



OF INTEREST TO GROWERS

R. Hardee Urges Organization of All Growers of Pineapples

FOUNDATIONS WARNING NOTE

Review of the History of Previous Struggles Which Proved Failures Because a Sufficient Interest was not Taken.

Jensen Fla., June 28, 1909.

Editor TRIBUNE:

I have read very carefully, the communication of Geo. E. Andrews to the pineapple growers urging a mass meeting for the purpose of perfecting plans and methods for the improvement and ultimate success of the pineapple industry.

It is of course not necessary for me to tell the growers of the position that I have always occupied in attempting to do the very things that Mr. Andrews now seeks to accomplish. Years ago, when the growers were complaining of excessive freight rates, I was among those who were contending for a reduction, yet if my memory does not play me false, and the report of the Florida Railroad Commission is not incorrect, there were certain growers of pineapples employed by the Florida East Coast Railway to canvass the pineapple and vegetable section of the East Coast to ascertain if there was any general demand among the growers for a reduction. These canvassers claimed to have visited all of the growers and made a report to the Railroad Commission to the effect that they found no objection to the existing rate except from a few small growers.

Immediately after this report was made to the Railroad Commission, I made it my special business to try and find out what growers had been interviewed by these canvassers; I wrote to a good many and saw a number in person and I have never to this day, after diligent search and inquiry, found a single man to whom the question was ever submitted. I shall not go into details as to the subsequent positions held by the magnanimous canvassers in connection with the Florida East Coast Railway and of the many courtesies extended to them by the railroad. It is not my intention to criticize the railroad company, for it was an entirely proper and legitimate business transaction for them to endeavor to find the true sentiment of the growers as regards the matter of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with freight rates; but the report made was absolutely false, as every one knows.

After this report was made, the Railroad Commission was appealed to to come to Miami and give the growers a hearing, which they did, and at which meeting this false report was cussed, discussed and denounced, as well as the sweet scented committee who had made it.

Perhaps the question may be asked, as to what this little chapter in the history of our struggles has to do with our present troubles, and I wish to say, it has all to do with it, for the very reason, that our present situation has been brought on from the very facts that there has been at all times a sufficient number of growers who have for various and sundry reasons stood entirely aloof, or have acted in open hostility to our interests and to thwart our accomplishing any thing; and I feel that even now, under the absolute necessity of doing something, that we should exercise the greatest care in forming any organization for our betterment.

There is no such thing as all getting together, but I do believe there are enough men who will get together and stick together, to accomplish the end sought, I for one, am going to draw the dead line on those whom I know have always played fast and loose with us, as it suited their personal interest. There is no one more anxious to get this pineapple business on a proper basis than myself, but I am not going to "forget all the past" and fall into the same trap that has brought us to the present crisis.

I have been right here for eighteen years, and the antics of some of our supposed pineapple growers has been in direct opposition to the accomplishment of anything that would advance our interests. A majority of the pineapple growers are anxious to accomplish something, but a large body of men are unweildy, and past experience has demonstrated that their confidence has been badly shaken in those men who might ably take the matters well in hand. And there is ample ground for this distrust; yet I believe that conditions are better for a business organization than there has ever been before, but there is going to be a closer analysis of the men who are to take an active part in this matter than has been in the past, and a man who can not show a clean Bill of Health as regards his fidelity to the pineapple growers through all of their struggles in the past is going to be set aside, no matter how sincere his repentance may appear at this time, for I have no confidence in any man who flops and tries to trim his sails to catch the breeze, no matter

from which source the zepthers spring; regardless of the fact that those actions are one of the many atoms which trends towards bringing disaster to a great industry and to thousands of people.

I wish to say to the growers of the East Coast—beware—I can look back over the eighteen years of my residence here and recall many times when in my fight for the public interests of my county, I have uttered the same warning that I now give voice to—beware—only to be assailed by those who did not care to look deeply into matters which affected vitally the financial interests of the county and the individual interest of all of our growers.

As every one in this county knows, there is not a man on the East Coast who has so openly attacked the evils that assailed and threatened to destroy our business than myself. At one time when the president of the Indian River and Lake Worth Pineapple Growers' Association was in the Bahama Islands packing the Bahama pineapples and stenciling them as packed at Miami, Fla., thus trying to leave the purchaser under the impression that they were getting Florida pineapples, I assailed the method through the Titusville papers. I was in turn, assailed by the association and letters poured into the editor of the paper assailing me from every possible standpoint, even to the extent of blackmailing the paper by threatening to withdraw patronage if I was allowed to disclose what they were doing. The Titusville court records will show that I convicted one of the chief moguls of this supposed American pineapple growers association of libel in connection with his attempt to keep from the people he was supposed to represent, the anti-American business the association was sanctioning. This prosecution and exposure, and also the stopping of the shipment of Bahama pineapples into our market branded as Florida fruit was brought about by my individual efforts. I am not rehashing these things to lay any claim for the achievements, for as a grower, I felt that as I had the facts in my possession, that it was my duty to put a stop to it and expose those who were doing us this injustice. This is one of the fights that I made, and while I was endorsed by some, I was soundly condemned by others for "stirring up trouble" (continued on page 8)

ST. LUCIE COUNTY TO SOON BE IN ADVANCE

St. Lucie county will now be in the lead for handsome county buildings. At a special meeting of the county commissioners the contract for the construction of a new county court house was awarded for the sum of \$32,730.00 and the contract for steel vaults, etc., was awarded for \$3,693.00. The building is to be completed by Christmas. Already a large amount of building supplies have been ordered and within the next few days will begin to arrive.

When completed the St. Lucie county court house will be among the handsomest county buildings in the State. Every modern convenience in court house building will be found in this structure.

When the St. Lucie county people awake and issue bonds for the building of a network of hard surface roads, the county will be in line for rapid and solid development. A county without hard surface roads is out of date.—Florida East Coast Homeseeker.

PINEAPPLE GROWERS SHOULD BE ON ALERT

Pineapple importers were astounded Thursday over newspaper dispatches from Washington, stating that the Senate had decided to increase the duty on pines to \$8 a thousand in bulk and a half a cent a pound when shipped in crates. The original Payne bill called for a duty of \$8 a thousand in bulk or in crates. Several importers of this fruit appeared before the Senate committee and explained what injury this would work to the pineapple business. They stated that it would practically mean the exclusion of smaller sized pines and received a promise from the Finance committee that the duty would remain as in the Dingley bill, which was 7c per cubic foot, or an average of 14c a crate. Senator Taliaferro, of Florida, said the revenue from pineapples will be double. Instead of that, the importers declare that it will be so high porters declare that it will be so high as to mean the practical discontinuance of shipments to this country from Cuba of anything but the larger sizes.

Under the new schedule, the duty would be increased over 125 per cent, making duty on a crate 32c instead of 14c. Thousands of dollars have been lost in the Cuban pineapple deal this season on account of the heavy supply and low prices. Importers are a unit in declaring that an increase in the duty would not protect the Florida and Porto Rico interests particularly, but would kill the Cuban industry. Little would kill the Cuban industry. Little or no pineapples come to this market in bulk. The southern ports get all of the shipments made in that way. So the shipments made in that way, so far, no steps have been taken by the importers to have this rate reduced as nothing can be done until the tariff bill goes into conference of the Senate and House.—New York Produce News.

TO GROWERS OF PINEAPPLES

George E. Andrews Writes Again On the All Important Subject

INTEREST NOT SHOWN

Will Not Call Meeting Unless a Stronger Sentiment Develops—It is Now Up to The People to Make Plan Success

Walton, Fla., June 28th, 1909 Editor TRIBUNE:

In reference to my request for an expression of sentiment from all the different pineapple growers, in all sections, as to calling a meeting to hear an address I had prepared, on changing our methods of marketing our fruit and making an earnest effort to build up our industry, on a solid and sensible F. O. B. basis, I have the following to say:

I wish to thank the few gentlemen who have written me encouraging letters and to congratulate the balance on a fairly successful season, that, judging by their silence, they must have had, since nothing different or better seems to be desired or since they even do not care to make an expression of encouragement for anything different, that, at least promises better for all, it probably will be better to wait a more opportune time in the near future, when perhaps someone else will be more successful than I, in arousing a sentiment for better conditions in our industry.

I wish to thank, especially, those who have offered me money to help the expense I have been put to in my efforts to get the majority together but must decline, as I am always willing to pay for my own mistakes.

As I stated in my last letter I absolutely will not take up this meeting unless I have a strong sentiment FOR IT, and it is up to the growers to indicate that sentiment.

There is only a keen disappointment in the feeling that we are no longer a happy community in a frugal independence, but have a feeling of terrible uncertainty for our credit, our living, the maintenance of our homes and a fearfully dissatisfied feeling that we are not getting the fair and just profits of our hard work, of our investments. That, at least is how some of us feel but to CHANGE IT, NEARLY ALL MUST FEEL ALIKE.

Sincerely yours, GEO. E. ANDREWS.

IMPORTANT TO ALL GROWERS OF PINES

We the undersigned pineapple growers of the Florida East Coast, noting letter of Mr. Geo. E. Andrews, in the East Coast papers, asking growers to write him in regard to their sentiments on a thorough organization of the pineapple industry, urge every grower to at once write Mr. Andrews, at Walton, stating their intention to attend the meeting when called. Do it the moment you read this.

Let us lend this movement the support of our presence and hear the plan, thresh it out thoroughly and do what we can to help a very bad situation:

- C. A. Robinson Wm. Fredrickson
F. G. McMullen H. C. Starck
S. F. Webb C. H. Racey
John Miller R. E. Bray
F. L. Hamor E. S. Harmer
W. W. Luce William Hogg
H. S. Thomas R. D. Hoke
W. H. Harris F. W. Willis
C. B. Gifford E. E. Seery
W. B. Robinson R. T. Garrison
J. H. LeTourneau H. E. Sewall
S. C. Stewart N. McClinton
W. G. Gilmore R. R. Ricou
G. E. Coon D. E. Austin
Thomas Hellier James Neal
W. N. Coon

GROWER CONDEMNNS WORK ON SABBATH

Rockledge, Fla., June 27, 1909. Editor TRIBUNE:

I have been a silent, but very much interested reader of your editorials, and also of the article of Mr. Geo. E. Andrews, on the pineapple situation. Now, therefore I ask this one opportunity to say a few words, promising not to bother you again, if perchance it does bother you.

In the first place, I believe you, Mr. Wilson, to be at heart a moral reformer or at least one on the side of reform, as you see it. With this preliminary, I wish to make a few comments on Mr. Andrews' article, calling for a mass meeting of all the pineapple growers and the subject it is his desire to discuss.

I am in full accord with him as far as he explains himself, being a small grower myself, also a loser. But while the object Mr. Andrews desires to attain is much to be sought for and commendable in every way. Let me call his attention to the moral and scriptural side of the question, which the en-

tire population there and elsewhere seems to have entirely overlooked, or ignored with perhaps a few exceptions.

It is this—while the rates and mode of selling has a tendency no doubt to keep down prices, have any of the people ever "remembered the Sabbath day to keep it holy?" I have long observed that it is a common and customary thing to work, pick and pack, haul and ship on the Lord's day. Now I know many will say "it is necessary to keep from losing our fruit," but is it? I ask again, Is it? Where does trust and faith come in. "The seventh day is the Sabbath, in it thou shalt not do any work, thou nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man servant or maid servant, nor thy oxen nor thy ass, nor thy stranger within thy gates." Now what necessity is there for this wholesale violation of the Sabbath? Positively none, except this nervous, strenuous age of commercialism, in which the race for filthy lucre has supplanted faith and respect for God's Law. I say they would gain more and prosper more if they were to lose a few ripe crates, because that would in itself have a tendency to keep the market from being glutted and what causes the railroad to run its freight trains on Sunday solely in the interest of the people and thus the whole thing is honey-combed with wickedness.

Our country has been allowed to prosper above all other countries but unless we take warning from history we will go as did Rome and ancient Jerusalem.

I expect to make my home among you, Mr. Editor, and wish to say in this connection, I know of no kinder hearted, a more philanthropic people than those I have met in your county, and what I say is to bring the question home to them. Would they not be more prosperous if they recognized the omnipotent grace of God in all their affairs? But morality, kindness of heart and philanthropy, are not Christianity, but are a necessary and prominent part of it. There can be all three traits in any one person and yet that person be lacking in the true essential, viz—salvation. And what say the preachers? I refer to Ezekill 23, 28-29 verses and to Hebrews 10, 26 verse in the mean time I ask the charity of all assuring you all who may read this (continued on page 8)

FLORIDA SHIPPERS ENTER COMPLAINTS

A complaint was filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission last Saturday in which 202 railroads operating in thirty-seven states were named as defendants. The complaint was filed by the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Shippers' Association and charges that the railroads in question discriminate against Florida shippers in favor of shippers in California, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, Georgia, North and South Carolina and Cuba in the rates on citrus fruits, peaches, pineapples, strawberries, tomatoes, lettuce, cabbage, potatoes, celery and other fruits and vegetables.

The complaint says that the rates in many instances are actually in excess of the rates charged for fruits and vegetables raised in California and the other states named. The charge is also made that the Florida shippers are charged more for refrigeration than shippers in other portions of the country.

COLORED MAN KILLED BY TRAIN AT VIKING

Louis Sebastian, a colored man, was killed by a train on the East Coast railroad near the Viking station shortly after 1 o'clock Sunday morning. His body was literally cut to pieces, death resulting instantaneously. Sebastian had recently been employed on the Koblegard plantation, at Viking and left this city on the 11:10 train Saturday night for that place. It is supposed that he laid down on the track and went to sleep. Engineer William Foy had charge of the engine of train 85, due in Fort Pierce at 1:18 a. m., failed to see the sleeping man on the track and the pilot of the engine struck Sebastian with fearful force. The train came on to the city and Engineer Foy with a crew returned to the scene of the accident and brought the mangled body to town.

Acting Coroner F. L. Hemmings impelled the following jury, George Bloodworth, L. M. Wheary, W. E. Cassidy, H. O. Harmon, David Alexander and J. M. Noseworthy, who after hearing the facts rendered the following verdict: "That the deceased was lying on the railroad track at Viking, Florida, and was struck by an engine of a passenger train of the Florida East Coast Railway Company, going south about 1:08 a. m. June 27. Death was caused by accident without the fault of the engineer or railroad."

A pair of unbroken eye glasses and \$3.75 the property of the dead man were found beside the track. Sebastian had been around Fort Pierce for about three years coming here from Jamaica. He had no relatives here.

Mrs. Astor Summerlin and two daughters, left Sunday for Sorrento, where they will spend several weeks with friends.

YEARS WORK IS GONE OVER

Stockholders of the Improvement Club Meet in Annual Session

DIRECTORS ARE CHOSEN

The President Read Annual Report Which Shows the Club to be in a Healthy State Considering Conditions.

The stockholders of the Fort Pierce Improvement club convened in annual session at the hall on Monday, June 28th and reviewed the years business, which, taking everything into consideration, has been a profitable one.

The following stockholders were elected as directors for the ensuing year: Mrs. C. M. Horton, Mrs. W. N. Hendry, Mrs. A. M. Sample, Mrs. Clarence Summerlin and Mrs. A. D. Penney.

The above named directors then held a meeting for the purpose of selecting officers for the club and the following were elected: Mrs. C. M. Horton, president; Mrs. W. N. Hendry, vice-president; Mrs. A. D. Penney, secretary; Mrs. Clarence Summerlin, treasurer.

The president submitted the following report of the past year's work.

Stockholders of Fort Pierce Improvement Club—Ladies and Gentlemen: In accordance with the requirements of our constitution, it devolves upon me, as your president, to make a report of the year's work at this, the fourth annual meeting of the stockholders of the Fort Pierce Improvement club. I have found during the past year that some of our stockholders and the public at large are somewhat uninformed as to the work done by the club, and I think it fitting for me, at this time, to make a brief financial statement of our work.

We started the year on June 29, 1908, with \$45.52 in the treasury and unpaid bills to the amount of \$78.70—leaving a deficit of \$33.18.

We also had outstanding a mortgage for \$800, which was given at the time our building was erected, and a note for \$400, which amount was borrowed by the retiring board, and used in ceiling and finishing the hall and in building the gallery; making our total indebtedness one year ago, \$1,233.18.

We leave office today with \$53.36 in our treasury, with no unpaid bills, and with \$12.50 due us as rent by the county school board, making a total of \$65.86, and with the note against us reduced to \$200, making a net gain during the year of \$299.04. We have also put in a complete set of scenery for our stage, which has cost us \$217.35, and which, being durable and in the nature of a permanent improvement, we can count as an asset, which will bring our gain for the year slightly above \$500.

We have been somewhat handicapped the past year by the large number of tent shows in our town, for, because of these, several of the companies which were booked here, were compelled to cancel their engagements; the Pickerts being the only company playing here the past season. We have given the public one high grade entertainment this season, the Chicago Glee Club concert, on which our profits were very small. We paid this company \$125 and our receipts were only \$139, leaving us \$14 profit. Our only entertainment of any considerable profit given by home talent was the bazaar and entertainment in December, which netted \$187.44.

For the benefit of those who are interested I would like to cite a few items of disbursement as follows: Insurance, \$132; licenses, \$25.50; taxes, \$21.48; interest on note and mortgage, \$96.65; payment on note, \$200; printing, \$22.85; oil and supplies, \$47.30; janitor services, \$32; lumber and materials, \$64.84; librarian's services, \$60.

These figures show only our large items of expense. The report of our treasurer will give detailed statement.

I desire to call your especial attention to the library, which is owned by the City of Fort Pierce and not by the Improvement club, the club acting as custodian only. It has been hoped that the library receipts would be sufficient at least to pay the cost of keeping it open, but our books show that while we have paid out during the year \$60 for service of librarian, the receipts from the library have amounted to only \$19.26, leaving cost to the club of \$40.74. We have a very excellent library, and it has been disappointing that it has been patronized so little. This condition the public of Fort Pierce can and should rectify by more liberal patronage, and the books which we have being of a high standard, I am sure that such patronage would be mutually helpful.

While in some ways our years work has been a disappointment to us, inasmuch as we have not been able to pay off as much of the old indebtedness as we had hoped to do, yet we feel that all things being considered the year has been fairly successful, as we have incurred no new indebtedness which we have not been able to meet.

We have finished the year without borrowing money—the first time in the history of the club that this has been done. We have also, for the first time in the history of the club, lost our secretary and treasurer, both of whom re-

(continued on page 8)