFFENSIVE

On East Front Russians Reach the Lipa, the Teutons Retiring in Disorder that Closely Resembles a Rout

London, Eng. — The British army made substantial progress Tuesday north of Oviliers, while the Germans utilized a temporary lull in making an attempt to regain lost ground at Biaches and La Masionette, where the French forces had pushed them back in the first rush of the Anglo-French offensive. Fighting in this region continues.

General von Linsingen's retirement across the Lipa River on the Eastern front is considered by critics as removing the last serious obstacle to the advance of the Russians toward Lemberg. Reports from Rome say the retirement of the Teutonic Allies has caused a panic in Galicia, where towns are being evacuated. The Russian official communication refers to the withdrawal as having been in disorder, notwithstanding German declarations that it was accomplished unhampered by the Russians.

While the adverse weather is compelling a lull in the fighting on the Western front, military critics are taking stock of the situation. They are agreeably surprised by the large captures of heavy armament that General Haig, the British commander-in-chief, has announced.

The critics point out how the British attacks have been pressed with the greatest rapidity in order to give the Germans no time to organize formidable defenses. Also as was evidenced by the withdrawal of the British from the Foreaux wood, where they had reached the German third line, General Haig wisely resisted the temptation to hold on to that point. It would have incurred severe fighting, with probably heavy losses, and General Haig was in favor of a more methodical advance.

Evidence received from the front, as well as the official map published here, seems to prove that the German second line of defenses was far less strong and elaborate than the first. Therefore, the military observers said, they believed obstacles are likely to be less difficult as the Entente Allies advance.

A Paris dispatch says, unofficially, that under date of July 17, says cannonading is in progress along the entire Saloniki front.

Organized labor of England responded to the Government's appeal to postpone the August holidays so that the British offensive may be carried on with no shortage of ammunition. At a conference of representatives of trades unions it was decided unanimously to recommend that the Government's suggestion be adopted.

The cost of printing paper has risen so high as to drive many newspapers out of business and impose a grievous burden on all of the rest. It would be an axiom in the newspaper world that the subscription price just about paid for the white paper used. Today the price at which most newspapers are sold does not come anywhere near paying for the paper in them. The cost of paper has nearly doubled. Many papers which made a fair profit a year or two ago are now published at a loss, for this reason alone, and yet many subscribers are grouchy about paying their subscriptions and some won't pay at all.—Polk Co. Record.

Mrs. N. N. Wakefield of Jacksonville, arrived Thursday noon on a ten days' visit. First a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Brown and then of Mrs. Mary K. Rankin at "The Palms," she is dividing her time between these Solana friends and visiting others in the city during her stay.