

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This brief brochure was hurriedly prepared by Everglades Drainage District and The Palm Beach County Resources Development Board.

Source of Information:

Agricultural losses --

M. U. Mounts, County Agent, Palm Beach County

B. E. Lawton, County Agent, Broward County

J. M. Dempsey, Newport Industries, Inc.

R. Y. Patterson, U. S. Sugar Corporation

Various cattlemen, farmers, etc.

Capital Losses Sub-Drainage Districts

R. Y. Patterson, Lake Sub-Drainage Districts

Compilation economic losses --

Resources Development Board

Outline of Emergency Rehabilitation --

Everglades Drainage District

Pictures --

Everglades Drainage District

FOREWORD

Estimates of losses are partial, and largely for two counties - Palm Beach and Broward. Losses cannot be completely counted until the flood has receded and the damage uncovered. Loss of food, fibre, man power and energy can never be totally evaluated. Much of the damage to some counties is only beginning, particularly in Dade County. It will be some time before the final bitter picture is viewed.

The objective of the program for emergency rehabilitation and protection is better known. The Plan is complete to the extent that we know what must be done to prevent such losses in the future. Most of the loss, except hurricane losses, could have been prevented. If it is allowed to recur, the economy of all South Florida may be dealt a death blow in its infancy.

Outside capital will not continue to take such long chances. The gamble is not necessary unless we allow it to remain.

The pictures shown here cover only a part of the damaged area. Pictures showing even greater damage will be taken before the flood-softened dikes stop crumbling. The best of pictures cannot adequately show the struggle and heartbreak that have preceded the picture or the resentment that will follow against a policy that permits such a condition to go uncorrected.

LOSSES ALREADY EXPERIENCED FROM FLOOD WATERS

(Figures submitted in this summary are conservative approximations only as of October 3rd as losses from flood water are in process of occurring and losses will and are continuing to grow as flood crest may not yet have been reached.)

I. VEGETABLES

(a) PALM BEACH COUNTY

Prior to Flood estimated acreage for 1947-48 - 65,000 to 67,000
 (Federal Census showed 89,068 acres of harvested vegetables in 1945).
 CURRENT ESTIMATE POSSIBLE ACREAGE - 18,000 acres
 36,000 acres estimated not able to be planted @ \$200 per acre
 loss \$7,200,000.00

(b) BROWARD COUNTY

700 to 800 acres of beans planted - total loss 160,000.00
 (Seed beds to plant entire acreage of peppers, tomatoes and
 eggplant destroyed).

II. CITRUS FRUIT LOSSES

(a) PALM BEACH COUNTY

Grapefruit loss (fruit) 60% to 70%.
 Orange loss (fruit) 25% plus.

(b) BROWARD COUNTY

Grapefruit loss (fruit) 75%
 Oranges loss (fruit) 50%
 One half of the 9,500 acres of citrus trees estimated a total loss destroyed
 by water.
 600,000 boxes of fruit lost \$1,200,000.00
 5,000 acres of trees 3,000,000.00

III. CATTLE

(a) PALM BEACH COUNTY

Loss of 30,000 acres of County pastures flooded (estimated period
 90 days) represents a loss of beef poundage 15¢ 405,000.00
 No estimate or way at this time with all pastures totally
 destroyed and cost of replacement.

(b) BROWARD COUNTY

8,000 acres of permanent dairy pasture under water
 7,500 acres of permanent beef cattle pasture
 Estimating approximately 50% total loss @ \$25 per acre \$562,500.00
 500 cattle lost 25,000.00

IV. RAMIE

VALUE RAMIE LOSS TO DATE 405,000.00

(a) Ramie losses in Glades due to Flood Conditions September 1947

| | Total Acreage | Acreage Lost |
|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Newport Industries, Inc. | 1,200 | 350 |
| Hillsboro Plantation, Inc. | 580 | 540 |
| Fla. State Prison Farm #2 | 400 | 350 |
| The Raoul Co. | 240 | 240 |
| Kruse Bros. | 400 | 80 |
| Sea Island Mills | 80 | 80 |
| Click (Moorehaven) | 100 | 100 |
| Wedgworth Farms | 40 | 40 |
| | <u>3,040</u> | <u>1,780</u> |

Percentage total 3rd crop loss - 100%

Percentage acreage in plantings lost - 58%

Losses in acreage range from 30 to 100% of eight plantings - five were totally lost.

(b) Monetary loss estimate of various growers

1. Acreage loss based at \$50.00 per acre
2. Fibre processors 3rd crop based @ 600 pounds per acre @ 30¢ per pound.
3. Growers 3rd crop losses based @ 10 tons per acre @ \$3.00 per ton grow plants.

| | <u>\$ 3rd Crop Loss</u> | <u>\$ Acreage Loss</u> |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Newport Industries Inc.</u> | | \$17,500 |
| 350 acres @ \$50 per acre | | |
| 1200 acres @ 600 pd fibre per acre @ 30¢ per pd. | \$216,000 | |
| <u>Hillsboro Plantation Inc.</u> | | |
| 540 acres @ \$50 per acre | | 27,000 |
| 540 acres @ 10 tons per acre @ \$3.00 per ton | 16,200 | |
| <u>Fla. State Prison Farm #2</u> | | |
| 350 acres @ \$50 per acre | | 17,500 |
| 350 acres @ 10 tons per acre @ \$3.00 per ton | 10,500 | |
| <u>The Raoul Company</u> | | |
| 240 acres @ \$50 per acre | | 12,000 |
| 240 acres @ 600 per acre @ 30¢ per pound | 43,200 | |
| <u>Kruse Bros.</u> | | |
| 80 acres @ \$50 per acre | | 4,000 |
| 400 acres @ 10 tons per acre @ \$3.00 per ton | 12,000 | |
| <u>Sea Island Mills Inc.</u> | | |
| 80 acres @ \$50 per acre | | 4,000 |
| 80 acres @ 600 pd per acre @ 30¢ per pd. | 14,400 | |
| <u>Click</u> | | |
| 100 acres @ \$50 per acre | | 5,000 |
| 100 acres @ 10 tons per acre @ \$3 per ton | 3,000 | |
| <u>Wedgworth Farms</u> | | |
| 40 acres @ \$50 per acre | | 2,000 |
| 40 acres @ 10 tons per acre @ \$3 per ton | 1,200 | |
| | <u>\$ 316,500</u> | <u>\$89,000</u> |
| Total estimated loss in crops and planting | | \$405,500.00 |

Flood conditions in the Everglades area during the month of September 1947, destroyed 1,780 acres of planted ramie from a total of 3,040 acres, or a loss of 58% estimated value of \$89,000.

All plantings lost entire 3rd crop, both fibre processors and growers for processors - this estimated loss was \$316,500. Further rains and flood conditions in Glades will destroy entire acreage with distinct possibility of discouraging ramie interests and ceasing operations entirely.

(c) Flood conditions in the Everglades area during the month of September 1947 dealt a crippling blow to the newly established ramie industry. This fibre crop so vitally important at this time when there is a critical shortage of vegetable fibres in this county, suffered a complete 3rd crop loss which is estimated at \$316,500.00. This includes ramie grown for processing by farmers and that grown by processors for their own use.

IV. RAMIE - Continued.

Ramie, a perennial, is more tolerant to water than beans and other crops in the Glades, nevertheless estimated acreage loss was 58% of all plantings, such losses valued at \$89,000 making a total loss of \$405,500.00.

Further rains and flood conditions in the Everglades area will destroy the entire acreage. This will eliminate the possibility of replanting acreage as no more root stock will be available.

3rd crop losses caused cessation of three processing plants for 1947.

V. SUGAR CANE

Preliminary survey already shows 15% loss

15% of \$15,000,000 normal sugar cane crop value \$ 225,000.00

VI. CAPITAL LOSSES(a) Subdrainage Districts to Date, ditches, dikes, pump houses, motors, auxiliary equipment etc.

Already spent \$125,000

Estimated obviously

needed reconstruction 150,000

\$275,000 \$ 275,000

Spent on fuel for power to pumping machinery 60,000

(b) Losses to Private Farm Dikes, Canals, Pumping Equipment,

Buildings etc. This loss is enormous and continuing to increase but with most of the farms covered with water and inaccessible except by boat no accurate appraisal can be made of damage until the water recedes.

(c) Damaging Flood Waters Originated Elsewhere

The subdrainage districts and individual farm operators could have handled without great loss the excess rainfall of Palm Beach County and vicinity. The excess flood waters pouring in from the Kissimmee valley and counties to the North and West are responsible for our enormous losses.

VII. ROADS, HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

Farm roads, Farm to Market Roads, County and State Highways - no estimate can be made at this time. The sum required to replace will be staggering but the rising level of the water leaving many of these submerged make impossible any accurate estimate of damage which with continued floods will continue to accelerate damage.

VIII WITHDRAWAL OF CAPITAL AND ABANDONMENT OF PROJECTS

One of the most serious and far reaching results of the flood disaster is the eminent danger of capital investors withdrawing from the area and abandoning major projects well under way. Many individual farmers cannot continue to operate; our subdrainage districts bonded and taxed to the limit had already borrowed to the limit during the current summer pledging the next year's tax revenue. If they cannot restore their dikes, lateral canals, pumps and equipment, individual vegetable farms, ramie, cattle and sugar cane production and processing must of necessity be abandoned for lack of protective district facilities.

TO DATE - FIGURES SHOWING PARTIAL LOSS BALANCE TO OCT. 4, 1947 - \$13,518,000.00

EMERGENCY WORK PROJECTS

In the use of any funds made available, it is proposed that the work projects be given priority in the order of dollar benefits to the present developed lands. These lands should be made secure first to preserve the existing 'Glades economy and interrupt the production of food as little as possible.

Work projects should follow the plan being prepared by the U. S. Engineers Office in Jacksonville, Florida. Each project should be a part of the total plan. Such total plan is the realistic solution of the problems of the agricultural economy of the 'Glades and the Southeast Coast. The work projects outlined hereafter are a part of that total plan.

The projects were chosen on a basis of value of work that could be completed with increasing amounts of money. Each successive project increases the value and effectiveness of the prior projects. Each project completed gives a measure of added protection to some lands; but only when the total plan is completed can agricultural enterprise be assured of a reasonable degree of protection for all of the lands of the area.

The projects outlined below represent about one-half of the cost of total protection by the proposed main system of controls. However, the protection afforded by the completion of the recommended immediate work projects, as outlined, would keep 'Glades economy alive until the whole could be completed. These projects are as follows:

(Also refer to map in pocket)

PROJECT ONE --

For One Million Dollars:

A major pumping installation to be constructed at Hillsboro-North New River Junction to improve drainage of 137,000 acres of highly developed agricultural and urban areas.

PROJECT TWO --

For An Additional One-Half Million Dollars:

The improvement of the Cross-Bolles Canals system would make the major pumping installation at the Hillsboro-North New River junction more effective and provide a strongly leveed line of defense for 135,000 acres in event of disastrous floods.

PROJECT THREE --

For An Additional Two and One-Half Million Dollars:

The channel of the West Palm Beach Canal could be improved to provide better interception and discharge of northern flood waters and an additional facility for Lake control. The levee provided by the spoil of the channel improvement would afford flood protection to 116,000 additional acres to the south and west.

PROJECT FOUR --

For Five Million Dollars Additional:

The levee, channels and controls of the flood waters from the St. Lucie Canal divide could be checked and controlled to provide direct

benefits to 380,000 acres by the control afforded. The upper 'Glades lands and the agricultural lands of Broward County would be assured flood protection from waters from the north.

PROJECT FIVE --

For An Additional One-Half Million Dollars:

The levee, channels and controls that would protect the low 'Glades lands from flood waters from the West could be constructed to the extent necessary to protect present developments. Approximately 76,000 acres in the 'Glades and 175,000 acres in the high lands would receive benefits from these works.

PROJECT SIX --

For An Additional Four Million Dollars:

Coastal channels, controls, diversion channels and reservoirs could be made effective in the supply and control of waters for agricultural and human needs along the Coastal area.

* * * * *

In the total plan being prepared, the above works would be extended to embrace additional lands. Additional pumping installations and controls would be added. The probable cost of the total plan to be submitted by the U. S. Engineers will be approximately \$27,000,000.

THIS IS NOT A WHEAT FIELD BUT
WIND EFFECT ON THE WATER AT

JESS DURRANCE RANCH NEAR BRIGHTON

- HIGHLANDS COUNTY



OSCAR CLEMMONS HAS HAD HIS
PASTURES UNDER WATER THREE
TIMES IN AS MANY YEARS.
THE "BEAVER-DAM" NEAR HIS
HOUSE SHOWS WHERE HE PATCHED
ONE BREAK IN HIS LEVEES -
HIGHLAND COUNTY.



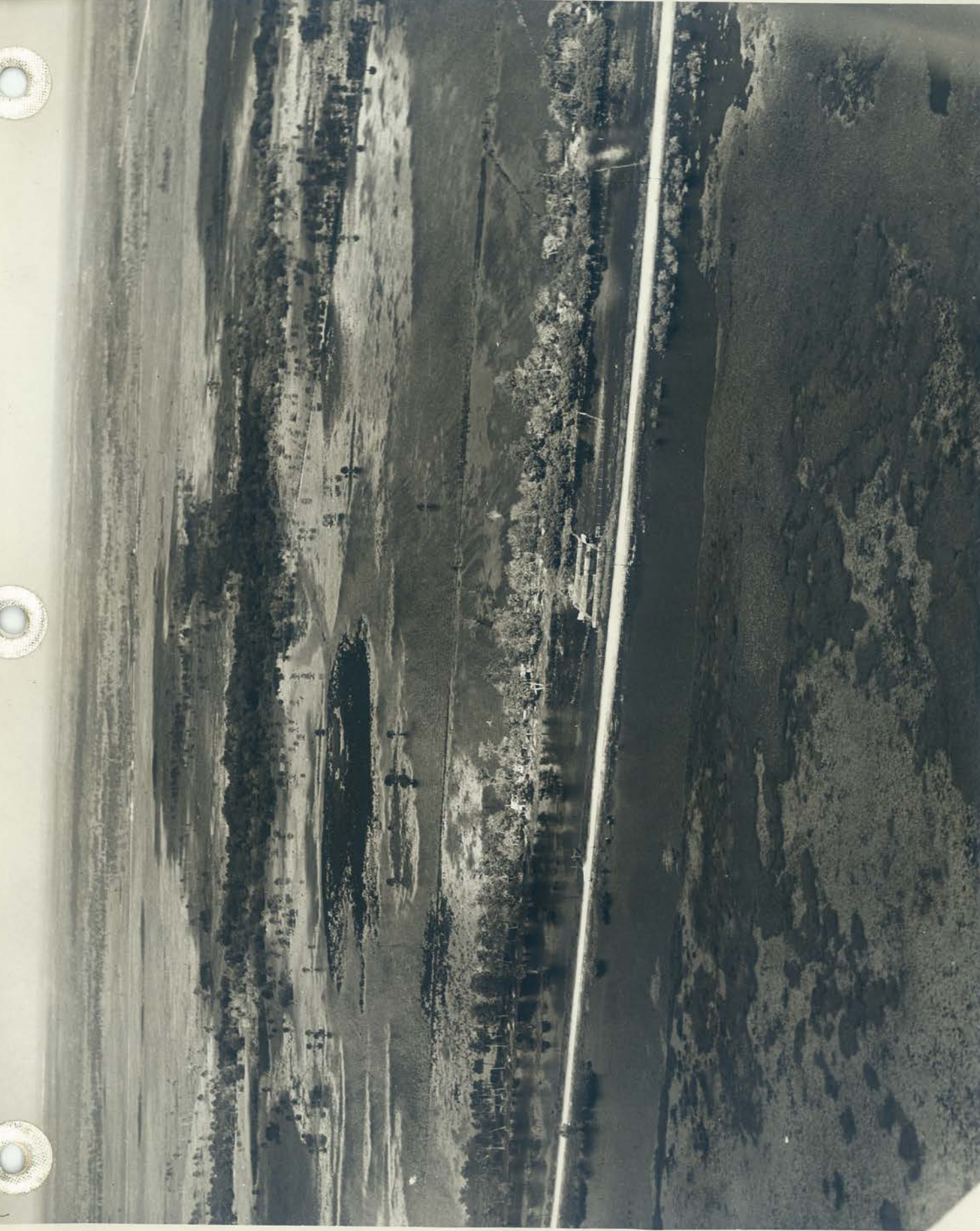
THIS IS THE LAST FARM NORTH
OF THE WEST PALM BEACH CANAL
STILL FIGHTING THE BATTLE
AGAINST INUNDATION ON OCTOBER
4th. JONES BROTHERS ARE TRYING
TO HOLD THEIR SEED BEDS AGAINST
THE ADVANCING WATER FROM THE
HIGH LAND IN THE BACKGROUND --
PALM BEACH COUNTY



FLOODED PASTURE LAND NORTH
OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE. OKEECHOBEE
CITY IN BACKGROUND -- OKEECHOBEE
COUNTY



THERE IS LITTLE HIGH GROUND
FOR CATTLE ON THIS RANCH NORTH
OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE - MARTIN
COUNTY



LAKE ISTAPOGA HAS MOVED
IN ON DUKE TUCKER'S RANCH.
DUKE HAS MOVED HIS CATTLE
AND IS TAKING HIS LOSS -
HIGHLANDS COUNTY



THIS AREA, AND A SIMILAR ONE
IN HENRY COUNTY, ARE THE
LARGEST CONTRIBUTING FACTORS
IN 'GLADES FLOODS. WATERS
FILLED ON THIS PLATEAU MUST
MOVE SOMEWHERE -- AND THE
GLADES ARE NEAR AND LOWER.

-- PALM BEACH -- MARTIN COUNTIES.



THIS FARMER TRIED TO REINFORCE
HIS LEVEE AGAINST RISING FLOOD
STAGES. THIS IDLE MACHINE IN
WORKING POSITION IS MUTE
TESTIMONY TO A BATTLE LOST -
PALM BEACH COUNTY



PASTURES SUCH AS THESE
MAKE POOR GRAZING FOR
CATTLE. THE CATTLE SUFFER
AND THE OWNER PAYS - PALM
BEACH COUNTY



PAUL FENTRESS OF THE LAZY
WTH RANCH IS A NEWCOMER TO
GLADES RANCHING BUT HE HAS
ALREADY LEARNED THAT WATER
CONTROL IS MORE THAN A WORD
- PALM BEACH COUNTY



THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED TO
FATTENING--PASTURE LANDS WHEN
THE WATER FROM THE HIGH LANDS
CRUMBLED THE DIKES (SEE CENTER
FOREGROUND). FLORIDA COMMISSION
COMPANY ROUNDED UP MOST OF THEIR
CATTLE BY BOAT WHEN THE PASTURE IN
THE LEFT OF THE PICTURE WENT UNDER.

-- PALM BEACH COUNTY



FLOODED FARMS ALONG THE
HILLSBORO CANAL ARE THE ORDER
OF THE DAY. FEW WINTER
VEGETABLES WILL BE PRODUCED
HERE. - PALM BEACH COUNTY



THE HORSE EXPRESSES THE FORLORN
FEELING THE OWNER OF THE PUMP
HOUSE MUST HAVE. IN SPITE OF
HURRICANE DAMAGE AND FLOOD, THE
PUMPS ARE STILL OPERATING. 'GLADES
FARMERS ARE A HARDY LOT BUT THEY
ARE GETTING TIRED. -- PALM BEACH

COUNTY



THE HYACINTHS IN THE CENTER
OF THE PICTURE WERE NOT PLACED
ON THE SANDBAGS FOR EFFECT.
THEY ARE FLOATING ON THE SURFACE
OF THE OVERFLOW OF THE WEST PALM
BEACH CANAL -- PALM BEACH COUNTY



HILLSBORO PLANTATION UNIT

NUMBER TWO PUMP HOUSE

AFTER THE HURRICANE.

-- PALM BEACH COUNTY



THE NEW UNIT OF HILLSBORO
PLANTATION, NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION,
IS BEING BORN UNDER FLOOD AND FIRE.
FIRE LAST YEAR, FLOOD NOW. OUTSIDE
CAPITAL WILL BECOME DISCOURAGED IF
THIS CONTINUES TO RECUR. -- PALM
BEACH COUNTY



THIS TRACTOR IS TRAVELING
ON THE NEW STATE ROAD GRADE
NEAR LAKEPORT. -- GLADES
COUNTY



THIS RANCH HOUSE AND CORRAL
IS MAROONED IN A SEA OF
FLOOD WATER. -- GLADES COUNTY



THE NEW ROAD BRED ON THE
WEST SIDE OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE
TOOK A LICKING HERE AT THE
MOUTH OF THE HARNEY POND
CANAL. MORE LOSS TO THE STATE.
-- GLADES COUNTY



HILLSBORO PLANTATION UNIT #2

WENT UNDER ABOUT A WEEK BEFORE

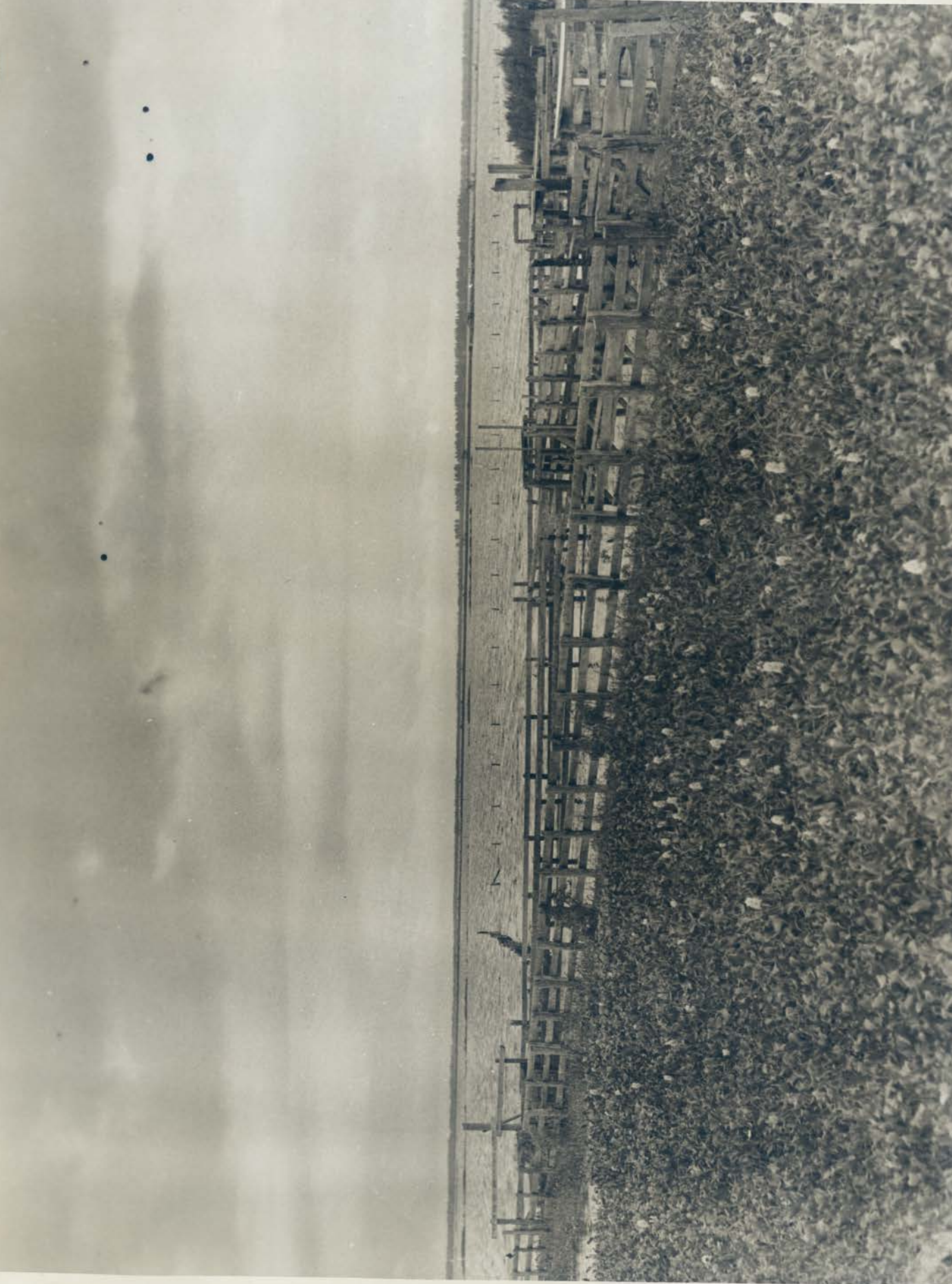
THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN. 500

ACRES OF RAMIE LOST. -- PALM

BEACH COUNTY



HOWARD HANEY'S NEIGHBORS
ABANDONED THE FIGHT AND HIS
TURN WAS NEXT. SEVERAL HUNDRED
ACRES OF THE BEST ST. AUGUSTINE
PASTURE IN THE PALM BEACH
COUNTY



RUTH WEDGORTH IS REDUCED TO
KEEPING THE HOME PLACE FROM
BEING FLOODED. MORE FOOD LOST
TO THE NATION. -- PALM BEACH
COUNTY.



SERRALLES FARM FOUGHT THE
FLOOD FOR THREE MONTHS
BEFORE LOSING THE BATTLE.
MANY UPPER 'CLADES FARMERS
HAD CHESTNUT BEDS HERE. --
PALM BEACH COUNTY



HOME ON THE RANGE WAS NEVER

LIKE THIS. -- PALM BEACH

COUNTY



MUCK LEVEES CANNOT WITHSTAND CON-
TINUED HEAVY PRESSURES. WHEN THIS
PLUG OF LEVEES WENT OUT, THE FLORIDA
COMMISSION COMPANY WENT UNDER AND
3500 acres OF IMPROVED PASTURE LAND
WAS LOST. -- PALM BEACH COUNTY



FISHKATING CREEK HAS FLOODED
LARGE AREAS OF PASTURE LAND
AND DISCHARGED MORE INTO
LAKE OKECHOHEE RECENTLY THAN
BOTH OF THE OUTLET CANALS COULD
TAKE FROM IT. -- GLADES COUNTY



LOOKING TOWARD BELLE GLADE
OVER FLOOD FARMS. THE BATTLE
HERE WAS TO KEEP FROM HAVING
TO EVACUATE THE TOWN. -- PALM
BEACH COUNTY



HARNEY FOND CANAL NEAR LAKE

OKMETCHOHEE - CLADES COUNTY

