ROAD BUILDING ACTIVE

Increased Construction Is Noted As Freight Situation Betters To Permit Movement of Rock; Survey Shows Available Material Supply Exceeds State's Demand For Years.

[HERALD SERVICE]

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Feb. 13.—Increased activity in highway building as a result of relief in the embargo situation, which permits the railroads to move rock is apparent, according to the Florida State Chamber of Commerce, and with greater relief in sight there are indications that the state is facing a spring and summer of road building never before experienced in its history.

A survey recently made by the Florida Paving Contractors' Association showed 25 actively operating lime rock quarries with a daily output of 28,000 tons, and it is apparent that there will be no shortage of this material if the railroads can handle it from the crushers to points about the state where it will be needed. The survey disclosed that the available supply of rock now being worked is in excess of 157,000,000 tons, sufficient for the state's needs for years to come.

The state's highway building program and that of the counties, already authorized, is sufficient to keep thousands of workers employed for a number of years if there were no further expansion of plans, and it is unquestioned that more roads eventually will be built than those now provided for.

THE state road department says the state chamber of commerce, acted wisely during the fall when, faced with the impossibility of obtaining supplies of rock as a result of freight congestion, it awarded contracts for the building of many miles of roadbed in various sections of the state. Scores of miles of highway bed as a consequence have been constructed and when the flow of rock becomes more free, insuring steady employment of surfacing crews on various projects these roads will be completed rapidly.

Dr. Fons A. Hathaway, chairman of the road department, has announced that work on uncompleted stretches of the Dixie Highway, down the East Coast, would begin shortly, and it is expected that other projects which will receive immediate attention include the linking up of state road No. 3, between East Palatka and Dunn's creek, and the unpaved stretch across Paine's prairie, between Gainesville and Micanopy.

In west Florida, where the work of building state road No. 1, between Tallahassee and Pensacola is progressing rapidly, various counties now are taking preliminary steps toward the issuance of bonds to hard surface this highway. The road is of sand-clay construction west of Lake City, one of the finest in the state in dry weather, but disagreeable during rains. In the vicinity of Perry an enormous amount of roadbed has been built and is ready for the surfacing rock.

TURTLE OUTGROWS AQUARIUM SPACE

Caretaker At Key West To Give Away Specimen.

KEY WEST, Fla., Feb. 13.—Peter D. Roberts, caretaker of Curry's Aquarium, decided today to give away Jumbo, the loggerhead turtle which has been raised in the tank. The last week or so Jumbo has become altogether too predatory. Regardless of how much food he is given, he is generally on the lookout to snap at fish in the aquarium, particularly the smaller ones, as a result of which he has killed and partly eaten a good many interesting specimens.

Jumbo weighed eight ounces when he was placed in the tank—today he tipped the scales at 46 pounds. The tank is only four feet wide and twice as long, and as Mr. Roberts wishes to further stock it with fish he thinks they are in danger of either being injured or killed by Jumbo. It is no unusual thing to find the remains of a fish in the tank in the morning, or to see Jumbo snap at fish that is passing him. Sometimes, when he tires of waiting to be fed, he makes it a practice to chase fish in his effort to kill them.

Several ichthyologists, including Dr. Van Dusen, of the Fairmount Park Aquarium, Philadelphia, and Louis Mowbray, chief aquarist of the New York Aquarium, have asked for Jumbo, but at the time he was not one-half as large as he is now and Mr. Roberts did not wish to part with him then. Mr. Roberts intends to write Dr. Van Dusen or Mr. Mowbray to inform either that he may have Jumbo now.

MANY CITIES REPORT COIN QUOTAS EXCEEDED

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Feb. 13.—According to the latest reports received at state headquarters of the Stone Mountain Confederate Memorial only 60,000 of the 175,000 coins allotted to Florida have so far been sold, leaving a balance of 115,000 to be disposed of during the next few weeks or until March 1.

The following towns have reported their quotas either sold or exceeded: Bradenton, Cocoa, Coconut Grove, Clearwater, Dania, Delray, Dade City, Dunnellon, Hilleton, Hollsmere, Fort Lauderdale, Fort Pierce, Frostproof, Hollywood, Haines City, Kelsey City, Kissimmee, Labelle, Lakeland, Lake Alfred, Miami Beach, Macclenny, Moore Haven, Macfatosh, New Port Richey, New Smyrna, Ocoee, Okeechobee, Oviedo, Pompano, Port Orange, Sarasota, Stuart, Titusville, Tavares, Umatilla, Winter Garden, Winter Park, Winter Haven, Wildwood and Wellborn.

GOLF CLUB AT COCOA ELECTS ITS OFFICERS

COCOA, Fla., Feb. 13.—Stockholders of the Poinsett Golf and Country Club recently held their annual meeting at the Cocoa city hall to elect officers and directors for the ensuing year and to transact important business. A large increase in the membership was noted. It was voted by the shareholders that the extra nine holes of the club be finished as soon as the weather permits. Temporary greens on the first nine holes are being replaced by permanent greens. Directors elected by the body for the next year were, W. G. Paterson, Charles D. Smith, Clarence Jones, R. L. Dewitt, L. S. Andrews, Jr., N. J. Rogers, T. S. Allen, W. J. Shaughnessy, Jr., and N. F. Reiner. The directors in turn after the meeting elected officers for the coming year as follows, N. F. Reiner, president; W. G. Paterson, vice president; L. S. Andrews, Jr., secretary, N. J. Rogers, treasurer.

SARASOTA CAUSEWAY OPENS.

SARASOTA, Fla., Feb. 13.—The Ringling causeway, connecting the city of Sarasota with Longboat, Anna Maria, Sarasota and St. Armand's Keys, has been completed and opened to the public. A feature of the opening of this important bridge was a concert rendered by the Czecho-Slovakian Band, brought to this city by John Ringling, builder of the causeway.

NASSAU FARMERS GROW MUCH CANE

Northern County Produces High Grade of Syrup.

FERNANDINA, Fla., Feb. 13.—Nassau county, which leads all other counties in the state in the production of poultry and sweet potatoes, also is establishing a record in the raising of sugar cane from which thousands of gallons of the most delicious syrup is produced and sold in the Jacksonville and other markets at the highest price.

Seven varieties of sugar can thrive in this, the northeastern section of the state, and from two to three crops can be raised from one planting. The average yield an acre from one planting is about 300 gallons, but under favorable seasons and with scientific cultivation from 400 to 500 gallons is not uncommon in the northern portion of the county, where the farmers are specializing in the production of both sugar and Japanese cane, the latter being used principally for feeding hogs and cattle.

One of the most remarkable yields of sugar cane, and it is believed a record-breaking production for northern Florida, is that of H. A. Davis, a progressive planter of the Hilliard community, who is credited with the production of 625 gallons of syrup from one acre. Mr. Davis says the production of this quantity of syrup, which he has sold for a little more than the market price of $1 a gallon, cost him far less than any of his other crops produced last year on much larger acreage.

UNITS ARE AUTHORIZED

One Or Two National Guard Groups Are Proposed.

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla., Feb. 13.—Notice was received recently at the office of the adjutant general of Florida from the war department of authorization for the organization of one or two additional national guard units for Florida. For more than a year previous to this time the state had been unable to get authority to form other units because of the limit of Federal funds for their equipment and pay, although there were a number of the larger Florida cities that were without representation in the national guard. Florida occupies an important position in the national guard of this section. The headquarters of the thirty-first division have been given to this state and this division has as its commander Maj.-Gen. Albert H. Blanding of Tampa. The National Guard Association of the United States recently selected the adjutant general of Florida, Brig.-Gen. J. C. R. Foster, as its president, and this would seem to indicate that Florida is looked to for leadership in national guard matters.

BOYS GIVEN AWARDS

Three Florida Youths Win University Scholarships.

GAINESVILLE, Fla., Feb. 13.—Winners of the three bankers' scholarships to the University of Florida were announced here today by R. W. Blacklock, state boys' club agent. They are, Robert K. Wynns, Montverde, Lake county; Aubrey P. Bennett, Moultrie, St. Johns county; and Paul Morton, Molino, Escambia county. These scholarships are given by the Florida Bankers' Association, which annually donates to club boys of the state three scholarships to the University of Florida. These scholarships are valued at $100 each. Wynns, Bennett and Morton attended the boys' club short course held at the college of agriculture last summer, and while here they stood the examination for the scholarships, and have just been declared winners. A number of other splendid papers were submitted in the examination. The scholarships will be held in trust for these boys until they have finished high school and are ready to enter the university.

STREETS TO BE CLEANED

Fort Myers Board Heads Move For Tidy City.

FORT MYERS, Fla., Feb. 13.—The Fort Myers Realty Board has launched a campaign for cleaner and more beautiful streets in the city and with the assistance of the city commission pledged, it is expected that immediate steps will be taken to repair broken sidewalks, trim palms and clean city thoroughfares more thoroughly. A committee composed of C. P. Frank, Clinton Bollck and C. W. Russell, representing the realty board, appeared before the commission and set forth the need of a clean-up campaign. The city board members explained that contracts for new paving had been awarded some time ago, but that work was held up on account of the shortage of material. With material now on hand, it was pointed out, the work will be rushed. Home owners will be requested to co-operate in the campaign by trimming trees and lawns of their properties, it was stated.

STREET SWEEPER PURCHASED.

AVON PARK, Fla., Feb. 13.—Street sweeping is the new vocation in Avon Park. The council has decided that with 25 miles of asphalt streets being rushed to completion and requests already for more coming in, a street sweeper is essential. A large tractor-pulled sweeper with an eight-foot sweep has been purchased and will put it to work at once, according to Chairman Charles R. Head of the street committee of the council.

EUSTIS WILL CELEBRATE.

EUSTIS, Fla., Feb. 13.—The automobile parade to be held at the Mardi Gras celebration on February 22 is expected to be the largest event of its kind in the history of Lake county. The committee having the arrangements in charge includes Harry Mooty, C. T. Nicholson, G. A. Pierce.

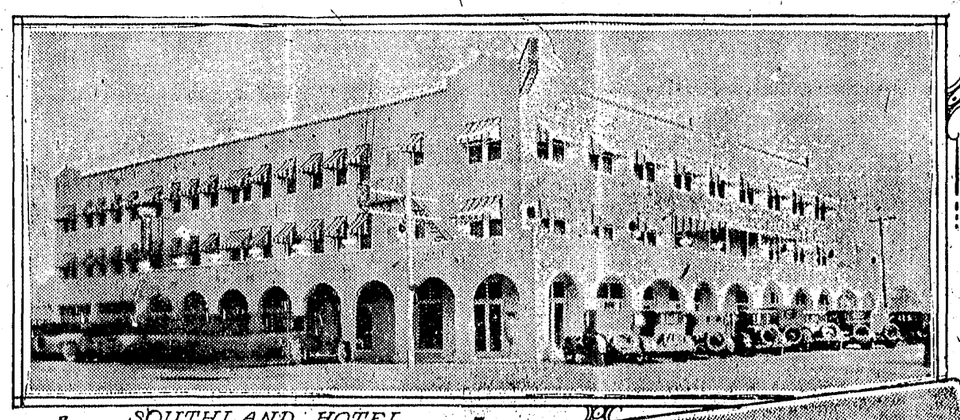
12 HOUSES TO BE BUILT.

COCOA, Fla., Feb. 13.—Twelve four-room houses soon will be built in Westover, the Lauterbach & Hooper subdivisions near the city wells. Five are to be built by parties who have purchased lots in the subdivision and the remaining houses will be built by the company. R. W. Rommell, local architect, is drawing the plans.

FESTIVAL DATES ARE SET.

SARASOTA, Fla., Feb. 13.—Following a meeting of the chamber of commerce, Al F. Wheeler director of amusements for the city, announced that the Orange Blossom Festival, which has become an event of the year in this section, will be held the week of March 9-14.

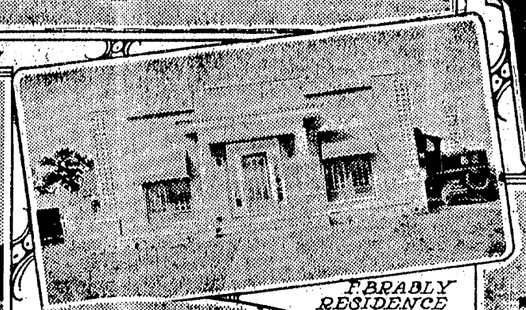
OKEECHOBEE, LEADING CITY OF EVERGLADES, BUILDS FOR PERMANENCY



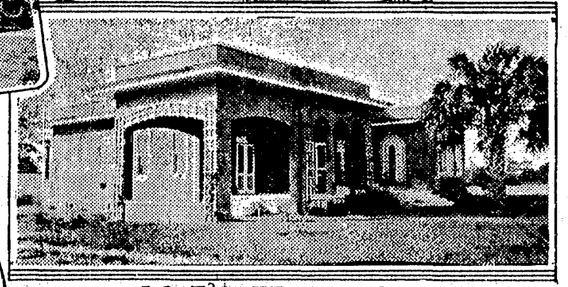
SOUTHLAND HOTEL

AN OKEECHOBEE CAFE

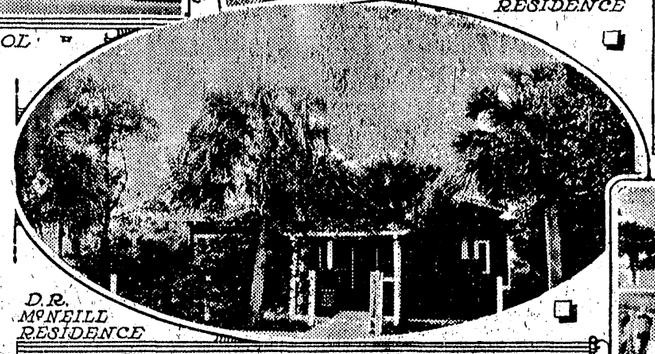
OKEECHOBEE HIGH SCHOOL



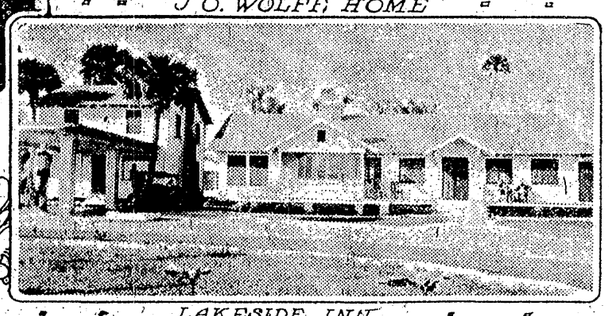
F. BRADLY RESIDENCE



J. O. WOLFF HOME



D. R. MCNEILL RESIDENCE



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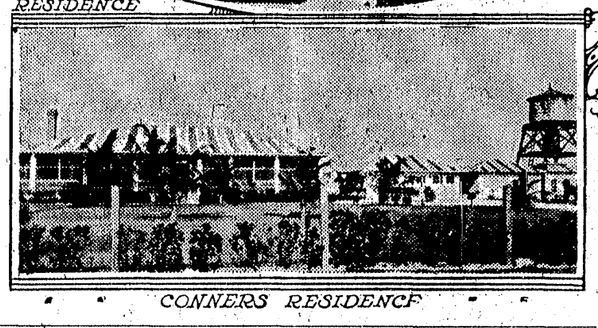

CONNERS RESIDENCE

POULTRY PROFITS HIGH

Fanciers of Hilliard Report Big Return On Flocks; Cost Itemized.

[HERALD SERVICE]

FERNANDINA, Fla., Feb. 13.—The Hilliard Poultry Association of Hilliard in the northwest portion of Nassau county, has been making a creditable record in handling poultry, and the following letter, addressed to the Fernandina Chamber of Commerce, from C. R. Matthias, vice president of the association, shows the profits to be made in the industry in this section of Florida.

"Your inquiry in regard to the probable cost of getting started in the poultry business reached me at a most favorable moment for reply, as the local association with which I am connected, has closed the most successful year in its history, and we are in a position to give you an answer based on up-to-date data that is authentic for 1925.

"Land can be obtained in this vicinity at from $75 to $200 an acre, and in larger tracts as low as $50.

"Poultry farms range from five acres up, depending on the size of the operation contemplated.

"Lumber is cheaper here than in many places on account of the nearness of lumber mills, which saves cost of handling and freight.

"With this preliminary explanation you will doubtless be able to grasp the significance of the figures herewith submitted. Original investment: five acres at $100 per acre, $500; house as low as $500; fence and outbuildings, $500; total, $1,500.

"ONE can begin actual operations on land in the natural state without stopping to clear it, so that no time need be lost on that account.

"While experiences vary, we find that the average man can care for about 1,200 hens, and I am furnishing an estimate on that number. From this standard you can make your own calculations on any basis that may appeal to you. Poultry outlay: 3,000 baby chicks, basis of 1,200 hens, $510; cost of feeding chicks six months, $900; cost of feeding 1,200 hens ensuing 12 months, $2,220; total, $3,630.

"Returns: sale of cockerels, estimated, $360; value of eggs from 1,200 hens, one year, $5,760; value of old stock hens, $900; total, $7,020. Profit for handling 1,200 hens, one year, $3,300.

"An analysis of these figures will show that from the time the hens begin laying they will pay a profit of $3 each per year over and above the cost of feed and care.

"From these figures it is evident that one can build his income to any figure he wishes by judicious management. The above figures represent an average of the records of our members and we see no reason why you should find it materially different from the rest."

BRADENTON IS SEEKING NEW POSTAL BUILDING

BRADENTON, Fla., Feb. 13.(AP)—The marked increase of the postal in this city has demanded increased facilities to such extent that Congressman Herbert J. Drane has introduced a bill in the lower house of congress asking for an appropriation of $100,000 for a new building for the Bradenton post office. This announcement was made here by the local chamber of commerce. Introduction of the bill followed effort of the civic bodies of the city to show the need of such a building to the congressman. It was stated that Mr. Drane had expressed the belief that the bill would probably pass during this session.

HARBOR WORK TO START

SARASOTA, Fla., Feb. 13.—Work on dredging Sarasota bay for the construction of the deep waterway will start soon. The city council Monday will award contracts to the lowest bider for the work. All plans and specifications have been completed by Col. J. M. Braxton, recently appointed harbor engineer. Copies have been sent to the leading harbor firms of the country. The work will probably be done by two firms, as it has been decided to do the dredging in five sections, one firm to do the outer dredging, while the other does the work inside the bay.

LUMBER FIRM OWNS PRIZE COW OF STATE

Pensacola, Fla., Feb. 13. (AP).

JOVIAL PRINCESS, Jersey cow, owned by a Pensacola lumber firm, has been declared champion milk producer of Florida by the American Jersey Cattle Club. Jovial Princess, 301230, eight years old, in a test October 5, 1924, had produced 10,750 pounds of milk, with an average test of 3.51 per cent butterfat, and a total of 700.83 pounds of butterfat by October 4, 1925.

CLUB OFFERS REWARD FOR BEST KEPT YARD

Tavares, Feb. 13.

THE Kiwanis Club here has fallen into line with the movement to beautify Florida, and as its first step one of its members has offered a cup to the citizen of Tavares who keeps the best yard about his premises this summer. The cup will be held for one year, going in 1927 to the citizen who has kept the best yard that year.

CITY OF BARTOW ENJOYS GROWTH

Home Shortage To Be Relieved By Program.

BARTOW, Fla., Feb. 13.—This city has been slow in her awakening along industrial growth, but is now coming into her own with a substantial growth that means prosperity of a lasting nature. The house shortage has been keenly felt here this year. It has been of such a nature that many have been turned away and located in other localities. This is to be remedied very shortly by new apartment houses.

Plans are being drawn for a large municipal apartment house. C. P. Zazzali of Lakeland last week closed a deal with H. R. James, local architect, for the erection of a 21-apartment building on Maine and Jackson streets, each apartment to consist of four rooms, bath and screened-in porch.

The Polk State Bank has authorized plans drawn by a Tampa architect for a 10-story bank building to cost $500,000.

Last week the Masons sold their corner lot for $35,000 and have obtained a better location upon which they will immediately erect a new building to cost $50,000. It will be strictly a lodge home.

The First Methodist Church has purchased a site containing a quarter block at the corner of Oak avenue and Lemon street for $25,000 upon which they will erect a two-unit structure. The first unit to be an auditorium seating 1,200 with dining room and kitchen below. The second unit will be a modern Sunday school building. Today W. A. Bergstrom has announced plans for erecting a tea room and casino at Great Pines to cost $25,000. A strip of land 711 feet on the main Ocean to Gulf highway has been secured for the purpose.

ELECTION DATE IS FIXED

PANAMA CITY, Fla., Feb. 13.—The city election provided for in the legislative act consolidating the municipalities of Panama City, Millville and St. Andrew will be held on Tuesday, March 9, according to call issued by F. M. Nelson, mayor of Panama City; J. L. Tinkham, mayor of St. Andrew, and H. N. Mizelle, mayor of Millville, acting as the election board set up in the measure. One city commissioner at large is to be chosen, who will automatically become the mayor of the greater Panama City, and one commissioner from each of the four wards.

LAKELAND UNION TO BUILD

LAKELAND, Fla., Feb. 13. (AP)—Purchase of a site for a temple of labor, to be constructed at a cost of $100,000, has been announced by the Central Labor Union of Lakeland. Erection will be started at once, it was stated. The temple will be located on the corner of S. Florida avenue and Walnut street. The first unit of the building will be three stories high but it will have a foundation for an eight-story building.

SCHOOL AIDE IN STATE

Pennsylvania Official Comes To Florida To Assist In Organization Work.

[BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.]

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Feb. 13.—Opportunity for the organization of junior high schools in Florida is being presented by the department of public instruction with the announcement that Prof. J. M. Glass, director of junior high schools of Pennsylvania, is now in the state and is ready to assist H. M. Sealey, supervisor of high schools, wherever such organization work is desired.

Professor Glass and Mr. Sealey will co-operate in devoting a portion of their time to organizing the schools, it was announced, and the services of both may be obtained by communication with the department of public instruction here.

Letters notifying all county superintendents of the arrangements have been prepared, and will be sent out within a few days. Virtually all of the larger cities already have junior high school organizations, it was stated, but a number have not as yet established them and are desirous of doing so, with the proper assistance, it was explained. Several counties are also contemplating such a step.

A LIST of the proposed types of service also will accompany the letters sent the county superintendents and others who might be interested in the junior high organization work. The list goes into detail regarding the essentials of junior high operation. They include consultations among the teachers to discuss the various phases of the curriculum, conferences of the county superintendent, supervising principal, principals, supervisors and assistant principals on matters of organization and administration, the number of lectures and title which should be carried out, a discussion of the type of building needed for a junior high school, and a limited testing program for the purpose of ascertaining the advancement of the student in certain of the common branches.

Special conferences, to be led by the state supervisor of high schools in discussing certain subjects and a plan of service, suggested as a possible combination of the various types of service are also set forth in the standardized work of junior high organization, all of which is incorporated in the letters to the county educational heads.

"The length of time for which the services of the junior high school consultant and the state supervisor of high schools should be secured for such work as has been proposed," the communication states, "would vary with the size of the school or group of schools to be served."

ATTORNEYS PREPARE CALL.

KISSIMMEE, Fla., Feb. 13.—Attorneys for the Osceola county board of commissioners are preparing the call for an election on the issuance of $2,000,000 in bonds to be used for construction of highways in the county. The program, should the issue be approved by the people, provides for approximately 80 miles of hardsurfaced roads, including repair of the Kissimmee-Melbourne highway via St. Cloud, at a cost of $275,000.

ROAD WORK SCHEDULED.

TAVARES, Fla., Feb. 13.—The Longston Construction Company has machinery and material on the ground ready for the construction of the Tavares-Clermont road. Work will start Monday at the Tavares end and will proceed toward Clermont. The pavement will be 18 feet wide of penetration asphalt. The route will follow the old clay road, with a few exceptions.

NEED OF FARMS IS TOLD

Leading Realty Man of Florida Declares State's Future Is Dependent Upon Development of Agriculture; Anticipates Time When Exports Will Aggregate $500,000,000.

[BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

ORLANDO, Fla., Feb. 13.—The greatest need of Florida today is more farms, according to Russell H. Gress of this city, a leading real estate operator throughout the state. He visions Florida as one of the leading states of the Union as a producer of scientifically raised foodstuffs, dairy products and poultry. Farmers, he says, should become scientific cultivators.

In the opinion of Mr. Gress, Florida's next development must be agriculturally and central Florida offers the best opportunities along such lines of any part of the state.

"The increased number of farmers must keep pace with the increased number of population," he says. "It is an often quoted dictum of economics that all wealth comes from the soil. Therefore it is well to definitely study the basic principal of Florida's future development.

"The present great wave of prosperity will carry on for years to come but agriculture must attain the same magnitude that industry, commerce and resort development does.

"REALIZING that the agricultural possibilities of the state have just been touched, the confidence that Florida has in the future can easily be understood.

"In the American standard of living, in the cities, housewives, buyers for hotels and others never select canned vegetables and fruits as a matter of choice. They all insist on fresh produce, even at much higher prices, when they are obtainable. Florida's nearest to markets and early crops meet this demand and it is met at a time when prices are at their highest.

"Farmers in every part of the country are watching Florida, and especially central Florida, with an eager eye. They are growing weary of the economic ills of the Northern states. Florida is where they are coming to get away from the hardships which are frequently attributed to over-production resulting in crowded markets and low prices.

"They are now beginning to realize that the saturation point for the Northern consumption of Florida products during the winter can never be reached and that this great state will provide for them that long desired opportunity for success."

It is estimated by Mr. Gress that in the next five years Florida will be able to ship to Northern markets fully $500,000,000 worth of produce yearly.

CONVENTION IS OUTLINED

PENSACOLA, Fla., Feb. 13.—Great plans have been made for the 1926 conference of naval stores operators, distributors, land and timber owners, to be held at the St. Charles Hotel, New Orleans, March 1-3, and it is indicated that the most comprehensive meeting of the kind held lately in the South will result from the advance preparations. Men of authority and outstanding knowledge of the pine and products industry will gather and a big program has been announced here by O. H. L. Wernicke, president.

WHITE HOUSE LIKES FLORIDA TANGERINES

Brooksville, Fla., Feb. 13.

"THANKS. Have you some more?" This was the substance of a message from the White House, sent to the secretary of the Citrus Growers' Association here, acknowledging a gift of a box of Hernando county tangerines, presented to President Calvin Coolidge.

BOULEVARD AT SEBRING TO BE LINED WITH PALMS

Sebring, Fla., Feb. 13.

GRACEFUL coconut and royal palm trees will stretch in endless succession around the paved scenic boulevard which will be built by the city around the 11-mile circumference of Lake Jackson, if the program adopted by the directors of the chamber of commerce is carried into execution.

The chamber directors have in mind the planting of 5,000 of the trees. George E. Sebring, sr., president emeritus of the board, made the suggestion that the trees be planted at regular intervals, 100 feet apart. Bonds have been sold for the pavement that will encircle the lake. Its construction is awaiting the return of a situation favorable for the receipt of material.

SPECTACLE ARRANGED

Daytona Beach Festival To Have Pyrotechnic Display.

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla., Feb. 13.—As the stellar feature of the winter festival and sports program for promotion of which local developers contributed $100,000, the Daytona Beach Chamber of Commerce will present on City Island throughout the week, beginning Monday, February 15, the internationally famous pyrotechnic spectacle, "Rome Under Nero." With the appearance of Fritz Kreisler, the world's best known violinist, at the Daytona Beach auditorium on the opening night included, other events will be added to each day's program. Three hundred of the leading men, women and children of the Halifax country are rehearsing the pageant features of the pyrotechnic display, which will be presented in the South for the first time, and the production expense of which is said to eclipse anything of the kind yet presented in any other than metropolitan centers. Presentation of this spectacle will be followed on February 22, Washington's birthday, by automobile races between dirt tractor drivers of the championship class, and later by races under the auspices of the American Automobile Association, with such stars as Tommy Milton, Pete de Paola and Ralph de Palma, competing for the largest purses yet offered for races on the world's most famous beach.

TILE PLANT TO BE MOVED

TAVARES, Fla., Feb. 13.—Through the efforts of Secretary Merck Rees of the chamber of commerce and Win C. Sleight, resident manager of the Helvs Syndicate, which is developing Summerall Park Heights, negotiations have been completed whereby T. R. Copenhaver of Salem, Va., has agreed to move his ornamental and drainage tile factory from Virginia to Tavares and locate it in the industrial section of Summerall Park Heights in the next few weeks.

EUSTIS ASSOCIATION ELECTS.

EUSTIS, Fla., Feb. 13.—At a meeting of the Eustis Building & Loan Association last week all old officials were re-elected with the expection of F. W. Hannum, who was chosen vice president in place of F. H. Bodeker. Those elected are: president, William M. Igou; vice president, F. W. Hannum; treasurer, A. D. Miller; secretary, G. A. Pierce; directors, W. M. Igou, F. W. Hannum, L. J. Taylor, W. M. Cathrae, G. A. Pierce, F. H. Bodeker, A. D. Miller, H. A. Ferran and Charles Isted.

CANAL WORK PROCEEDS

Florida and Georgia Officials Confer On Atlantic-Inland Barge Route.

[HERALD SERVICE]

FERNANDINA, Feb. 13.—Capt. Wesley Robinson, president of the St. Marys, Ga., chamber of commerce and member of the Georgia state canal commission, attended a conference at Fernandina last week with Commissioner E. W. Bailey and Secretary F. R. S. Phillips of the Florida state canal commission, concerning important work in behalf of the proposed Atlantic-Mississippi barge canal, from Cumberland sound by way of the St. Marys river and St. George's sound to the Mississippi river at New Orleans. While no details of the conference were given out for publication, it is understood that the meeting was very satisfactory.

Captain Robinson was appointed on the Georgia state canal commission by Gov. Thomas W. Hardwick two years ago and has just been reappointed by Gov. Clifford Walker. The Georgia commission is co-operating with the Florida state canal commission, but permitting the Florida commission to take the lead in this important matter, to avoid duplication or confusion.

The governors of Florida and Georgia are ex-officio members of the commissions that were created in 1921 to act as the states' agencies through which to get the survey and construction of the Atlantic-Mississippi barge canal.

CONGRESSMAN R. A. GREEN of the second Florida district has introduced the bill for the survey sponsored by the two state commissions, and this measure will have the strong support of the Atlantic Deeper Waterways Association, the Mississippi Valley Association and other organizations of national scope interested in making the inland waterways of the United States efficient for both domestic and foreign commerce.

This project will be the link to connect the Atlantic intra-coastal waterways at Cumberland sound with the Mississippi river, the great industrial canal at New Orleans being the western section of the Atlantic-Mississippi barge canal. The route is now open from Mobile bay west to New Orleans, up the Mississippi river to St. Louis and up the Ohio river to Pittsburgh.

With this canal constructed, it is pointed out, there will be no necessity for future freight embargoes, as barges from New Orleans and interior points can reach Miami and Fort Myers or New York and Boston.

Progress to date has been very encouraging, according to members of the commission, and the project is being strongly backed by the states of Florida and Georgia. St. Marys and Fernandina are leaving nothing undone to insure its success.

TEXT BOOK SURVEY MADE BY CAWTHON

Effort Is Made To Learn Needs of State.

TALLAHASSE, Fla., Feb. 13—(AP)—Superintendent of Public Instruction W. S. Cawthon is now engaged in estimating the number of free text books which should be furnished in Florida public schools at the next term, and the probable cost, and these figures will be placed before the board of Commissioners of State Institutions at an early date.

If the Board passes favorably upon Mr. Cawthon's estimates the latter will be presented the publishers and if finally agreed upon, supplemental contracts to those now in effect for the purchase of school books in the state, will be entered into.

There is a strong probability, Mr. Cawthon said, that only some of the books for each grade will be furnished free by the state, because of the limited funds in the treasury for that work. The most essential studies will be chosen, such as reading, arithmetic geography, history, and the other indispensable parts of the curriculum. In that way, it was explained, the board will make the $400,000 on hand effective.

RE-DISTRICTING IS ASKED.

Effort Is Made To Redivide Polk County Sections.

FROSTPROOF, Fla., Feb. 13.—A movement has been inaugurated to re-district Polk county, and it is believed the matter will be approved in petition by the taxpayers in time for action by the county commissioners at their next meeting. At this time two districts comprise more than 800 square miles. One district has a little over 200 square miles, a fourth district has more than 150 square miles, while the fifth district has but 72 square miles. At the same time with this division of acreage the different districts have been allotted practically the same amount of funds for development purposes. The situation has been the subject of considerable discussion and agitation in various parts of Polk county for some time past. It has even been quoted as the reason for county division. If the movement succeeds it is believed all talk of county division will end.

ST. PETERSBURG GUARD UNIT MAY GO TO MIAMI

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Feb. 13 (AP) Under its present status the local company of the national guard will be removed to Miami unless enlistments have reached 65 by Feb. 12, next, according to Capt. Cramer B. Potter. Many have signified their intention of serving with the company, it was said, and an appeal has been sent to the adjutant general asking that the time for completing the minimum enlistments be extended.

Should the company remain here, it was stated, plans are under way for the erection of a new armory with suitable headquarters for the company and a social center for the troops. A recruiting campaign will be waged between the time limit with the local post of the American Legion assisting.

NEW THEATER IS RUSHED

TITUSVILLE, Fla., Feb. 13.—Rapid strides were made last week on the new theater building being erected on Main street by the Indian River Theatrical Enterprises. With the arrival of a boatload of material from Jacksonville, the contractors expect to finish the work on the $250,000 structure by the first of March. The steel supports for the roof were swung into place last week and the building will be roofed within a few days. Between 25 and 30 men are being employed and the work is being rushed. A second boatload of material and equipment now is on the way to Titusville.

HEALTH OFFICER NAMED.

AVON PARK, Fla., Feb. 13.—Dr. W. C. Touchton has been appointed city health officer by the city council, which acted upon the recommendation of Chairman R. A. Stamey of its health and sanitation committee. Mr. Stamey appointed Dr. Touchton temporarily and the council made it permanent. The council also set the salary at $200 per year.