

**PUBLIC FORUM**

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Editor:—

WINNETKA TALK,

I read with great interest Mr. Hale's remarks referring to Florida and having lived in the North, and particularly in Winnetka, I feel that this gentleman is somewhat misinformed.

It is a known fact that for many years land in Florida was far below any normal value and it is not only due to the fact that people are populating cities, building homes and living in them, but are permanently populating the rural districts, operating small farms and raising citrus and various kinds of vegetables similar to the North

Florida is a great commercial and agricultural state and the increase in the land values are **justly** warranted and are **not** artificial.

Where would Chicago have been, if in the early days Eastern money had not been brought forth to improve and develop it? Where would real estate prices in Chicago, Winnetka or any other town be had it not been for the start that some enterprising men gave it?

How many people in Winnetka know that only 2 per cent of the homes in Florida are mortgaged. How many people know that the income of the inhabitants of Florida from agricultural, horticulture, live stock, fishing and mining industries is over \$500,000,000 per year? How many know that Florida sells over \$20,000,000 worth of fish a year? How many people know that Florida's mines produce \$20,000,000 a year? How many people know that Florida produces and ships more citrus fruits than California? In five years more from trees already planted Florida will double it's output of these fruits. How many people know that last year Florida shipped 7500 carloads of celery, 4000 carloads of new potatoes in the early spring, also 2500 carloads of cabbage, 3,000 carloads of lettuce and \$10,000,000 worth of tomatoes and numerous other early vegetables such as beans, peas, sweet potatoes, strawberries, peppers, egg plants, etc.? How many people know that the average production per acre of the agricultur-

al products in Florida is the largest of any state in the Union? How many people know that the largest per capita of wealth in the United States is located at Lakeland, Florida, of more than \$6,000 per capita?

How many people know that good agricultural land can be bought for \$50 an acre in Florida which would produce, with five months' work of one family, on 20 acres, more net wealth per family than 160 acres most anywhere else?

How many people know that the state of Florida has no indebtedness of any kind or nature as a State?

How many people know that last year there were more miles of railroad built in the State of Florida than in any other state in the Union and the same will be repeated this year?

How many people know that Florida is a sugar producing country and has adaptable soils of large quantities which are gradually being increased?

The great statistician, Rodger W. Babson, claims there are 5,000,000 families in the United States who can afford a winter home. There are only two localities, Florida and California, where they would desire their winter homes.

How many people know that Rodger W. Babson is developing near Haines City, Babson Park, after a most thorough and careful consideration of possibilities throughout the United States?

How many people know that the ridge section of Florida due to its loam soil and perfect climatic conditions is considered not only one of the most wonderful sections of Florida, not only a wonderful section of the United States, but the most wonderful section of the world?

This country is not only the center of the citrus production, but is going to be a great industrial center as well as a great resort. It has a future which words cannot portray and Haines City located on the ridge is the gateway, the neck of the bottle, the door of the structure.

If one saw the large number of saw-mills and the uncut timber which stands in Florida, it would produce a tremendous realization of the enormous possibilities which are gradually being brought forth in Florida.

Florida is a playground for those who wish to use it as such, but it has, a sound and stable population

which is bound to develop this state into one of the greatest productive states in the Union.

The foregoing article is based on facts, not hearsay, and I again want to repeat that Florida is here to stay.  
I. B. Eppenstein

**DIRECTS Y. W. C. A.**

Mrs. Hermon B. Butler, 715 Prospect avenue, is the newly elected presi-

dent of the Young Woman's Christian association, succeeding Mrs. Carl C. Bullock. Mrs. Butler, who is the daughter of the late Francis B. Peabody, is second vice-president of the Fortnightly and founder of the Hermon Beardsley Butler house in memory of her husband. Mrs. Butler has been a member of the board of directors of the association for the last three years.

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