

Good Government; Honesty in Public Office; Equal Justice to All--Special Privileges to None.

CULTIVATION OF TOBACCO IN FLORIDA

Leon Fast Becoming A Good Second to Gadsden.

From the excellent descriptive pamphlet on the "soil survey of Leon county Florida"--with maps showing the best tobacco lands, along with soils for other general crops, we quote the following paragraph:

The growing of Sumatra wrapper-leaf tobacco under shade is a success in Leon county, and there is enough land suited to its production to allow the industry to be largely extended. For the average farmer, however, there are several difficulties to contend with in growing this grade of leaf. The cost of erecting the shades and curing sheds is heavy, great care must be exercised in handling and curing the crop, small individual lots can not be assorted into the proper grades, and areas require more capital than most farmers have. These conditions are sufficient to deter the average farmer from engaging in the business, but for the small grower the uncertainty of disposing of his crop for a satisfactory price, because he must take whatever is offered to him by controlling buyers, is even more serious. If the market were open to the small growers, or if they would combine their crops in assorting and in sale, they might then, with large lots of a uniform product, be able to dispose of their crop to better advantage. Of the success of the large growers who are sure of a satisfactory market, there can be little question, and the industry offers excellent opportunities for extension on a large scale.

There is a large acreage of the very best of these tobacco lands, as shown by the survey and maps that can now be bought at reasonable and fair prices. The following address before the Banker's Association, at Atlantic Beach, Fla., June 15th, by Wm. Corry, vice-president of the Quincy State Bank, will be found interesting:

"Tobacco was an important crop in Gadsden county, Florida, in the early forties, and at that time the fine leaf produced on the Virginia hammock lands commanded a higher figure in the market of the world than any other tobacco then known.

These fine wrappers were eagerly sought after by the trade, and until the war interfered with the further cultivation and shipment of the leaf, tobacco growing was a well established and profitable industry in this part of the state. The European markets took the major portion of the crop, which was shipped through the port of St. Marks, and a large measure of the prosperity of Gadsden county was due to the tobacco industry. When the war closed, tobacco growing (like many other industries in the South) languished, labor was scarce and unreliable, the curing sheds had been destroyed, or were in bad repair, and tobacco cultivation was practically abandoned.

The fashion in tobacco had also changed, instead of a large thin leaf of a light color, the manufacturers sought a smaller leaf and darker shade. The growers in Florida, not appreciating the importance of meeting the changed conditions, simply concluded that there was no market for their tobacco, and what formerly had been a most important business was almost forgotten except by a few veteran growers.

These condition existed until H. R. Duval was appointed receiver of the Florida Railway and Navigation Company, in 1886, when he commenced his systematic work of developing the resources of Florida. As the head of the Erie freight system Mr. Duval had enjoyed very friendly relations with the firm of Stratton & Storm, the well known New York cigar manufacturers, and he extended the courtesies of the railroad to this firm and their representatives, in order that they might examine the tobacco that had been grown in an experimental way along the railroad line, from seed that Mr. Duval had distributed the preceding year. He wanted Messrs. Stratton & Storm to examine and work this tobacco, and to investigate the possibilities of reviving and developing the tobacco industry on a large scale in Florida.

These parties visited Florida in June, 1887, and made a very thorough canvass of the state. They found 300 acres had been grown in small plots, and the fine Sumatra and Cuba seed which Mr. Duval distributed had produced a type of tobacco that was well adapted to the requirements of the trade. They also found that the tobacco grown in Gadsden county was decidedly the best in quality and style, and while strong inducements were held out in other localities, the firm decided to locate in Quincy, and in September, 1887, about 15,000 acres of land was purchased in Gadsden county, and the Florida Tobacco Producing and Trading Company, now known as the Owl Commercial Company, was incorporated with \$100,000 capital.

This was the beginning of the present tobacco industry in our state, or more properly, the revival of an industry on active lines, and I desire to say now that to Mr. Duval, one of Florida's

staunchest friends, belongs the sole credit of re-establishing this business. For your information, I would say that the tobacco section represents all of Gadsden county, in the southern portion of Decatur county, and in Leon; and from the 300 acres planted in 1887, the acreage has steadily increased and upward of 9,000 acres are planted this year in Gadsden county and the adjoining territory.

There are now twenty-nine incorporated tobacco companies with a capital of \$3,500,000, and over twenty individual firms with a total capital of over \$2,000,000 established in this section. This does not include the hundreds of individual growers, many of whom plant upward of twenty acres of fine shaded tobacco on their own plantations.

The work of the assorting and preparing this tobacco for market is an important one. There are nine large packing houses now established in Quincy, and three more are under construction. Some 1,500 hands are employed in the warehouse work; for much depends on the manner in which the crop is cured, selected and packed, and the cigar manufacturer is very particular when purchasing to have this part of the work completed in the most careful manner.

The first tobacco is usually received at the curing sheds in July, and the warehouse work on the entire crop is barely finished by the following July. Thus this class of work on a given crop practically represents twelve months' labor. The field work, from the preparation of the seed beds until the crop is housed furnishes employment to about 6,000 hands (men, women and children), whose services are required constantly.

In the warehouses wages are paid weekly and on the fields every two weeks; and as the tobacco operatives have no time to attend to gardens or home crops, they are practically non-producers. Thus all of their wages are paid out to the Quincy merchants, and this large cash trade explains the marvelous development of the town's mercantile interests. It is also a great advantage to the employe, as retail prices for staples are, as a rule, lower than in the larger cities, and very fine stocks of goods are carried in the stores. A fine market is also furnished for the farmers of Gadsden county, and all of their live stock and farm produce is sold at home. In addition to what is grown in the county, hundreds of carloads of meat, meal, corn, hay, etc., are required annually to supply the wants of the people.

The wages of warehouse and field hands represent about \$65,000 monthly, or more than \$800,000 annually, and to fertilize the crops there are required about 12,000 tons of cottonseed meal and hulls, and about 4,000 tons of potash and other fertilizers, representing a cost of about \$500,000, not including the value of home fertilizer produced on the farms. In addition to these items, the outlay for implements, live stock and other supplies must be added as an expense of producing the crop, and in the way of improvements, the curing sheds, dwelling houses and shade structures represent a very large item.

Hundreds of mechanics are employed in carrying on these building operations, and it may be safely asserted that every one in Gadsden county, young or old, can find steady work at good wages the year round. It is interesting to study the development of this industry in Gadsden county. From 1887 to 1895 the tobacco was grown in the open field, and fresh hammock land was cleared for producing the fine wrapper type, but the imported Sumatra was steadily growing in favor, and it became more and more difficult for the Florida growers to meet this competition. In 1896 the late F. A. Schroeder, of New York, conceived the idea of covering the fields with an artificial shade to produce a finer wrapper, and a small plot of about one acre was covered with slats as an experiment. This tobacco was of a fine type, and the Owl Commercial Company, desiring to still further improve the tobacco, covered twenty acres the following year with cheesecloth and provided an irrigating plant to supply the necessary moisture. Other growers experimented along the same lines, and the tobacco met with favor at once. It had the delicate texture and the light color which were again fashionable, and resembled the fine imported type very closely.

Of the crop grown in 1899, the Owl Commercial Company sent about twenty-five pounds of their fine wrappers to the Paris Exposition, held in the year 1900. This tobacco was displayed by the Department of Agriculture, and when submitted to the judges, all samples from Sumatra, Havana, Mexico and other countries were designated by number only; and though the seven judges who were to pass upon the tobacco represented Holland, France, Spain, Cuba and the United States, the Florida tobacco won on every important point, and the Owl Commercial Company was awarded the gold medal for the best tobacco exhibit. The Dutch judges were greatly astonished when the result was declared, as they had taken the winning samples for Sumatra leaf and never dreamed that such tobacco had been grown in the United

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WALKER LIBRARY AT TALLAHASSEE

Fleeting to Tallahassee and Lasting Monument to David S. Walker.

Some years ago, one of Florida's most revered and honored sons, and one time occupant of the gubernatorial chair, resident in Tallahassee from early manhood until his death in 1893; having the true progress of his home town at heart, by influence, example and gifts, made it possible for Tallahassee to have a public library. He was not only the originator of the idea, but also practically the founder of the institution, consequently the first board of directors, when the library became an established fact, paid their distinguished colleague the well merited compliment of calling it by his name. At this writing the David S. Walker Library is one of the "show places" of our city, and well deserves the support and patronage of all our citizens. Twenty-five cents a month is a very small outlay for such large returns as the privilege of reading the varied and high-class literature to be found in the handsome wernick cases that line the walls from floor to ceiling, and, in lighter guise, in the best and newest periodicals and papers, covering the long table which occupies the center of the library. And yet, many of our citizens not only have no membership, but have never even visited the interior of the building, although the many things of interest to be found there would well repay them for at least one visit.

Since the original bequests to the library, other appreciative citizens have substantially remembered it by will or donation either of books or money. Notably among the first was Mr. Elliot Todd of St. Louis, Mo., who lived for several years, before his death in 1895, on his beautiful farm north of the city. Hanging in a conspicuous place on the wall, neatly framed is a letter written to the board of directors by a brother of Mr. Todd, and signed by himself and other members of the family, stating that although their brother had left no legally executed will, they knew it was his intention to bequeath all his Leon county property to the David S. Walker Library; and, desiring to carry out his wishes, they sent an accompanying deed for same, the proceeds to be used as the directors should deem best for the advancement of the institution.

Such gifts have made it possible to erect upon a desirable site facing Bloxham Park on Park Avenue, a handsome structure, which would be an ornament to a larger and wealthier city than Florida's capital.

Built of red, fire proof brick, with marble facings and columns, and inside finishings of beautifully grained wood, the library is one of the most attractive public buildings to be found anywhere.

Opposite the entrance rises an antique red-brick fireplace, over whose mantel is placed a simple but handsome brass tablet, a memorial to the founder, Gov. David S. Walker. There is also a portrait of this distinguished patron hanging above the tablet. Other portraits are displayed, among them being two others of Florida's Governors, Perry and Fleming. There is also a silhouette of our Colonial Governor, Call. Prince and Princess Murat are there also, and near by stands the famous chair from the Tuilleries, framework of gilt crowned with the royal Fleur-de-Lis, and upholstered in green velvet.

Relics of Ponce de Leon's time, old Spanish armor thrown up by the plow from a peaceful soil, give an idea of the strength and prowess of those medieval conquerors of a new world, to which they brought the seeds of a civilization that made possible such peaceful pursuits as the spinning of silk from Leon county raised cocoons. Samples of this silk are inclosed in a glass case at one end of the room. Above this case hangs a long glass tube, imbedded in an oak frame, and filled with specimens of the different strata of earth taken from Tallahassee's first artesian well.

On a shelf stands a veritable freak of nature in the shape of a half-petrified piece of wood, a reproduction of the statue of blind old Homer, who sang of the fatal influence of a woman's beauty. Next to this curio is the section of an oak tree in which are imbedded the antlers of an ill-fated deer, made prisoner through his own blind rage.

In a well-lighted corner at the foot of the stair leading to the gallery, on the second floor, which extends all around the room, is the librarian's office. This is fitted up with a handsome desk and leather-seated chair, both of mahogany. An elegant art square covers the floor, and the walls are adorned with pictures and other ornaments. Among the latter is a panel of raw silk sent from Egypt several years ago. The panel is covered with hieroglyphics embroidered in tan and dull green thread, which, if one could decipher them, would disclose a verse from the Koran--a verse, probably, derogatory to woman.

Gas and electricity give brilliance to the interior by night, while magnificent ferns and other potted plants and Tallahassee's own marvelous abundance of lovely cut flowers make beautiful the day.

Of course, this library, like all others, has its rules of silence, but the frequenters there are not exacting, and an unusual visitor is always hospitably entertained by the competent and courteous librarian, Miss Maggie Williams, who takes a real pleasure in calling attention to all the interesting details of her charming domain.

A recent donation of books has been made to the library, which will be circulated this week for the first time, and lovers of literature will doubtless find something among these and also in the new consignment of "Tabard Inn Library," which has lately been made a feature of the institution.

Patronize your library, good people of Tallahassee, thereby showing your appreciation of the efforts made by others to help place your city in the foremost ranks of cultured progress.

Tallahassee Wholesale Business.

About fourteen months ago, The Tallahassee Grocery Company began business as wholesale grocers in temporary quarters in the opera house block and since then, Tallahassee business circles have watched with interest, the growth of this enterprising firm. It seems almost incredible, the phenomenal growth of the business of the company, in little more than a year. This business grew so rapidly, and the necessity of being located near the railroads became self evident, that a commodious warehouse 50 feet wide and 100 feet long was built by the company. The location of this warehouse is particularly advantageous, being situated between the depots of the G. F. & A. and the S. A. L. railroads. The company has constructed a siding which connects the warehouse with the S. A. L. R. R. direct, and this greatly facilitates handling the large amount of freight received by the company, placing them in position to give their customers the best of service.

A spacious and well appointed office adjoins the warehouse, and a visitor can see at a glance that the clerical work of this firm is done with up-to-date system and despatch.

A year has made a great change in the territory covered by the Tallahassee Grocery Company, and, besides having a fine local business, they command an excellent trade from adjacent towns as far east as Aucilla, including intermediate points, and as far west as River Junction, and embracing the principal towns from Havana, on the north to St. Marks and Carrabelle on the south.

The senior member of this firm, Mr. C. M. Strange, came to Tallahassee from Monticello, where he conducted successfully a wholesale grocery business for a number of years, and established himself with the people of that place, not only as a man of fine business ability, but as a most excellent citizen. Mr. Strange has an interesting family, consisting of his wife and two little daughters, who are quite an acquisition to Tallahassee social and church circles.

The junior member, Mr. J. R. McDaniel, was for a number of years traveling representative of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., of Winston-Salem, N. C., and has demonstrated his ability, as a business man, to a great degree, since his residence here. Being a young man of high moral character, Mr. McDaniel is justly popular with a large circle of friends.

Here's long life and still greater success to the Tallahassee Grocery Company.

Refused to Depart from Custom.

Peter O. Knight left on this morning's 9 o'clock Seaboard train to spend his annual vacation at Hot Springs, Ark. And so far no definite move has been made to bring Claude L'Engle into court for trial on account of the article which was published in last Saturday's issue of the Tallahassee Sun.

Messrs. Knight and Stovall did ask County Solicitor Raney to institute proceedings against L'Engle for libel, but the solicitor refused to depart from the usual custom of having the accused first arraigned before a committing magistrate, as explained in yesterday's Times. Col. Knight and Mr. Stovall went to Judge Robles yesterday and spoke of getting a warrant out for L'Engle. Judge Robles asked them if they intended to bring the matter to trial at once, and was informed they could not, as Mr. Knight had made preparations to go away on his vacation today. This being the case, Judge Robles said he thought it would be better for them to wait until the return of Mr. Knight before asking for a warrant. And the case so stands. Mr. Knight has gone off on his vacation, and none of the swift vengeance hotly vowed a week ago seems to be going after Mr. L'Engle.--Tampa Times, 20th.

If the young men will give their names and send all their laundry work, including all underwear, the Steam Laundry will give 20 per cent off of each bill. This includes only those who sign the list that will be sent around.

PAUPERS AND CRIME COST SIX BILLIONS

Yearly, While Yearly Increase in Wealth is Only \$5,000,000,000.

A correspondent from the New York World from Washington furnishes the World the following interesting information and facts:

This country spends \$6,000,000,000 annually on the criminal, pauper and vicious classes, and the annual increase of wealth is only \$5,000,000,000. Does not that look as if the public were bankrupt?

This statement was made in a lecture by Dr. Charles J. Bushnell, who is conducting a model public playground here. He is a graduate of Heidelberg University and an authority on civic matters. Dr. Bushnell has the support of the leading citizens of Washington in his work.

Dr. Bushnell's figures are taken, he says, from authoritative sources and represent years of careful study. He challenges any one to disprove their accuracy. He and his wife have made a special study of what they call the "social illness" of the United States. Continuing, Dr. Bushnell said:

"Why, the \$6,000,000,000 that this nation spends every year on its criminal cases equals the amount spent on all churches, public libraries, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Salvation Army, public hospitals, asylums for the insane and all benevolent institutions. The average factory hand earns \$440 a year, while it is estimated that the average criminal costs the public at least \$1,200 a year.

"Disease as a result of vicious habits is on the increase; suicides are increasing six times as fast as the population, and murders three times as fast; insanity is also increasing faster than the population. We are maiming and killing in accidents resulting from our industrial enterprises as many persons as were killed in an average year of the civil war, the Philippine war and the Japanese-Russian war combined. In other words we are practically carrying on these three wars all the time. And these deaths by accidents, due to our fast commercial spirit, are from two to nine times as numerous as similar deaths in Europe, where experts have shown that three-quarters of such accidents are preventable. We are living entirely too fast.

"We have 4,000,000 paupers in this country, and 10,000,000 persons are on the ragged edge of pauperism."

Dr. Bushnell endeavored to show particularly the need of work to effect the growing evils of social conditions in the large cities. In 1790, he said, only 3 per cent. of our population lived in cities of 8,000 or more inhabitants, while today over one-third live in cities of this class and in the East and Northeast the percentage is much higher even than that.

"I believe," he said, "that more and more people will move to our large cities. This will be due to the availability of factory products and the smaller need of men on the farms, where work is being done more and more by machinery."

The public playground where children are given outings and useful occupation, is obviating to some extent these conditions, it was pointed out by Dr. Bushnell. While the facts he presented, he said, might lead one to take a very pessimistic view of the world's future, he nevertheless favored the utmost effort to turn the tide in the other direction, and he said he believed it could be done by herculean efforts."

The Gibson Bathing Girl.

A series of Charles Dana Gibson's splendid pen drawings, entitled "The Gibson Bathing Girls," will be given with the New York Sunday World, beginning July 28. Each Sunday a Gibson picture, on separate sheet of plate paper, size 10x15 inches, will be given to every New York Sunday World reader. Each picture is ready for framing, and fit to decorate any home. Begin Sunday, July 28, and get the set.

The Smile

that won't come off, appears on baby's face after one bottle of White's Cream Vermifuge, the great worm medicine. Why not keep that smile on baby's face? If you keep this medicine on hand, you will never see anything else but smiles on his face. Mrs. S., Blackwell, Okla., writes:

"My baby was peevish and fretful. Would not eat, and I feared he would die. I used a bottle of White's Cream Vermifuge, and he has not had a sick day since." Sold by all Druggists.

The Misses Shine's idea of having a house at Asheville, N. C., to accommodate a number of their Florida friends who wish summer board has been extremely popular, and the energetic young ladies are receiving many compliments for their enterprise. Well known all over this part of the State, and coming originally from West Florida, where their relatives are prominent as they are numerous, their enterprise will undoubtedly be a splendid success.--Times-Union.