

# The Punta Gorda Herald

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\$1.50 A YEAR

## Forest Service Receipts

A circular just issued by the forest service calls attention to the various laws under which more than a third of all national forest receipts go to the benefit of the states in which the forests are situated, for schools and roads. In 1912 the amount of money thus made available for state purposes totaled about \$750,000. The report does not show the amounts due from the receipts of the fiscal year which closed June 30, 1913. Including these, the states' share of national forest funds since the laws were passed has aggregated over \$3,000,000.

These facts are set forth, according to the forest service, because a popular impression still exists that all money received by the government from timber sales, grazing fees, water power permits, etc., is permanently taken out of the states where it is paid and goes into the national treasury to meet the general expenses of the government. This idea is said to prevail, to some extent even among actual forest states, where the division of receipts with the states has been going on for years.

The circular states that part of the gross receipts of the national forests was first made available for schools and roads when the agricultural appropriation act of June 30, 1906, directed the Secretary of the Treasury to pay over to the state or territory in which any forest reserve was situated ten per cent of all money received during the fiscal year from such reserve. The money was to be expended by the state or territorial legislature for the benefit of public schools and roads in the counties in which the forest reserve lay. This legislation was recommended by the forest service because of the recognized burden imposed locally where national forests operate to prevent much land from becoming taxable.

In 1908 the amount to be paid to the states was increased to 25 per cent, and a proviso of the earlier act that no more should be paid to a county than 40 per cent of its total income from other sources was eliminated. Since this proviso was removed, some of the counties' receipts from national forest lands have equalled their income from all other sources.

In August, 1912, the agricultural appropriation act for the year made available an additional 10 per cent of the money received from national forests to build and maintain roads and trails within national forests for the benefit of the public, in the states from which these proceeds are derived. This 10 per cent "road item," as it is called, is expended by the Secretary of Agriculture, who may, according to the act, "when ever practicable in the construction and maintenance of such roads, secure the cooperation or aid of the proper state or territorial authorities in the furtherance of any system of highways of which such roads may be made a part." The total amount expended under this provision from the receipts of the fiscal year 1912 is \$207,295. This was apportioned among the states as follows: Alas-

ka \$4,675, Arizona \$24,645, Arkansas \$2,283, California \$24,821, Florida \$981, Idaho \$23,809, Kansas \$489, Michigan \$2, Minnesota \$505, Montana \$23,926, Nebraska \$1,630, Nevada \$6,034, New Mexico \$11,850, North Dakota \$28, Oklahoma \$351, Oregon \$17,023, South Dakota \$4,226, Utah \$13,504, Washington \$12,758, Wyoming \$12,254. Colorado 21,502.

The Weeks law of March 1, 1911, providing for the acquisi-

### BIG IMPROVEMENTS

Being Made at the Local Ice Factory Progressing Nicely

The big improvements which this paper, sometime ago, announced would be made in the Punta Gorda ice factory, are well under way and some of them are fast nearing completion. The large cold storage room, having a capacity of a thousand tons of ice, is farthest along towards completion. It is built of brick and will be equipped with the latest refrigerating appliances. Workmen are now plastering the interior walls. From this room, a hall ceiled with several inches of cork leads to the discharging platform outside, where cars and wagons will load.

The new 25-ton ice machinery which is the very newest model, has been installed and will likely be put in operation this week. The present machine, also of 25-ton capacity and of modern model, is practically new, having been installed last year. So is the battery of steam boilers, which have ample power for all purposes intended.

A beautiful new dynamo, installed a week or two ago, is in operation, furnishing all the light needed and capable of supplying as much more. But, since the owners have contracted with the town authorities to furnish electricity for the whole city, this dynamo will soon be replaced by one having four times the capacity.

The present metallic tanks in which the water is frozen into 200-lb. blocks, will be discarded and replaced with tanks of 300-lb. capacity. These new tanks are already on hand and, as they will occupy twice as much space as the smaller ones, a room has been added in which there has just been constructed a very large iron vat in which they will be placed. This increase of freezing rooms and tanks results from doubling the capacity of the factory. An electric hoist will lift the ice from the tanks.

The water for making ice is supplied by an 8-inch artesian well which discharges 1,500 gallons per minute and that, too, with such force that a pump is not needed to drive it through the wilderness of pipes into the freezing tanks.

When all improvements are complete, the Punta Gorda Ice Factory will be up-to-date in all respects; and its management being in the hands of J. N. Sikes, who is assisted by Herman Stewart, will insure its giving satisfaction both to its owners and to the general public.

tion of lands in the Apalachians, provides that five per cent of moneys received from each national forest into which the lands acquired are divided, be turned over to the state for its public schools and roads. New Mexico and Arizona, besides the sums before mentioned, are entitled to approximately 11 per cent of the gross proceeds of all national forests in those states in return for the state school sections within national forests. This provision is embodied in the act of June 20, 1910, authorizing the admission of the two new states.

## LAST SEASON'S CITRUS CROP

Aggregated Over Eight Million Boxes—Coming Crop Will be Equally as Large

Up to this morning General Manager L. D. Jones of the Florida Citrus exchange was the only man in the state who knew just how many boxes of citrus fruit went out of the state during the 1912-13 season and what percentage of the crop the exchange handled.

A reporter for the Times happened to come along and Mr. Jones gave the information, which he received this morning from a compilation of railroad and other reports to him.

The total crop was 8,125,465 boxes and the exchange handled 1,780,301 boxes or 21.91 per cent of the whole.

This year they expect to handle more than that by a good fair margin, for the growers of the state are beginning to see that the "exchange way" is the right way and the only safe way for the individual grower. The exchange is growing fast and will register a greater percentage of the coming crop than it did of the last.

"And let no one hug the delusion that there is going to be a small crop this year," said Mr. Jones. "In some parts of the citrus belt the bloom may have been a little short, but in other parts of the state it was all right and the new acreage coming into bearing for the first time this year will make fully as big a crop as that of last year.

There is another delusion which Continued on last page

### THE MEADOW LARK

Department wants Protection for This Bird All Over Country

Protect and encourage the meadow lark, for its principal diet consists of cotton boll and alfalfa weevil, grasshoppers and predaceous ground beetle, advises the United States department of agriculture. While the bird, it is acknowledged, does some damage to sprouting grain, its value as a destroyer of injurious insects is shown to be far greater.

Furthermore the department calls attention to the fact the birds go most vigorously for the insects which are most abundant, thereby increasing their efficiency at the time of an insect outbreak.—Tampa Tribune.

## New State License Laws

County Tax Collector John I. Branch has just received from State Comptroller W. V. Knott, a copy of the license laws of the state of Florida, containing copies of the acts passed at the last session of the legislature, which provide drastic changes in existing laws and greatly increased taxes.

Under the new laws, contest companies, firms or corporations engaged in the business of conducting contests by offering pre-

miums or other inducements for the purpose of securing subscribers to any newspaper, magazine or other periodical published in this state, shall pay a license tax of \$100 in each county in which they operate, or in which subscriptions are sought.

Trading stamp firms must pay a state tax of \$1,000 and moving picture men will have to contribute \$200 yearly to the state.

All these fees, moreover, are just the beginning of the taxing, for the law allows the several counties to assess taxes for fifty per cent of the amount fixed as a state tax. The cities also have authority to do their own taxing, so the prospects are that it will be costly to do business in Florida in future.

Taking newspaper contests as a basis, some idea may be gained of the cost of taxes for various lines of business. As there are forty-nine counties in the state, any newspaper putting on a statewide contest will be obliged to pay \$4,900 into the treasury at Tallahassee. One-half of this amount additional, or \$2,450, will be owing to the county. After both of these taxes are paid, the city will be empowered to come in and ask for an additional tribute, provided the matter of contests shall be covered in the city ordinances. This law is a new one.

Trading stamp firms will be assessed \$1,500 for state and county licenses and will also be obliged to settle with the city, and the moving picture men, after coming across to the state for \$200, will be compelled to pay an additional \$100 on the county and a city license as well.

Tax Collector Branch explained today that the new laws governing state taxes become effective August 8, while in cases where taxes have already been paid to the county, under existing laws the new system of taxation becomes effective October 1. He also explained that any of the license acts of 1913 that embrace business, occupation or profession, must pay a half year for August and September, as taxes are only prorated every six months.

Florida's tax laws are comprehensive and practically every conceivable business and occupation is included in the taxable list. Under the laws of 1913, automobile agencies or persons, firms or corporations, engaged in the sale of automobiles, auto trucks, shall pay for each place of business, in cities of 20,000 or more (which includes Tampa), \$40. The additional fifty per cent for county tax brings the amount to \$60 yearly.

Automobiles and other motor driven vehicles using the public roads or highways in the state of Florida, either for hire or otherwise, will be taxed under the act approved June 5, 1911.

This act provides for a sliding scale of rates, from \$5 to \$100, according to the horsepower.—Tampa Times.

Col. Roosevelt has secured permission to carry a pistol. This is the first time that he ever "asked permission" to do anything.

### PRISON SYSTEMS

Of Southern States to be Inspected by Florida Officials

The last legislature passed an act which gradually abolishes the convict lease system and provides that a state convict farm be established. The state now owns some fine lands in Bradford county which were bought for this purpose.

The board of commissioners of State Institutions, which is composed of the governor and the entire cabinet, are charged with the responsibility of getting this convict farm in operation and making the necessary plans and specifications for the buildings and the plans on which the convict system is to be carried out.

State Treasurer Luning and Commissioner of Agriculture McRae are making a trip of inspection which will take in the prison systems of practically all the southern states. They will be joined in a few days by Attorney General West and probably Comptroller Knott. It is understood that their trip of inspection is intended to give the board the advantage of personal observation of the prison systems of the other southern states and that they may act intelligently in going about this decided change in the state's policy of dealing with its convicts.

The superintendent of the convict farm has already been selected and the selection is believed to be a fortunate one. He is with the committee from the board on their trip of inspection.

The convict question has been one that has entered into politics more or less for the past several years, but after the change is made and the farm is established it is hoped that the plans on which the new system is based will be so well selected and efficiently carried out that the question will be entirely removed from politics.

DeSoto County News:—Most likely DeSoto's distinguished citizen, Ex-Governor Gilchrist, will be a candidate at the next election for the United States Senate. He is large enough, broad enough and simply generous to be any thing he desires. If he becomes a candidate, it is needless to express that he will receive almost the unanimous vote of DeSoto.

Tampa Tribune:—Punta Gorda's Republican postmaster asks the Democrats to fire him. He says he is tired of the job. Beautiful example!