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FLORIDA

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FLORIDA

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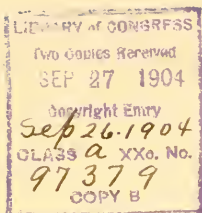
GEORGE J. HAGAR



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FLORIDA.

FLORIDA, one of the States of the American Union, constituting the extreme southern portion of the national domain, and ranking as the twenty-seventh State in the Union, being the fourteenth admitted under the Federal constitution.

Location and Area.—The State is bounded by Alabama and Georgia on the north, by the Atlantic Ocean on the east, and by the Gulf of Mexico and the Perdido River on the south and west; is inclosed by the latitudes of $24^{\circ} 30'$ and 31° north, and the longitudes of 80° and $87^{\circ} 45'$ west; has an extreme breadth from east to west of 400 miles and an extreme length from north to south of 460 miles; and has an aggregate area of 58,680 square miles, of which 54,240 square miles are land surface and 4,440 square miles are water surface.

Physical Features.—The coast-line is longer than that of any other State, measuring about 472 miles on the Atlantic and 674 on the Gulf; but it is indented every few miles by large bays extending inland, in many places from ten to thirty miles, and with large rivers like the St. John's, St. Mary's, Suwannee, and Apalachicola, navigable from north to south and easterly and westerly between the ocean and the Gulf. There are many other connecting, navigable streams in all parts of the State, and lakes, large and small, both scattered and grouped together, all of which abound with excellent varieties of fish and furnish exceptional transportation facilities. Many of the lakes connect with navigable streams, and almost all could be united by short canals or railroads with each other and with the great arteries of water leading to the ocean and the Gulf. The peculiar position of the State, its peninsular form, its gulf and ocean environment, give it an unusual physical interest. The peninsular portion proper, somewhat suggestive of Italy, is about 300 miles in length, with an average width of about 100 miles, and gradually narrows from north to south till it terminates in the chain of keys that swings around to the west. The trade winds of the Atlantic sweep across the peninsula from east to west by day, and the cool winds of the Gulf succeed by night; thus cool nights almost invariably follow warm days. Generally, the land surface is level and at no considerable elevation above tide-water. About midway from north to south the land bordering on the ocean and the Gulf is broken by occasional ridges. In east Florida, about half-way between the ocean and the Suwannee River, there is a tableland elevation reaching nearly to the Everglades. The extreme southern portion of the State is low, but

surveys have demonstrated that much of it can be effectually drained and made available for cultivation. The soil in the greater part of the State is sandy; in the high lands and hammocks considerable quantities of clay and alluvium are found. The soil also contains more or less loam and a large percentage of lime and organic remains, which give it much fertility. The surface is well watered, not only by the rivers and lakes, but by innumerable creeks and springs. Many of the latter are found in great volume in every part of the State; some of such magnitude that they form navigable rivers from their sources, such as the Blue Springs in Jackson County, in the west; Wakulla Springs in Wakulla County, in the center; Silver Springs in Marion County, in the east; the large Blue Spring on the St. John's River in Volusia County; the Green Cove Spring in Clay County; and the Clay Spring in Orange County. Some of these are medicinal, containing sulphur, iron, etc. Good water is readily obtained at a depth of from eight to fifty feet. The distribution of rivers, creeks, lakes, and springs is not only large, but is remarkably uniform throughout the State.

Climate.—Throughout the entire year rainy, cloudy, disagreeable days are the exception; fair, bright days the rule. The thermometer seldom falls below 30° in winter, and rarely rises above 90° in summer. Official records show an average temperature of 78° in summer and 60° in winter. In the greater portion of the State frost is rarely seen. The summers are longer, but the heat is less oppressive than mid-summer at the North. A Smithsonian Institution report shows the following mean temperature based on three daily observations in the twenty-three years, 1844-67, at Jacksonville, latitude 30° 15' north, longitude 82° west: January, 55°; February, 58°; March, 64°; April, 70°; May, 76°; June, 80°; July, 82°; August, 82°; September, 78°; October, 70°; November, 62°; December, 52°. Army records show a variation of 23° in a period of twenty years at St. Augustine. In ten years the rainfall at Jacksonville averaged 54.5 inches. The climate, from the foregoing, is seen to be equable and especially adapted to vegetation. The hygienic disadvantages of the State are yellow, malarial, and intermittent fevers; yet Florida is rapidly becoming a popular winter resort for pleasure-seekers, and for invalids who are obliged to have relief from the rigors of the northern winters.

Agriculture.—The list of Florida productions embraces nearly all the crops and fruits of the Middle, Northern, and Southern States, and in addition a great variety of tropical and semi-tropical fruits and vegetables, besides a large number of medicinal and fibrous plants of high value. Among the most

noteworthy commercially of the agricultural productions are : Corn, principally the white variety, largely used in meal and hominy for food, especially in the South; sugar-cane, introduced by the earliest colonists, and since cultivated by their Spanish, French, English, and American successors, the industry being promoted by the long period of warm weather and the absence of cold, the cane thus having more time to mature; Sea Island, or long-staple, cotton, grown chiefly between the ocean and the Suwannee River, and south of latitude 30°, this State raising over one-half of the total of this variety; rice; the citrus family, including the orange, lemon, lime, grape fruit, shaddock, citron, etc.; tobacco, which will grow anywhere in the State, a superior quality being from Cuban seed, mostly grown in Gadsden and adjoining counties; the banana, pineapple, and guava, most successfully grown in the southern counties; Japan plum; the apple (early varieties), pear, quince, peach, apricot, and nectarine; grapes, embracing most of the American and foreign varieties, and especially the St. Augustine grape and the scuppernong; strawberries, which, planted in September, often yield in January, and may be counted in full-bearing in March and April; peanuts; melons, and other similar fruits, which attain much greater size and weight than in the Northern States; the sweet potato, which yields from 100 to 400 bushels per acre; and arrowroot, cassava, and amputie, which yield largely under cultivation, and are valuable for starch and food. The orange, for which Florida is widely famous, is grown in three varieties, the sour, the sweet, and the bitter-sweet. The sour and bitter-sweet are supposed to be indigenous, growing wild in the forests. Budded, the sweet orange will commence to bear the third year; the seedling in the sixth, increasing each succeeding year. In 1879 about \$10,000,000 were invested in the orange groves of this State, and the business of the year was worth nearly \$1,000,000. In a favorable year 45,000,000 oranges have been shipped from Florida in a single season. The lemon is more prolific than the orange, and bears earlier; and the lime still more than the lemon; both, however, are more sensitive to frost than the orange.

The United States census of 1870 reported in Florida 10,241 farms, comprising 2,373,541 acres, of which 736,172 acres were improved and 1,637,369 acres unimproved. The average size of the farms was 232 acres. The value of all farms was reported at \$9,947,920 and the value of all farming implements and machinery at \$505,074. In the census year the chief productions were : Indian corn, 2,225,056 bushels; oats, 114,204 bushels; rice, 401,687 pounds;

Productions.

Fruit.

Oranges.

Farms.

tobacco, 157,405 pounds; sweet potatoes, 789,456 bushels; cotton, 39,789 bales; butter, 100,989 pounds; and wool, 37,562 pounds. The live-stock comprised 10,902 horses; 8,835 mules and asses; 6,292 working oxen; 61,922 milch cows; 322,701 other cattle; 26,599 sheep; and 158,908 swine—total value, \$5,212,157.

Timber Lands.—The forest lands of Florida are ordinarily classed as pine lands, hammocks (lands covered with hard wood), and swamp lands, and these, in turn, are distinguished as first, second, and third quality of pine growths. The high and low hammocks, inland prairies, etc. The hammocks, high and low, are densely covered with hard woods, such as the widely-celebrated live-oak, oak, magnolia, gum, hickory, etc.; the swamp lands are more or less timbered with pine, cypress, cedar, and soft woods; the savannas are covered with grass, with here and there a cabbage palm-tree; and the Everglades are vast prairies more or less dry or submerged. The first rate pine lands are generally elevated and rolling, and the timber, which is very regularly distributed, consists principally of pitch pine. The second rate pine lands are also heavily timbered, and are more or less high and rolling. The third rate pine lands are high, rolling, sandy ridges, bearing black jack and pine, and low lands, frequently swampy, bearing cypress. These flat lands are commercially valuable for the production of naval stores—resin, tar, turpentine, etc., and the trees can be bled profitably for turpentine for from five to seven years, and then cut down for mill logs. The richest lands are swamp, high and low hammock, first class pine, oak, and hickory lands. All these varieties of land, excepting the savannas and Everglades, will produce semi-tropical fruits and fibrous plants of economic value. They have a durable fertility, and are well adapted to the usual agricultural products. The high hammocks are the most sought for by experienced planters; the low hammocks are particularly suitable for sugar-cane; and the first class pine, oak, and hickory lands, in the central portion of the State, are preferred for diversified farming.

Manufactures.—The material interests of the State at present are chiefly those having their origin in commerce and in the productions of the farm, orchard, and forest. In manufacturing the United States census of 1870 reported, however, 659 establishments or plants, operated on an aggregate capital of \$1,679,930; employing 2,549 persons; paying an annual average of \$989,592 for wages and \$2,330,873 for materials used in manufacturing; and having a combined output valued at \$4,685,403. The principal articles of manufacture were cigars, lumber products, flour and grist-

mill products, turpentine, resin, palmetto hats, pine orange boxes, cedar cigar boxes, live-oak ship timber, ship spars, etc. The preparation for commercial use of sponges, alligator skins, sea-salt, and cotton-seed are important and growing industries. Florida has high rank in the production of the various commodities officially classified as naval stores.

Transportation.—As previously stated, no State of the Union has so extended a sea-coast as Florida, and none possesses a larger extent of navigable water; nor is there any State which has greater facilities for cheap, permanent, and reliable communication with the commercial wants of the North and West.

Ocean steamers leave New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Charleston, Savannah, etc., regularly for Florida, with ample accommodations for passengers, and fully adequate appointments for freight.

Connections are made at Fernandina and Waldo with important railroad systems; at Cedar Keys with lines of Gulf steamers to Tampa, Key West, New Orleans, all Gulf ports, and Havana; at Jacksonville with numerous steamers on the St. John's and Ocklawaha Rivers, which connect at Toco, Astor, Sanford, and Salt Lake with St. Augustine, Orlando, Indian River, and Titusville by railroad and at Lake Poinsett with lines of stages to the Indian River at Rock Ledge. At Ellaville the railroad intersects the Suwannee River, which is navigated by steamers to Cedar Keys. All-rail routes with

Railroads. close connections and through palace and sleeping cars and fast freight lines with ventilated cars for fruits and vegetables connect Florida with Montgomery, Louisville, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Chicago, Savannah, Charleston, Richmond, Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston, thus affording the largest facilities for rapid transit, while the numerous competing lines prevent exorbitant charges. Lines of sailing vessels also ply constantly between the ports of Florida and those of the North Atlantic States, affording transportation for the manufactures and products of the North in exchange for the lumber, naval stores, manufactures, and non-perishable products of the South, at rates so low as to place the State in competition, in the markets of the North, with the most favored States of the West. For several

years there has been an active agitation for the construction of a ship-canal from the mouth of the St. Mary's River on the Atlantic to some convenient point on the Gulf of Mexico, and in 1877 Gen. Quincy A. Gillmore, the distinguished military engineer, reported a plan to the Secretary of War, in response to a resolution of the United States Senate; but up to the time of writing no construction had been authorized.

Commerce.—It has already been shown that Florida possesses unusual facilities for transportation; but there are other advantages for the promotion of commerce, both foreign and domestic. On her Atlantic coast is the safe, deep, and commodious harbor of Fernandina, which is connected by water far into the interior of Georgia by the St. Mary's River, navigable for the largest vessels. The harbor at the mouth of the St. John's River is also safe and large, and has sufficient depth of water for ordinary sea-going craft. This river with its tributaries is navigable by large-sized vessels for 200 miles and by smaller ones for over 500 miles. St. Augustine, too, has a safe harbor for moderate-sized vessels and ordinary coastwise steamers, and Smyrna and Jupiter Inlet connect with the Indian and Halifax Rivers which have courses of many miles in length. Farther south are a number of smaller ports, and the Turtle harbor, deep, large, and safe. At the extreme southern point of the peninsula is Key West, one of the best ports of North America, where the largest vessels find easy and safe approach at all times, and where the bulk of the mercantile shipping of the world could congregate simultaneously. On the Gulf coast there are Tampa, with its bay extending thirty miles inland, Charlotte, Bayport, Cedar Keys, St. Marks, Appalachicola, a number of intermediate harbors, and the outlets of bays and rivers extending far into the interior. In the extreme west is the magnificent harbor of Pensacola, land-locked, large, and deep. The largest vessels in the world can easily float to the city docks. The United States customs districts and ports of entry on the Atlantic coast are St. Augustine, St. John's, and Fernandina, and on the Gulf coast, Appalachicola, Key West, Pensacola, St. Marks, and Tampa.

Education.—The present educational system of the State was created by the constitution of 1868. In 1870-71 only about one-fifth of the children of the State received educational benefits; in 1873 private citizens in several counties gave money, lands, and school buildings to aid the system; in 1875-79, 25 per cent. more school houses were built, 50 per cent. more pupils were taught, a gradually increased enrollment of the school population was made, and more efficient teachers were secured. Up to 1875 there were few schools outside of the large towns, while in 1879 nearly 600 were scattered through the rural districts. Little has been done in the way of superior, scientific, and professional instruction. Attempts have been made to organize an agricultural college as the nucleus of a State university, but they have failed, for a variety of reasons. The East Florida Seminary, located at Ocala in 1853 and removed to Gainesville in 1866, is now known as the East Florida Seminary State Normal School.

The normal course extends over three years and a diploma of this school is equivalent to a State certificate. In 1869 the superintendent of public instruction was required to assemble public school teachers in institutes and employ competent instructors to inform them of improved methods of conducting the schools; but there was little progress till 1879, when teachers' institutes were held in most of the leading counties. In 1870-71 the West Florida Seminary at Tallahassee was converted into a State and county high school; in 1872 a school of high grade was in successful operation in Jacksonville; in 1876-78 fifteen such schools were reported; and in 1878-79 there were 3,358 pupils studying the higher branches. Public school statistics for the school year 1878-79 present the following items:

Number of children of school age (4-21) in the State (enumeration of 1876), 72,985; number enrolled in the public schools, 37,034; number in average daily attendance, 25,601; number of school districts, 39; number of public schools, 1,050; number of male teachers, 646; number of female teachers, 322; total number of teachers, 968; expenditure of the year for maintenance of schools, \$140,703; and amount of available State school funds, \$243,900. The institutions for higher instruction were the State and county high school at Tallahassee, chartered in 1851 under the name of the Seminary West of the Suwannee River; the State Normal School at Gainesville, opened in 1853 as the East Florida Seminary; St. Hilda's School (Protestant Episcopal) at Pensacola, opened in 1856; the Florida State College at Tallahassee, opened in 1857; the Peabody High School at Lake City, opened in 1867; the Cookman Institute (Methodist Episcopal) at Jacksonville, opened in 1872; the Union Academy (for colored youth) at Gainesville, opened in 1876; and the Duval County High School at Jacksonville, opened in 1877. Of libraries there were the State library at Tallahassee, founded in 1845, containing 9,500 volumes; the St. Joseph's Academy library at St. Augustine, founded in 1870, containing 1,650 volumes; the Santa Rosa Academy library (free to the public for reference) at Milton, founded in 1874, containing 5,000 volumes; and the Free Public library at St. Augustine, founded in 1874, containing 4,000 volumes.

Illiteracy.—The returns of the United States census of 1870 contained the following statistics relating to Florida: Number of persons 10 years old and upward who could not read, 66,238; who could not write, 71,803. Of the white population who could not write there were 2,691 males and 2,392 females from 10 to 15 years old; 2,146 males and 2,199 females from 15 to 21 years old; and 3,876 males and 5,600 females 21 years old and upward. Of the

colored population who could not write there were 4,190 males and 3,513 females from 10 to 15 years old; 4,957 males and 5,376 females from 15 to 21 years old; and 16,806 males and 18,052 females 21 years old and upward.

Religion.—Since 1865 there has been an unusually active development of religious interests, especially in the northern counties. The inflow of business men and capital from other States, the steadily increasing number of winter health-Church seekers, and the natural enlargement of commercial bodies and industrial operations, have both broadened the field of effort and yielded the means for promoting religious activities. The following is believed to be a fair division of the regular church membership among the denominations represented in the State in the order of numerical strength: African Methodist Episcopal; Methodist Episcopal, South; Regular Baptist, South; Regular Baptist, Colored; Roman Catholic; Methodist Episcopal; Protestant Episcopal; Presbyterian; Disciples of Christ; and Congregational. There are probably 550 church and chapel edifices in the State, and 23,000 Sunday School teachers and scholars.

Finances.—According to an official report for the year ending Dec. 31, 1879, the assessed valuations were: Real estate, \$18,885,151; personal property, \$12,053,158—total, \$30,938,309. The taxation was: State, \$236,930; county, \$266,306; city, town, and village, \$101,944—total, \$605,180. The debt was divided as follows: State debt proper: bonded, \$1,280,500; floating, \$4,480; gross debt, \$1,284,980; sinking fund, \$150,100—net debt, \$1,134,880; local debts (counties, cities, and towns): bonded, \$1,286,380; floating, \$205,249; net debt, \$1,491,629—making the total debt of the State: bonded, \$2,566,880; floating, \$209,729; gross debt, \$2,776,609; sinking fund, \$150,100; net debt, \$2,626,509.

Government.—The civil administration of Florida is based on the constitution adopted in 1868, which granted the right of suffrage to every male person of 21 years and upward, of whatever race, color, nationality, or previous condition, who was a citizen of the United States, or who should have declared his intention to become such, and had resided in Florida one year and in the county six months. Idiots, duelists, and persons convicted of felony or any infamous crime are excluded from the suffrage. Marriage between whites and persons of negro descent is prohibited. Two years previous residence is required in proceedings for divorce, and wilful desertion for one year, habitual drunkenness, cruel and abusive treatment, habitual indulgence in violent and ungovernable temper, and insanity lasting four years, are causes for absolute divorce. Taxes can be levied only for State,

county, and municipal purposes. One hundred and sixty acres, or one-half acre of land within a city or town owned by the head of a family residing in the State, together with personal property to the value of \$1,000 and the improvements on the real estate, are exempted from Exemp-
tion.

forced sale under any process of law; and real estate cannot be alienated without the joint written consent of wife and husband. In addition to the above exemption there is excluded from sale by any legal process any kind of property to the value of \$1,000 which the head of the family may select. All property of a wife, owned before or acquired after marriage, is made separate, and is not liable for debts contracted by the husband. The constitution established a public school system, containing provisions for free schools for all children.

School The public school fund consists of proceeds of all funds. United States lands granted for educational purposes, the Agricultural College fund donated by the Federal government, and fines under penal laws; also a special tax of one mill on all taxable property, levied annually; and each county is permitted to levy a tax not exceeding two and a half mills annually for county school purposes.

The executive authority is vested in a governor, elected for four years, who must be a qualified elector, a resident of the United States for nine years and of Florida for three years prior to the time of his election; and a lieutenant-governor, elected for the same period and under similar conditions. Other officers are a secretary of State, a State treasurer, a comptroller, a superintendent of public instruction, a commissioner of immigration, an attorney-general, and an adjutant-general. The legislative authority is vested in a Legislature consisting of a Senate

Legis- whose members are elected for four years, and a
lature. House of Assembly whose members are elected for two years. Counties are entitled to from one to four assemblymen each. Legislative sessions are held biennially, with a time limit of sixty days. The judicial authority

Judiciary. is vested in a supreme court, consisting of a chief justice and two associate justices, and having appellate jurisdiction only; a circuit court, consisting of seven judges, and having original jurisdiction in all matters, civil as well as criminal; the usual county courts; and justices of the peace. In 1879 the State was divided into two Congressional districts; the first comprising Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Hernando, Hillsborough, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Manatee, Monroe, Polk, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington counties; the second, Alachua, Baker, Brevard, Bradford, Clay,

Columbia, Dade, Duval, Hamilton, Madison, Marion, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Saint John's, Suwannee, and Volusia.

Population.—The following table presents the population of Florida by counties and race according to the United States census of 1870: Population by races.

POPULATION BY COUNTIES AND RACE, 1870:

COUNTIES.	WHITE.	COLORED.	TOTAL.
Alachua.....	4,955	12,393	17,328
Baker.....	1,035	290	1,325
Bradford.....	2,817	824	3,671
Brevard.....	1,197	19	1,216
Calhoun.....	754	244	998
Clay.....	1,699	399	2,098
Columbia.....	4,107	3,228	7,335
Dade.....	72	13	85
Duval.....	5,141	6,780	11,921
Escambia.....	4,937	2,880	7,817
Franklin.....	781	475	1,256
Gadsden.....	3,764	6,088	9,802
Hamilton.....	3,386	2,363	5,749
Hernando.....	2,083	854	2,938
Hillsborough.....	2,670	546	3,216
Holmes.....	1,435	137	1,572
Jackson.....	3,930	5,598	9,528
Jefferson.....	3,501	9,897	13,398
Lafayette.....	1,586	197	1,783
Leon.....	2,895	12,341	15,236
Levy.....	1,623	395	2,018
Liberty.....	727	323	1,050
Madison.....	4,429	6,692	11,121
Manatee.....	1,843	88	1,931
Marion.....	2,926	7,878	10,804
Monroe.....	4,631	1,026	5,657
Nassau.....	2,277	1,970	4,247
Orange.....	1,997	198	2,195
Polk.....	2,687	482	3,169
Putnam.....	2,487	1,334	3,821
Saint John's.....	1,937	681	2,618
Santa Rosa.....	2,750	562	3,312
Sumter.....	1,972	980	2,952
Suwannee.....	2,121	1,435	3,556
Taylor.....	1,374	79	1,453
Volusia.....	1,395	328	1,723
Wakulla.....	1,562	944	2,506
Walton.....	2,636	405	3,041
Washington.....	1,928	373	2,302
Totals.....	96,057	91,689	187,748

Note.—Two Indians make the grand total as given.

The population of the State in 1830 was 34,730; in 1840, 54,477; in 1850, 87,445; and in 1860, 140,424. The capital is Tallahassee, population (1870) 2,023; other cities are Jacksonville, 6,912; Pensacola, 3,343; and St. Augustine, 1,717.

History.—On Palm Sunday, 1513, Juan Ponce de Leon (1460–1521), a veteran navigator of Spain, landed near the site of the city of St. Augustine, and gave the region its name for the two-fold reason that the shore was fringed with beautiful foliage intermingled with flowers and Early explorers. the Spanish name of the day of his landing was “Pascua Florida.” For a long time the name Florida was general in Spanish writings for the whole of the Atlantic coast of North America. Vasquez, the Spaniard, visited the region in 1520; Verrazani, the Florentine, in 1523; De Geray, the Spaniard, in 1524; Panfilo de Narvaez landed an army, which was soon dispersed, in 1526; Fernando de Soto explored the region in 1539; the Spaniards built a fort at St. Augustine in 1565, which was captured by the English in 1586; and Pensacola was settled by the French in 1696. With such and other vicissitudes of fortune, the Florida territory remained practically in possession of the Spaniards till 1763, when the whole region under the name of Florida was ceded to England in exchange for Cuba, which the English had recently acquired. The English divided the territory into the two provinces of East Florida and West Florida, the line of demarcation being the Appalachian River. By the treaty of Paris in 1763 the whole of both Floridas was retroceded to Spain. After the cession of the Louisiana territory by France to the United States in 1803 the latter claimed the country west of the Perdido River, and in 1811 took possession of the principal posts therein. In 1814 and again in 1818 the Americans under General Jackson captured Pensacola, but it was afterward restored to Spain. In 1819 Spain ceded the entire province to the United States. The treaty for the purpose was ratified by Spain in October, 1820, and by the United States in February, 1821, and on July 10 of the latter year the United States took formal possession of the province. The most important event in the early history of Florida as a United States possession was the Seminole Indian War, beginning in 1835 with an attack by the Indians on the white settlers, and being officially declared closed in 1858. On the acquisition of Florida by the United States, Congress provided a territorial form of government for it, and this continued in force till March 3, 1845, when the territory was admitted into the Union of States. In the Civil War period Florida seceded, Jan. 10, 1861; received a provisional form of government from the national authorities, July 13,

1865; repealed the ordinance of secession, October 28 following; adopted its present constitution in May, 1868; and was readmitted to the Union on July 4 following. During Civil War the war the State authorities took possession of period. Fort Marion, the arsenals at St. Augustine and Chattahoochee, and the important naval port of Pensacola; and the national authorities recovered possession of Fernandina, St. Augustine, Jacksonville and other important places.

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