



Florida *The Peninsula State* Admitted to the Union as a territory, 1822; as a state 1845

CAPITAL, Tallahassee. Florida is responsible for about 75% of the United States' production of phosphate rock. It is also a principal source of Fuller's earth; its limestone and clay, including kaolin, are of commercial value, and mineral waters are found in abundance.

Agriculture is the principal occupation, though at the present time less than one-fourth of the State's area is in farms. The lowlands of the south, however, are gradually being drained and brought under cultivation, and will materially increase this proportion. A temperate and semi-tropical climate permits the growth of peaches, pears, and cotton in the north, and oranges, pineapples, grapefruit, guavas and lemons in the middle and southern counties. Vegetables, tobacco, sweet potatoes, peanuts and sea island cotton of a very high grade are also commercially important.

Extensive forests provide chiefly yellow pine and cypress. Hardwoods are of lesser importance, the most common species being oak, yellow poplar and hickory.

The principal catches of Florida's valuable fisheries are mullet, shad, red-snapper, mackerel, sponge and oysters. Tarpon and kingfish are numerous and are much sought by sportsmen.

The manufactures of the Peninsula State, headed by tobacco products, lumber and timber, and naval stores, have shown a steady growth during the last sixty years. The tobacco industry is practically confined to cigars and cigarettes for which the raw material is imported largely from Cuba. The output of the lumber industry amounts to nearly half the manufactured products of the State. A growing activity is the manufacture of tung oil.