WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY

Tuesday, December 9, 1913.

W. F. Massey.

Growing Roses.

Richmond City: "During the past summer I tried to grow roses which I purchased from the florist. The bushes grew very little and bloomed scarcely any. They were of the two-year-old size. To prepare them for next summer, will it be well to cover the beds with cow manure or wait till later and use commercial fertilizer, and what kind? If you buy roses that have been started into growth and bloom in the greenhouse, you will seldom have them do much the first season. The best plants to buy are the two-year plants that have been potted and kept dormant till spring. These will grow and bloom much better than those that have been brought into a fine growth in the greenhouse. Then, too, roses to do well must be heavily fed, and there is nothing better for them than rotten cow manure used heavily. Cover the ground now well with cow manure, and dig it in in the spring. Then spray the roses to prevent mildew with formaldehyde solution, made at rate of one pint to thirty gallons of water.

Superb Strawberry.

Several are still asking about the superb strawberry. As I have several times said, this is about the best ever-bearing strawberry I have tried, and it is really ever bearing. There are two other varieties, Americus and Progressive, that are highly recommended. I expect to fruit Americus next spring.

Making a Fertilizer Mixture.

"Please inform me how I can make up a good fertilizer for corn, using wood ashes as a filler, and what change to make in it for potatoes?" In the first place, a good complete fertilizer mixture needs no filler. Fertilizer manufacturers use a filler to enable them to make a low-priced fertilizer to meet the demand from farmers for such. The 2-8-2 fertilizer, so generally bought and used, has about 750 pounds of perfectly worthless material added as a filler, and the farmer who buys this low-grade article pays for sacking and freighting that much sand, because he wants to get what he thinks is a cheap fertilizer, when, in fact, it is the most expensive, so far as the plant food in it is concerned.

Then you cannot use ashes as a filler in a mixture containing organic nitrogen, for the lime in the ashes will volatile the ammonia, and it will escape in the air. Then, too, as I have time and again said, you cannot make corn profitably by depending on fertilizer to make it. You should have had a winter cover of crimson clover on the land, and then you would have needed nothing in the way of fertilizer but a good application of acid phosphate. The best way to use any ashes you may have is to spread them broadcast on the land. Never mix ashes or lime in a fertilizer.

San Jose Scale Insect.

"I have some apple trees that are infested with the San Jose scale. What spray is best for destroying them, and when should it be done?" You can buy the concentrated lime-sulphur wash and dilute it, or you can make it yourself. Take thirty pounds of fresh lump lime and twenty pounds of sulphur and boil them together in twenty gallons of water for an hour or till the sulphur is dissolved and the dark brownish yellow combination is made. Then strain and add water enough to make sixty gallons. Spray the trees at once with this, for at this season the scale insects are not more than half grown and are more easily killed. Then spray again in the spring before the buds swell to make sure of getting at those missed in the fall. Or you can make a self-boiled wash by putting ten pounds of fresh lime in a barrel, and as it begins to slake, add ten pounds of sulphur, and the heat of the slaking will make the combination. This is not so concentrated as the boiling, but will answer very well where there are but few trees. Add water enough to the above to make fifty gallons.

Bad Handling of Manure.

Culpeper County: "I am hauling the manure from five horses and twelve cows out on the land and putting it in piles of one-third of a two-horse wagon-load in a pile. Should it be left in piles until it rots, or should it be scattered immediately?" It should not have been put in piles in the first place. Just sort of handling of manure is a waste of labor. The best and cheapest and most effective way is to load the manure on a manure spreader and have it put out and leave it spread. That does away with the handling of the manure and half the labor. What manure you have in piles should be spread at once. It will heat and increase in the piles, and in a place will make grass where grass will grow too rank, and large it will pay you to get a good manure spreader.

A Broomsedge Field.

"On one field on my farm, which I have recently bought, there is a heavy growth of broomsedge. I wish to plow this field now for corn in the spring. What kind of commercial fertilizer shall I use, and how much lime? The field has been lying uncultivated for about seven years." Break the land well, and turn the broomsedge under, and then spread on 1000 pounds of slaked lime an acre and harrow it in. It would have been better to have done this earlier, and to have sown rye on the land as a winter cover, to be turned under in the early spring. Now, what sort of fertilizer you should use I cannot say definitely, unless I knew the need of your soil. As a rule, I do not think that the Culpeper soils generally need potash, and the organic matter from the broomsedge will help. Give the corn about 400 pounds of acid phosphate broadcast, and sow cowpeas among it at the last working.

Chrysanthemums and Other Plants.

"The women are certainly holding me to my promise to help them in their flower gardens. "I read all your articles in regard to garden and flowers in my father's paper, and I will be glad to have you tell me how to make a good fertilizer for my chrysanthemums next summer, as they have not done as well this fall as I could wish, and I wish to grow some in pots. Will it be all right to mix lime and ashes with the manure? When you take up your dahlias when do you put them out again?" The chrysanthemum is a very gross feeder, and to make strong plants and large flowers, the soil must be made very rich. Then, as the buds form in the fall, the plants should have liquid manure applied to them once a week. The best manure is old rotten cow manure, and, as you say your soil is sandy, put the manure on top the ground as a mulch all between the plants, and it will feed down with the rains and keep the soil moist. To grow the plants in pots, you should start them in small pots and shift to a size larger as the roots fill the pot, till you get them into about an eight-inch pot. Then let that pot get well filled with roots and then use liquid manure on them. But do not apply liquid manure till the soil in the pot is pretty well occupied by the roots, as it may sour the soil before that. Always apply liquid manure after the plants have been watered with clear water, and when you water, give enough to go clear through the pot. I take up dahlias after the tops have been frosted, and bury them outside, and take up and plant in the spring after frost is over. Never mix lime or ashes in manure.

Applying Fertilizer to Oats.

"I am following land, from which I cut a fine crop of pea-vine hay, with oats. My intention was to apply 200 pounds of Thomas phosphate and fifty pounds of muriate of potash an acre, well-mixed before applying. Can this be successfully applied after the oats are well up?"

Of course it would have been somewhat better to have applied the fertilizer with the oats, but it can still be spread by taking up the hoes of a wheat drill and using the fertilizer attachment. In fact, I am not sure but this will be somewhat better than putting it in with the seed, when you use that much muriate of potash, for its caustic nature might have done some harm in contact with the seed. While some potash may be needed on your land, I am rather of the opinion that half the amount you name would be plenty for oats.

Apples in North Carolina.

Warren County, N. C.: "I read your columns in The Times-Dispatch with a great deal of interest. When The Times-Dispatch comes I am sure to read what you have to say. Please advise me what you think of planting an apple orchard here for commercial purposes as an investment. If you think it would turn out to be profitable, what varieties would you plant?" On good land in Warren I believe that to a limited extent apples can be made profitable if the trees are well grown, properly sprayed and pruned and the soil kept fertile. You can grow the summer apples like Yellow Transparent and Red Astrakan and the fall apples, Bonum, Grimes's Golden, and later the Winesap, Stayman and Rome Beauty. McCuller's Winter has done well for me a good way south of you. It is a North Carolina apple, but you can hardly grow very late keepers without cold storage.

PAST YEAR SHOWS FINANCIAL PROFIT

According to Comptroller's Report, You Should Be 22 Cents Richer Than in 1912.

AVERAGE SAVINGS IS $265

Forty-Five Per Cent of Banks Now Pay Interest on Deposits. Big Export Trade.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Washington, December 8.—Each individual in the United States is theoritically 22 cents richer this year than last, according to the annual report of the Comptroller of the Currency, issued to-day.

The total of actual money now in the country, including the amount held in reserve in the United States Treasury, is $3,720,070,016, and if this stupendous amount of circulating medium were equally divided among every man, woman and child within the confines of the United States, each would have $34.56. Last year this per capita average was $34.34. This is the highest per capita average yet attained, excepting in the years of 1908 and 1909, when it reached $34.72 and $34.95 respectively.

Of the total amount of circulating medium, consisting of specie, legal tenders and national bank notes, $356,331,567 is held in the Treasury, the remainder, $3,363,738,449, being in actual circulation. Of this latter amount, 6.2 per cent is included in the assets of national, State and private banks, leaving 53.8 per cent with the public at large.

What Government Owes.

Deducting the cash in the Treasury, the United States government owed on June 30, of this year, $1,028,341,055, of which $965,766,519 was interest bearing at an average rate of 2.36 per cent.

By reason of the strong competition for deposits, and incidentally the payment of higher rates of interest on savings than on other accounts on the part of trust companies and other State banking institutions, the establishment of savings departments on the payment of interest on savings accounts by national banks has notably increased, until at the present time about 45 per cent of the banks have taken that action, as shown by the reports relating to the number and volume of savings accounts.

The number of savings depositors, or savings deposit accounts, increased from 2,773,984 on November 12, 1912, to 3,020,831 on August 9, 1913, and funds to the credit of these depositors from $775,481,362 in November, 1912, to $824,476,995 in June last, although by August 9 there was a decline as in the case of other deposits, when the amount of these accounts had fallen to $820,639,410. Notwithstanding this decline in volume there was a net increase during the year in savings accounts of $44,158,049.

The average amount of savings deposits, based on the returns for the year, is shown to have been $808,964,471, representing approximately 13.66 per cent of the average of all individual deposits. The average savings account is estimated at $265.

Based on the August 8 returns, the greatest amount, as well as the highest percentage of savings deposits, was held by national banks located in the Eastern States. In this section 17.76 per cent of all deposits are savings. The percentage in the banks in the Southern States is 15.38, Middle Western States, 13.29; the New England States, 12.21, and the Pacific States, including Hawaii, 11.02.

Exports Exceed Imports.

According to the report, our foreign commerce in merchandise during the past year aggregated $4,278,862,383, the exports amounting to $2,465,884,149, the imports to $1,812,978,235, or less by $652,905,915 than the volume of exports. Foreign trade for the year exceeded the volume in 1912 by $421,275,010. In addition to the trade in merchandise, gold was exported to the amount of $77,782,622, or $8,568,597 in excess of the imports. Silver exports amounted to $71,614,311, or $30,345,795 in excess of the imports.

Thus the exports of gold and silver combined exceeded the imports of these metals for the year by $38,914,392.

Banks on Increase.

As the commerce of the country increases, so does the number of banks upon which most of the commercial transactions are dependent, and the report shows that during the past year 172 new banks of all kinds, with a combined authorized capital of $10,175,000 were added to the banking system, bringing the total of banks now in operation up to 7,514. Of the 10,457 banks chartered during the existence of the national banking system, 2,437 have been placed in voluntary liquidation, and 506 in the hands of the receivers.

In addition to the capital of banks organized during the year, there was an increase in the capital of banks organized prior thereto of $20,260,000, making the gross increase $30,435,000, but by reason of deductions of capital, voluntary liquidations and failures, the net increase was but $15,478,756, the authorized capital stock of all banks at the close of the year standing at $1,965,534,175.

Based on capital and surplus the gross earnings of national banks during the year were greater by over 2 per cent than during the prior year. While there has been a notable depreciation in the market value on standard and other securities, necessitating a cut in the undivided profit account of the banks, the shareholders of national banks received dividends at the average rate of 11.1 per cent, as against an average of 11.61 per cent for the prior five years.

JURY DISAGREES.

Stands Six for Conviction and Six for Acquittal in Assault Case.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Danville, Va., December 8.—After several hours' deliberation, a jury trying William Hall in the Corporation Court to-day for assaulting Jessie Hill, a half-witted white woman, reported that it could not agree.

The jury stood six for conviction and six for acquittal. The evidence was very conflicting.

Hall was remanded to jail, and will be tried again at the March term.

Tribute to Confederate.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Crewe, Va., December 8.—Memorial services were held in Pryor Memorial Presbyterian Church on Sunday evening for Dr. D. W. Gills. Resolutions of respect were read by Henry E. Lee, an elder of the church. A beautiful eulogy was read by the pastor, Rev. W. W. Bain.

The Daughters of the Confederacy came in in a body bearing an evergreen wreath as a tribute. A few old comrades-in-arms followed the Daughters. A sermon on death was preached by the pastor.

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NEWS OF SOUTH RICHMOND

INCREASE IN TAXPAYERS

Deputy Treasurer Says More Southsiders Have Paid Up This Year.

Although no definite figures could be given out yesterday, Deputy City Treasurer J. W. Bronaugh, Jr., said that there would be a considerable increase over last year in the number of qualified voters on the Southside. The voting strength of South Richmond in the last election was about 900, and it is expected that the number of ballots cast in the spring primary will equal or surpass this number.

This is the last day in which taxes may be paid, in order to qualify as a voter in the spring primary. The offices of Deputy City Treasurer Bronaugh, in the Leader Building, Tenth and Hull Streets, will remain open until 7 o'clock to-night. Commissioner of Revenue Samuel R. Owens will also be at his office until 7 o'clock to assess any one who has not paid taxes before.

The joint committees of the South Richmond and Chesterfield Business Men's Association and the South Richmond Democratic Club have been active in the past ten days in urging delinquents to pay their taxes, by means of house-to-house canvassing and the sending of letters.

Begin Meyer Suit.

Trial in the suit of Samuel Meyer against the Virginia Railway and Power Company was begun yesterday in Hustings Court, Part II. A number of witnesses were examined, and a verdict is expected to be returned to-day.

The suit of R. L. Jones, administrator of William G. Jones, was continued until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock. The case was opened on Friday morning, and on Saturday night the examination of witnesses had not been concluded. It bids fair to be one of the longest suits ever heard in Hustings Court, Part II.

To Call Rector.

At a meeting of the vestry to-night at 8 o'clock in the vestry-room, a rector will be called for Meade Memorial Episcopal Church. Several names are under consideration, and if one declines, another will be called. No action was taken on the question at the meeting of the vestry Sunday morning.

Small Fire Calls Company.

A trivial blaze in the home of J. L. Tucker, 413 West Fourteenth Street, yesterday morning about 10 o'clock called out Engine Company No. 13 and Truck No. 5. The fire was caused by fire falling on a rug. Captain Herman Cosby says that much time and unnecessary labor could be saved if the public would only use the telephone where there is a small fire instead of calling out the whole department. Captain Cosby again requests that his suggestion be heeded.

To Investigate Shooting.

An investigation will be made by Squire S. G. Cowan this morning in the shooting affair at Midlothian on Saturday night in which Thomas Howard colored, was shot and seriously wounded. Robert Wilkes, his assailant, is now lodged in the City Jail, where his injuries are being treated. It was said at the Memorial Hospital yesterday, where the negro was taken on Sunday afternoon, that Howard would recover.

Car Runs Amuck.

The air brakes failing to work, a Richmond and Petersburg electric car left the track at 8:10 o'clock yesterday morning when it started to round the curve at Seventh and Hull Streets. The forward truck went down Hull Street, striking the curbing and breaking some of the glass. It was an articulated car, and the coupling was broken. The rear part of the car remained on the track. Traffic was delayed for about forty minutes.

To Give Baskets to Poor.

Arrangements will be made for distributing baskets to the poor on Christmas Day at a meeting of the Whatsoever Circle of King's Daughters to-night at 8 o'clock in the Powhatan School. The provisions have been donated by the school children of the Southside. Plans will also be made for the part South Richmond will take in the community Christmas tree. This will be one of the most important sessions of the Circle this year, and the members are urged to be present.

Big Class Adoption.

Indianola Tribe of Red Men held a big class adoption last night in Fraternal Hall, about thirty candidates being initiated into the order. Delegations were present from Tippecanoe and Powhatan Tribes, of Petersburg, and Keoughtan Tribe, of Ettrick. Following the business session speeches were made and refreshments served.

Personal Mention.

Mrs. P. W. Jones, of 1300 Bainbridge Street, who has undergone two serious operations at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, is very much improved.

Benjamin Nunnally continues ill at his home on Tenth Street.

Mrs. McWhorter is the guest of her daughter, Mrs. McFaden, of 1503 Porter Street.

J. W. Reams of Florence, S. C., was the recent guest of friends in South Richmond.

CONVICTS NOT WANTED.

Proposal to Establish Work Farm in Bedford Meets Opposition.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Lynchburg, Va., December 8.—It was learned to-day that Bedford County residents, who live in the vicinity of the farm purchased by the city of Lynchburg, and upon which it is designed to establish a work farm for city convicts, will fight the establishment of the institution in that neighborhood.

It was pointed out by the owner of a farm adjacent to the farm bought by the city that the work farm will be located near Shiloh Church, and that some of the best people of that section of Bedford County live but short distances from the farm, and to use it for convicts will be obnoxious to the church as well as to the people.

While it is understood that no active steps have been taken to fight the location of the farm near Clay's, it is thought there will be some concert action by the Bedford County people in an effort to block the city.

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Handsome Manicure Sets, $1.19 to $1.47.

Smoking Sets to please the most fastidious, from 79c to $2.50.

Jewel Cases, in gold and silver, from 39c to $2.39.

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