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# LOCHMEDEK

Vol. III.

WINTER PARK, FLORIDA, FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1889.

No. 10.

## THE ORANGE INDUSTRY.

The cultivation of the orange in Florida is by no means a new industry. From the time of the settlement at St. Augustine by the Spaniards under Menciaez in 1565, it has doubtless been cultivated to some extent. At that early period only the sour and bitter-sweet varieties were in general cultivation in Spain, and the sweet, or China orange as it was called came later, after intercourse had been established with the East Indies. The missionaries of the cross, who accompanied all the early Spanish expeditions to America, it is well known, were accustomed to bring with them, and propagate whatever promised to be useful in the new countries where they established their missions. There is no evidence that any species of citrus was indigenous to Florida; on the contrary, there is the strongest negative proof that the French and Spanish explorers found no species of the citrus here. We are accustomed to speak of the wild groves and of the native trees, and it is true that large groves of the sour and bitter-sweet varieties are found amid dense forests in peninsular Florida, but I think they are never found except in places suitable for human habitation or without some evidence of former occupation. Early Spanish writers speak of the practice of horse parties visiting the interior stations carrying with them oranges and planting the seed. There were many Franciscan missions established throughout the peninsula among the native tribes, and doubtless to these early tribes, under the guidance of the worthy Fathers, we owe the general distribution of the sour and bitter-sweet varieties which are by much the most hardy of the citrus tribe, and our experience informs us how readily the tree is propagated by animals and birds in our rich hammock soil, so well suited to its reception.

In Roman's Natural History of Florida, published in 1775, a very rare and interesting book, enumerat-

ing the products that would be valuable for cultivation in Florida he makes mention of oranges as follows: "Oranges of various kinds are worth notice, as they are on many accounts useful in drinks and sauces, and their leaves a good fodder for some esculent animals, such as sheep, rabbits and goats; they thrive extremely well throughout Florida." Among the exports between 1754 and 1773 from Savannah, Ga., a few hundred gallons of orange juice appear to have been exported each year, but no fruit.

It was impracticable in those days to export oranges from Florida; sailing vessels were the only means of communication with the outside world, and the delay and uncertainty, with the perishable character of the fruit made the venture an unsafe one. Naturally the orange had no commercial importance and was regarded only as an ornamental and domestic product to be propagated only so far as it was available for home use.

After the acquisition of Florida by the United States the American population gave some impetus to the planting of groves along the coast and on the St. Johns river. The fruit was purchased by small coasting vessels, which came out from the North with provisions and carried back oranges among other exchanges. This limited export was only available on the coast or navigable streams. A far-sighted and enterprising Englishman, Mr. Zephaniah Kingsley, was the most extensive orange-grower at that period, having established groves on Drayton Island, at Buena Vista, Picolata, Mandarin, Arlington and Fort George Island. It was not for the want of a knowledge of the value of the orange that orange growing made such slow progress in Florida. It was simply the question of transportation. Without the aid of steam vessels and railways an orange grove possessed no commercial value. The rates of freight by ordinary land or water carriage and the perishable nature of the fruit forbade the engaging in orange grow-

ing as a productive industry. When at length the steamboats came and ascended all navigable streams, and railways began to penetrate the country, orange groves began to be planted. Lands which had once been covered with wild orange groves, and cleared up for cotton planting, were reoccupied by groves of this fruit. Nurseries were established, wild groves cleared up and budded, and a wide-spread interest in orange-growing pervaded all the central and lower portions of peninsular Florida. Capital came in from abroad, wealthy men invested for profit and pleasure, and the course of pioneer settlements was reversed; civilization and impromptu improvements preceding the ruder modes of settlement in the West. Handsome residences and elegant houses were scattered through the wilderness, and towns and villages grew up with amazing rapidity.

It is hardly fifteen years since this industry acquired prominence, and all at once, as it were, attracted attention to Florida. Where but a few hundred small groves existed twenty years since, there are now probably over ten thousand. Cotton, corn, sugar, rice, grazing, all require large areas. Orange growing is the most compact and productive of all agricultural industries. One acre of land devoted to the culture of cotton will produce perhaps fifty dollars' worth of cotton, or twenty dollars' worth of wheat, corn or other grain. A well established, mature orange grove can be relied upon to produce an orange crop of the value of three hundred dollars to the acre, even at the low price of one dollar per box.

One railway car will carry the product of twenty-five acres of cotton, but can only carry the product of a single acre of oranges. A grove whose product is 10,000 boxes of oranges will furnish freight for a train of thirty-three loaded cars. This illustrates the commercial advantage of orange growing in building and sustaining railways. If we estimate the crop of Florida at present at three million boxes, it requires ten thousand car-



loads of 300 boxes to the car to move the crop, and calculating the average freight at sixty-six cents per box, the crop pays the railways two millions of dollars for freight alone. The value of the box stuff used would be \$390,000, the nails \$30,000, the paper for wraps \$120,000, labor in gathering and packing, \$600,000, thus making an output of \$1,140,000 for simply preparing the fruit for market. If to this large sum we add the cost of cultivation, of fertilizers, of packing houses, teams, tramroads and the tools and implements of labor we can begin to realize the commercial value of this industry even at this incipient stage of growth. When we realize that not more than one-fiftieth of the orange trees in Florida are bearing, we are amazed at the possible and probable future development of this industry, peculiar and limited to this single State of Florida and small areas in Louisiana and California.—Geo. R. Fairbanks, Ocala Meeting of American Pomological Society.

#### Forest Fires.

The time has come when the ranchman assists the locomotive in destroying fertilizing agents that would otherwise go to enrich the ground. The annual fires that prevail in almost every portion of the State are a direct loss to the soil of hundreds of thousands of dollars, and there should be a stringent law to prevent such wholesale destruction that tells so seriously upon our agricultural interests.

The practice, it is true, has come down to us from preceding generations, but that does not by any means justify it, nor is it a proper plea for its continuance. There can be but little doubt that had our forests not been swept annually by forest fires for the past hundred years or more, that where there is now but an inch or two of soil containing humus, there would have been ten or twelve, insuring an agricultural product four-fold in value that now obtained from such lands.

Nothing more thoroughly eats up and destroys the fertilizing elements on the surface of the soil than fire. It may be said that the resultant ashes are a gain to the farmer, but so slight is the advantage compared with the loss, that it may be compared to say-

ing at the spigot, while a loss ten-fold greater is occurring at the bung-hole. Let all this decayed vegetation that can be obtained from season to season remain on the ground unscathed by fire—and thus the natural enriching process will go on continuously until the farmer calls the land into service for crops.—*Southern Sun*.

Present indications show that there will be a crop of 45,000 boxes of oranges on Belair grove at Sanford to ship next winter. This will make 200 car-loads of ten full trains of oranges. There will be shipped, besides these oranges, 10,000 boxes of lemons.—*Life in Florida*.

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Office at Winter Park with Chas. J. Ladd.

Entered at the post-office at Winter Park as second class mail-matter.

**WINTER PARK, MAR. 8, 1889.**

THE rainy weather, which stuck to us with such unusual persistency during a portion of the winter, seems at last to have given place to the brighter skies which we are pretty sure to have in the spring months. From this time until June we can fairly expect fine weather almost continuously, and any one who has ever experienced the discomforts of springtime further north, will not be slow to make a comparison highly favorable to Florida.

IN conversation with a Californian, the other day, we were told that last winter was so disagreeable there that tourists were disgusted, and this year, when fewer have gone there on that account, they have had a most delightful season. That is very apt to be the way. No place is always bright, and if any have seen Florida at a disadvantage, on account of the rainy weather of the past months, or the reduced number of visitors consequent on last summer's fever, let them not fear to try again. Next year it will be our turn again to have a fine season, and if they too hastily conclude to go elsewhere they may very likely miss it a second time.

WE are sorry to be again obliged to omit the list of arrivals at the Seminole, on account of its length. The season thus far has been rather a quieter one than usual all through the "tourist belt"—about like the winter of the freeze, three years ago. This naturally makes some people talk a little blue for the time, but, as before, probably next year will be as good as ever again, and the year after will

again break the record. We cannot in any enterprise expect unvarying progress, and such temporary pauses as we have had should not make us lose faith for a moment in the ultimate height to be reached, because we have to reach it by steps and not all at one jump. We are bound to get there just the same.

WE reprint in another column a timely article from the *Southern Sun*, on the subject of forest fires. Of course accidents will happen, and fires will sometimes be started unintentionally and unavoidably, but it is notorious that many of our fires in the woods are not of that kind, but are the result of either carelessness or deliberate intention to secure a little green grass for cattle, without regard to the possible cost to others. Thus for the paltry amount of grazing, which may be got from the fresh growth of wire grass for a few weeks after it starts again, the fences, groves and buildings of settlers are often put in imminent danger of destruction, and sometimes are destroyed. It is not enough that every \$10 scrub cow in the State has to be kept out by \$100 worth of fences at other people's expense, but her owner thinks he has a natural-born right to seek fodder for her, even at the risk of causing the destruction of his neighbors' property by fire, besides. How much longer are our lawmakers going to keep this growing burden tied to our backs?

**JOTTINGS.**

Mr. and Mrs. M. Alcott gave a very pleasant dinner party on the 8th.

Lent was ushered in at All Saints' Church by appropriate services on Ash Wednesday.

The O. and W. P. will build a very neat depot at the foot of Ollie avenue, at once.

The town council at its last meeting extended the time for the payment of taxes until April 1st.

Mrs. S. H. Etter is attending Mardi Gras at New Orleans, leaving S. H. a sad, disconsolate widower.

Major and Mrs. Beardsley and Miss Cora H. Richardson left the Seminole on the 7th for a trip to Indian river.

The prospects are for a large number at both the Seminole and Rogers House this month. We hope they will be realized.

Mr. Simmons, of Chicago, has improved his lot on Ollie avenue and it looks very nice. We hear he is thinking of building.

Mr. McK. Twoambley and party left the Seminole after a pleasant stay on the 6th. They were very much pleased with all they saw here.

Among the expected this week and next are Mr. C. H. Hutchins, Col. Fairbanks, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Russell and Mr. and Mrs. Domerick.

Mr. Smith, of Portland, Maine, returned to the Seminole on the 5th, accompanied by Rev. Mr. Gerrish and daughter, of Sioux Falls, Dakota.

Mr. and Mrs. Hart, and son Fred have returned from their trip to Indian river and will be at the Seminole for the balance of their stay in the South.

Who's going to be postmaster of Winter Park seems to be the absorbing topic just at present. Two quite lengthy petitions are now out and we hear of more to follow.

Collector Parker informs us, that he will not be able to visit Winter Park on his rounds this winter, so that parties who wish to pay their taxes will have to go either to Maitland on the days he is there or to Orlando.

S. S. Capen has raised this year on a piece of ground 20 x 54 feet enough cabbage to feed three families from and has sold \$20 worth from the patch besides. Some mathematician please figure how much per acre that would yield.

Several persons are to join the Methodist Church on probation and by letter next Sunday morning and on that occasion the pastor will speak on the subject of church membership. Mr. James Roman will lead the evening meeting.

We think the Winter Park Co. has at its office something that would make a Teutonic heart leap for joy in the shape of a cabbage raised at Dr. Henkel's Claremont place that would make sauer kraut for an entire family for a whole winter.



Prof. W. J. Kirkpatrick, a celebrated composer and teacher of music in Philadelphia, is visiting Mr. James Ronan. Prof. Kirkpatrick was one of the compilers of the Gospel Hymn Book, "Showers of Blessing," and has a wide reputation as a gospel singer.

After a long and painful illness, Miss Hattie Ainsworth died of inflammation of the brain on March 2nd, at the residence of her father in Osceola, and was buried last Sunday. She was a patient sufferer, a devoted Christian and her death leaves a sad void in this family.

Probably as nice a patch of strawberries as there is anywhere is the one owned by Messrs. Chubb and Ward on Judge Mizell's place. It is producing nicely, large, luscious berries, and it is a sight well worth anybody's time to go and see. Messrs. Chubb and Ward have our thanks for two boxes of as delicious berries as we ever had the pleasure of eating.

The young people at the Seminole are having very pleasant times playing tennis, boating, dancing, etc. They number among them some very pleasant people and it is very enjoyable for them all. Were we a little more of a Jenkins than we are we could make a very readable article out of this, but must content ourselves by merely mentioning some of them: Miss Gussie Paige, Miss Hillhouse, the Misses Hyde, Miss Rutherford, Miss Walker, Miss Smith, Miss Critchell and Messrs. Walker, Flint, Flood, Welborne, Chase and Critchell.

The young people of Orlando came up on March 4th, and had one of their pleasant hops at Hotel Seminole. The music by Bent's orchestra was superb and all seemed to enjoy themselves to the fullest. Many rich and beautiful costumes were worn by the ladies. We noticed from Orlando Mrs. T. J. Shine, Mrs. R. Starkey, Mrs. Caldwell, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Jewell, Mr. and Mrs. Alex. St. Clair-Abrams, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred St. Clair-Abrams, Mr. and Mrs. B. Bowen, Misses Thatcher, Creed, Lizzie Poyntz, Cora and Olive Hicks, Lilla Shine, Duval, Stowell, Goodsell, St. Cyr, Ramsay, and Irma St. Clair-Abrams, Messrs. J. N. Bradshaw, Edw. Hudnall, W. L. Palmer, E. Drury-Lowe, Carlton, J. Lenaghan, C. J.

Hicks, C. T. Drew, J. Milton, Dr. L. W. Pilley, Lee, Cherry, John Jones, H. Beeman, C. F. Shine, E. P. Baumgarten, and L. P. Lawrence. From the guests of the Seminole: Mr. and Mrs. John C. Taylor, Misses Paige, Hyde, Smith, Critchell, Rutherford, Hillhouse, Walker, Messrs. Hungerford, Flint, Chase, Welborne, Critchell, Flood and Col. Mrs. and Miss Peckham. The festivities continued until 1:30 a. m., and the Orlando people left for home on a special train.

#### Church Benefit.

At White's Hall, on Tuesday night, a well-filled house greeted the young people from Orlando who contributed an entertainment in aid of the building fund of the Methodist Church. Recitations, solos and choruses comprised the order of exercises, supplemented by a gratuitous distribution of cake and ice cream.

From another source: The musical and literary entertainment given by the Methodist Sunday School of Orlando for the benefit of the Winter Park Methodist Church on the evening of the 5th, was a success, and netted the church quite a good sum which will be used in paying the balance on the church lot. After the entertainment ice cream and cake were served of which all partook. The Orlando children did splendidly. They were somewhat disappointed at not coming up over the O. & W. P., but accidents will happen.

Rev. Mr. Brown, who has been with us for some time, leaves shortly for his new charge at Winter Park. We feel assured he will be appreciated there, as here. He is a man of exceptional information, and in imparting knowledge, spiritual as well as of a worldly character, has few equals. His church work has been of a high order and persistent. Since his coming, the church has been enlarged, and made much more convenient. *Zellwood correspondent of the Apopka Advertiser.*

#### Church Services.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH. Services every Sunday at 10:30 a. m. and 4:00 p. m. Rev. B. F. Brown, Rector.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, White's Hall. Sunday services.—Sunday School at 9:30 a. m. Preaching at 10:30 a. m. Children's class at 3 p. m. Prayer meeting (occasionally preaching) at 7 p. m.

Tuesday evening. Preaching at 7:30 p. m. Friday evening. Class meeting at residence of R. R. Thayer.

Rev. P. J. Reeves, Pastor.

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L. T. L.

Going into White's Hall, early last Sunday morning, our attention was attracted by the letters "L. T. L." on the blackboard; also, the inscription, "El Gohul—Alcohol—The great evil spirit;" and accompanying these was an artistic sketch of a running brook, green fields, etc. Our curiosity was excited to know the meaning of all this, and we found it to be the work of the first meeting of the "Loyal Temperance Legion," the Saturday afternoon previous. Mrs. Alden, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Ronan, and several other prominent temperance workers met a large number of the children of Winter Park, and formed them into a society with the above name. The order of exercises contained blackboard work, calisthenics, singing, addresses, and several other attractive features, and regular meetings will be held to drill the children in thorough, aggressive temperance work.

An Impressive Sabbath Scene.

General Harrison will remember his last Sunday in Indianapolis before assuming his duties as president as long as he lives. The final preparations for departure and the "good-byes" said to thousands of friends—many of them with tears in their eyes—would have stamped the day ineffaceably upon the President-elect's memory; but to these was added that impressive scene at the church, when the clergyman, who had so long ministered in spiritual things to General Harrison and his family, eulogized the man who is to guide the Nation for four years as a true follower of Jesus Christ and an example of genuine noble manhood. General Harrison will think of this and of the prayers offered up for him by pastor and people in that church so long as he has life. Never, perhaps, did a President-elect pass a more impressive Sabbath before his inauguration.—*Philadelphia News*.

It is announced that John D. Rockefeller, of New York, the millionaire president of the Standard Oil Company, is to give \$2,000,000 for the endowment of a great Baptist university in Chicago.

One-half of the American residents in China are missionaries.

THE

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Having added a General Real Estate Department, those having property to sell, as well as those looking for investments, will find it to their advantage to give us a call. Property will be shown free of charge and maps, circulars, etc., promptly furnished on application to

**THE WINTER PARK CO.**

## \*LOCHMEDE\*

**A WEEKLY ADVOCATE FOR WINTER PARK.**

We believe in the natural resources and beauty of our Town, our County and our State, and it is our mission to make others do so too.

Our capacity for usefulness in this way is only limited by our means, which depend entirely upon the support accorded us.

The work is for the good of all alike, and we therefore hope for the help of all to support our enterprise and make it a power for progress.

We send out our modest little sheet to show the world that our town, like our paper, though small, is neat and attractive.

**We Respectfully Solicit the Patronage of All Interested in Winter Park.**

J. B. HENCK, Jr., Publisher,  
LONGWOOD, FLA.

CHAS. J. LADD, Agent,  
WINTER PARK, FLA.