Notes: Phosphate [Florida]

Tarbell, Ida M.

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The most important mineral resource in Florida is phosphate. Beginning twenty miles east of Tampa there is a great tract of what is known as land pebble phosphate. There are places as at Bartow in which the deposit is 325 or more feet deep. It is a soft pereus light grade limestone. "Chimney Rock" the natives have called it because they could cut it easily into a building stone and have done so for years. People on the east coast use it as they do Ojus. Northeast of Tampa there is a long strip of hard rock phosphate. Now the presence of this deposit was long known but the first mining of it was not done until about 1888. The idea was to use it as a fertilizer but in order to make it available it has to be treated with sulphuric acid. The first manufacturers that came down here knew nothing about the phosphate business but there was a great excitement in parts of the north over the new opening and many people came down to investigate or to work and the first efforts were failures. It left a bad mark on Florida in the minds of many. "She got you down there under foolish pretenses" some people claimed. It created a suspicion which the frost of 1894 following so soon after the failure in phosphate emphasized. But those first manufacturers were experimenters. Take this phosphate industry now, it is the biggest single item in Tampa's prosperity for it is through her port that the shipments go out, at the rate of something like a shipload for every working day in the year and they go to every country in the globe. Vessels come here from all the southern ports to take on phosphate as a bottom load. As a matter of fact since that first
start in 1888 nearly 47,000,000 long tons of the mineral has been shipped out of Florida its value being over $184,000,000. So while the industry may have had hard sledding in its first year it is a great wealth producer today. And it distinguishes itself admirably on the credit of sodium Plant City 2 with cabbage 2 kilo for market y barrel. The mining of phosphate is an industry
more a report made by the peaceful
miners of deep coal. The mineral was
all over the open air. The overburden
as the coal dust is called is chiefly
the present. The veins of deposit
the geologist like a dream by playing
field 2. The mining is high." Water and
a slender ginger, ginger, the rancher
made two of 2 and 2 pumped coop
sup to the degree. Near Plant City
is a plant. Colonel which give a
fire unsupervise of a well built 2
manned plant. The wage are poor
left in the individual town 12 mill
The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

1. It is a matter of importance to me that our plans should be carried into effect. We must start our work on time if we are to succeed.

2. If the plans are not executed, the situation will be one of hardship and privation.

3. The greatest need is for funds. I am sending you a list of the amounts needed for various purposes.

4. We must begin our work immediately. The time is pressing.

5. I am very much concerned about the welfare of our institution.

6. I hope that you will do your best to help us.

7. I am enclosing a check for $100. Please use it wisely.

8. I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

9. I am very grateful for your support.

10. I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

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