

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
Florida State Horticultural Society
THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING
TAMPA, APRIL 22-25
1924

OPENING

Pres. L. B. Skinner: The time has arrived to call the meeting of the thirty-seventh Annual Meeting of the Horticultural Society to order. I understand there are twelve other conventions going on in Tampa tonight—this is the thirteenth; and also there is an election, so you can realize what we are up against, and I offer this as an apology for the people of my City of Tampa, who should have been here to help welcome you. I am sorry they are not here; it is a loss to

both of us. Dr. C. E. Patillo will ask the Invocation.

Dr. C. E. Patillo, Tampa—Invocation.

Pres. L. B. Skinner: It is over forty years since the first time I set foot in Tampa. One of the first men that I knew in Tampa was the present Mayor of Tampa. I have learned to know him and admire him, and I take great pleasure in introducing to you Perry G. Wall, the Mayor of Tampa.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

Mayor Perry G. Wall, Tampa

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have been introduced to quite a number of audiences in the State of Florida since I began to try to get notorious by running for office. This introduction is one of the best I have ever had, except that I had rather try to hide my age. I

am not always willing to acknowledge that I am as old as Mr. Skinner has made me out to be. The introduction, however, is fine. It reminds me of the little boy in the class. The teacher says, "Johnny, how much is 3 times 3?" He says, "9"; she says, "That's fine." He

says, "Hell, that's perfect." So this introduction is perfect, and different from most introductions. It is truthful to this extent—I am the Mayor of Tampa, unfortunately probably for the city. I am here tonight to tell you how very much pleased we are to have you with us.

An address of welcome is always easy to make, because we are pleased to have visitors; in fact, we rather make a point of inviting people to visit us, especially your kind of people. We don't have to add any special police to look after them.

Then again, the man who makes the introduction is not supposed to know anything about the subject that is under discussion, and if there is one thing I don't know anything about (and I believe you have found it out individually) it is cultivating the soil. Every man ought to get in love, because that teaches him romance; he ought to run for office as that teaches him business; he ought to get religious, that makes him spiritual; he ought to know how to farm, but he will need all of his religion, when he pays his bills.

I have just found that out. All of us, you know, business men especially, newspaper men, etc., know how to farm. Occasionally they start out and try it themselves, and then they have another fill in. I am getting off tomorrow to investigate a farm that I started about two years ago. I got one of these pamphlets showing how many hogs you could raise. This pamphlet had beautiful pictures. It told me how many pigs I could figure on, and I soon had enough pigs from reading this pamphlet to feed all the starving people

of Russia. I started a hog farm, and I have got a pig every year.

As I said before, we are pleased to have you. These kinds of organizations, especially yours, which I understand is one of the oldest in the State, are of greatest value to the State, not only for the special good that they accomplish, but because it brings people together. Surely there is no State in the Union where there is more room for study and thought and co-operative effort than the State of Florida. With our peculiar climate, peculiarly good climate, and with our special advantages as to production and soils, we have opportunities here that no other section of the country has, and in addition to that—one that admits of more development and response to intelligent study.

So I congratulate you people in this Society. We appreciate this kind of work, not only, as I said before, for the special good it does, but because it brings people from all over the State together to get acquainted with each other. One of the characteristics of Florida is the way it is getting new people from all the different States, and from many foreign countries. Our population is not assimilated, only in one particular, we get them down here from the North and however good Republicans they may be we soon count them Democratic. But we have been thinking too much along community lines, county lines, sectional lines, and organizations such as this, business organizations, boards of trade, are helpful to get our people closer together, helping to create a public sentiment, helping to bring our Government, if you please, closer in touch with our industrial and commercial life.

From every viewpoint, this organization is one of the best in the State of Florida, and in behalf of the people of Tampa I want to welcome you here, and

tell you that anything we can do to make your visit a pleasant one, and a profitable one, we are more than glad to do. I thank you.

RESPONSE

William L. Wilson, Panama City

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, and the Honorable Mr. Mayor:

The Honorable Mayor told us that it was easy to make an address of welcome, with some flattering remarks on the end of it. I can simply pass the buck back to him, and say it is easy to respond to such a graceful address of welcome as he gave us.

Out in the wings here, just before we came in, the Honorable Mayor told me he had decided to stop making so many speeches, and that this was the last one, because he found he was falling off in weight in making speeches. Karl Lehmann and I got together and decided we would go on the speaking platform from now on.

We want also to tell you, Mr. Mayor, that the Florida State Horticultural Society is the oldest State Horticultural Society in the United States. It is the largest State-wide organization in the State of Florida, and is a State-wide organization that from its very beginning has had peace and harmony in its midst. They meet year after year, and have considered most of the most vital problems here in the State. They are meeting here in your fair City today with many things

on their program, but the two most important things that they are going to consider are—First; the illness that has affected the citrus industry. There is no question about that most important industry in the State of Florida being sick; it is very sick today. Doctors disagree, although I believe the majority of them are beginning to come to a point of agreement. There are two angles to the citrus situation; there is the marketing angle and the angle dealing with the quality of fruit. I don't think the Florida State Horticultural Society, as a Society, is particularly interested in the marketing end, but they most certainly are interested in the quality end, and if this meeting can do anything to improve the quality of fruit, that is shipped from this State, we can go home and feel that we have done good work. The second thing that is going to be taken up at this meeting, and this evening's program takes it up more in particular, is the Beautification of the State; its highways, the home grounds, and everything in connection with ornamentals.

We have outside a flower show, which is the second flower show which has been held in connection with the State Horti-