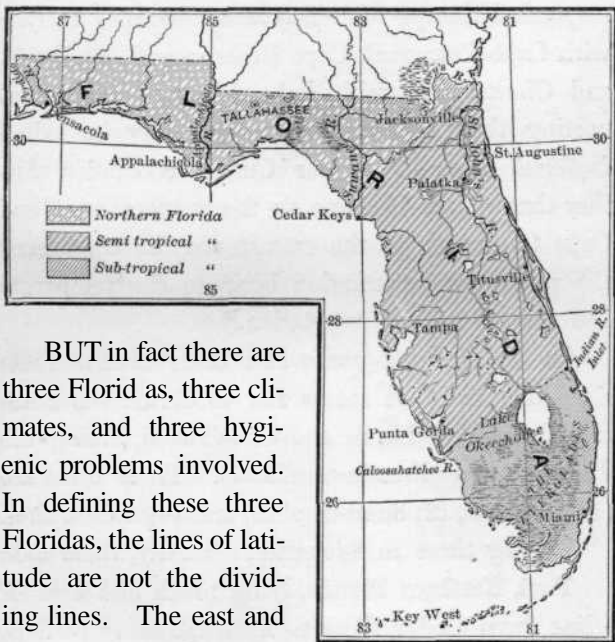


IV.
DIVISIONS.



BUT in fact there are three Floridas, three climates, and three hygienic problems involved. In defining these three Floridas, the lines of latitude are not the dividing lines. The east and the west sides of the peninsula differ in temperature more than a degree, the east or Atlantic side being to that extent warm-



er in winter. Professor A. II. Curtiss, while engaged in a botanical exploration of the State several years ago, was the first to call attention to this interesting and important fact. He found that in its flora Cedar Keys on the west corresponded with Fernandina on the east; and in the same way corresponded Tampa with Daytona, Charlotte Harbor with Cape Canaveral, Cape Romano with St. Lucie, and Chukaluskee with Lake Worth. Lines connecting these places respectively, may be called *isofloral* lines. Professor Curtiss concluded further that "Cape Romano on the western coast and Cape Canaveral on the eastern may be considered the points of demarkation between the temperate and the subtropical vegetation."

In the light of these and other similar facts since developed, it seems fair to divide the State into three Floridas, as above intimated, basing the division upon climatic conditions. These three are (1) Northern, (2) Semi-tropical, and (3) Subtropical.

Taking these in this order, severally, there are:

First, Northern Florida, lying north and west of a line from Cedar Keys to Fernandina, or perhaps better the tortuous line of the Suwannee, Santa Fe, and St. Mary's rivers—a region whose climate may be designated as *southern*.

Second, Semi-tropical Florida, lying south of the above-designated line and extending to a line from the mouth of the Caloosahatchee River to Indian River Inlet—a region whose climate is *semi-tropical*, and which may be appropriately designated as the *Orange Belt*; and,

Third, Subtropical Florida, or all the region lying south of the semi-tropical orange belt above defined, embracing the Florida Keys.

These three Floridas are distinct in general features, climates, and productions; but the dividing lines are in no sense sharp. These Floridas run into one another, and varying seasons press their lines northward or southward, and many conspicuous floral features extend over all. But the general demarkation is distinct, well defined, and easily noted.

In climate the three are distinctly dissimilar. In Northern Florida the extremes—approximately stated, for illustration—are, maximum, 105° , minimum, 20° ; in Semi-tropical Florida, 100° and 25° ; and in Subtropical Florida, 95° and 30° . This increase of equability or decrease of range as we go south is at one with the scale covering greater distances; as, New York, Virginia, Florida—the extremes always coming nearer as we go south. This

difference is the natural result of the decreased length of the midsummer day at points farther south.

The difference between Northern Florida and Semi-tropical Florida—apart from and in addition to the difference of latitude—is largely due to the greater elevation of the former, and the distance of the Gulf Stream from it. The waters of the Gulf of Mexico temper the immediate coast line in this region, but their effect does not extend far inland; and the obliquity of the dividing line is due mainly, if not wholly, to the warming influence of the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic.

The Gulf Stream is an immense factor in the climate of both the peninsular divisions. Coming directly from the Cuban waters northward through the Strait of Florida, pressed close to the shore along Dade County by the Bahama banks, it flows northward—this vast body of deep-blue water, a thousand times the volume of the Mississippi River, thirty miles wide, and two thousand feet deep, with a velocity of fully five miles an hour—the year round. The temperature of this enormous ocean-river is about 84:° all the time, and thus creates a constant stratum of warm air that floats over the land. The temperature of the Gulf Stream is fully

nine degrees above that of the ocean-waters through which it flows, and it loses but one degree every five degrees of latitude. Sir Philip Brooke reported the temperature of the stream as 80° at the point where the ocean-water was 32° . The stratum of warm air is borne westward across the land by the trade-winds which blow constantly from the eastward—at least nine tenths of the time—summer and winter. The stream flows directly along the Florida coast from the point of contact—about $25^{\circ} 20'$ —to Jupiter Inlet, 27° , at which point it leaves the land, getting gradually farther out to sea. Of course, its influence on the climate of Florida gradually decreases as it passes northward, but never ceases entirely. From the Indian River Inlet—the southern boundary of Semi-tropical Florida—northward to Fernandina, the whole coast is made both milder and greatly more equable than the Gulf coast in the same degree of latitude; and this, as elsewhere stated, to the extent of more than one degree. And purity accompanies equability on the wings of these eastern winds. They strike the land of Florida fresh from the Atlantic, absolutely pure, and sweep across the peninsula, bearing with them whatever of malaria escapes dilution, absorption, and dissipation, thus putting the Gulf coast to a

disadvantage so far as these influences extend. How far they extend has not been determined, but certainly not very far. Long moss is much scarcer along the Atlantic coast than in most other places in Florida.

Thus it will be seen, and why, Semi-tropical Florida enjoys an equability decidedly greater than does Northern Florida. This climate is that of Northern Florida with its extremes softened a little. This is the part of the State best known at the North. The St. John's River region has been so fully and so frequently written up and written down that readers can not need, here and now, to hear more of this beautiful orange belt. The popular mistake is to confound this favored region with the two other Floridas—the Northern and the Sub-tropical—while the difference is considerable.

But the phenomenal effects of the Gulf Stream and the trade-winds are to be found on the Atlantic coast south of Indian River Inlet; and especially south of Jupiter Inlet, where the shore trends westward and the Gulf Stream bears rather eastward, making for a passage around Hatteras. It is this separation of the Gulf Stream and the shore that really marks the northern boundary of the subtropics. In this eastern side of Subtropical Flor-

ida are found the four equalizing agencies at their greatest; to wit, the Gulf Stream, the trade-winds, the Everglades, with water-surface preventing the land-breeze and its corresponding sea-breeze, and the zone of high barometric pressure. These agencies conspire to increase the mere latitudinal difference between Semi-tropical and Subtropical Florida. Here the midsummer heat that might otherwise be 95° , say, is reduced to something like 88° ; and the midwinter chill that might otherwise be, say, 30° , is warmed up to something like 40° . The trade-winds, in bringing to the Subtropics the breath of the Gulf Stream, hurry off all incipient malaria into the Everglades, and thus keep pure the air of that eastern coast. The absence of Spanish moss from this region proves the purity of its atmosphere; for, as a rule, in this latitude, if moss does not mean malaria, it at least raises an uncomfortable doubt in the premises. Here, also, as nowhere else on the earth except in the Island of Formosa, are to be found the most marked results of these exceptional climatic agencies—an equability greater than is to be found anywhere else in either of the grand divisions of the American continent. As Florida considered as a unit is more equable, temperate, and healthy than any other

State in the Union, so Subtropical Florida stands, at least in equability, in favorable contrast with the northern divisions of the State.

In summary, then :

The climate of Northern Florida, while its range of temperature is the greatest of the three Floridas, is still more equable than are the Southern States generally. Its greater range has its special charm to many, and its enjoyableness depends upon individual tastes. For those coming to Florida from higher latitudes, it is naturally the most attractive part of the State. The frosts are always light, but they mark definitely the seasons and destroy the insects, clearing the way for a new spring. Ice is formed every winter, and snow has fallen but once in forty years, and then barely an inch deep. This one snow extended over a considerable portion of the orange belt. This is the land of the Le Oonte pear, as Semi-tropical Florida is the land of the orange, and the subtropics are of the pineapple. The semi-tropical fruits, almost all, including the typical orange, can be grown here in Northern Florida, and especially near the southern line; but they do not attain the degree of excellence here that they do in their habitat, either in size or in quality. The influence of the Mexican Gulf water is consid

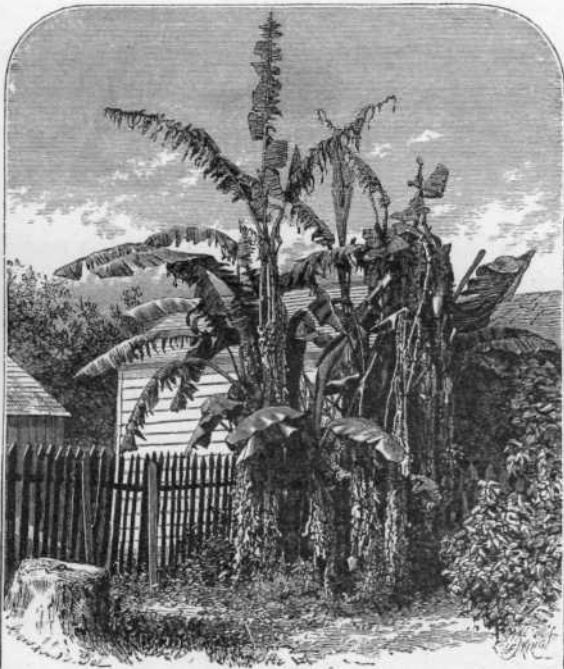
erable on the southern border, but, as the Gulf Stream does not reach those waters, the influence is merely that of an ocean-frontage. There are, however, the daily alternating land and sea breezes which render grateful effects. North of the range and reach of these breezes, the different elevations of land, with lakes, rivers, and springs, give pleasing variety in warm weather, and produce a most attractive Southern climate; a climate vastly superior to most of the written-up and classic resorts of the Old World. Messrs. Easoner, perhaps the best-informed nurserymen in Florida, publish a very carefully prepared and scientific catalogue of fruits for this State. They give, as suiting farther north than the semi-tropical fruits, the following among many: Pears of several kinds, including the Le Conte and the Keiffer, pecan, Japan plum, and grapes. These all have Northern Florida as their habitat.

The climate of Semi-tropical Florida, or the orange belt, is that of Northern Florida, modified by more water frontage, by the partial influence of the Gulf Stream, especially on the eastern side, and by the slight difference in latitude. The highest point in the State is well south in this division, and the number and variety of lakes in this

mid-Florida lake region—there are three or four lake regions in the State—tend to make this one of great variety and numberless attractions. All these and many other delectable features have been given to the public again and again. This region is the *Florida* of the legions of writers that in the last twenty years have lavished their praises and their abuse for the entertainment or the information of the Northern public. The fruits of the subtropics will many of them grow and mature here; but the trees of such are smaller and the fruit inferior. The Reasoner Brothers, of Manatee, in their list of trees called semi-tropical have these: The whole citrus family—orange, lemon, shaddock, grape-fruit, and lime—fig, Cattley guava, pomegranate, and jujube.

The climate of Subtropical Florida is that of Semi-tropical Florida, modified by a still greater proportion of water-frontage, by the full influence of the Gulf Stream, and by the slight difference in latitude. It is the most equable in the State. The authorities named above mention these tropical fruits as suitable for Florida, and it is perfectly fair to assume that they can not grow to anything like perfection anywhere north of the subtropics, and some of them even there are a little too far north:

The anonas, such as the cherimoya, guanabena (sour-sop), custard-apple, sugar-apple, the pineapple, sapodilla, cocoanut, mangosteen, mammee, mammee sapota, Spanish lime, mango, aguacate or alligator pear, guava, ti-es, tamarind, and almond.



THE BANANA.