

### Soil Conservation

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** We read the conservation of the soil means not only keeping the land on our farms but keeping it to its original fertility.

When our forefathers came to America they found the fairest land on earth. What have we done with it? We have put big and ugly scars in it. Seven hundred and thirty-five million acres of land is now in danger. Much of this is already beyond repair. This is an area twenty-one times the size of North Carolina. Each year twenty times as much mineral matter goes down our rivers and streams as goes into our crops. It has been estimated that if the land continues to go at its present rate in 150 years America cannot properly feed her people. This should make us think.

Agriculture is an old trade. It was started before civilization began, yet its methods have not advanced. Men wear out the soil and then move on. After the life of a farm is shorter than the life of a farmer.

All the time, throughout the ages, man has had a perfect example of soil maintenance. It has been said that seeing is believing, yet the farmer has been but has not believed. He has seen the soft green foliage of the near by woodland unaffected by droughts and untouched by erosion. He has the example of the unplowed field. It does not erode. This is the shining example of successful soil maintenance that has always been observable by the farmer if he would open his eyes and see. Perhaps because it was so near and obvious he has been unable to think of it as a lesson from which he could profit. All this is evidence that trouble starts when the plow starts.

What is soil? The most precious thing in the world is our top soil. Without it nothing on earth could live. Yet we do not have too much top soil. On most land it is about eight inches deep. Our top soil, in comparing the earth to a peach, is about the thickness of peach fuzz.

Only by the most liberal definition can the clean material which we find on our farms today be called soil. We think soil must be a clean material free from obstructions. It is entirely different from this. Soil is a substance filled with an abundance of decaying trash. I cannot call the almost white surface we now cultivate with the plow soil.

How are we to get the soil filled with decaying trash? It can never be done with the bottom plow. When land is plowed the organic matter is buried eight inches deep. The land must be prepared with a disk or some implement that leaves the trash on or near the surface. The purpose of this will be explained more fully later.

Soil does not erode. Erosion begins only after the soil surface has become non-absorbent, a condition caused by the loss of the absorbent organic matter. When water falls on the spongy meadow or forest floor, the force of the falling water is halted by the organic matter covering the soil. This absorbs water and allows the remainder to trickle slowly down into the soil. Thus there is no runoff, no erosion, and no splash erosion as it hits the ground. A field that has a high content of organic matter properly worked into the soil will react in the same way.

There is on record in South Carolina a yield of 239 bushels of corn per acre. This soil could not erode. The entire depth of the soil was filled with organic matter. In ordinary rainfall there would be no runoff. Land of this type can usually absorb water as fast as it can fall.

Often after excessive rainfall I have noticed roads leading

through sandy land. The land in the field was plenty wet, sometimes miry, yet the roadbed which contained absolutely no organic matter was wet only to the depth of about an inch. The rest had run off. This is what causes erosion.

It can be said with considerable truth that the use of the plow has destroyed the productivity of our soils. Fortunately, however, with surprising suddenness this soil will respond with large crops if plenty of organic matter is properly worked into the soil.

When plowing is stopped erosion will stop, for organic matter on and near the soil surface will cause the soil to absorb the water that is essential to the process of erosion. Thus the cure for erosion is automatic. When soil is again created, erosion will stop, for soil does not erode.

The bottom plow is the villain of agriculture. For years it has robbed our fields. Land that is plowed cannot have a sufficient supply of organic matter on the surface. When a green manure is turned by the plow it places it as a blotter approximately eight inches deep. It is then hard for water to pass down into the ground, also when dry weather comes it blocks off capillary movement, the rising of water from the sub-soil.

There are certain nitrogen bacteria in the air that help decay organic matter. These bacteria step up the nitrogen content of the soil. If the organic matter is buried by the plow, these bacteria cannot reach it. Organic matter worked into the upper layer of the soil follows closely nature's plan.

No one rule can fit the needs of all our land. We now have some land in cultivation that must be planted back to forest, some to orchard, and some to pasture.

We depend on the farm for our food and clothing. North Carolina industry depends on the farm for raw material. If farming is successful, industry is successful. If farming and industry prosper, banking and commerce will prosper. Thus the economic life of our state centers around farming as the wagon wheel centers around the hub.

We are now emerging from the war period, during which prices of farm products have been excellent. It seemed for a while

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Mrs. Winnie Robbins is recuperating after an illness at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Cannon Woodbury, in Wilmington.

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Mr. and Mrs. L. K. Porter, formerly of Elko, S. C., are now making their home in Leland.

Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Pittman of Rockingham were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Mac Floyd Jones recently. Mrs. Jones returned with her parents for a brief visit.

**MRS. DRESSER**

The Woodburn Home Demonstration club met Tuesday, April 27th at the home of Mrs. K. B. Dresser. Miss Corinne Green, home agent, called the meeting to order and the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. G. A. Lossen; vice-president, Mrs. K. B. Dresser; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. J. L. Blake. The Woodburn Home Demonstration club will meet the third Tuesday of each month at 2:30 p. m. The hostess for May 18 is Mrs. J. D. Withrow.

**MOTHER HONORED**

The Young Adult Class of Woodburn Presbyterian church entertained their parents at a delightful Mothers Day dinner in the recreation hall Thursday evening, May 6th. The tables were centered with arrangements of sweetpeas, fern, and roses, flanked by burning candles.

Mrs. J. E. Lewis, toastmistress, welcomed the mothers and fathers after which Rev. J. D. Withrow delivered the invocation. The program consisted of a recitation by Harold Geedy, "If I Only Was The Fellow," and Miss Patsy Ganey, accompanied by Miss Sylvia Bordeaux, sang "Mother." Guest speaker of the evening was Reverend L. T. Taylor, executive secretary of the Wilmington Presbytery.

Highlights of the evening were the presentation of gifts to the eldest and youngest mothers present, Mrs. Vola Bragdon and Mrs. J. C. Chadwick, Jr., respectively. Dinner was served to approximately sixty-five guests by Misses Lessene Ganey, Helen Skipper, Wilma Lewis and Willa Mea Willetts.

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that we could afford to go on in our wasteful way, but the time is upon us when our production cost must be cut in order to make a profit. All types of green manures must be planted to put organic matter into the soil. We must build up our soil.

Each year we pour out in North Carolina—especially in eastern North Carolina—millions of dollars worth of commercial fertilizer. We have so unwisely used our land until most of it will not produce without fertilizer. It seems that in a sense we are in slavery to the bottom plow, which in a large degree has caused us to need this fertilizer. The way things now are we must make a good crop to pay for the fertilizer. What hope have men who toil with the poor soil we now have when, year after year, their profit is consumed by the fertilizer bill? When we turn over a new leaf and follow nature's way, the soil will again become rich and productive. Very little commercial fertilizer will then be needed.

When we again build soil, erosion will stop and our land will bloom anew. We must follow nature's plan. To build soil we will have to abandon the bottom plow.

The farmers of North Carolina and of America have a choice to make. They are now at the crossroads. They can keep the plow and continue to destroy our soil until it is all gone. Or they can follow nature.

As for me, I will follow nature and help keep America fair. And when we have conserved our soil, prosperity beyond our dreams will come to North Carolina, and this America of ours will supply not only our own needs, but help supply the needs of the world.

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### READ THE WANT ADS.

(Paid Political Advertisement)  
(Reprinted From The Wilmington News)  
(May 6, 1948)

## Clark Supports Sen. Umstead From Washington

Wilmington News Bureau  
WASHINGTON, May 6—Congressman J. Bayard Clark of North Carolina officially endorsed the state's junior senator, W. B. Umstead, for re-election in this hot primary race with former Governor J. M. Broughton.

"It would be a mistake for our state under present conditions to remove from the Senate one who has valuable experience, proven ability, and high character, just to make room for someone else," Clark said in a statement to the press.

"I know Senator Umstead well. We roomed together during part of his service in Congress when all the plans that had been tried to keep farmers from staying broke had failed and all members of congress were doing their best to work out and agree upon an act into law a national farm program that everyone is for now. It was not so easy fifteen years ago.

"He served almost six years in the house and has been in the Senate now for a year and a half. He thus has valuable experience that may be turned to good account in safeguarding the national welfare and promoting the best interests of our state at this critical time. He is a man of the finest character and integrity. And I know from experience that he has unusual ability. It is my opinion that, if given a fair chance, he will soon compare favorably with the best our state has had in the Senate which is saying a great deal.

"It is known that the senator and I are good friends. But aside from that and all questions of personalities, and coming to the heart of the matter, my feeling is that it would be a mistake for our state under present conditions to remove from the Senate one who has valuable experience, proven ability and high character, just to make room for someone else."

BRUNSWICK COUNTY COMMITTEE  
UMSTEAD-FOR-SENATE

# Endorses BELLAMY for Congress

During the next few years our country will face some of the biggest problems in its history. It is vitally important to elect men to positions of responsibility who have the ability to decide important matters to the best interest of the whole country. I believe **MR. HARGROVE BELLAMY**, of Wilmington, is better qualified to serve as a Congressman than either of his opponents. I am therefore endorsing him for that position and urge all my friends to vote for him in the Primary. Both of his opponents are attorneys. Our legislative halls are now crowded with attorneys. It is unfair representation to have the largest representation in our legislative halls by a minority group.

I am supporting **MR. BELLAMY** because he is our man and because he comes from a family that has produced many public men, who have served the people and been one of them.

Boys, Let's Give **MR. BELLAMY** A Big Majority In Brunswick!  
**CORNELIUS THOMAS.**

### Leland News

Mr. and Mrs. Don Leonard of Greensboro spent the week end with Mrs. Leonard's parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Lennon.

Mrs. Mary E. Anderson had the pleasure of having all of her children at home on Mother's Day.

Mrs. Billy R. Lennon and little daughter, Kathy, of Alexandria, Va., have been spending several days with Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Lennon and Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Perry, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Dresser

### INSURANCE

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LIFE . . HOSPITALIZATION  
**J. B. HEWETT**  
— Insurance of All Kinds —  
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Window and Door Frames, Door and Window Screens—made to order. I can save you money when you have this kind of work to be done. Come around and see me. All work Satisfactory.  
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### MY PLATFORM...



My platform is to do the right thing for my county and state, as those things become known.

If I am nominated and elected as your . . . REPRESENTATIVE

I cannot and will not create legislation for the benefit of individuals and communities, when such legislation is against the general interest of Brunswick county and Brunswick county citizens.

I am running on a platform for fairness to all. If you approve such a platform, then I will appreciate your vote in the Democratic Primary Election.

**EDWARD H. REDWINE**  
Candidate for REPRESENTATIVE

Putter Play and Picnic

in **Pasadenas**  
by BALL-BAND

A whole summer's fun's ahead with Ball-Band's Pasadena, the fiesta-colored casual sandal, so comfortable it puts a cloud between foot and ground. . . . so sturdy it's hard to wear out. In Flame Red, Royal Blue, Turf Tan, Gay Green, and All White.

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SUPPLY, N. C.

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- Large Vegetable Bin—For handy storage

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