

BEAUTIES OF PALM BEACH

QUEEN OF ALL WINTER RESORTS ON COAST OF FLORIDA.

Glance at the Palm and Orange Groves of the New Peninsula. Pineapple and Banana Culture in the Southern Belt—Origin of the Coconut and Date Palm—The Palatial Hotels and Transportation Facilities.

The charm and loveliness of Palm Beach, as a winter resort, transcends it seems to me, any possibility of description. On Lake Worth, some 2 1/2 miles south of St. Augustine, a beautiful tropical island, covered with a luxuriant tropical growth, is by far the queen of all the east coast resorts. The great, green, gulf stream sweeps along on one side, close to the shore laden with life and sea-oozone, while the tranquil Florida Bay, with its restful temptations for sailing and fishing, peacefully laps on the other side. The coconut palm, that beautiful and majestic tree, as one says, "ever an index to an earthly paradise," grows here in the peninsula. The shores of the lake for miles are fringed with stately coconut trees always in full bearing. Great groves of them with large bunches of green-banded coconuts, hanging from the crown, together with the banana, have been seen on all sides. Nature has here supplied all the material the most lavish gardener or lover of nature could covet.

Lake Worth, is like other waters of the Indian river system, a salt-water lagoon, 22 miles long, by an average width of a mile and separated from the Atlantic ocean by this peninsula about a mile wide.

Crossing the lake and approaching West Palm Beach, even before alighting from the train, one feels that the most expressive adjectives at his command, is too insignificant to express his delight at the matchless and majestic view that greets him. The grounds favored by nature, have been greatly enhanced in beauty, by the lavish expenditure of money. Here are tropical trees and plants gathered from all parts of the world. In the "Royal Poinciana" grounds, are coconut palms of lordly dimensions and a great variety of other tropical flora. These groves extend to the spacious verandas of the hotel, and the walks around and connecting with "the Breakers" (these two famous hotels about one-quarter of a mile apart.) The walks are carpeted with lawns, all sides by a variety of rare and interesting tropical growth, while the borders are a solid bloom of sweet scented flowers. Think of walks laid out in geometrical patterns, bordered with concrete curbing and with lawns protected by curved sea-walls of concrete and coquina on the lake front. Walks twenty feet wide and one mile long, bordered with coconut palms, oleanders, and azaleas, that lead from the lake to the ocean with a steep and narrow beach, upon which a magnificent surf breaks in a clear, bright and ultramarine blue.

The lawns, too, of which there are acres upon acres planted in Santa Lucia grass, green the entire year, like a velvet carpet with no signs, "keep off the grass," to heed. Here oleanders, hibiscus and passion flowers are in bloom in January. Mangoes, guavas, limes, lemons, oranges, figs, sapodillas, date-palms, bananas, pineapples and early vegetables are common in all the gardens. Some have strawberries ripe in February and tomatoes in abundance in March. Then here is the rubber-tree, the royal poinciana, paradise coffee and other curious trees, ornamented with the gnarled and straggling arms of great live oaks, covered with knobs and bunches of orchids and hanging moss, add to the beauty of this paradise.

Glance at the Hotels.

Of the two palatial hotels, I will only describe one, the incomparable "Royal Poinciana," built in colonial style, 555 feet long, six stories high and contains 600 hundred sleeping rooms, besides the usual public rooms. One good feature is each of these rooms contain thirty-six square feet of closet space. Here is a dining room, 210 feet long, resembling a royal court, where over six hundred guests can at one time sit down to banquet. Wide pavilions extend nearly around the superb structure, which stands in the midst of tropical vegetation of which the rare and beautiful Royal Poinciana, is a conspicuous growth, and which has given name to the hotel itself.

There are other and less pretentious hotels here, with rates varying from \$2.00 to \$3.00 with superior service, viz. "Hotel Hibiscus," located near the railroad station amidst tropical scenery, for those who dislike the stir and bustle of the Royal Poinciana and Breakers.

In addition to its delightful climate, its tropical fruits and flowers, Palm Beach offers unparalleled sport for the hunter and angler. It is said that "the fish in the hand, is worth two of the angler's story," still it is a fact that nearly all the sea fish are found in Lake Worth, such as blue fish, spotted sea trout, valve red-snapper, barracuda, pompano, sea bream, mullet and channel bass. The king fish is caught outside of the inlet and is a very game one. Extraordinary catches have been made here. On March 29, two men with hook and line, caught one hundred and thirty-three king fish, that weighed 302 pounds. It seems hardly possible to be true. From the ocean pier, which extends one-third of a mile into the ocean, almost any kind of fish are caught and one never returns empty handed.

The Pineapples.

The pineapple is a species of air plant and belongs to the same family as Spanish moss. It is propagated from slips and suckers or crowns of the pineapple, each pine producing from five to seven slips. The mature plant is a two and one-half feet in height, with a spread of two feet across; the fruit is borne on a stalk in the center, only one slip to each stalk in a season. The slips are set out in September, 10,000 to 12,000 in the acre. The plants are set in perfect rows 18

by 30 inches apart, and the entire area thus planted is covered by an awning of slips one by three inches and placed four inches apart and about eight feet above the surface; this covering protects from both heat and cold. After planting the slips will produce fruit in eighteen months to two years, the suckers in one year. They need but little attention, their luxuriant growth soon shades the ground, preventing the growth of weeds and rapid evaporation of moisture. The cost of planting, fertilizing and cultivation for one acre in pineapples, the same covering a period of eighteen months from beginning to maturity of the first crop will be about \$2,500. At present prices the crop is worth about \$5,000. With necessary fertilizing, etc., without setting new plants, the same land will twelve months later yield another crop worth fully as much as a cost not to exceed \$400, and with proper care this repetition of crops may be continued ten or twelve years. The pineapples ripen on the stems and eaten when freshly plucked is of better flavor and as superior to the imported as the oranges from the groves of Florida are superior.

Banana Culture.

The banana is not properly a tree, but a plant of leafy, succulent growth. The stock is formed of the stems of the leaves in concentric layers, reaching with its leaves a height of 15 or 20 feet and 10 to 12 inches in thickness, and contains no woody fibre. From the centre comes the fruit-bearing stem, which turns and grows downward. The end has the appearance of an ear of corn with purple sheath. This unopened bud is covered with a length of six feet and eighteen inches wide of a glossy pea green. The root is perennial. It is large and fleshy, sometimes the size of a half bushel measure, from which is put forth rootlets at an inch in diameter. From the main root are constantly springing numerous suckers, which go to form new plants.

There are several varieties of banana, among which is the "dwarf." This plant rarely attains the height of more than seven feet. The fruit is noted for its large size and delicate flavor. It has been successfully cultivated for years at Lake Worth. Each stock bears but one bunch of fruit. They are placed ten feet apart; this gives 400 to the acre, and the second year there will be six or eight plants to each hill. Three bunches a year per hill is a fair estimate; this will give 1,200 bunches per acre. Many of these will contain over 100 bananas each. It is a safe investment, yielding \$5,000 per year from a single acre, including plants sold, have been netted.

An Ostrich Farm.

Palm Beach has a branch of the Florida ostrich farm. Here are 15 ostriches from there of great beauty and value. This company owns six hundred ostriches and now control the domestic output of ostrich feathers in the country.

Palm Beach owes to a shipwreck the coconut trees which have given to it distinguishing beauty and name. Years ago, the Spanish brig, Providence, was wrecked on the coast, and the coconuts were washed ashore to find growth in a congenial soil. There is quite as much romance in the coming of the date-palm to Florida. From Syria, the conquering Moors carried it here, and the Spaniards brought it to the palm indigenous to Florida, are the low-saw, or scrub palmetto, which covers vast areas of the state and the babage-palmetto, so called, because of its cabbage-like growth which is edible. The palm is typical of the South, as the pine is of the North. The palm speaks of brilliant skies and tropical sun and easy indolent existence, while the pine speaks of stern and austere, defying wind, frost and snow.

Palm Beach is the social center of southern Florida. As a winter resort it is extremely popular, so many persons are annually coming here that its reputation is almost a household word everywhere. It is strange how the chills of the icy north recede from thought, as one walks here through these long, arched avenues of palms, with the song of the sea heard by, amid homes of Northerners whose hearts have assimilated the desert of a dozen years ago, to bloom as the rose. This season has been the most successful of any in the history of Palm Beach. The present accommodations being inadequate, Mr. Flagler will add 100 more rooms to the Royal Poinciana, making it the largest hotel in the world. It is estimated, so says the "Hotel Gazette," that one million dollars will be expended in building grand winter homes by eastern capitalists who have secured 100,000 worth of property south of the Poinciana, aside from the outlay of Mr. Flagler, who has already advertised for one thousand mechanics.

From Palm Beach we continue down the coast 67 miles to Miami, the terminus of the East Coast Railway and the "jumping off place" of Florida. At intervals, the train passes over trestles and bridges spanning the numerous rivers, sounds, and bays that run from the border of the desert to the border of these streams can be seen pineapple plantations and vegetable gardens without end. As we pass the fifteen stations southward the land seems more and more productive, it is possible, we parallel the shore of Lake Worth while and soon enter the heart of the celebrated "Morning Glory," muck lands, on which are phenomenal yields of various vegetables and fruits. At Santana the southern end of Lake Worth is the commencement of the great drainage canal, of which I will speak later. At Boynton and Sinton are colonies from New York and Michigan engaged in the cultivation of tomatoes and beans. Here are large celery farms, besides orange, lemon and grape fruit groves of immense yields.

Next come Fort Lauderdale, where an old Indian fort still exists and where Seminole Indians come into the trade. This point was welcomed and its departure speeded by Seminole boys and girls, the former in their native dress. At Everglades are orange trees of great age, where the great freeze did not reach in 1895. At Modesto, here large quantities of pineapples, lemons, grapes and vegetables are grown. Drains for reclaiming the great New River marsh from the Everglades are seen. At Avila Park, 17 miles from Miami, is a picturesque spot where the "cane" is grown by the "cane" solid and the "cane" of which forms a natural levee. This stream comes from the Everglades, is deep and full of all kinds of fish. A good sized boat can easily pass through and under the natural curiosity.

Lemon City comes next, a thrifty settlement on Biscayne Bay, where the residents are chiefly engaged in lemon and citrus fruit growing. Here we have our first view of the wonderful sheet of water and Miami, the future metropolis of Florida.

Birth of the Miami.

Some sections lay great stress on their age, and refer with pardonable pride to the fact that they are old and have a right to be numbered with those whose names history years ago, although Miami cannot go so far back as St. Augustine, yet in the five years of her history she surpasses all others. She has a record that is a surprise to the world.

Before the advent of the East Coast railway in 1874 this point was a wilderness, later a scattering hamlet of tents, containing not over fifty souls. Today it is a young city of great promise, called the "Magic City," "The Gateway to the Antilles." It is the southern terminus of the Florida East Coast railway, and its several steamship connections and the nearest to all points in the West Indies. It is 366 miles from Jacksonville, and the last one of the charming and delightful "Florida's East Coast winter resorts."

Think of it; five years ago a sleepy little village, whose sole attraction was beautiful tropical scenery and climate peculiarly soft and mild, and an old fort, now transformed to a modern and up-to-date city and winter resort. Miami is located directly on the beautiful Biscayne Bay at the mouth of the Miami river, whose source is in the Everglades, on a narrow peninsula, the tip of the United States, separated from the Florida mainland by a strip of land and some nine miles from the ocean. Here you have the always inspiring boom of the surf and get a fresher spirit of the salt breeze with its surprising softness and moderate temperatures. The sea, with its calmness and freedom from chill lines in the fact that the great ocean river, known as the Gulf Stream, tempers the air that blows from the Atlantic and gives it just enough Northern vigor to be invigorating. From the Florida that proves so soothing and restful for tired brains or worn bodies. It is truly a delightful relief from the shivering dampness left behind so short time ago.

The shores of the bay and the banks of the river are fringed with full-grown coconut trees laden with their luscious fruit and luxuriant tropical vegetation. The coconut palm is found wild around the bay, the leaves of a full-grown specimen will attain a length of 15 to 20 feet, and the crown of its fruit is one of the most valuable of palms. Miami has a resident population of over 2,000, while in the winter thousands of tourists visit here. There are six churches, five schools, two hospitals, a newspaper, good business places, a board of trade, electric light system and water plant, and a remarkable feature, \$1,500,000 of taxable property bringing a revenue of \$6,000 per year and no financial indebtedness. Here are the finest parks and handsome residences rapidly multiplying yearly. The streets are a striking feature, wide and made of ground coral, which becomes quite hard and smooth as a floor. All the streets are paved with ground coral. Several roads extend into the country four or five miles, forming excellent drives. Miami is a typical Florida city, and has extensive trade in early spring truck for Northern markets. The 12 licenses to be granted last year attests the number of business establishments. Mr. Flagler has given of his wealth with a lavish hand to worthy institutions, among them is the Presbyterian church, a beautiful structure, together with the parsonage, costing \$68,000, a free-will school, that dominating it. It is built of native rock of coral formation, rising in pure unadorned white against the sky. He has also donated a valuable plot of land in the heart of the city for the erection of a \$50,000 court house, as Miami is the county seat of Dade county. These instances of generosity of Mr. Flagler may be multiplied, as he is spending money without stint in all public and private enterprises along the entire line of the East Coast railway. But the crowning glory of his achievements is the erection of the Royal Palm Hotel, a veritable palace, costing over a million dollars, in which one thousand guests can be comfortably accommodated. This palatial palace is admirably chosen in the center of a tropical garden that enchants the eye at every standpoint, commanding a magnificent view of the bay and river, and the towering Everglades, which are the heart of the grounds cover twenty acres, set with bearing coconut trees, brilliant hibiscus and beautiful tropical foliage, and is a bower of beauty. They contain a number of royal palms, some of them over 100 years old, many of them were dug up at the Everglades and carried bodily and transplanted along the shore. Mr. Flagler planted 1,000 trees, now grown to size. The hotel grounds are skirted by the Biscayne Bay, and are protected by a seawall, between the bay and the grounds is a magnificent driveway, forming a natural promenade of unrivalled beauty. The hotel itself is finished and furnished regardless of cost, similar to the finest hotels of the creature comfort of the house are all that the most fastidious taste could desire. The hotel, the mansion, the streets of the city leading to the ornamental grounds, the handsome dwellings, grassy lawns, flowers, shrubbery and trees, combined with the beautiful environment, is a scene of beauty rarely witnessed. The broad, peaceful and beautiful bay is beautiful to look upon, dotted with sails, canopied launches, sail and fishing boats and even steamers just arriving from Nassau and Key West, with the white breakers of the sea glistening between.

The Bay of Biscayne.

The bay of Biscayne is a lagoon, sheltered from the Atlantic ocean by numerous keys and coral islands. The keys are covered with a heavy tropical growth and a variety of woods seldom found elsewhere. The shores are lined with palms and mangroves and the blue water is of remarkable clearness and taken altogether the handsomest sheet of water we have seen. Its length is forty miles and from five to ten miles wide, with a prevailing depth of from six to ten feet, over 100 miles long. The water is of such crystal clearness that it reveals to great depth, the wealth of vegetable and animal life everywhere present. This submarine life is a never failing attraction. Turtle Harbor, is said to rival the far-famed sea gardens of Nassau. It is a great rendezvous for Northern yachtsmen in winter.

In 1855 Mr. Flagler commenced the gigantic task of opening up a deep water channel, of sufficient depth for ocean trade, in the Miami river to the ocean and in 1897 it was nearly completed and a line of steamers was put on between Miami and Key West 143 miles (inside route) and to Havana 303 miles (outside route) and Nassau, 145

miles. This channel was 14 feet deep and 15 miles long, dredged diagonally across the bay from Cape Florida to the mouth of the Miami river. These terminal wharves and buildings of the Florida East Coast Railway are the largest and most complete of any south of Savannah, Ga. The wharf is 900 feet long and 400 feet wide. While the present channel is only fourteen feet deep it is confidentially expected that with the aid of the United States government, it will soon be increased to at least twenty-two feet, so that deep-draft vessels may enter this port. The members of the river and harbor committee, who were here on March 18, for the inspection of Biscayne Bay, are heartily in favor of deepening this harbor. Congressman Hester said: "The prospective development of a great commerce here, that is an interesting and promising community and with the expansion of commerce with the South American states, a deep water harbor here would have increasing importance. The port deserves special consideration from Congress. The fish in this bay are plentiful and of a great variety and add much to the amusement of guests. We were shown a morning catch of king fish weighing not less than five to eight and ten pounds each. One day's catch of king fish by Prof. Hand and Mr. Hakkburn, are said to weigh from twelve to forty pounds each, verified by a photo at the hotel. Tarpon are caught outside of the bay.

The fort foot club and Miami swimming pool, of Hotel Royal Palm is an interesting feature. It is used all the year round. Besides the Miami golf links, (nine hole) laid out in a savannah, level as a billiard table and fringed by the sea, the city has a drive over a coralline-rock road, as smooth as asphalt, through the city out to the links, is a delight. The five courses running from St. Augustine, Fla. to Nassau, has become the largest of the country. Here season tickets are entitled to play on each of the links without extra charge.

Old Fort Dallas.

On the north of the river stands old Fort Dallas, once occupied by the United States troops in their final struggle with the Aborigines and during the civil war. It has been converted by the present owner, into a luxurious home surrounded by extensive tropical gardens in a high state of cultivation. Florida begins to supply the Northern markets with early fresh vegetables in February. The tomato industry is something surprising. Mr. J. W. Ives, who is a dictionary of tomato lore, and well styled the "Tomato King," has a farm of forty acres on the border of the Everglades, who estimates his crop at 400 crates per acre, while near him, a Mr. King grew over 1800 crates from two and one-half acres which at this time is selling at \$3.50 per crate. We visited the orchards of Mr. Piler and was courteously shown through his plantation, some two miles out of the city, where is every variety of fruit in ripe perfection. Orange trees with their golden luscious treasure to their topmost branches, also pineapple and guava, mango, lemon, lime, guavas, alligator pears, and coconuts, all bearing fruit.

Old Fort Dallas.

The orange trees hung heavily with ripe fruit and much was lying on the ground awaiting the gatherer and govt. stands are pluck the golden balls and eat them at the spot, is a luxury indeed. Florida has demonstrated that she excels the world in growing the orange and that her pineapples are so abundant, large and sweet that she is now already in absolute control of the world's supply of oranges. In Sea Island cotton and cigars, she was awarded first prize at the Paris exposition in competition with all nations. The perfection of her climate, her wealth of trees of agriculture and tropical scenery, her splendid bays, and her wealth and opportunities, her sport and recreation, Florida offers to the tourist an ideal combination which can not be excelled. If equalled in any other part of the world, it is in Florida. One says, "Adam and Eve of Eden fame, were they permitted to gaze upon the beauties brought into existence on the east coast, by the magic wand of Henry Flagler, would exclaim: 'Had such splendor existed in the garden of Eden, the serpent would have been lost to the world.'"

The beneficial results to the state of Florida through the work of the East Coast Railway company, can hardly be estimated, for it has opened vast areas of agricultural land, given markets where none existed a few years ago, and will make the fortune of any farmer and dealer in fruits and produce who will give himself to the work with intelligent industry.

As an invited guest of the "Florida Plover" association, we had the good fortune to witness the annual Florida Plover convention, which was held on the occasion of their annual meeting at Miami and heartily join with the press and people of the "Plover state," in giving unstinted praise to Mr. Flagler, whose business ability and lavish expenditures have assisted nature to create a paradise at both Palm Beach and Miami.

I am indebted to Editor B. B. Tatam, of Miami Metropolis, for valuable information and polite attention.

—J. E. Richmond.

CLARK'S SUMMIT.

Special to the Scranton Tribune.

Sept. 12.—A number of friends of Mr. and Mrs. William Waters, friends who were present on the 24th of this month, the occasion being the 25th anniversary of their marriage. A number of very handsome and useful presents were received by them. Those present were: Mrs. and Mr. Dugan, E. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. William D. John, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Phillips, of the West Side, Scranton; Mrs. Chas. Oakley of Factoryville; and Mrs. Eugene Myers of this place.

D. F. Smith has been sending the week in Wayne county fishing. Edgar Shick and family will move to Scranton in the near future. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Charities will move in Mr. Shick's house. Mrs. Charles Dally from East Lemon was a caller in town yesterday.

Advertisement for Jonas Long's Sons shoes. Features 'The Leader \$2.00—The New Shoe' and 'Our Regular Saturday Value-Giving in Ladies' Shoes and Stockings'. Includes an illustration of a woman in a dress and shoes. Text describes the quality and variety of shoes available, including 'The Leader' at \$2.00 and 'The New Shoe' at \$2.00. Also lists 'Ladies' Shoes, \$1.50' and 'Ladies' Shoes, \$1.50'.

Jonas Long's Sons

Advertisement for Hill & Connell furniture. Features 'HER POINT OF VIEW' and 'LARGE AND COMPLETE STOCK OF ALL THAT IS NEW IN ALL KINDS OF FURNITURE'. Text describes various furniture items like 'Odd Parlor Pieces', 'Toilet Tables', 'Office Furniture', 'Dining Room Furniture', and 'Brass Beds'. Includes the address '121 N. Washington Avenue.' and 'The largest assortment of Office Furniture in the city. Our stock is complete.'

Advertisement for 'The New Walk-Over Shoe'. Features 'The Walk-Over Shoe \$3.50 and \$4.00. Fall Styles Now Ready.' Includes an illustration of the shoe and the text 'The New Walk-Over Shoe'. Also mentions 'SEASIDE HOUSE, ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.' and 'CHAS. EVANS & SON'.