WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY

Tuesday, November 25, 1913.

W. F. Massey.

Sweet Potatoes Cracking.

"What causes sweet potatoes to crack? The cracks somewhat resemble a deep flesh wound." It may be from an excess of nitrogen in the fertilizer, but generally it would be caused by rainy weather, following a very dry spell, causing the potatoes to start a new growth.

Peach Seedlings.

"I wish to ask your advice in regard to some peach seedlings I have of one season's growth. Will it be best to bud them next summer or root-graft them this winter? I budded a few last June and they have done very well, but I thought that a root-grafted tree would grow off stronger?"

I have never known peaches to be grafted on the roots like apples, and hardly think it practicable. You should have budded your seedlings last summer and they would then have made good trees next summer. Now, if you carry them over you will have to cut them down to the ground to get good shoots for budding, for by the time the bark will lift next summer it will be hard to bud the two-year shoots properly. Peaches are always budded the first summer, inserting the buds near the ground, and the next spring cutting off the tops and taking the bud up to form the new tree. I do not think that you can root-graft them successfully.

Growing Lettuce.

"Please give instructions in The Times-Dispatch for growing lettuce." You should have asked this last midsummer, for the first sowing of lettuce is made early in August. The plants started then are set in frames, and sometimes can be headed without the sashes, but usually the sashes are needed to get the lettuce headed before Christmas. Then, in late September, more seed are sown of the Big Boston, and these are set in the frames in late November, and are headed in late winter or early spring. You can also now seed in September, and in November set the plants in your section in open furrows in heavily-manured ground, and they can, in a usual winter, be safely wintered over and head in the early spring. Then you can sow seed as early as the soil can be worked, in good order, and set the plants in beds outside for heading in May, and that is about as late as you can get good heads. To grow lettuce for market, it is necessary to have plenty of hotbed sashes and frames, and better to use the double glazed sashes that I use, as these keep out all frost, even in the coldest weather, if the frames are well banked with earth outside. But it is always necessary to start in time, and not defer asking information till the plants should be growing. My fall lettuce is now approaching the heading in the frames, and I hope to have it well headed before Christmas. The sashes over it have two layers of glass, five-eighths of an inch apart, making a dead air space to exclude frost.

Tobacco Stems for Preventing Lice.

"I have seen where you stated that tobacco stems used under the plants will prevent lice in cabbages. I have tried to get them from a fertilizer firm, but cannot. Where can they be had, and how many per acre to use?" You can get tobacco stems, I suppose, from any of the factories that make smoking tobacco, or can get from them tobacco dust, that makes a fine fertilizer as well as a repellant to lice. Use them as liberally as you please.

Growing Tomatoes for Market.

"We want to plant an acre or two of tomatoes for market, and would like to know the best varieties. People around here praise the tree tomato, but we know nothing about it. Of course, we want to get them early. Will be glad to have any information you can give in regard to getting the early crop?" For the earliest tomatoes, I use Langdon strain of the Earliana, which is a great improvement on the old Earliana. This has the advantage for a market grower in that it throws its crops all early. Then, it is well to have some later ones to follow it, and for this purpose there is none better than Stone.

For a pink tomato the old Livingston Beauty is as good as any, and Globe is also good. Livingston's Coreless is good, and Magnus has heavy foliage that protects the fruit from the sun, and is a good tomato. To get the early ones sow the seed in a greenhouse or in a hotbed early in February, and in March transplant them to a cold frame under glass sashes four inches apart each way, to get strong plants. Give them all the air the weather will allow, so as to keep them as hardy a state as practicable. Here I set them in the open ground late in April, and if frost threatens I simply bend the plants over the evening before, and shovel the earth over them till the frost has passed. Last spring I had to do this twice, and once the middle of May, when we had an unusual freeze down to 30, but I saved my plants, though it was Sunday night that I had to cover them, after returning from church. In a garden it is better to stake the plants and train them to a single stem. You can get earlier fruit in that way, and can set the plants closer. But whether it will pay on a large scale for the extra work is a question. I set the plants two feet apart in rows three feet apart, and train to single stems, tying them to stakes about six feet high, and keeping the side shoots or suckers pinched out, and this means a great deal of constant pinching. But here if they are allowed to tumble on the ground they get choked up with crab grass after it is impracticable to cultivate them. But on the stakes we can keep the weeds and grass shaved off. If you have a good regular home market it will pay to sow some of the later and finer sorts in the open ground in April, and transplant them later to give a full crop in the early fall, as the early ones are not so good later in the season.

Beechwood for Posts.

Hanover County: "Is beechwood of any value to use for fence posts? I have a lot of it, and cedar is very scarce and expensive, so that I would like to use the beech if it will answer." Beechwood will last if kept wet all the time or kept perfectly dry all the time. But as posts, alternately wet and dry, it will not last much longer than old field pine.

Sowing Rye.

"Can I still sow rye as a winter cover to turn under in the spring?" It would have given you an earlier and better growth to have sown earlier, but in lower Virginia you can sow rye any time this month, as it is far more hardy than wheat.

Applying Ground Rock to Clover.

"Several of us ordered ground limestone to put on clover, but could not get it when expected, and as it was getting late to sow oats and clover, red clover, we went ahead and sowed. Now we want to know if it will do to spread the limestone this fall or wait till spring?" I have spread lime on clover early in spring before growth started, and brushed it in with a smoothing harrow, with very good results. I have never used the ground limestone, but I can see no harm that can be done by spreading it now on the young clover, spreading fully twice as much as of burnt lime. Much has been written about the value of the ground limestone, and if it is pulverized to a dust-like fineness I have no doubt that it will answer a very good purpose. Some talk a great deal about burnt lime destroying the humus or organic matter. It does certainly promote the more rapid nitrification of organic decay, and brings it into use, and it is the business of the farmer to keep up a supply of this organic matter which we call humus. Where the farmer maintains the humus in his soil, I believe that an application of slaked burnt lime once in six years is the best way to use lime.

Some Onions.

The expressman left at my house a few days ago a box, express paid, all the way from Colorado. The box contained six onions of the Giant Gibraltar variety. The six onions weighed slightly over eleven pounds and a quarter, the largest one weighing one pound fifteen and a half ounces or only a fraction short of two pounds.

These were grown by sowing the seed in a frame and transplanting them later in spring, and they were grown under irrigation. Onions as large as a Rocky Ford cantaloupe are certainly some onions. We had one of these cooked, and it made an abundant dish for six people. In the same box were samples of the Yellow Prizetaker, not so large as the Giant Gibraltar, but without the others, would have looked very large. There were also some Yellow Globe and some Red Globe that were very handsome onions. The climate of Colorado is evidently favorable to onions. But with the same varieties, grown in the same way here, we can grow the big onions if we have the same facilities for keeping them supplied with water. Our summer droughts cut short the size they would make, and one of the most important improvements our truckers can make will be to provide means for irrigation in our dry summers.

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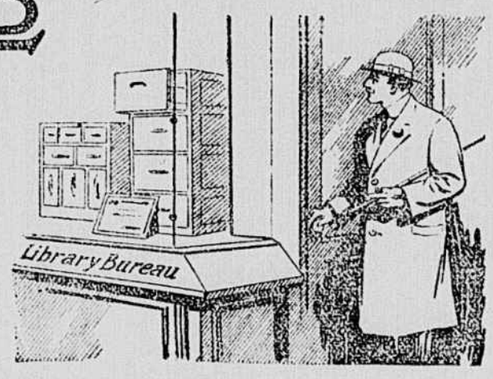

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RAILROADS PLEAD FOR 5 PER CENT RATE INCREASE

(Continued from First Page.)

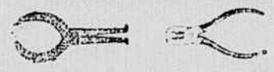
Bond, counsel for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, also presented statistics relating to the Baltimore and Ohio which summarized the effect on that company's income for 1913 of the changes which have come about since 1910 to be as follows:

Revenues decreased by reason of reduction in rates, $900,000; total added expenses and taxes, including $4,000,000 for increase in wages, $6,647,000; increase in interest charge at 5 per cent on $56,000,000 increase in capital investment, $2,800,000, or a total increased expense of $9,287,000. The surplus of the road Mr. Shriver testified, was in 1910, $4,773,000, after paying interest and dividends, and in 1913, was $1,906,000.

Protests Filed.

Protests against the proposed increases in rates were formally filed today in behalf of the Pittsburgh Coal Company, of Pittsburgh, Penna., and Columbus, Ohio. Rush C. Butler, representing the Freight Traffic Association of the Chicago Association of Commerce, also entered an appearance.

To-morrow the railroad companies will continue to present testimony, and when this is all in, by Wednesday at the latest, the commission will adjourn the hearing until the middle of December or early in January. At that time the shippers and general public will be given an opportunity to present their side of the case. In the meantime Louis D. Brandeis, counsel for the commission, will investigate the claims of the railroads.



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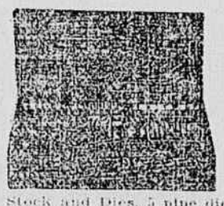

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STRIKES VESSEL AMIDSHIPS

Aviator Drops Sand "Bomb" on Cruiser First Time He Tries.

San Francisco, Cal., November 24.—As the United States cruiser South Dakota yesterday steamed in through the Golden Gate, Silas Christofferson, in a biplane, swept over the warship and dropped a sand "bomb" that struck the vessel squarely amidship. This was a feature of an aviation meet at the Panama-Pacific Exposition grounds that was not on the program. It happened that the cruiser entered the bay at the time the aviators were preparing to take part in a bomb-dropping contest at a target in the water.

Christofferson, with his "bomb," struck the South Dakota the first time he tried.

NET SPREAD FOR EARLE

Neighbors Will Tar and Feather Him If He Takes Boy to Monroe.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

New York, November 24.—A strong legal net is being spread for Ferdinand Pinney Earle and his companion, Charlotte Herman, who are now believed to be on board a transatlantic liner with Earle's nine-year-old son, Harold, whom he and the woman are alleged to have kidnapped from a private school near Paris, where the boy had been placed by his mother, the first Mrs. Earle.

Residents of Monroe, N. Y., Earle's home town, are said to have threatened to tar and feather him if he brings the boy there.

Henry W. Wack, counsel for Mrs. Earle, No. 1, announced to-night that the French government is likely to ask for the extradition for the kidnappers if they reach any American port. The pair may also be arrested in New York under the law prohibiting the bringing of a kidnapped person into the State. Mrs. Earle has also given orders for the institution of habeas corpus proceedings to recover the boy on the ground that the divorce decree awarded her the sole custody of the boy.

The Earle party is reported to be on board either the Marquette, bound for Boston, or the Finland, bound for New York.

POST-OFFICE IS UNLUCKY.

For Second Time in Two Weeks It Is Broken Into—Registered Letters Rifled.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Danville, Va., November 24.—For the second time within a fortnight the post-office at Schoolfield was broken into shortly before 5 o'clock Sunday morning and a large number of registered letters ripped open and their contents taken. It is believed that an attempt to blow the safe was to be made, as the aperture made by the closed door was soaped preparatory to pouring in the nitro-glycerine.

The most astonishing part of the robbery is that the burglar was seen at work before being frightened off, and exchanged compliments with three night watchmen before plunging away into the darkness. C. F. Murrill, a mill night watchman, had just visited one of the watch clock keys, situated in the rear of the company's store, when he saw, through the half-opened post-office window, a man of slight build standing at one of the tables opening the mail. Murrill declared today that his gun was not dependable, and that he ran to summon two other night watchmen. The trio returned just as the man was leaving the building. The youth approached them, says Murrill, and asked them if they "knew anything," whereupon they answered "No." Without a word of warning the robber darted behind a building and that was the last seen of him.

NORFOLK MAN WINS $200.00

A. P. Long Takes Second Place in The Times-Dispatch Book-Lovers' Contest.

Through an error the name of A. P. Long, of Norfolk, Va., was omitted from the list of prize winners of The Times-Dispatch Book Lovers Contest, printed on Sunday.

Mr. Long won the second prize, sending in seventy-four correct answers. The correct list follows:

The Winners.

First prize, $300—Mrs. C. H. Ashburn, 2339 West Grace Street, Richmond, Va. (Seventy-four correct answers, 416 answers submitted.)

Second prize, $200—A. P. Long, Norfolk, Va. (Seventy-four correct answers, 499 answers submitted.)

Third prize, $150—Alex. W. Brown, Cedar Street, Franklin, Ky. (Seventy-three correct answers, 394 answers submitted.)

Fourth prize, $100—George P. Knapp, Jr., College Street, Franklin, Ky. (Seventy-three correct answers, 314 answers submitted.)

Fifth prize, $50—Miss Lillie L. Price, Lancing, Tenn. (Seventy-three correct answers, 365 answers submitted.)

Sixth prize, $50—Mrs. M. W. Mourning, 1385 Third Avenue, Louisville, Ky. (Seventy-three correct answers, 366 answers submitted.)

Seventh prize, $25—Mrs. E. E. Wilson, 128 Clay Street, Suffolk, Va. (Seventy-three correct answers, 375 answers submitted.)

Eighth, ninth and tenth prizes, at $25 each:

Frank Moorehead, 270 Southern Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. (Seventy-three correct answers, 396 answers submitted).

Albert C. Fisher, 517 West 171st Street, New York, N. Y. (Seventy-three correct answers, 396 answers submitted.)

H. W. Lyons, 244 West Fourteenth Street, Norfolk, Va. (Seventy-three correct answers, 465 answers submitted.)

Ten prizes, from eleventh to twentieth, inclusive, $10 each:

George R. Starkey, 1795 Morton Street, Mattapan, Mass. (Seventy-three correct answers, 509 answers submitted.)

E. E. Vickers, 76 Marietta Street, Atlanta, Ga. (Seventy-three correct answers, 680 answers submitted.)

Miss A. D. Korrey, 316 North Thirty-fourth Street, Richmond. (Seventy-two correct answers, 302 answers submitted.)

J. Henry Strauss, 525 Camp Street, Louisville, Ky. (Seventy-two answers, 335 answers submitted.)

Miss J. H. Doherty, Yazoo City, Miss. (Seventy-two correct answers, 336 answers submitted.)

Mrs. Florence Fisher, Atlanta, Ga. (Seventy-two correct answers, 339 answers submitted.)

E. J. Ashcroft, 1233 Cypress Street, Louisville, Ky. (Seventy-two correct answers, 359 answers submitted.)

Arthur J. Sourveine, 25 East Ninety-ninth Street, New York. (Seventy-two correct answers, 380 answers submitted.)

M. E. Ashton, 196 Middle Street, Portsmouth, Va. (Seventy-two correct answers, 361 answers submitted.)

J. R. Norsland, 1388 Stockley Garden, Norfolk, Va. (Seventy-two correct answers, 368 answers submitted.)

Thirty prizes from No. 21 to No. 50, inclusive, $5 each:

Arthur F. Holt, 629 C Street, Washington, D. C. (Seventy-two correct answers, 377 answers submitted.)

A. C. Haight, 2022 County Street, Portsmouth, Va. (Seventy-two correct answers, 379 answers submitted.)

Earle W. Greene, 418 Main Street, Worcester, Mass. (Seventy-two correct answers, 390 answers submitted.)

S. B. Fisher, P. O. Box 114, Northport, Long Island, N. Y. (Seventy-two correct answers, 416 answers submitted.)

James I. Moreland, 128 Ward Avenue, Norfolk, Va. (Seventy-two correct answers, 432 answers submitted.)

Pelham Blackford, 1006 Floyd Avenue, Richmond, Va. (Seventy-two correct answers, 441 answers submitted.)

Mrs. R. L. Upshur, 320 Fairfax Avenue, Norfolk, Va. (Seventy-two correct answers, 446 answers submitted.)

Charlotte S. Dewitt, 25 Stockton Place, Orange, N. J. (Seventy-two correct answers, 455 answers submitted.)

Orla B. James, 1306 Park Avenue, Richmond, Va. (Seventy-two correct answers, 455 answers submitted.)

Charles F. Martin, 220 First Street, Macon, Ga. (Seventy-two correct answers, 457 answers submitted.)

Stephen Buchanan, 705 McKean Avenue, Charleroi, Pa. (Seventy-two correct answers, 468 answers submitted.)

William H. Waterson, 44 Fifth Street, Lowell, Mass. (Seventy-two correct answers, 468 answers submitted.)

D. M. Cheatham, 427 Nauh Crescent, Norfolk, Va. (Seventy-two correct answers, 498 answers submitted.)

John P. Murphy, 233 Ferry Street, New Haven, Conn. (Seventy-two correct answers, 501 answers submitted.)

Lawrence J. Murphy, 161 Grafton Street, New Haven, Conn. (Seventy-two correct answers, 502 answers submitted.)

Albert S. Burtis, 358 South Fourth Avenue, Mount Vernon, N. Y. (Seventy-two correct answers, 527 answers submitted.)

D. S. Brown, 237 Zara Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. (Seventy-two correct answers, 544 answers submitted.)

Miss E. A. Peterson, 835 Redgate Avenue, Norfolk, Va. (Seventy-two correct answers, 550 answers submitted.)

J. McDonald, 115 Thirty-second Street, Newport News, Va. (Seventy-two correct answers, 587 answers submitted.)

J. S. Farish, Room 401 Royster Building, Norfolk, Va. (Seventy-two correct answers, 605 answers submitted.)

A. W. Carmichael, 249 Freemason Street, Norfolk, Va. (Seventy-two correct answers, 613 answers submitted.)

Mrs. Maud H. Beckham, 505 High Street, Farmville, Va. (Seventy-one correct answers, 177 answers submitted.)

Mrs. Edmund Benson, 1013 West Franklin Street, Richmond, Va. (Seventy-one correct answers, 248 answers submitted.)

Bernard Gilpin, 922 St. Paul Street, Richmond, Va. (Seventy-one correct answers, 254 answers submitted.)

Mrs. A. F. Barbour, 361 Monroe Street, Yazoo City, Miss. (Seventy-one correct answers, 296 answers submitted.)

Franklin Walker, 2701 Frankport Avenue, Louisville, Ky. (Seventy-one correct answers, 298 answers submitted.)

Mrs. Frank Warren, 851 Sutcliff Avenue, Louisville, Ky. (Seventy-one correct answers, 300 answers submitted.)

Mrs. Robert Wheless, 309 Broadway, Yazoo City, Miss. (Seventy-one correct answers, 306 answers submitted.)

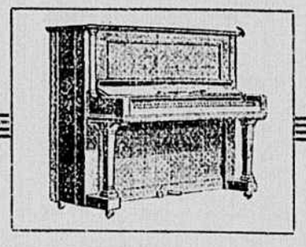
Mrs. Ada H. Campbell, 302 Spring Street, Atlanta, Ga. (Seventy-one correct answers, 309 answers submitted.)

Miss Jessie Cook, 715 West Thirty-first Street, Indianapolis, Ind. (Seventy-one correct answers, 316 answers submitted.)

Mrs. M. V. Beaumont, 725 Paul Jones Building, Louisville, Ky. (Seventy-one correct answers, 313 answers submitted.)

Notice.

Checks will be mailed within a few days to the winners.



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NORFOLK CITY COLLECTOR WEDS.

Leaves Norfolk in Auto After Midnight, Taking Fiancee and Brother Along.

Norfolk, Va., November 24.—City Collector Edward J. German and Miss Elizabeth Amy Dunn were married early to-day in North Carolina. Rev. Mr. Martin performed the ceremony.

The couple left Norfolk after midnight in an automobile, accompanied by Thomas H. Dunn, brother of the bride-elect, who witnessed the ceremony. They returned to Norfolk this afternoon.

$2.50 Baltimore and Return $2.50

First-class Excursion via York River Line Wednesday, November 26. New steamer "City of Richmond." Leave 5:30 P. M. Steamer train. Return limit November 29. Consult agents, 907 East Main.

STEALS 100 GALLONS OF WHISKEY

Thief Purloins That Much, but Officers Find It Before He Can Drink It.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Winston-Salem, N. C., November 24.—Two barrels, each containing fifty gallons of corn whiskey, shipped to J. D. Haviston by express by a wholesale house in Richmond and stolen from the depot at Advance Saturday night, were found two and a half miles from Advance, Sunday afternoon by county officers. A team was secured by the officers, and the whiskey was hauled back to the station at Advance. The officers arrested James Crews, a white man, alleged to have been implicated in breaking into the station and hauling the liquor away.

During their search for the stolen whiskey the officers learned that after taking the goods out of the depot the thief loaded it on a one-horse wagon, but he had not gone far before the vehicle broke down and a two-horse wagon was then secured. The two barrels were transferred to the wagon, where they were found.

SPECIAL EXCURSION RATES

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ACCOUNT VIRGINIA EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

Tickets will be open to the public, and sold for all regular trains on November 24th, 25th and 26th, and good for return passage until December 2, 1913. Four daily trains to Lynchburg—leave Richmond 6:15 A. M., 9:50 A. M., 3 P. M. and 9:20 P. M. Pullman parlor and sleeping cars, without change, on all trains except 6:15 A. M. train. On Wednesday, November 26th, a special VESTIBULED COACH has been arranged to leave Byrd Street Station on the 3 P. M. train for the accommodation of delegates and visitors attending the conference. This coach will be operated through from Richmond to Lynchburg without change. For reservations and any further information, apply at the company's office at 838 East Main Street, Richmond, Va. Phone Madison 487.

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