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*Franklin Simon & Co.*

FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

MEN'S SHOPS

Separate Entrances on West 38th and 37th Streets

## The Sandhills Peach Belt

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Among the recent announcements of new purchases of peach land in the Sandhills is that of fifty acres between Pinehurst and Aberdeen by Livingstone L. Biddle, of Philadelphia. Mr. Biddle is a member of a family that has been conspicuous in finance and development for several generations, and that he takes interest in peaches in the Moore county belt is notable from more than one view point. The first significance is that a man who has a knowledge of investment opportunities every where selects an orchard prospect in this community. That in itself is a good example of what men of broad observation think of this industry as a likely dividend payer and profitable and desirable investment. It is the answer of an expert business man to the question of what Moore county is good for as a place to put some money.

Men who have to do with money all their lives have a far better judgment about investments than men who are rarely called on to place much money. They come to have a sort of instinctive wisdom in such things. They are quick to see the advantages and the disadvantages of anything that comes up, and as they see so many business ventures of widely varying types they are shrewd in their observations and conservative in their conclusions. And it is worthy of comment that adjoining the tract that Mr. Biddle has bought, S. B. Chapin, a man of wide financial success, has one of the most promising young big orchards of this belt. Across the railroad from the Biddle and the Chapin tracts is the Vina Vista plant belonging to Ohio men. In all directions are other orchards, mature or in development, that are owned or being created by business men from all sections. Around Pinehurst are a score of big projects belonging to investors who are prominent as investors as well as business men of other sections, and while it would be far from a fact to say that the peach industry is largely in the hands of outsiders it is the truth that the outsiders are decidedly strong in their representation in the industry. In the big Marlboro orchard company formed last fall of a capital of \$110,000, James Barber, of New York, S. B. Richardson, formerly from Maine, Judge Way from Pittsburg and Gentile Brothers from Cincinnati and Florida, hold half the stock. J. C. Thomas, the president of the company is a Hoke county man, and other stock is held in other sections of the state. Less than a fourth is owned by native Moore county men, and yet this is one of the big orchard companies of the Sandhills.

This is mentioned merely to show that outside investors are seeing in the peach orchard a field for desirable investment, and that the peach orchard has the practical endorsement of leaders in business from all sections. But that is not yet the point that I was getting at.

The attitude of these men is not only a right fair recommendation of the most fascinating agricultural industry of the Sandhills, but it adds an element that is altogether pleasing in the mixture of the population of this part of the country. No other part of North Carolina has a better representative people in possession of the productive rural territory than the Moore county Sandhill section and the vicinity. More resident wealth is in evidence with the personal touch of the owner, and the immediate presence and interest. Every one of these orchards is backed by an enthusiastic eagerness of the owners that the orchard shall be financially a success. That means that the Sandhills peach industry is carried on by men of ability, means, and of high type of citizenship. It is doubtful if any other section of the state has as many homes and people of the same high character and standing as the peach belt of the Sandhills. It is doubtful if any other rural industry is in the hands of the same degree of skill and experience. There is one of the strongest basic factors of operation enjoyed by any industry in this United States.

The well-to-do men who are planting orchards in the Sandhills are not doing it as a rich man's plaything. Every one of these men is demanding that his orchard investment shall bring him a proper return, and by proper is meant the kind that actually skims cream, and not thin milk. But these men are able to put into the game sufficient money and business judgment to ensure that under the favorable conditions found in the Sandhills the orchards have every help that intelligent management and ample capital can provide along with the natural advantages found here. In the peach orchard Moore county is recruiting the best brains and the needed money from all states and sections. At the present the orchard is yet in its development stage. The big days of the Sandhills peach are still ahead. But what is to come is the more apparent by reason of the cosmopolitan character of the men who are doing the work and backing the job. To my notion this is one of the best features of the Sandhills forward move. The substantial type of the recruits guarantees almost anything that is desirable in the way of results, not only financially but every other way.

Indications that the navy is scrapping its oars with its guns and battleships is contained in recent letters sent out by Dr. R. Heber Howe, Jr., director of rowing at Harvard University. The government has sold to Harvard 537 tubular oars, and Harvard is willing to make a number of them available to schools to help out interscholastic rowing. Oars discarded by the navy are now being used for dormitory and class crews.