

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 2.

PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA,

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1915.

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A BUSY SESSION

OF DESOTO COUNTY BOARD

Official Transactions of the County Commissioners in Regular Meeting

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in regular session in their office in Arcadia, January 4th, A. D. 1915. Members present were: V. W. Surrency, chairman; H. J. Downing, John Hagan, D. L. Skipper and W. G. Welles. Minutes of the December Meeting were read and duly approved.

The following business was transacted, to-wit:

Upon motion duly seconded and carried, it is ordered that the county Treasurer be and he is hereby instructed to forward on the 10th day of January 1915, to Mr. P. W. McAdow, of Punta Gorda, Florida, the remaining twelve (12) bonds, numbered Nos. 13 to 24 inclusive, of the Punta Gorda Drainage District of DeSoto County Florida, with a draft attached for \$5,980.00. Purchase price of 12 bonds, at \$475.00 ————— \$5,700.00. Accrued interest on \$6,000, April 1, 1914, to January 10, 1915 ————— \$280.00. \$5,980.00.

It is further ordered that the County Treasurer shall at once notify the clerk of this board of the receipt by him of said \$5,980.00, and that the clerk will thereupon return to Mr. P. W. McAdow his certified check for \$240.00, at present held by this board as evidence of good faith to complete the agreement of purchasing the above bond issue.

Bond of H. G. Murphy, County Tax Assessor, with S. E. Roberts and C. A. Skipper as sureties, was approved.

Bond of Harry R. Dreggors as Bond Trustee for the Punta Gorda Special Road and Bridge District, with United States Fidelity and Guarantee Company, of Maryland, as surety, was duly approved by this board. Harry R. Dreggors succeeds D. G. McCormick as one of the bond trustees for said district.

The board received the report of State Auditor of his audit of the books and accounts of DeSoto county, and ordered the same published as required by law.

V. W. SURRENCY,

Chairman.

Attest: A. L. Durrance, Clerk.

Meeting of New Board

The new Board of County Commissioners met in regular session in their office in the court house, Arcadia, Florida, January 5th, A. D. 1915.

The board was called to order by the clerk, and said board proceeded to organize by electing unanimously L. W. Whitehurst as their chairman. Mr. Whitehurst then took his chair and appointed the following committees to serve for the year, to-wit:

Finance committee, John Hagan and D. L. Skipper.

Committee on bonds, W. G. Welles and W. M. Whitten.

Mayor Freeman and Judge Bell appeared before the board, asking for an extension of time to remove city prisoners from the county jail. Upon motion the city was allowed ninety days' extension of time in which to prepare for the care and detention of city prisoners.

This board acknowledges the receipt of a resolution passed by the Board of County Commissioners, asking that this board remit at once warrant drawn payable to the Converse Bridge and Steel Company, for the erection of a bridge across Caloosahatchee river.

It was moved and carried that said warrant be not drawn until said bridge is completed and accepted by a joint committee of Lee and DeSoto county boards, and that until Lee county constructs road from said bridge to DeSoto county line, as per agreement with this board.

A resolution was received from the Civic League of the city of Arcadia asking for the removal of the convict camp from the court house square. Major Welles informed the board that said

camp would be moved immediately.

It was moved and carried that Major Welles be authorized to sell the old fence which formerly enclosed the court house square at fifteen cents per foot.

Deputy sheriff's bond of H. B. Crosby, with L. O. Fagan and R. I. Harrison as sureties was accepted and approved by this board.

Deputy sheriff's bond of F. S. Rhodes with W. H. Seward and Jake Wey as sureties was accepted and approved.

Bond for justice of the peace of H. C. Brown, with J. B. Brown and J. H. Lopp as sureties, was approved by this board.

Constable's bond of W. B. Zachary, with R. E. Raulerson and J. P. Brantley as sureties was duly approved.

Notary bond of L. N. Townsend, with W. D. Scott and C. P. Pillons as sureties, was duly approved.

Bond for notary public of James L. Glasco, with United States Fidelity and Guarantee Company of Maryland as surety, was presented to the board and same duly approved.

Upon petition submitted to the board asking for the granting of a public road beginning at the southeast corner of section 23, township 33 south, range 25 east, and running due north two miles to intersect with Bowling Green and Crewsville road. The old road in this locality is hereby discontinued.

It was moved and carried that the board in a body visit the county's land near Punta Gorda, with a view of establishing a county poor farm.

Application of J. E. Bowdoin for the position of superintendent (Continued on last page)

Valuable Land

Only a few years ago the Board of County Commissioners purchased 300 acres of land a mile east of Punta Gorda for three dollars per acre. The land is underlaid with a good quality of clay for road building and the purchase was made for the purpose of having access to this clay. Today the land is worth \$100 per acre. A "squatter" planted an acre of it in tomatoes last winter and gathered \$400.00 worth of tomatoes. A few more years and this land will be selling for \$500 to \$1,000 per acre. All of which goes to demonstrate that we have never realized the value of DeSoto county soil. We have hundreds of thousands of acres of such land throughout the county producing nothing but palmetto. A few years more will reveal the fact that we are now as ignorant of the possibilities of our lands as we were a few years ago when we sold large bodies of it for a song and dance. What this country will become when all these ideal lands are made productive and adorned with beautiful and prosperous homes, the imagination is powerless to paint.—Arcadia Enterprise.

In appreciation of their never-failing kindness to Tampa and Tampa affairs, the Tampa Rotary Club will invite the newspaper editors of South Florida to attend a typical Rotary dinner, to be given while the Gasparilla Carnival, the dates of which are February 12 to 16, inclusive, is on. The Rotarians intend that the dinner shall "outgrid" the Gridiron banquets given annually by Washington newspaper correspondents, and the newspaper men will be called upon to play a part in the program. Col. Henry Watterson and Gen. W. B. Haldeman of the Louisville Courier-Journal, James Whitecomb Riley, Frank L. Stanton and Mixon Waterman, the poets, George Ade, the humorist, and other notable Floridians of the "winter bird" variety will be invited also. The Carnival gives promise of being the most successful ever held in Tampa, and the dinner, although the Rotary plan of serving nothing stronger than grape juice will be observed, will be second to no feature in pleasing interest.

Villa asserts that Zepata is his brother in arms. Carranza must be his brother-in-law.

European War Situation

The Trend of Late Events

London, England.—Great armies battling in the east and west by artillery exchanges, sapping operations and trench attacks, continue to be aligned much as they were January 1. Everywhere the disposition seems to be to await spring, when, with fresh armies thrown into the field, events promise to move more quickly.

Great Britain is sending thousands of men to France every week and according to reports from Berlin, Germany, aware of that, is making military preparations for a counter-movement. All the reserves are being called to the colors, it is declared here, and the further statement is made that German generals are preparing to assume active direction of all the campaigns—the Austro-Hungarian fight against Serbia and Russia and the Turkish campaign against Russia and Great Britain.

That briefly is the plan London military observers believe will be

followed, subject, however, to any change which the entrance into the war of Romania or Italy might necessitate.

Germany still claims she is making slow progress toward Warsaw. There have been published in London, however, reports that those operations are merely masking movements to shield a German retreat to the Silesian frontier. British military observers do not credit this idea, believing General Von Hindenburg has further offensive strength, but at the same time they draw attention to the fact that the Russians must feel confident of Warsaw's safety, else they would not continue to hurl so many troops against Hungary through Bukovina.

In the west the points of greatest interest are in the center, near Soissons, and on the French right in Alsace. There the fighting continues, while the remainder of the line is virtually inactive.

WITH THE TILLERS OF THE SOIL

By Mrs. K. S. Lawson

BRIGHT LIGHTS AFTER THE STORM

Torrential Rains and High Winds Washed and Flooded Many Fields

When the truckers came to check up on the results of the severe storm of the 11th ult., it was found that there were many bright spots in the accounting.

Once again drainage was found to be the great essential in this section and where natural drainage was easy taken advantage of the situation promises to result in good returns.

At this writing the storm period does not appear to be quite over but it is hoped that the high winds will straighten the extraordinary weather conditions which have prevailed this winter and there will ensue a season of normal South Florida winter, sunshine and soft temperature.

Reports from various outlying sections are that much water is on the land. The most unpleasant feature of this condition is that many acres intended for tomato culture are still unprepared and unless the water drains quickly the work will be delayed.

This is not the only locality, however where such conditions or much worse prevail and visitors to Punta Gorda since the storm have given much encouragement to the truckers to go ahead with the spring tomato crop as thoroughly as possible.

George McLane said that he had never faced just such a situation before and wasn't quite prepared to decide what to do. He had not made seed beds and had not been able to get all the seven acres he wanted to plant in shape to receive the seed. He thought, however, he should hold the seed he had until late in the month is necessary to obtain settled weather conditions.

"I really believe," said Mr. McLane, "that seed planted at that time under average conditions produces better plants, and fruits more satisfactorily very often than where it goes in very early and contends with cold soil and other weakening conditions. The section just north of us is of course that which puts the end to our best prices in shipping tomatoes in the spring. If as is reported conditions are very unfavorable in that area why we ought to be able to plant as late as the last of the month and still get good returns for the tomato crop."

Out at the south of Punta Gorda where the water from the flat woods rushed down and was held back by the railroad, as if diked and on the other side where high tide pushed water back the truck fields were pretty well badgered by the water pumps kept it down in the fields, however, and new ditches helped other spots.

J. Stephens from the Kuyden-

dall place was in town the day after the storm for bean hampers and the farm intended shipping about fifty hampers. The drain was said to have helped this farm quite a bit, although no special work on laterals had been accomplished. This farm has shipped well over two hundred hampers so far this season.

Out Solana way there were a number of truck fields that showed up nicely after the tempest. At B. E. Perkins' half an acre of eggplants looked finely enough to please their grower. At D. Hill's the two acres of eggplants, peppers and tomatoes were in pretty shape as the drainage proved very satisfactory. Shaw's peppers were in good form and at Mr. Oswald's the tomatoes were unimpaired. Patrick had some stuff which showed its location well chosen. Other growers had various kinds of stuff that will come into market in due season. Beans probably fared as poorly as any other crop as the winds ripped the bloom off and knocked over plants.

Out in the Pineapple river section along the banks where drainage was arranged for some fields looked very hopeful. Up at the Dewey grove where A. C. Caldwell had two acres of beans and watermelons in the fields looked very nicely and Caldwell who is one of the old truckers who have come in from up state was mighty well pleased. Mr. Caldwell's father is expected soon and when both have finished planting there will be seven or eight acres of watermelons in there.

At J. Harvey Miller's the onion patch in the old pond was out of sight when the heavy showers concluded operations. But on the following morning every bed was high out of water and the patch was a sight to smile upon. The acre of eggplants also looked mighty fine, the acre of peppers gave every sign of surviving in good style and altogether Mr. Miller had about the prettiest farm anywhere around Punta Gorda on the morning after the tempest.

A Bean Story

In the face of weather and shipping conditions this fall, the record of J. Powell is one of the best yet reported. From two acres he shipped 97 crates of beans chiefly to Chicago, although some went to Philadelphia. At this time he has heard from 91, and they netted him \$135. 32 crates brought him about \$14 as they were damaged by extreme cold in Chicago supposedly in the hands of the draymen as far as Mr. Powell determines from correspondence with the commission house, which is one he has been shipping to for some time.

Fertilizer for these two acres of wax and green beans cost \$75.

But as Powell says anyway he got his fertilizer and seed back and then some and in the face of the weather he is thankful for that much.

He is putting in three acres of beans and one of squash for the spring crop.

Brief Bits

Martin Jackson of Tampa, staff correspondent of the New York Packer, was in town last week and met many of the truckers. At the time of his visit, Mr. Jackson said the Punta Gorda men ought to be pretty well pleased with conditions here and as he was speaking after visiting a number of other trucking sections his opinion was that of a well informed individual. Mr. Jackson expects to return in a couple of weeks and make a visit to some of the fields.

C. Tenet, representing a New York commission firm, was in town this week after a trip down the coast and expressed surprise that the trucking situation around Punta Gorda was so good after the storm. He had been in some famous trucking sections within a few days which had suffered heavy damages and said Punta Gorda men who had anything to ship from now on ought to get fair money.

One bean grower below Acline, who has been little heard of, is reported to have received three hundred dollars for his bean crop.

Fine wax beans were picked this week at the Cooper farm and about fifty crates were shipped. This farm proved fortunate in several ways. The fertilizer for the big tomato plantings was only partly distributed so that comparatively a small amount will be lost.

Nearly Two Million Professional Persons in United States

Washington, D. C.—There are 1,825,000 men and women in the United States engaged in professional pursuits according to a report which has just been issued by the Census Bureau. The males number 1,152,000 and the females 673,000. The professions represented are actors, architects, artists, ministers, dentists, journalists, lawyers, musicians, doctors and teachers. Sixty-three persons in every one hundred engaged in professions in the United States are men and thirty-seven are women.

Red Barns in Florida

Many new barns are being built in the rural districts of Florida. Building material dealers in all sections of the State report an unprecedented demand for barn lumber and red paint. Next to the home the barn is the most important building on the farm, and wherever red barns exist there frugality and prosperity abide supreme.

The rapid construction of new barns in Florida is lifting the farming industry of this state into a higher zone of utility and is establishing a new era in our industrial progress. No community can proceed far into its agricultural economy until its stock are well sheltered and its crops are properly housed.

Poor Farm Idea

The Board of County Commissioners visited Punta Gorda Wednesday to inspect the 300-acre tract of land belonging to the county. The Board has under consideration the matter of establishing a county poor farm on this body of rich and valuable land, with the view to making this farm ultimately sustain our public pensioners. The county's unfortunates now cost the taxpayers from \$2,500 to \$3,000 per year, and each one only draws a trifling sum, at that. We hope and believe that the investigations of the board will lead to the establishment of such an institution, not only as an economical proposition for the county, but from the standpoint of proper care and comfort of those dependent upon the public for existence.—Arcadia Enterprise.

Get together, and we will all get a part.

CREDIT MERITED

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Should Have Confidence of People of Florida—Has a Fine Record to Point to

"Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's."

Every American possesses the inalienable right (or he thinks it is his) to cast his ballot as he chooses, to spend his Sundays as the mood strikes him, and to criticize his neighbors. The average American citizen—and that means you and me—has a ready opinion on every subject and no fear of lese majeste penalties deters him from expressing it. He feels himself fully qualified at a moment's warning, and without previous preparation, knowledge or consideration, to tear to pieces the minister's sermon or his theology, the President's Mexican policy or the way the woman next door is bringing up her children. He finds fault with the weather bureau man because the predicted "local showers" fail to arrive and a bright sun shines out instead. He complains to the postman because the mail train was two hours late, and he kicks the dog because he himself has eaten more dinner than was good for him.

And yet this same average American rightly expects and demands all due respect for his own worth-while accomplishment. Criticism-knocking is the other word for it—is a habit rather common among us and it's a habit that is demoralizing both to the possessor and to him whom it hits. Criticism here is limited to the habit of finding fault with persons and things that you don't know enough about to qualify yourself as their critic. It's a habit that grows on him who indulges in it. It leads him to question the man whom and whose motives, he trusts. It fosters a tearing down without adequate, or any, reason, worthy and beneficial accomplishment. It attacks without cause the man and his work that are above and beyond the carping of such incompetent critics, but it hurts and discourages. Big men rise above it, but it embitters them.

Every man who is worth the space he occupies in the world, earns his right to it by doing something worth while, something to make the world better. He is an expert or a specialist in some direction, who wins his right to credit by some real accomplishment. He is a Caesar to whom his fellows owe some tribute of praise.

The man or the organization that has written the record of things done is entitled to public confidence. It has the right to expect that its acts shall be accepted as proper without announcing in advance the reason for them. The record is the guarantee on which is based the right to public confidence.

It is on its record covering the last quarter of a century or more, that the State Board of Health bases its right to the confidence of the people of Florida. It has accomplished tangible results that the whole world knows and praises. It has made Florida a better place to live in. It has built up barriers against disease from other lands. It has waged successful war against the ills that start nearer home. It has won the confidence of Florida's people, even of those who unreasonably criticize it.

It is waging a campaign to educate these same people how to ward off preventable disease, how to lower the ratios of sickness and of death, how to use the means within the reach of all to make Florida the most healthful state in the Union. In this campaign nothing is done in the dark, there is a reason for every move and this reason is not hidden. It may be known to all who will take the trouble to ask, even to read the newspapers of the State.

And in view of its record the Board asks and seeks the co-operation of every loyal Floridian, and it asks that criticism shall be withheld until the reason—the why—is known. And it feels that in this it is asking only what is its due.—Bulletin.