

# A MODEL FARM IN SANTA ROSA COUNTY

BY W. CHIPLEY JONES.

For a dozen years I have been utterly unable to get away from the conviction that the future progress and permanent prosperity of Pensacola, and the adjacent urban territory, is solely dependent upon the development of the agricultural and horticultural resources of this section of Florida.

For more than a quarter of a century, I have watched with interest and apprehension the gradual, but certain, decadence of the timber and lumber industries; and for the past half a dozen years, the inevitable passing of the naval stores industry from the diminishing forests of West Florida, to the denser and fresher forests of Southern Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, and recently, into Texas.

All the while that these industries have been declining, I am sure, in common with others who are interested in the advancement of Pensacola to the sisterhood of cities, and the consequent prosperity and happiness of our people, have impatiently awaited the dawn of the day when at least some of the people of Pensacola should escape the mental obsession that all values, all wealth, all prosperity, is measured by the cubical contents of a squared saw-log; the board-measure contents of a large cargo of scantling, siding or flooring; the per-gallon value of a cask of turpentine, or the per-commercial-barrel worth of a barrel of coal.

Happily for every man, woman and child who lives in Pensacola, and the territory surrounding, the dawn of such a day is at hand, and ere another decade shall have passed, farm lands and farm products will have taken the place of timber and lumber, and turpentine and resin, as the basis upon which values will be predicted; and Pensacola will be a center of trade in the products of the cut-over timber lands, which heretofore are going to be converted into fertile, productive fields of grain and forage crops, garden truck and melons, deciduous, and the harder varieties of citrus fruits.

That this is true is indubitable to anyone who will take the trouble to investigate the rapid development of the agricultural and horticultural industries which is now under way throughout West Florida, and particularly in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.

As the guest of the owner, I spent last Sunday on J. H. Smithwick's Santa Rosa county farm—a farm of 1000 acres, 800 acres of it under fence, of which more than 600 acres are in cultivation to seventeen different crops of farm products; a farm, comparable in fertility and productivity to the great bonanza grain producing farms of the Middle West, or the fabulously productive plantations of the alluvial delta of the Father of Waters.

Extravagant sounding statement that to make over one's name in print, I know, particularly with reference to a Florida farm even remotely accessible to Pensacola. But every word of the statement is true, and to Pensacola's inestimable advantage, this magnificent farm, which, with such irresistible force impresses even the



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layman with agriculture's marvelous possibilities in this section, is located, as the "crown jewel," less than thirty-five miles due north of Pensacola, in what is locally known as the Jay neighborhood, in the northern portion of Santa Rosa county. But it is accessible to Pensacola by vehicle, only by train to Milton, or Milton, thence by dirt road almost the entire south to north length of Santa Rosa county. Or, by train, or automobile, via Pollard, Ala., either route requiring approximately sixty miles of travel.

However, coincident to the awakening of the people of Escambia and Santa Rosa counties to the necessity which confronts them of developing the agricultural resources of their lands, the absolute necessity for the establishment of closer business and social relations between the peoples of the two counties; the interdependence of neighbors upon one another; the economic necessity for the establishment of the most convenient and direct access of agricultural communities to a center of distribution of farm products, are going to impress themselves so forcibly upon Santa Rosans and Escambians, that the progressive tax payers of these sister counties are going to overwhelm the drones and tax-dodgers when the proposition to bridge the Escambia river is proposed at the polls for their arbitrament, and at least two bridges are going to span the stream which, since the two counties have been people, has made Santa Rosans aliens to Escambians, and vice versa, instead of neighbors.

Then John Smithwick's farm, and hundreds of other equally fertile and productive Santa Rosa county farms, which are going to be opened as a direct result of the superb example which Mr. Smithwick and his capable, intelligent, scientific, farm partner

and superintendent, Mr. J. H. Williams, have set in the development and culture of this magnificent 1900-acre farm, will have convenient, direct and easy access to the people of Santa Rosa county, and business relations of mutual benefit will result; then the people of Santa Rosa and the people of Escambia will enjoy the privilege of easy and convenient access to one another, which will eventually in social intercourse that will result in the establishment of friendships and neighborly relations which will be maintained to brighten many homes and bless many lives.

The Smithwick farm is located on a plateau which must have an elevation of quite, if not more than four hundred feet above sea level. It is four miles, south by east, from Pollard, Ala., on a road now being reconstructed from a connection at the Alabama line, with what will be, when completed, an excellent graded road thirty feet in width, leading from Pollard, south to Milton, Fla., with lateral roads of the same character to several points on the Escambia river, and to points in the eastern section of Santa Rosa county.

The Conecuh river, which merges with Little and Big Escambia creeks, to form Escambia river just south of Blomaton, is but three-quarters of a mile from the eastern line of the place; and the Lindsey Lumber Co.'s log railroad, running south from Pollard, Ala., some fifteen miles into the pine forests of Santa Rosa county, is equidistant, to the eastward of the place.

The topography of the tract on which the farm is located is a succession of graceful undulations, rendering drainage conditions perfect, while numerous perennial springs from end to end of the tract create running streams of pure, fresh water for stock.

The character of the soil is a heavy chocolate-colored, "crabbing" loam, over a sub-soil of fine-textured clay several feet in thickness, and as stated above is remarkably fertile.

Last year, more than three hundred acres of the place were cultivated to cotton, but on account of the ravages of the boll weevil, Messrs. Smithwick and Williams, have abandoned cotton altogether, and this year have set out fire farm cultivated to the following crops: Irish potatoes, 25 acres; corn, 380 acres; sugar cane, 25 acres; amber cane, 5 acres; oats, 50 acres; velvet beans, 48 acres; sweet potatoes, 20 acres; artichokes, 21-2 acres; peanuts, 18 acres; chufas, 20 acres; whippoorwill peas, 50 acres; pop corn, half acre; Bermuda onions, half acre; hairy vetch, 11-2 acres; rice, 3 acres; Egyptian, or desert corn, half acre; broom corn, half acre. In addition to the forty-eight acres planted to velvet beans, these wonderful soil-building legumes are also planted between the rows of the entire corn acreage being cultivated, in order that the soil exhaustion incident to corn culture may be overcome coincident with the growth of the crop.

Two fifty-ton silos will be erected immediately for the storage of several crops of green fodder that will be put away for next winter's feeding of stock, and during the summer months it is Mr. Smithwick's plan to erect a commodious dwelling house for occupancy by his partner and superintendent, Mr. Williams. Barns of sufficient capacity for the storage of

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This year's crops have already been constructed.

All of the crops enumerated above, were in excellent condition, notwithstanding the moisture deficiency of the past two months, and unless some unforeseen condition arises between now and harvest time, the yield of all of the crops under cultivation will exceed the average yield of like crops anywhere in the highly developed farming sections of the country. The Irish potatoes, corn and oat crops of one of the usually heavy yields—potatoes, 100 to 125 bushels; corn, 50 to 60 bushels, and oats, 40 to 45 bushels to the acre.

During the coming summer months the place will be stocked with sixty to seventy-five Duroc Jersey brood sows, thirty-five to forty of one of the best producing species of cows for breeding purposes, and it is now Mr. Smithwick's plan to leave within the next ten days or two weeks, for a trip through Tennessee and Kentucky, for the purpose of purchasing twelve to fifteen brood mares, which will be bred principally for saddle-horses.

My visit to this superb Florida farm was a revelation to me as to what may be accomplished through intelligently directed energy in the cultivation of the soil of this section—the development of the cut-over timber lands of West Florida. The greater portion of this splendid farm was in pine forest not a few years ago, and but a few months ago, three hundred acres of it which is now as smooth as a billiard table and as devoid of stumps as a city street, was a forest of fat pine stumps.

In charge of the farm, and a partner in its yield, is a red-blooded, vigorous, intellectual young son of North Carolina, whose methods are as up-to-date as any of the experimental station farms being conducted by the National Government throughout the country, employ in the demonstration of modern methods of farming.

Modest, unassuming, strong, he impressed me with the very embodiment of a dynamic force, when he introduced me to a man who some day will make his mark in the world. And I predict that when the history of the development of the farming industry of West Florida is written, the name of J. H. Williams, will occupy a place as high in that volume as the name Luther Burbank, now occupies in the nation's history of the development of plant life.

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## THREE BIDS ARE SUBMITTED FOR BANK BUILDING

PROPOSALS ARE OPENED BY RECEIVER R. W. GOODHART—THE HIGHEST PRICE OFFERED WAS \$5,519.

Proposals for the purchase of the First National bank building and fixtures were opened at noon yesterday by Receiver R. W. Goodhart. There were three bidders, the highest price, \$5,519 being offered by C. E. Pohlmann.

Mr. Goodhart will turn the bids over to his successor, T. L. Williams, receiver of the First National and the latter will communicate with the comptroller of the currency, before accepting of the building and equipment to be awarded to the highest bidder. The building originally cost about \$175,000. The bidders were as follows: C. E. Pohlmann ..... \$5,519.00 Alex. M. Hyer ..... 6,000.00 G. H. Malone ..... 50,000.00

## THE TWILIGHT OPENS MONDAY

PRELIMINARY GAMES WILL BE PLAYED—SIX TEAMS HAVE NOW BEEN ORGANIZED.

The preliminaries in the Twilight League will start Monday on the East Hill playground diamond. Six teams have been organized, and the boys are eager to get into action. The managers of the respective teams are M. J. Bell, W. Alsup, A. J. Ellis, Willis Seaman, Mr. Jackson and Mac Lewis. Preparations are now under way to get the field in first-class shape, and by the end of the week, the Twilight League will have as good a diamond as can be found on any playground in the whole country.

The season will open June 1st, and during the ten weeks of the preliminaries all of the boys will have time to get into good shape for the best Twilight season yet on record. Tomorrow, Manager Ellis's team will play Manager Mac Lewis's team, Manager Bell and Sergeant will cross bats on Tuesday, and on Wednesday, Managers Al and Jackson will play. The rest of the preliminary schedule

## Candidate for Commissioner From District No. 4

To the Democratic Voters of Escambia County:

I am a candidate for county commissioner from District No. 4, and want the vote and support of every voter believing in good roads and an economic method of handling the county's funds. I have lived in Escambia county for 16 years, and am acquainted with the whole district for which I aspire. If elected I shall devote my whole time to the duties of the office and to the people's interest, treating all with the same respect.

I believe in public meetings of the county commissioners giving those whose interests are involved the right to hear the proceedings of the meeting in that they may know the move of each commissioner.

I also believe it the duty of every commissioner to go over the roads of his district one time in each month, therefore seeing for himself the needs of the people.

I want to see every voter or as many as I can and tell them in person what I shall do if elected. But if I fail to do this I ask you to ask some one who knows me, to watch most three men now in the field and then vote for the one you find best qualified to fill the position. Both my opponents hold very responsible positions and therefore cannot appreciate your vote as one who is free from other business connections.

The county commissioner's office is small, but one of the most important offices we have. You should have a man who has nothing to do but study the wants and needs of the tax payers of your county.

I do not say Mr. Barrineau has not made a good commissioner, but do say



J. B. WIGGINS.

there is room for great improvement in District 4.

I leave it to you to decide, and if you decide on me, then tell your friends, if not, tell me.

In conclusion, will say if elected I will have some trees removed from across the public roads in my district. These trees to my knowledge have been there since 1912. If you can and will vote and support me, I shall be grateful for the confidence placed in me and will prove myself worthy of your trust.

Respectfully,  
J. B. WIGGINS.

## B. M. STARKSON FISHING TRIP

GENERAL MANAGER OF LOUISVILLE & NASHVILLE HAS BEEN ENJOYING A FEW DAYS AT ESCAMBIA BAY.

B. M. Starckson, general manager of the Louisville & Nashville railroad, with headquarters in Louisville, has been enjoying an outing for the past few days, which he is spending on Escambia bay fishing.

Mr. Starckson, superintendent of machinery, arrived in the city yesterday afternoon in his private car and will remain for a few days.

The Journal "Want Ad. Way" is the best investment

# To the Voters of Escambia County

YOU have probably seen my announcement for re-election. As this is the busy season, I cannot see you in person without neglecting my official duties so I desire to say that if you are in doubt about your selection for County Tax Collector, I beg to refer you to the taxpayers and voters who have kept me in office by a most flattering vote each time. "There must be a reason" for it.



My opponent says that, if elected, he will visit each precinct to collect taxes. Such a practice is now impracticable. The law allows the tax collector only one book, and if that book is taken out of the office scores of people who now pay their taxes at the office are inconvenienced every day.

My opponent further says that, if elected, he will send statements to taxpayers. I have been doing that every day since I have been in office at my own expense as the county does not furnish stamps. With rural delivery now all over the county, and with country banks established, it is not necessary for anyone to lose time or go to any expense coming to town to pay taxes. I will appreciate your vote at the June primary.

**J. S. ROBERTS, State and County Tax Collector.**

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