

WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY



Growing Spanish and Italian Onions. Every one has noticed the large yellow onions imported in small crates from Spain. These are the Denia onions, and a variety of these is growing in this country under the name of Prizetaker. Then there are also some very large onions of the Italian variety. The largest of these is the white onion called Giant Gibraltar. These large onions are produced by a different system of cultivation. I sow the seed in a cold frame under the double-glazed sashes in January. These seeds will produce plants that in March will be as large as an ordinary lead pencil. They are then transplanted to the open ground in soil that has been very heavily fertilized, or about 1,500 pounds an acre of a fertilizer analyzing 7-6-5 in nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. In transplanting, the roots are slightly clipped, and the tops, too, and they are set in very shallow furrows. This method makes very large onions. I had some Giant Gibraltar onions sent me this fall, grown in this way in Colorado, which weighed nearly two pounds each. In the lower South the seed can be sown outside in September and transplanted later. I have had them sent to me from New Mexico, grown from fall sowing, that weighed over a pound each.

The High Cost of Living.

The investigations of the Department of Agriculture show that the farmers and truckers are not responsible for the high cost of perishable products to the consumer. A careful analysis of the present system indicates that only 33 to 35 per cent of the price the consumer pays for perishable products reaches the producer. Transportation takes 25 per cent, commission 5 to 10 per cent, and the dealers make from 10 to 100 per cent profit. It is evident that some means is needed to bring the producer and the consumer closer together. Some years ago a lady in Western North Carolina wrote to me that she kept good Jersey cows and made gilt-edged butter, but that the small hotels in Asheville seemed to prefer Armour's lard, and she could not get a fair price for butter. She said that she would be satisfied with a uniform price of 25 cents a pound. As I was paying 35 cents in Raleigh, I wrote her to send me twenty-five pounds, and I would see what the express rates would add to the price. She sent the butter, neatly wrapped each block in waxed paper and a veneer folder and all packed in a light crate. When it was received at the express office, the president of one of the women's colleges was present, and I showed him a cake of the butter and he asked me to let him have the print for trial.

I took the remaining prints home and found the butter excellent. After using it, I wrote to the lady for twenty-five pounds more. She replied that she was sorry, but that Dr. Dinwiddie, who was taking all she made, had at least opened her a market, and I have often thought that if farmers understood the value of their perishable products, a farmer putting an ad in a city paper, stating that he can furnish regularly to city customers certain products in general demand, would find in the regularity of the parcel post, establish a regular trade with the city people to his and their advantage, cutting out the middleman and the commission merchant, and the farmer could get a better price and the consumer pay less. The development of the parcel post is certain to open up great opportunities for the country producer. It is worth simply let city people know what he can supply regularly and at what price by post. I throw this out as a suggestion of one way to get more than 25 cents of the dollar the consumer now pays.

Lime for the Cotton.

I have some crimson clover, which I intend to turn for cotton and plant the cotton on the level. Will an application of lime be of benefit to the cotton after plowing under the clover? If your land has never been limed, it is probably acid and the turning under of the clover will increase the acidity. Experiments I have shown that liming greatly helps the cotton crop and the yield was largely increased. One station reports an increase from a small crop to over 1,700 pounds of seed cotton per acre. It is always advisable to spread and harrow in some lime after plowing under a green growth.

I have been told that applying lime before planting corn will make the corn better. This is true. This same query has come up before. I have limed land many years before planting corn, and never had any such results. But I always had a sod to turn for the corn. On land deficient in organic decay or humus, as we call it, there might be some such result, but even then I think it doubtful if the soil was acid and needed lime. But as I have often said, you must remember that we do not use lime as a fertilizer, and only on land that evidently needs sweetening, or after turning under a green crop. Land that has never been limed and has gotten into an acid condition will often show marked results in the crop from a liming, and the farmer is then too apt to conclude that he can get the same results by continuous liming, and he will soon find

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Send list of materials needed and see what we can save you. We make no charge for giving complete figures for material for any kind of building. Write for Estimate Blanks; they are free.

News of Petersburg

The Times-Dispatch Bureau, 5 Bolling Street, (Phone 1435).

Petersburg, Va., December 24.

The Sir Knights of Appomattox Commandery, Knights Templar, in accordance with their annual custom will assemble in their asylum at noon to-morrow and participate with the Templar hosts the Templar's Christmas observance. Commander Alex. Bryant will preside, and the toast to the grand master of the order and his response will be read and approved.

A Brilliant Meteor.

A meteor of large size and great brilliancy passed in a northwesterly direction over this section last night between 7 and 8 o'clock. Its color is described as bluish white, and it was followed by a long fiery trail. The night was cloudy and dark, and the brilliancy of the meteor illuminated the country until its disappearance in the distance.

Officers Elected.

The Philadelphia Class of the Second Baptist Church, at their meeting this week elected the following officers: president, Miss Ida Pope; vice-president, Miss Audrey Rainey; secretary, Mrs. E. S. Wheeler; treasurer, Miss Julia Williams; press reporter, Mrs. J. M. Elliott.

The Orphans Remembered.

An officer of Petersburg Aerle of Eagles last night visited the Female

Orphan Asylum and presented each of the children with a crisp new dollar bill, donated by the Aerle. And the matron was not overlooked. The Petersburg Lodge of Moose, also, remembered the orphans in like manner. To-morrow the Lodge of Elks will entertain the orphans at the Elks' Home, with a delightful program, and will present to each a handsome present, including good things.

All Had Pistols.

Five negroes were arrested by the police to-day for intoxication and disorderly conduct. On being searched at the stationhouse each one was found to be in possession of a loaded pistol. They will get their sentences on Friday morning. Another negro, C. A. James, was sentenced to jail for four months this morning for drawing a pistol on a woman.

First Visit in Thirty Years.

Among those who are returning to their old homes to spend the holidays is Matthew E. Cousins, of Halifax, N. C., a merchant and farmer. Mr. Cousins is a native of Dinwiddie County, which he left in 1833. He is visiting Petersburg for the first time in thirty years. He recognizes the old landmarks, but is greatly surprised at the general improvement of the city since he was last here.

Horse Stolen and Recovered.

Thomas Allen, a colored farmer of Prince George County, came to town to-day and led his horse in an alley downtown. Later, when he returned,



Christmas Greetings



Walter D. Moses & Co.
103 East Broad Street
Oldest Music House in Virginia and North Carolina

THE members of the largest family in Richmond, now numbering 1,923 people, with an aggregate capital strength of \$124,400.00, known under the corporate name of UNION STORES, INC., are assured not only a Merry Christmas, but a Satisfied Christmas, because they have engaged to help themselves while helping others—and a prosperous New Year, because when so many people unite their interests they are obliged to prosper.

To date 1,047 people have subscribed \$120,740.00.

Greetings

We extend to our friends and patrons our sincerest thanks for making this year a highly successful one for us.

We wish all a Merry Christmas.

Rountree-Sutherland-Cherry Corp.
111-113-115 West Broad Street.

Wishing You A Merry Christmas

We thank our many warm friends for their patronage. If you have heating problems, put them up to us. Try a "test ton" of Nelson & Ladd Coal. It's "all coal," ALL HEAT!

NELSON & LADD
Phones Monroe 1096-1097

We Wish to Thank Our Many Friends and Patrons

For their liberal patronage in the past year and to wish for all A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

GEO. Mc D. BLAKE & CO.
No. 00 Broad Street.

the animal was missing. Meanwhile a negro offered to sell a horse to Dr. Fischer, the veterinary surgeon, and his conduct was so suspicious that the doctor notified the police and held the horse. The negro fled, was pursued and was captured. At the stationhouse he feigned insanity, would not talk and refused to tell his name. The horse was identified by the owner.

Several Marriages.

A marriage of interest in the community was that of Miss Ellen Hawkins, daughter of Mrs. M. E. Hawkins, to Vernon L. King, in Ettrick last night. The ceremony was performed at the home of the bride by the Rev. E. C. Primm.

Last night at the home of the bride, in Chesterfield, Miss Ida Frances Puckett and Robert Dabney, a young farmer of the same county, were married by the Rev. F. W. Moore.

At 8 o'clock last evening at the residence of the officiating minister, the Rev. F. W. Moore, Leonard Cardwell, of this city, and Miss Gladys Butler, of Ettrick, were wedded. The attendants were Miss Susie Sadler and Harry Lafoon.

Miss Myrtle I. Ritte and Edgar E. Taylor, left this afternoon for Norfolk to be married.

Personal and Otherwise.

Horace E. Conrad, secretary of Petersburg Lodge of the International Association of Machinists, who was married last evening to Miss Beattie C. Talley, was presented by the lodge in recognition of his faithful service, with a handsome silver set of thirty-two pieces.

Mrs. James Lucas, of South Carolina, and Charles K. Lucas, of Florida, are here to spend the holidays with their mother, at their old home near Prince George Courthouse.

The late Christmas crowd was greater to-day than on any day during the past few weeks.

In the Catholic and Episcopal Churches regular services will be held with beautiful Christmas music. There will be services also in churches of other denominations.

New Year's Eve at The Jefferson

A hotel of exclusive and refined surroundings. Where excellence of cuisine prevails, where service of the finest is efficient, yet unobtrusive. Entertained with music by an unexcelled orchestra.

New Year's Eve Supper D'ansant
\$3.00 per Cover, Commencing 10 P. M.

Souvenirs

Table reservations should be made at an early date.

Bankrupt Notices

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA:

In the matter of WILLIAM J. HERBIG AND WILLIAM M. GAINES, partners, trading as Herbig & Bankruptcy, Gains, and individually, Bankrupts.

NOTICE OF FIRST MEETING OF CREDITORS. To the creditors of WILLIAM J. HERBIG AND WILLIAM M. GAINES, trading as Herbig & Bankruptcy, in the County of Henrico and district aforesaid—Bankrupt.

Notice is hereby given that on the 22d day of December, A. D. 1913, the said WILLIAM J. HERBIG AND WILLIAM M. GAINES, trading as aforesaid, were duly adjudicated bankrupt, and that the first meeting of their creditors will be held in my office, Rooms No. 802 and 803, American National Bank Building, Richmond, Va., on the 31st DAY OF JANUARY, A. D. 1914, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at which time the said creditors may attend, prove their claims, appoint a trustee, examine the bankrupt, and transact such other business as may properly come before said meeting.

THOS. B. SNEAD, Referee in Bankruptcy. December 23, 1913.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA:

In the matter of CLAIRBORNE G. CHILES, Bankrupt.

NOTICE OF FIRST MEETING OF CREDITORS. To the creditors of CLAIRBORNE G. CHILES, of No. 3148 Semmes Avenue, in the County of Chesterfield and district aforesaid—Bankrupt.

Killed Beneath Train. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Luray, Va., December 24.—While attempting to cross a plank leading from one car to another, Charles White, a native of New York, at a late hour last night fell beneath a Norfolk and Western Railway train at Shenandoah, this county, and was instantly killed. He was employed at bridge building at Blueville, this county, and is said to have spent the day in Shenandoah. He was about forty years of age, and is survived by one daughter, his wife having just died.

To our many friends and patrons we wish

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

H. COHEN
707 E. Main Street

Our Sincere Wishes for a Very Merry Xmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year

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New Year's Eve at The Jefferson

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Souvenirs

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