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A TRIP TO THE LONELY UPLANDS OF LOUISIANA



WITH THE
AMERICAN FARM LAND CO.

COMMERCE BLDG.

KANSAS CITY, MO.

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Three miles south of De Ridder is the town of Bon Ami, and three miles south of Bon Ami is the town of Carson, all on the Kansas City Southern Railway. The eastern boundary of our tract of land is within three miles of each of these three towns. Then we have the town of Merryville, on the Santa Fe Railway, which passes through our tract of land in a southwesterly direction. Merryville is within three miles of the western boundary of our tract of land. Then we have the station of Pujo near the center of our tract of land.

This Map

shows the location of our tract of land, which is within three miles of De Ridder, Louisiana.

The location is indicated by the arrow near the bottom of the map.

Our Lands

are just 700 miles due south of Kansas City, and only 100 miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico.

Our Railroad Facilities

are unsurpassed as will be readily seen by reference to the map.

The Kansas City Southern Railway

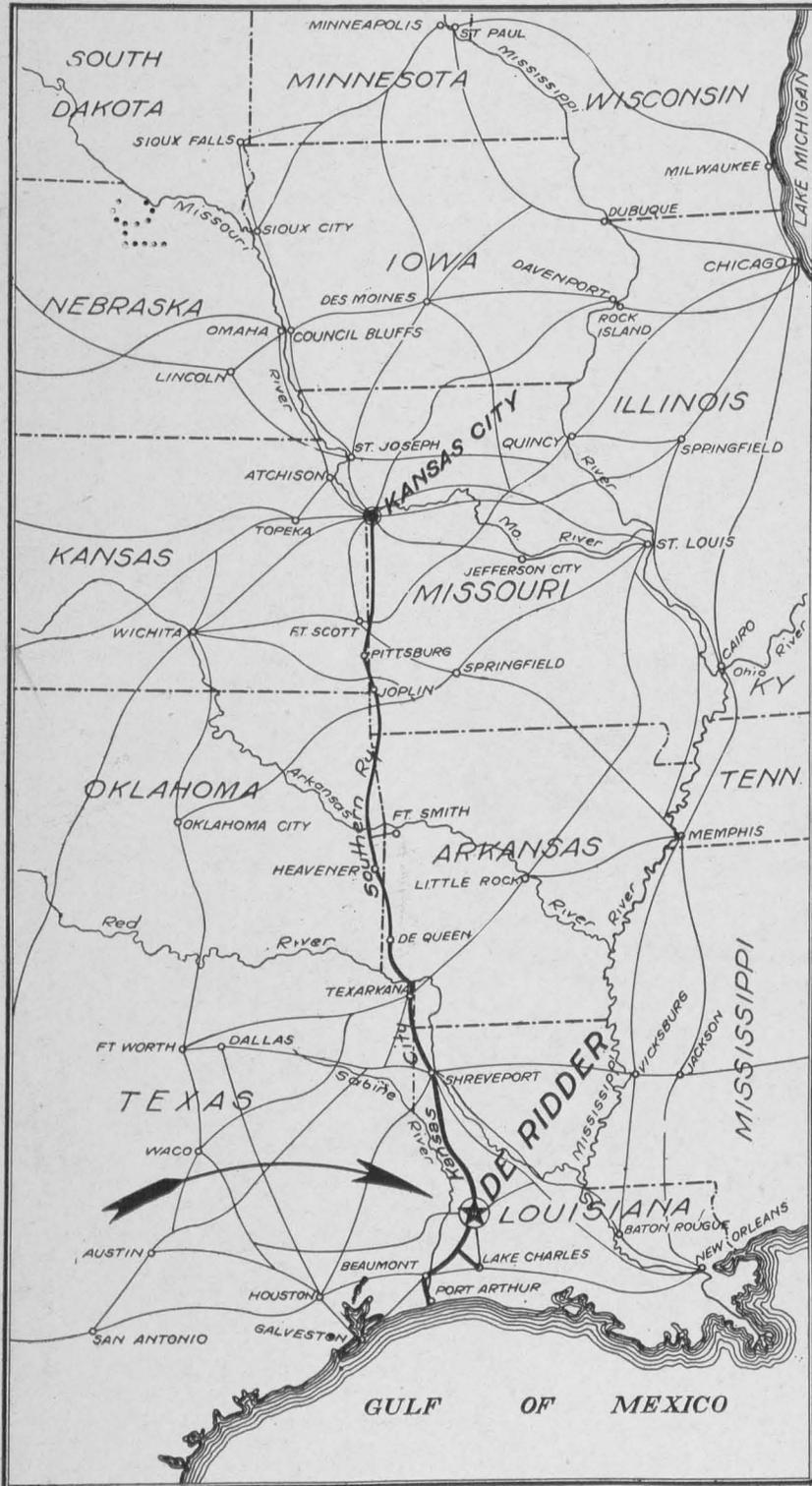
is the "air-line" between Kansas City and the Gulf. And this railroad touches the eastern boundary of our tract of land. Then there are other great railroads, running East, West and North, with which we have direct connection at De Ridder, Shreveport or Lake Charles.

Port Arthur

which is one of the best seaports on the Gulf Coast is only 100 miles from our lands, and is the southern terminus of the Kansas City Southern Railway.

The Panama Canal

is bound to add tremendously to the importance of all Gulf Coast seaports. And no argument is needed to convince any thinking person that good agricultural land near these great Gulf seaports will greatly enhance in value because of the early completion of the Panama Canal.



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The railroad running northeast and southwest through De Ridder, as shown on this map, passes directly through our tract of land. Then there is another railroad, not shown on this map, which runs in a northwesterly direction from Carson through our tract of land, and this railroad crosses the other road at a point almost in the center of our tract of land.

This junction point of the two railroads is the station of Pujo, which will be a splendid town in a few years.

De Ridder, La., May 10, 1913.

American Farm Land Co.,
Kansas City, Mo.

Gentlemen:

We, the undersigned, who have composed your excursion party to your tract of land near De Ridder, Louisiana, which excursion started from Kansas City the 6th inst., desire to extend to you this written expression of our satisfaction and appreciation.

We are returning from a most enjoyable trip and one which we feel has been very profitable to us.

The accommodations you provide in your special sleeping cars, your dining car service, and all other arrangements for the convenience and comfort of your guests are certainly perfect. In this connection we want to say a good word for the Kansas City Southern Railroad.

After having read your advertising literature, we expected to find a good country in your Sunny Uplands of Louisiana.

And we can now say that after seeing for ourselves, we most heartily endorse your splendid land proposition and the conditions surrounding it.

It seems to us that it is even better than we had expected.

Our first pleasant surprise was the town of De Ridder. The number of new buildings here—good substantial brick business buildings, new cement sidewalks, a beautiful new brick high school building, and many neat and cozy, well painted residences with nice lawns and beautiful flowers—all these things look good to us.

Near De Ridder, and close to your tract of land, we saw what we think can justly be termed “a model farm”—the Mathews farm which you mention in your advertising matter. All growing crops there made an excellent showing and certainly prove the fertility of your soil and climate. A field of oats there, now about ready to harvest, is one of the best we have ever seen anywhere.

Then we saw the Long-Bell Experimental Farm, extending from De Ridder to the town of Bon Ami. It is really wonderful in its showing of growing fruits, Satsuma Oranges, Peaches, Plums, a half dozen or more of the best varieties of Grapes, Pecan trees, of which we saw remarkably fine samples of last season's crop.

We also saw other growing crops, such as Irish and Sweet Potatoes, Corn, etc., all of which looked good.

Your tract of land is certainly well located as regards railroad and market facilities.

The land is gently rolling and covered with a good growth of natural grasses. We do not doubt it is just as good land in all respects as the splendid experimental farm and the smaller farms we have referred to.

The big results obtained by Mr. Allen and Mr. Mathews on their farms near your tract were fully confirmed by personal statements made to us by these gentlemen. Without doubt others can do as well on your lands.

We have greatly enjoyed the trip to Port Arthur, about a hundred miles from your tract of land. It is a great sea-

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port and the Gulf breezes are delightful. Your tract of land is all the more desirable because of its nearness to the Gulf and the seaport of Port Arthur.

You have sold this excursion party a big lot of land, and we suppose you will consider that a better expression of our appreciation than this letter.

Very truly, your friends,

F. N. Campbell, Missouri	John Polster, Missouri	Mrs. James Moore, Missouri	S. Y. Allen, Texas
J. F. Decker, Missouri	M. F. Kimball, Missouri	H. J. Hollmann, Oklahoma	Ethel Allen, Texas
Mrs. B. F. Eaton, Kansas	O. M. Mathis, Texas	H. M. Vore, New Mexico	W. C. Wilhoit, Missouri
B. F. Eaton, Kansas	B. H. Sheppard, Texas	Chas. Gillman, Missouri	Tom Gallagher, Nebraska
O. C. Payne, M. D., Kansas	Geo. W. Strough, Nebraska	H. H. Hollmann, Missouri	F. A. Nims, Nebraska
F. D. Culver, Kansas	S. V. Shonka, Nebraska,	Frank H. Wilken, Iowa	J. H. Drown, Missouri
R. B. Senseney, Iowa	C. P. Fullington, Nebraska	Gottfred Harnish, Iowa	Will Brown, Missouri
Robt. Gardiner, Iowa	J. M. Moore, Missouri	F. M. Hutton, Missouri	King Robinson, Missouri
J. P. Canaday, Missouri	John Hoelken, Iowa	J. G. Reihm, New Mexico	Joe Diment, Missouri
W. A. Keyte, Missouri	James N. Moore, Missouri	J. H. French, Missouri	Louis Lettel, Missouri

Reports of the Allen and Mathews Farms, mentioned in the above letter, are printed on last pages of this booklet

We, the undersigned, duly appointed and constituted committee of all who are represented on this the initial excursion of the American Farm Land Company, composed of the Davis Brothers, of Kansas City, Missouri, which excursion started May 6th, 1913, arriving at De Ridder, Louisiana, May 8th, do hereby offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we express our appreciation of the various and many courtesies extended to us during our stay and covering the complete aforesaid excursion;

Resolved further, That we express our utmost satisfaction in finding the land proposition even better than the representations made by them in their advertising literature;

Be it further Resolved, That we desire to express our many thanks to Mr. C. O. Williams, Traveling Passenger Agent of the Kansas City Southern Railway Company, for the kind treatment received under his management of the excellent railroad facilities on the aforesaid trip.

Signed this 9th day of May, 1913.

F. N. Campbell, Missouri.
O. C. Payne, M. D., Kansas.
S. V. Shonka, Nebraska.
Frank H. Wilken, Iowa.
J. G. Riehm, New Mexico.
H. J. Hollmann, Oklahoma.

The above resolutions were presented to the entire excursion party assembled at Lake View Hotel, Port Arthur, Texas, May 10th, 1913, and each resolution was unanimously adopted by a rising vote.

(Attest) S. V. Shonka, Secretary.

(Signed) F. N. Campbell, President.



This picture was taken near the station of Pujo on our tract of land on our May, 1913, excursion. Notice the white tent partly shown in the background. This is where we served a picnic lunch to our excursion party, and the carriages are some of those used in showing the land.



This picture was taken at a point just about in the center of our tract of land on our May, 1913, excursion. The people in the picture are part of our first excursion party. Notice the splendid natural growth of grasses on our land.



This picture was taken May 8, 1913. It shows our first excursion party in a field of Oats, about ready to harvest, on the Mathew farm which practically adjoins our tract of land. Our people were unanimous in their opinion that they had never seen a better field of oats anywhere. It will yield 100 bushels per acre. Mr. Mathews will immediately follow up this crop of oats with several other products on the same land. His last crop this Fall will probably be Cowpeas or velvet Beans which can be made extremely profitable in several different ways.



Our May, 1913, excursion party at the home of Superintendent Granberry on the Long-Bell Experimental Farm between De Ridder and Bon Ami. Read what our first excursion party has to say about this splendid fruit farm, as mentioned in letter printed on the first page of this booklet.



A six year old peach orchard on the Long-Bell Experimental Farm, adjoining our lands. This picture taken May, 1913. The Elberta Peaches grown here are more delicious in flavor than any fruit in California. And they are also particularly fine in appearance. Experts say that our reddish clay sub-soil contains just the right percentage of iron to give the most beautiful coloring to peaches and other fruits. Peaches are a sure crop on this land.



This is a picture of our May, 1913, excursion party just after partaking of a picnic lunch which we served in the tent at a point almost in the exact center of our tract of land. The lunch we served to this first excursion party included preserved figs and other delicious fruits grown on the Long-Bell Experimental Farm adjoining our lands; also full, rich cream from a dairy near our lands. Don't we look as if we had enjoyed the meal?



A typical view of our tract of land as it appeared on our May, 1913, excursion. Notice the strong natural growth of grass on this land. The fallen trees and small timber on this land are worth a great deal for fence posts, fire wood, etc. If let by contract the land can be cleared, with all stumps removed ready for the plow at a cost of not to exceed \$7.50 per acre. Most of the land can be plowed and put under cultivation at no expense whatever for clearing.



Passenger depot of the Kansas City Southern Railway at De Ridder, which is the County Seat. De Ridder is the largest town near our land, but we also have Bon Ami, with a population of about 1,000, and Carson, with a population of about 1,200, within a mile of our eastern boundary.



Passenger depot of the A. T. & S. F. Railway at De Ridder. This branch of the Santa Fe passes directly through our tract of land, near the center of which is the station of Pujo, at the junction of this line of railroad and the Mo. & La. On future excursions we will have our special cars transferred from the Kansas City Southern to this branch of the Santa Fe, and in this way we will step right out of our own train onto our own land at the station of Pujo which is near the center of our tract of land.



Our May, 1913, excursion party just arriving at one of the small docks in Port Arthur after a delightful boat ride through the inner harbor along the wharves where we saw at anchor a number of large ocean going vessels flying the flags of foreign countries, such as Great Britain, Germany, Russia, etc. We had a lunch on the boat, and the ride lasted about five hours and covered a distance of about forty miles out to the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.



A young fig orchard on the Long-Bell Experimental Farm at Bon Ami.



The corn pictured here is one of three crops grown on the same land the same crop year as follows. Oats sown on this land November, 1911; pastured during the months of December, January and February; harvested in May, 1912. And these oats made over sixty bushels per acre. After harvesting the oats, corn and speckled peas were planted in alternate hills. The peas were gathered in September, made seventeen bushels per acre and sold for \$2.00 per bushel. The corn was ready to harvest at the time this picture was taken, October 19, 1912. It made thirty-five bushels per acre. Grown on farm adjoining our lands.



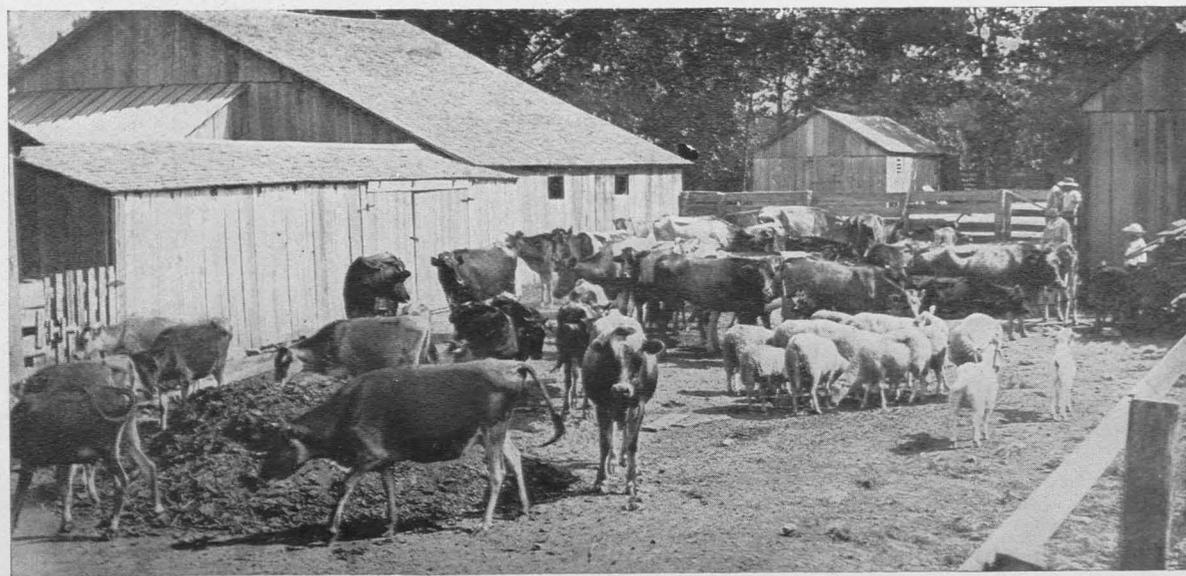
This is a branch taken from a Satsuma Orange tree May 6th, 1913. Some of the leaves have been trimmed away from the upper twig in the picture, so as to show the budding fruit. Notice the number of oranges that are budding out on this twig. There will be ripening fruit on this tree for several months after the month of August.



No Better Hog Country on Earth

From *Calcasieu Parish*. Published by S. P. R. R.

Experiments covering more than seven years have been carried on by Prof. W. R. Dodson, Dean and Director of the Louisiana Experiment Station, in the raising and fattening of hogs, and this noted expert makes the statement that pork can be produced in Southern Louisiana at less expense than anywhere else in this country. He has made the low priced cut over timber land yield him \$50.00 an acre in hogs, and the hogs gathered the crops that were raised on these lands. That is the secret—these Louisiana hogs are grown on crops that they gather themselves, whereas the northern raised hog is grown upon corn, which the farmer must not only plant and cultivate, but gather and feed. These are operations which take a good deal of the profit from the industry in the north. Oats, rye and barley furnish fall and winter pasture for the hogs in Calcasieu Parish. For the fattening period cow peas, soy beans and peanuts are used, these being supplemented by sweet potatoes, artichokes, stock beets, rutabagas and turnips, the porker being finally finished off with a brief feeding of corn, oats and cotton seed meal.



Dairies Bring Quick Returns

From *Calcasieu Parish*. Published by S. P. R. R.

This industry is encouraged by the natural advantages of the situation—the ease with which green feed is produced, the little cost for shelter and the slight demand which is made for food to keep up the animal heat. The outdoor life here insures the health and vigor of the cow, and this is important. The market for dairy products is always good. This is a substantial basis upon which to build. It touches one of the persistent demands, and if to a dairy hogs are added and poultry, and the natural increase of the herd is kept upon the farms, the farmer and the land will both prosper.



The Most Delicious Grapes in the World

These two pictures were taken last fall. The grapes are growing on the Long-Bell Experimental Farm at Bon Ami, adjoining our lands. This is a splendid vineyard and contains half a dozen or more of the best varieties of grapes.

The bottom picture is a closer view of some of the growing grapes shown in the upper picture.



We wish that space in this booklet would permit us to show pictures of other fruits growing on the splendid Long-Bell Experimental Farm; also the Pecan trees, which are a great success there—fine, large paper-shell Pecans; Satsuma Oranges, Elberta Peaches, several varieties of plums, pears, etc. The possibilities of profit in fruit growing on our lands are certainly very bright. The growth is prolific, the quality is fine, the crops are sure, and are always ready for an early market at high prices.

Mr. Allen and Mr. Mathews were present to explain personally to our May 1913 excursion party about their experiences in farming near our tract and on exactly the same character of land.

The personal statements of these two men are referred to in the testimonial letter printed on the first pages of this booklet.

What Others are Doing—You Can Do

Reports of Actual Results Obtained by Successful Farmers in Our Locality

From the January Issue of *Current Events*, Published by the Immigration Department of the Kansas City Southern Railroad

Statement of
Mr. S. Y. Allen
Whose Farm is
About Four Miles
From Our Land

First Crop on
Thirteen Acres
Cleared \$1000.00

Bermuda Onions
Net \$360.00 Per Acre

Oats Sown in the
Month of October—
Pastured During the
Winter Months—
Produce Sixty-five
to Eighty Bushels of
Grain Per Acre—
Harvested in May

\$800.00 Worth of
Melons Sold Off of
Three and One-half
Acres

One Year's Crop
From Five-Acre
Orchard of Young
Fig Trees Brings
\$1200.00

For Nine Years
Irish Potatoes
Average One
Hundred Bushels
Per Acre and Sweet
Potatoes Average
Two Hundred
Bushels Per Acre

I moved here nine years ago and had previously lived on the Red River Valley in DeSoto Parish. When I came here I was worth not to exceed \$300.00 and was 60 years old. I bought 13 acres on time, about a mile and a half north-west of DeRidder, and that year began improving and putting out crops.

The first year I raised turnips, cabbage, melons and potatoes, both Irish and sweet. This crop cleared me \$1,000.00. For the next three years I raised about the same kind of crop with about the same result as to profit, except that I began putting out cow peas as a second crop, in some cases, and plowing them under for the purpose of keeping up and increasing the fertility of my soil. I then began to raise some Bermuda onions in addition to the above mentioned crop. Also began putting out some fruit, principally figs. There had already been a few fig trees planted on the place, and the prolific yield from these caused me to put out five acres additional. The return from my Bermuda onions, of which I have raised three crops, has been an average of \$400.00 per acre, and the average cost of production, including harvesting, was \$40.00 per acre. Since I inaugurated the policy of turning under the second crop of cow peas I have been trying out a few acres of corn, and on small tracts of from two to five acres have averaged from 80 to 100 bushels per acre. I usually sow a few acres of oats in October, pasture them during the winter months, and harvest early in May. These oats yield from 65 to 80 bushels per acre. After the harvest the land is then in good condition for summer crop. I raise a good many melons, about half of which are planted in the fig orchard, a part of the fig orchard is planted to strawberries and turnips. From the three and a half acres of watermelons raised this year, I sold \$800.00 worth of melons. My five acres of fig trees, which are young, yielded 8,000 gallons at 15 cents per gallon. It cost me 2 cents per gallon to have the figs picked. I have rebuilt my house and stable, as well as constructed several other small buildings on the place. During the nine years, my Irish potatoes have averaged 100 bushels per acre and the sweet potatoes a little over 200 bushels per acre. I have done much better here than on the Red River bottom. The health of myself and family has been good and now, in my 70th year, I am doing a man's work. My family consists of my wife, a 5-year-old daughter, and myself. After paying for the land and the improvements I have mentioned, as well as purchasing implements, team and about 30 head of cattle, I have an additional surplus of about \$5,000.00. This has all been done on my farm, without any greater effort than is ordinarily expended on a farm in other countries; in fact, I have taken several long trips for pleasure and information, two of them extending over several thousand miles, and consuming from one to three months to the trip. I wish to say that I have farmed in Georgia, on the Red River Valley in Louisiana and investigated the irrigated country in New Mexico and Mexico, as well as the Coast Country in Texas, and nowhere have I found a location that would equal this. I would be very glad to have you or any of your friends visit me at any time so that you might be the better able to satisfy yourself as to the correctness of my statement.

I cannot close without impressing upon you the great advantage derived from plowing under cow peas or velvet beans. This practice brings the fertility of our soil up to that of any country, and compared with most countries, no time is lost in the operation. One to two crops can be taken from the land, then cow peas raised and plowed under all in the same year.

Hoping to see you at my place in the near future, I remain.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) S. Y. ALLEN.

Report of the
Mathews
Farm
Adjoining
Our Lands

This Report
for Year 1912

Three acres planted to CORN April 23, gathered first week in October, made 195 bushels.

One and one-half acres planted to CORN May 23, gathered first week in October, made 120

bushels.

Four and one-half acres planted to CORN May 27, gathered first week of October, made 226 bushels.

Three and one-half acres planted to CORN June 5 and 6; this field had speckled peas planted with the corn, every alternate hill being PEAS. The peas were gathered first week in September. Made 60 bushels and sold for \$2.00 per bushel. The corn averaged 35 bushels per acre, but before the corn was planted, a CROP OF OATS was taken from this field, which was sown November 1, 1911, pastured until March 1, 1912, and harvested May 1, yielding a little over 60 bushels to the acre.

One and one-half acres IRISH POTATOES were planted February 25 and 26; dug first week in May; made 125 bushels to the acre and sold at one dollar per bushel; 200 pounds of cotton seed meal per acre were used in growing this crop. After the potatoes were dug, WATERMELONS were planted without using any additional fertilizer; \$200.00 worth of watermelons were sold off the field and the remainder—several wagon loads—were fed to hogs.

One acre of IRISH POTATOES planted August 20 is now growing; estimated yield, 100 bushels per acre; 150 pounds commercial fertilizer per acre were used on this field.

One and one-half acres SWEET POTATOES were planted July 2 to 8. These are growing and from estimates made by digging a portion, I think they will yield 240 bushels per acre. No commercial fertilizer was used on this crop.

The winter accumulation of manure from the stable has been hauled out and spread with a manure spreader over the 15 acres under cultivation. This manure was produced by 4 horses and 3 milch cows that were lotted or stabled every night.

Report of the
Loftin Farm
Adjoining
Our Lands

This Report
Covering
Several Years

Mr. Loftin purchased and began work on this farm in 1905; put in CORN, OATS, POTATOES and RIBBON CANE; had twenty acres under cultivation. He raised the same

kind of crops until 1909, when he began raising cotton in addition to other crops. In 1909 two acres were planted to COTTON, which made one and one-fifth bales per acre. In 1910 four acres planted to cotton, which made three-fourths bales per acre; 1911, three acres planted to cotton, which made one-half bale per acre; 1912, four and one-half acres planted to cotton, which made seven-eighths bale per acre. These figures are taken from selling weights.

The CORN made as follows: 1910, five acres, 40 bushels per acre; 1911, seven acres, 41½ bushels per acre; 1912, six acres, 41 bushels per acre.

OATS were sown each year, usually in October, pastured during winter months, and harvested in May of each year; these oats were never threshed, being fed in the bundle; they have been uniformly good and estimated to yield about 60 bushels per acre.

IRISH POTATOES have been planted each year and made an average of about 90 bushels to the acre. The Irish potato fields have been followed each year with sweet potatoes, which have averaged for the past seven years 175 bushels per acre.

COW PEAS have been grown after the oat crop each year and have either been grazed off or cut for hay. When cut for hay, the yield has been from 1½ to 2½ tons per acre.

RIBBON CANE has been planted each year in amount varying from one and a half to three acres; the lowest yield in the past seven years has been 250 gallons per acre and the highest, 430 gallons per acre. The average selling price has been 50 cents per gallon and average cost of production, including manufacture of syrup, 24 cents per gallon.

No commercial fertilizer has been used on this farm except on two or three of the potato crops, and then only 100 pounds to the acre. The winter accumulation of manure from the stable has been spread on the twenty acres under cultivation and has been made by four horses and five milch cows that are lotted or stabled almost every night.

Mr. Loftin has thirty head of stock cattle which graze cow peas when not cut for hay.



O. H. DAVIS
SECRETARY AND TREASURER



HOMER J. DAVIS
VICE-PRESIDENT



C. E. DAVIS
PRESIDENT

Officers and
Directors of the
AMERICAN
FARM LAND
COMPANY



THE KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN RAILWAY CO.

William Nicholson,
Immigration Agent.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 6, 1913.

American Farm Land Co.,
217 Commerce Bldg., Kansas City, Mo.

Gentlemen:—In reference to your request for report on the Carson tract of land in Louisiana, I beg to inclose herewith copy of letter which was written to me by Mr. Roesler, Asst. Immigration Agent of this company, who has personally inspected these lands. Mr. Roesler is thoroughly familiar with soils and all matters pertaining to farming, and his opinion of this property can be relied upon.

These Western Louisiana lands will in the course of time be far more valuable than any of us now realize. The possibilities are simply astonishing and almost unbelievable, and in my mind there is no other portion of the United States that can offer anywhere near the future prospects. For the present, however, we believe that the general farmer on from 160 acres to a section or more of land who will devote his energies to raising corn, cow peas, sweet potatoes and peanuts, and as much live stock as he can accommodate on his place, will be the man who makes the best success; but he should devote a portion of his farm to sugar cane, fruits and vegetables, which, of course, bring large returns per acre. This more intensive farming will naturally increase as years go by, and in time this very country will be known the world over as the place where such high-class and profitable products are raised as now coming from California and the Mediterranean countries.

The following products are being successfully raised to a limited extent, but not in sufficient quantities to attract notice from the outside world: Oranges, lemons, grape fruit, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, apricots, Japanese persimmons, grapes, figs and numerous other semi-tropical fruits. Also such vegetables as lettuce, radishes, cabbage, etc., which will mature in the winter and very early in the spring, so as to bring the higher prices in the city market.

It takes time to convert a forest into a fruit and flower garden, but the evolution is now in progress and the results will be a wonderful surprise to the people who have not given the subject careful study.

Yours truly,

Immigration Agent.