# WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY

Friday, December 19, 1913.

W. F. Massey.

**Finding What the Soil Needs.**

"I notice that you reply to an inquirer who wanted to know where he could have his soil analyzed, that an analysis would be of little use to him, since it would not indicate anything in regard to the availability of the plant food in the soil. This being the case, how is a man to determine what his soil really needs? It might be rich in potash and nitrogen, and be almost barren in phosphorus. In fact, a man might try to improve his land with a fertilizer which would be a waste of time and money to apply. This is an important matter, and a question that directly bears upon every man engaged in farming." All of which is very true. But we do know in a general way some of the needs of the different classes of soils. We know that the red clays of the Southern uplands have an inexhaustible store of potash in an insoluble form, derived from the feldspathic rocks from which these soils were formed. We know, too, that the good farmer, who maintains and increases the organic decay in his soil, and times it occasionally, can bring this potash into use as fast as needed by crops. We know, too, that the sandy soils of the coast region, and especially the reclaimed swamp lands, are deficient in potash, though the swamp soils contain a great deal of potential nitrogen, and are also deficient in phosphorus. In fact, as a rule, all of our old cultivated soils are more deficient in phosphorus than any other plant food. We know, too, that if we farm aright, we can get all the nitrogen we need without buying any in a fertilizer, and we know that all other forms of plant food besides the phosphorus, nitrogen and potassium are in abundance in all our soils, and that we do not have to add iron or sulphur or other things that plants do use. But any careful farmer can study the special needs of his soil by plot experiments on it. Having a series of plots of equal size, he can plant one without any treatment as a check plot, and then on another plot use some carrier of phosphorus only; on another potash only; on another nitrogen only. Then one with a combination of nitrogen and potash, nitrogen and phosphoric acid, and then combinations of phosphoric acid and potash, and then all three in different percentages. By studying the crops grown and repeating them two or three years on the same plots, he can form a far better idea of what his land needs, or does not need, than he can from any analysis. But we already know enough, as I have said, in a general way, to know that the farmer who cultivates his land in a good rotation, bringing the legume crops often on the land, and using them either as manure or feed for stock, will never in grain or cotton farming need to buy anything for the red clay uplands but some carrier of phosphorus, and in the coast lands phosphorus and potassium. A chemical analysis might help the farmer to know what his soil actually contains, but it will not help him in the supplying of fertilizers, as, though the plant food may be there, it may be in such a form that it cannot be gotten at.

**Shredding Stover.**

"I have five acres of good corn, which I cut and shocked four weeks ago, and want to have it shredded. It was planted late, and the stalks are green yet, and I do not believe it will cure till Christmas. My early corn is ready for shredding, but I want to make one job of the whole. Would the late corn sliver damage very much to shred it now? How would it do to mix the early and late? I have not barn room enough to store it without shredding, nor stock enough to consume it." If you cut the late corn and mix it with the dry corn stover I think that it will cure all right. It may heat some after being put in the barn, but if you let it alone it will cure. But do not go to turning it to stop the heating, for you will let in the germs of mold, and will spoil it. I suppose that you have more of the early than the late corn, and by mixing a good lot of the dry with that not so dry, it will absorb the moisture and cure the fodder.

**Improving Deep Sandy Soil.**

"Can you tell me how to improve upland that has no clay subsoil? We have some that seems to be sandy all the way down." Down in the pine barrens of North Carolina there is just such a soil. At Pinehurst Mr. Tufts opened up a farm on this sand. He had the advantage of a great herd of cows, fed on bought food, but he has done as much with the getting of organic decay from cowpeas as with the manure. Six years ago the land would not make corn over knee high, but since that all Mr. Tufts has made ninety bushels of corn an acre on some of it. It is simply a matter of getting decayed vegetable matter into it and maintaining the supply, for in that sandy the organic matter is very rapidly burnt up and must be continually renewed. It is not so much the amount of plant food, but the getting of this humus material makes the soil more retentive of moisture, and warmer, because of the darkened color. While Mr. Tufts had the advantage of a large herd of cows to furnish manure, the same thing can be done through the growth of peas and using them to promote the organic decay, as I have stated, and returning the manure to the soil. Aided by a liberal use of acid phosphate and potash, the peas will enable the farmer to rapidly increase the productiveness of such soil, and when you can get crimson clover to catch and hold the nitrates that would leach out in winter, you can soon get sandy land into a productive state. But land of this sort is naturally leachy, and soon parts with its plant food, and the maintenance of the vegetable matter must be the main interest of the farmer on such land. A rotation of corn, with peas among it, oats followed by peas, cotton with crimson clover, and rye sown at first picking, all the manure of the farm spread on this, and turned under for corn again, will greatly increase the humus in the soil and the productiveness of the land.

**A Case of Heaves.**

"You will pardon me for long delay in thanking you for advice in regard to my pet horse. She was a fine bay and a beauty, but was too far gone for any relief, and we had to chloroform her. Now I have a horse that breathes hard and coughs. I am told he has the heaves. He is about fifteen years old, and the only one I have left. I will be grateful for any remedy you can suggest leading to a cure?" Heaves is a disease usually cause by improper feeding, especially feeding dusty hay, and is most common in horses that are greedy feeders. When heaves has gotten chronic there is really no cure for it. Much can be done to alleviate the suffering of the animal. The stable and the food must be made free from dust. In feeding, the hay should be sprinkled with water to prevent dust. Give nutritious and easily digested food and not much of a bulky nature. Run on a pasture as much as is practicable. As medicine, use Fowler's solution of arsenic, beginning with two teaspoonfuls in the food three times a day, and increasing to a tablespoonful three times a day, and continue for two or three months, unless symptoms of arsenical poison appear. Medicines that promote digestion will be good, but you can hardly hope for a permanent cure of heaves.

**Alfalfa in a Farm Rotation.**

"Cannot alfalfa be taken in as a regular part of a farm rotation of crops?" It could, by lengthening the rotation, for it would hardly pay to treat alfalfa as an annual or biennial crop. You could make a rotation of corn, with peas sown among it, followed by wheat or winter oats, and these by peas, to be turned under and limed for the alfalfa in August. Then run the alfalfa for three years, and back to corn and repeat.

This would make a five-year rotation and would be excellent for a farm mainly devoted to stock. It would quite rapidly increase the humus content in the soil and the nitrogen as well, as there would be nitrogen-fixing crops every year on each yield, and the whole soil would soon get completely inoculated for the alfalfa. This means taking into consideration that all the land of the farm is suited to alfalfa, which will rarely be the case. But as a really practicable matter and a rapid means for the improvement of the soil I would prefer a shorter rotation, using cowpeas and Crimson clover as the legumes, while I would grow alfalfa on special lots rather than in the general rotation of the farm. While alfalfa will give large crops of forage, it usually takes a great deal more time and expense to get the feed from cowpeas, and there is very little difference between the feeding value of the hay made from cowpeas and that made from alfalfa, and in the same length of time I am sure that I can get as much from peas as from alfalfa. Cowpea hay, properly cured, is very near as good as alfalfa hay, and can be made in a few weeks, while it takes a year to get a crop from alfalfa. I do not mean to discourage the efforts to grow alfalfa, but on most of our farms we can grow the peas with a great deal more certainty, and can improve the land more rapidly with a short rotation with peas and Crimson clover as the legume crops.

Any rotation of crops should be devised in reference to the main money crop of the farm or section. This crop should have the place in the rotation where the conditions are best suited to its development and yield, while at the same time looking after the maintenance and increase of the productivity of the soil for all the crops grown. Single cropping is always bad, while specialized farming is good.

**Buying for Looks.**

To show how city people buy by the looks of fruit rather than quality, a statement in a New York paper shows very well. A grower who has a stand in a Boston market-house sold big Wolf River apples for 25 cents each, the apples weighing over a pound each. This Wolf River apple is a very large and showy apple, bright striped red, but is of poor eating quality. Ben Davis apples sell in the cities mainly because of their beauty, for the average city buyer knows nothing about varieties and their quality, and will take Ben Davis in preference to Grimes Golden right alongside of it, because the Ben Davis is larger and red, though the Grimes is a far better quality. Perhaps the increased abundance of the fruit shows may gradually educate city people to the differences in the quality of apples. The show this month at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore, though not quite so large as last year, was of remarkably fine quality, and the giving to visitors specimens of the different varieties of apples may gradually make the city people acquainted with the quality of the various kinds on the market.


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# REPORT TO WILSON ON CARABAO DINNER

Daniels and Garrison Refuse to Talk Until President Is Ready to Act.

## REPRIMANDS ARE EXPECTED

Discontinuance of Such Proceedings in Future Probably Will Be Advised.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Washington, December 18.—Secretary of War Garrison and Secretary of the Navy Daniels made a report to-day to the President on the singing and doings of the Carabao Society at its recent dinner.

Secretary of War Garrison had a talk to-day with the President, but both he and the Secretary of the Navy say that nothing can be done or will be done until after the President shall have digested the report.

Most army and navy officers and especially those closest to the heads of departments are of the opinion that this will be the basis of action and the action itself:

1. The Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of War have agreed with the President that there was criticism of superior officers, including the administration itself in the skits referring to the Filipinos and the government's Philippine policy.

2. That all concerned were given an opportunity to exculpate themselves, and they have availed themselves of that opportunity promptly, and have disclaimed intention to offend.

3. That under the circumstances it is probable that a letter will be issued by the Secretary of the Navy and one by the Secretary of War "by order of the President," calling attention of officers of the army and navy who were at the banquet to the character of the offense as substantially stated by Secretary Daniels to be "criticism of superior officers."

4. That this letter will be spread on the army and navy minutes and will recite the particular things done, and advise the discontinuance of such proceedings at functions in which army and navy men participate.

**Representatives of Government.**

It is to be pointed out to army and navy men that they cannot divest themselves anywhere or at any time of their quality of being representatives of the government, and to that extent that they are not to put themselves in unseemly opposition to what the government thinks is a proper policy or a proper line of action in any subject.

No one expects that "disciplinary measures" will be resorted to by the Secretary of the Navy or by the Secretary of War.

Not even the highest officials, however, care to express an opinion as to what view the President may take of the attitude of the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of War.

One of the navy officers said to-day that there is no such thing as treason or lese majeste applicable to social functions at which army and navy officers may or may not make a mistake, and that the reprimands spread on the minutes would in all reason be the ultimate action of even the highest authorities.

# MANY TRANSFERS OF ARMY OFFICERS

Several Important Changes of Men of High Rank Announced at Washington.

Washington, December 18.—Important changes in commands of high ranking officers of the army were announced to-day as follows:

Major-General Thomas H. Barry, commanding the Eastern Department, with headquarters at Governor's Island, N. Y., goes to the Philippines Department in March to relieve Major-General J. Franklin Bell, who will return to the United States in May.

Major-General William H. Carter, commanding the Second Division, now in camp in Texas, goes to the Hawaiian Department to relieve Brigadier-General Frederick E. Funston, who, in April, will return to the United States for assignment to a brigade command here.

Brigadier-General Clarence R. Edwards, commanding the Fourth Brigade in the maneuvre camp in Texas, goes to Hawaii to relieve Brigadier-General M. M. Macomb, commanding the First Hawaiian Brigade. General Macomb comes to Washington to relieve Brigadier-General Hunter Liggett as president of the Army War College. General Liggett will take General Edwards's brigade.

Brigadier-General John G. Pershing, recently relieved from command of the Department of Mindanao, and now on his way home, goes to command the Eighth Brigade at the Presidio of San Francisco, relieving Brigadier-General Ramsay D. Potts, who goes to the Seventh Brigade at Vancouver Barracks.

Brigadier-General John P. Wisser, commanding the Fourth Brigade in the Second Division, goes to command the Pacific Coast Artillery District.

Brigadier-General Charles J. Bailey, at Fort Worden, Wash., goes to command the North Atlantic Coast Artilly District at Fort Totten, N. Y., relieving Colonel J. B. White.

Major-General Franklin Bell, when relieved of command in the Philippines, will take command of the Second Infantry Division at Texas City, succeeding Major-General W. H. Carter.

Brigadier-General Thomas E. Davis, commanding the Fifth Infantry Brigade at Galveston, will take command of the Sixth at the same place.

The four-year detail of Major General Leonard Wood, as chief of staff of the army will expire April 22 next. Secretary Garrison has announced that General Wood will relinquish the office. There has been some speculation at the department as to what assignment General Wood will receive. It was suggested in some quarters that the command of the Department of the East, from which Major-General Barry will be relieved next March, would be an assignment for the retiring chief of staff in keeping with his present high position.

It was noted that the orders issued to-day recognize the increased importance of the artillery districts of the country, to which, for the first time, general officers are to be assigned, Brigadier-General Wisser going to the Pacific Coast, and Brigadier-General Bailey to the North Atlantic District.


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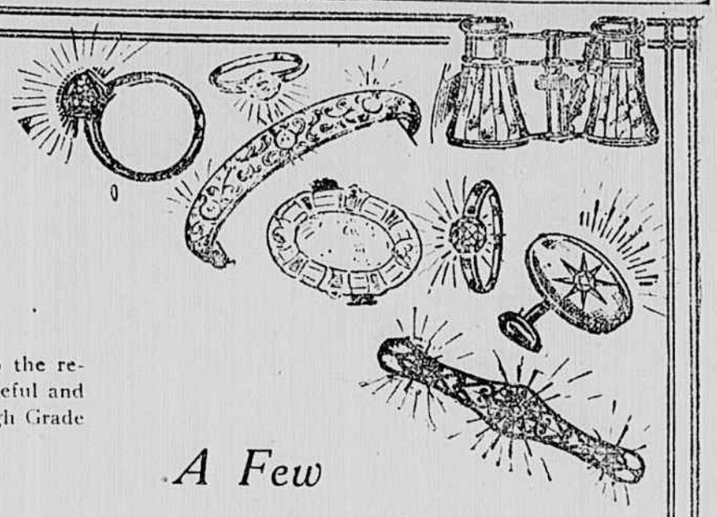

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# CABINET DINNER AT WHITE HOUSE

President and Mrs. Wilson Entertain at First State Function of Season.

Washington, December 18.—The first Cabinet dinner under the present administration was given by the President and Mrs. Wilson at the White House to-night. Besides members of the Cabinet and their wives or daughters, the Vice-President and Mrs. Marshall, Secretary Tumulty and some close friends of the Wilson family were invited. Covers were laid for fifty.

Outside of the Cabinet circle, the guests included Mayor-elect John Purroy Mitchel, of New York, and Mrs. Mitchel; Chairman William F. McCombs, of the Democratic National Committee, and Mrs. McCombs; President Harry A. Garfield, of Williams College, and Mrs. Garfield; Prof. Henry B. Fine, of Princeton University, and Mrs. Fine; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Pulitzer, of New York; Henry B. Thompson, of Wilmington, Del.; Thomas D. and David B. Jones, of Chicago, all three trustees of Princeton University when Mr. Wilson was president there, and their wives, and Miss Jones; Robert Bridges, of New York, a classmate of the President at Princeton; Mrs. William R. Hall, of Washington; Colonel W. W. Harts, military aide to the President; Dr. Cary T. Grayson, U. S. N., and Miss Annie Armstrong, of Princeton; Thomas De Coursey Ruth, Miss Marion David and Charles Vardell, the last four of whom, together with Miss Margaret Wilson, furnished the musical program that followed the dinner. The guests were pleasantly surprised by Miss Margaret Wilson, the eldest daughter of the President, singing a cycle of songs.

Among the songs she sang were "My Lovely Celia" and "Oh My Laddies." Several French and German songs were included in her repertoire also.

The dinner was served in the State dining-room, which was decorated with ward and enchantress carnations and maiden-hair ferns.

It was the first State function of the season, and is to be followed by dinners by Cabinet members to the President and the usual official receptions. Announcement was made to-day, however, that the diplomatic reception, scheduled for January 6, will be postponed on account of the President's absence on his vacation. It had previously been announced that the customary New Year's reception had been abandoned on this account.


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ROUNTREE'S


### THREE MEN HURT BY BLAST.

**Delayed Explosion at Granite Quarry Results in Severe Injuries.**

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Salisbury, N. C., December 18.—As a result of a delay blast at Byrd Brothers' granite quarry at Faith, Rowan County, late this afternoon, Walter Klutz has one arm broken in three places, his shoulder badly injured, besides other bruises on the body; Lewis Brown has one arm broken, his head badly mashed and one eye probably gone, and Arthur Klutz was slightly injured by the explosion. The young men were employed in the quarry, and loaded two charges of black powder. Only one fired. The men attempted to drill out the delayed charge when the accident occurred. Physicians were summoned from Salisbury to attend the injured men.

### CHRISTMAS GOES "WET."

**Norfolk and Western Has to Run Special to Cure for Holiday Thirst.**

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Bristol, Va., December 18.—Whiskey shipments have increased in volume with the approach of the holidays until the railways can hardly accommodate the business on their regular trains. The Norfolk and Western Railway sent out the first special express train from here to-day. This service will be kept up in order to take care of whiskey shipments and other Christmas expressage in Virginia territory.

### RATE HEARING ENDS.

**Chairman Clark Gives Opposing Sides Till January 15 to File Briefs.**

Greensboro, N. C., December 18.—The hearing before Chairman E. E. Clark, of the Interstate Commerce Commission, on application of North Carolina and the carriers for relief from the long and short haul provision of the commerce law to put into effect certain freight rate reductions agreed to between the carriers and the State, and the intervening petition of Virginia cities for proportionately lower rates, ended this afternoon. Chairman Clark gave until January 15 for the filing of briefs by North Carolina and the Virginia cities.

During to-day's session, the Seaboard Air Line Railway, through General Counsel L. R. Watts, joined with the Southern Railway in urging the commission to grant the reduced rates. General Counsel Watts's statement recited "that on account of the unprecedentedly low freight rates enjoyed by Virginia cities, the new rates proposed for North Carolina are necessarily to relieve the people of the State from the flagrantly unjust discrimination which has so long prevailed in favor of Virginia cities, to the lasting injury of their North Carolina competitors."

### FARMERS INDORSE LEGISLATION.

**Want Secretary of Treasury to Extend Crop Loans Till March 1.**

Shelby, N. C., December 18.—Having indorsed proposed legislation aimed at race segregation in rural communities, abolished its summer meeting, and requested the State Attorney-General to prepare necessary forms for clerks of the court in putting into effect the Torrens system of guaranteeing titles on January 1, and the Secretary of the Treasury to extend the time of his crop loans until March 1, the North Carolina Farmers' Union adjourned its convention here to-night.

Reports of officers show better organization and more stable financial condition. But nine of the 100 counties of the State are without local unions now. Old officers were re-elected with the exception of the executive committee. These are as follows: president, H. Q. Alexander; vice-president, J. M. Templeton; lecturer and treasurer, E. C. Faires; executive committee, C. C. Wright, W. B. Gibson, W. H. Moore, S. H. Hobbs and Editor Clarence Poe, of the Progressive Farmer.


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