

ENGLISH PURCHASE IN FLORIDA.

SALE OF HALF THE DISSTON LANDS TO THE ENGLISH MANAGERS OF FLORIDA RAIL- ROADS.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 20.—It has been known for some time that Hamilton Disston was negotiating with some heavy European capitalists for the sale of a portion of his 4,000,000 acres of land in Florida. On last Saturday a contract was made by which Mr. Disston sells 2,000,000 acres, reserving the right to select his portion of the land. The progress of the negotiation has been watched with much interest by many capitalists who are interested with Mr. Disston. The negotiations began last Summer, when an agent was sent to Europe to find a market for the lands. Sir Edward J. Reed, member of Parliament, who is a representative of the purchasers, is a wealthy Englishman who has large interests in America, and who is engaged in building the Atlantic and Gulf Coast and West India Transit Railway, which runs from Fernandina to Cedar Keys in Florida. This route has branches from Waldo running south to Osceola, and is being rapidly pushed to Tama Bay and Charlotte Harbor. Its course is through a great portion of the Disston purchase, and it must eventually add largely to the value of the land. Sir Edward J. Reed was Mr. Disston's competitor for the land at the time of the original purchase, and his knowledge of its worth has led him to consummate the present bargain with Mr. Disston.

The Florida Land Company ratified the agreement at a meeting of the Directors to-day, and the first payment of \$50,000 was made in cash. The lands of that company will now be placed upon the market. Sir Edward has associated with himself Dr. Jacobus Wertheim, of Amsterdam, and other capitalists of Holland, who were interested in the bonds of the Florida railroads and other American securities of like nature, and a syndicate was thus formed to buy half of Mr. Disston's purchase. Sir Edward and his friends have been in this country for several months, and have visited Florida and examined the land. On his return to New-York Sir Edward and Mr. Disston had frequent interviews in reference to the sale, which culminated on Saturday, as previously stated, in the transfer of the 2,000,000 acres to the syndicate controlled by Sir Edward. He and his friends started immediately for Florida, where they will at once organize a land company, whose head-quarters will be in England. This company will be conducted in connection with the railroad companies, and it is expected the land will be settled rapidly by English and Dutch emigrants.

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