

Miscellany

Green Cove Springs in December

December 17, 1897, Mr. W. F. Wells writes from Green Cove Springs: "The weather is delightful, bright sunshine and so warm and balmy compared with the weather that we left in the north that it seems like jumping at one leap from winter into the midst of summer. Plenty of garden stuff here now; we have lettuce, radishes and green peas served on the table, and I have picked several ripe strawberries since here. "With two or three exceptions all the colonists seem well satisfied and pleased with the country here and are busy making improvements."

The Colony at Green Cove Springs

GREAT ENTHUSIASM OVER THE FORTHCOMING STATE TOBACCO GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

PROF. MILTON WHITNEY TO REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Never before in the history of Green Cove Springs has there been such enthusiasm amongst its citizens. The next annual meeting of the Florida State Tobacco Growers' Association will be held here, January 18th and 19th. The executive committee at their last meeting decided to have an exhibition of Florida grown tobacco in connection with their meeting. All the rail-ways of the state have responded to the request of the secretary, declaring their intention to exhibit the tobacco grown along their respective routes. The Owl Cigar Company, of Quincy; Cohen & Co., of Atapulgas; Fort Meade Tobacco Growers' Co.; Geer & Hart, of Lake City, will display their products, together with the big exhibit which was taken to Nashville. Each member will exhibit ten pounds of his this year's crop. This will be the largest exhibition of Florida tobacco ever made, and Green Cove Springs, having been selected for the headquarters of the Florida State Association, feels especially honored.

The citizens, in mass-meeting assembled, decided to hold, in connection with this tobacco exhibition, a fair for the livestock and farm products of the county. A subscription list was opened, the merchants readily responded and to-day the indications are that Clay county will prove herself the gem county of the State. Visitors to Florida will have an opportunity, on the 18th and 19th of January, of knowing just what she can produce in the way of tobacco. This is an opportunity for the farmers of the West to avail themselves of, as tobacco in Florida is equal to the gold of the Klondike. Her farmers, under the rule of King Tobacco, are prosperous, and from all over the State we hear the joyful news of hundreds of acres being sown with the weed. Three million five hundred thousand pounds of tobacco were raised in this State last year. This quantity will be doubled in 1898.

The colonists at Green Cove Springs are interesting themselves in its culture, and express themselves as being better satisfied with their new homes than any home they have previously had. They look for their western neighbors and friends on the 18th and 19th of January, and to all who come the town of Green Cove Springs will extend a hearty welcome, and we venture to say that none will regret their trip.

The most prominent men in the State will address the meetings of the association. Col. Curtis will speak of "Florida Tobacco, Its Past, Present and Future." Dr. Stockbridge, of the Experiment Station, on "Preparing and Caring for the Tobacco Plant from the Seed Bed to the Barn." This lecture will be given in the open air. The land will be plowed, the seed sown and plants of different ages will be used to demonstrate to every grower how it should be handled. Prof. Persons, of the Experiment Station, on "Tobacco Soils of Florida, with Chemical Illustrations and Tests." Dr. Yocum, president of the Experiment Station, will make an address; William M. Corry, president of the association, will speak on "Legislation and Its Effect on the Tobacco Industry." C. K. McQuarry, on "The Tobacco Industry in West Florida." Prof. F. B. Moodle, S. B. Thompson and E. O. Painter will also speak on the tobacco question. Mr. Emile Mulder, a tobacco grower from the island of Sumatra, will speak on tobacco culture in Sumatra compared with Florida. Mr. Mulder raised tobacco in Sumatra for seventeen years, and is a thorough expert. He says the tobacco raised in Florida is superior to that raised in Sumatra, and to demonstrate his faith in what he says, he has purchased in Clay county a large tract of land which he intends to plant in tobacco. Mr. J. L. Medero, of Cuba, will compare the products of Florida with that of the best districts of that unfortunate island. Prof. Milton Whitney, of the United States Department of Agriculture, will speak on "Tobacco Soils of the United States." Prof. Whitney is a lecturer of national renown, and his lecture on this occasion will bring hundreds of people from all over the State. The Governor of Florida and his staff, accompanied by a military band, will be present to personally receive the visitors.

A big program of amusements has been arranged by the executive committee, and there is no doubt that the meetings and fair will be the biggest kind of a success. The State of Florida and the town of Green Cove Springs extend to all who live in the West an invitation to leave their cold climates for a few days and visit the land where the sun shines the year round, and where flowers are always in bloom.

Thomas J. Laud Brown, Mayor.

June Days at Fair Oaks

The following letter from a Chicago lady, recently arrived at Fair Oaks with her family, is but another of many testimonials to the delightful and balmy climate to be found at Fair Oaks during the season of cold, sleet, blizzard, mud and slush in the east.

Mrs. Samuel was a member of our special summer excursion party and purchased a splendid piece of orange land at that time:

Fair Oaks, Cal., Dec. 16, 1897.

Dear Mr. Morrell:—

If pure, crisp air and brightest sunshine can inspire one, I ought to be able this lovely morning to write something of interest to readers of your practical and instructive paper. I mean to try at any rate.

After an exceedingly pleasant trip, we arrived at Fair Oaks Tuesday evening, coming from Sacramento by train to Folsom, where we were met by Mr. Spencer with the carriage and driven through the beautiful orange groves at Orangevale, where we saw the trees hanging heavy with the luscious, golden fruit. The beautiful and glossy dark green leaves forming a contrast too lovely for description. The early fruit has been gathered and shipped, but later varieties not yet ready. At the home of "Happy Jack" (Mr. Fred Sanford) we saw an orange of large size that was hanging on the tree last July, at time of our visit, still in prime condition and as lovely as the loveliest.

Darkness at Fair Oaks prevented our seeing the changes that have taken place since July, but yesterday was a typical June day—and a long drive and longer walk showed us the improvements at Fair Oaks since our summer visit. Many new houses have been built—some fine ones—with every modern convenience; much land has been cleared, many streets graded, etc.

Fair Oaks has, in my opinion, the greatest natural beauty, combined with utility, of any place I ever saw. Such trees; such views; such lovely hills and vales, and with it all such fertility of soil; the people cordial, kind and of an intellectual class seldom found in such a new place. The quiet and calm of Fair Oaks after a noisy, hurrying business life in Chicago, is very restful.

A word more; the trees on "everybody's" ranch are looking the finest and growing marvelously well. Lots of room for lots of good people, and we hope the January excursion will be the largest one of all.

Yours for prosperity, home and Fair Oaks.

(Mrs.) Kate M. Samuel.

P. S. I quite forgot to tell you that on Mr. Matthews' place yesterday, I got a ripe strawberry $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long and 3 inches around; vines full of blossoms and berries ripening. Roses, violets and flowers in bloom in all gardens. This must be the land of promise and fulfillment.

Our January Party to Fair Oaks

To accommodate the many interested friends who intend investigating the many advantages enjoyed by Fair Oaks immediately after the holidays we are arranging for a special party to leave Chicago via the Chicago and Northwestern and Union Pacific and Central Pacific at 6:00 p. m., Thursday, January 13, 1898. We will arrive at Sacramento on Sunday afternoon after a delightful ride down the western slope of the Sierras enjoying the natural beauty and artificial attractions of this famous fruit district—the Heart of California.

The railway fare one way from Chicago will be \$52.50, from Omaha, \$40.00; Minneapolis and St. Paul, \$47.50; Des Moines, Ia., \$44.25, with corresponding rates from other points. The round trip rate good for nine months, with stop-overs in any part of California, good to go out by one route and return by another, from Chicago, \$110; Omaha or Kansas City, \$90; Des Moines, \$98.50; other points at corresponding rates according to distance. As usual our sleeping and other accommodations will be the best. The party will be in charge of Mr. George R. Morrell, our experienced excursion manager, and everything which long experience can suggest will be done to further the pleasure and comfort of our passengers.

The price for a double berth in the sleeping car will be \$6.00 from Chicago; Omaha, \$5.00; corresponding rates from other points.

Let us hear from you at once if you will join the party. It is important for us to know if you will go so that we can reserve your accommodations and measure up the company. It would also be pleasant and add much to your enjoyment on the trip to get a friend or two to accompany you. Two can occupy one double berth at the same price.