

# South-Jersey Republican

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NO. 32.



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**FLORIDA AS IT IS.**

*Exaggerated ideas of Northerners! Who succeed! The strawberry business for a man of small means!*

WALDO, Fla., July 22, 1889.  
[Concluded from last week.]

Of the health of Florida I will only take time to say that I consider it beyond question the most healthy state in the Union. I have gained thirty pounds in weight since coming to the state. Thousands of northern settlers will give the same testimony.

In the year 1884 Mr. Knickerbocker, of Lawley, Fla., shipped a small crop of strawberries to the North. He received \$175.00 cash in return. It paid better, in proportion, than anything he had shipped since coming here from Chicago, his Northern home. Other people had been growing strawberries to a limited extent on "hammock," or rich land; but they were soft and flavorless, and reached the market in bad order, and brought very poor returns. Mr. K. raised his berries on poor "flat woods" pine land, very damp, solid soil, though sandy, and overlaid with clay. They possessed a sharp, perfect flavor were solid and reached the market in good shape; sold for high prices; were very prolific, and the vines bore for nearly six months of the year. This year the berries shipped from Bradford county, (the country around Lawley), brought nearly \$150,000 cash from the North. Lands have advanced in price even more rapidly than in Northern fruit regions, and large numbers of new settlers are going into the business. Many people, however, make a mistake in fearing over-production of this fruit. The territory containing soil adapted to this fruit is very limited. About thirty miles north and south, and fifteen miles east and west, comprises the whole of it. In this there are thousands of acres unfit for the purpose. Hence, with increased shipping facilities, greater system on the part of Northern fruit dealers in handling the berries, there will continue to be just as great a demand, and at substantial prices, for all we can raise. Fancy prices for very early berries may not continue, but this will make very little difference in the average returns and profits per acre. From \$300 to \$500 per acre, net profits over cost of all labor and material, are realized annually, although some failed the past winter owing to selection of poor and wet ground on which to plant, as it was a very wet season with us.

A new strawberry-growing center is developing at Campville, about thirty miles south of Lawley. Numerous prosperous farmers, stock growers, large bearing orange groves, peach and pear orchards are found in this section, but the prices of land are extremely low, as the Camp Brothers, who own most of it, are bound to build up a town, if good land and reasonable prices will do it. "We are land poor," they say. They have over two millions invested in manufacturing enterprises in Virginia and Florida, and own about twenty-five to thirty thousand acres of land scattered over the Southern states. At Campville we have the largest brick kiln in the State, a pottery, saw mill, and tile factory. These enterprises employ a large force of hands. Three prosperous stores, and oldest railroad in the state; express office; the highest navigable lakes in the state in the immediate neighborhood; lands well drained and fertile, but damp and solid, well adapted to strawberries, oranges, peaches, pears, grapes, plums, bananas, pine apples, and general farming and truck gardening. About one hundred acres of strawberries are being put out this year and we hope to more than double the amount next year. We are abundantly protected from frost by the large lakes lying all about us, while we are blessed by an entire absence of troublesome insects, owing to our altitude of nearly two hundred feet above the sea level. Many Northern people are already settled around and among us.

—W. W. BRESEE.

Three things to do,—think, live, and act.

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Also—Seven acres on Liberty Street, in blackberries, in full bearing, and a good apple and pear orchard.

Also—3 1/2 acres on Valley Avenue, in blackberries—full bearing.

Also—Ten acres on Myrtle Street,—8 1/2 acres in fruit.

Also, Two valuable building lots on Bellevue Avenue, near the Presbyterian Church.

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