

## TAMPA BAY HOTEL

FIRE PROOF

PRIVATE OFFICE

TAMPA, FLA.

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## P H O S P H A T E

The most important mineral resource in Florida is phosphate. Beginning twenty miles east of Tampa there is a <sup>about 40 by 25 miles in</sup> ~~great~~ tract of what is <sup>in</sup> 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 porous, 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. <sup>Now</sup> 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 <sup>the water</sup> in order to make it available it <sup>must</sup> ~~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 <sup>the</sup> first efforts were failures. It left a bad mark on Florida in the minds of many. "She got you down there under foolish pretenses" so 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, <sup>after the making of</sup> it is the biggest single item in Tampa's prosperity for it is through her port that the <sup>Have a cycle</sup> shipments go out, <sup>At</sup> 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 <sup>191</sup> that first

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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 is difficult with such success the credit of many Plant City & with cabbage & citrus for market of Bartow

The mining of phosphate is an exceedingly poor & tedious work of the painful manner of deep wells & mineral runs it is all for the open air. The overburden as the top dirt is called is stripped with the machinery & then the tapping has been the work to be done by blasting first & then making high "waterways" under of great power the work is made clear of sand & pumped through pipes to the dryer. Near Plant City is a plant - Colonel Smith gave a fine impression of a well built & managed plant. The ways are good left in the industrial town is well

perhaps -  
 attractive - full the college are good & cheap.  
 10 to 12 a number with - water & light  
 free - many of the men own little farms  
 & perhaps with one hand raise / slave  
 benevolent - full the benevolent divide with  
 perhaps - the making of Plant City.  
 the the shutters season in the  
 Dec to part of April nearly off work.  
 quite a number

The shipping of the fruit is one of  
 of the most interesting sights in the  
 of the season the workers  
 begin later all that are kept -  
 from 10 in the morning until 3 or  
 5 in the afternoon. The platform

a continuous procession of steady  
 have before the evening platform  
 25 to 30 <sup>but</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>cars</sup> ~~at~~ <sup>at a time</sup>  
 empty in later months the growth of  
 1 barrel or more - & the money is  
 paid on receipt - The berries are beautifully  
 packed - the ropes were possibly