

## Prof. Massey's Editorial Page

**A** GROCER here has some tons of salt refuse from meat? Will this be of any value as a fertilizer for fall oats?" No, it is not worth hauling as a fertilizer.

**W**ILL it pay to use nitrate of soda on a patch of potatoes that were planted on a turned-down sod of alfalfa?" I hardly think it would pay. It would mainly increase the growth of the tops without a corresponding increase in the tubers.

**H**OW shall I keep beets in winter, for I have a nice lot?" Do not try to keep the early-sown beets, but plant some Blood Turnip beets now and then let them stay all winter right where they grew, with a furrow thrown to each side, and you can get at them all winter through when the soil is not frozen. Treat carrots in the same way.

**W**ILL ground oyster shells give me as good results as burnt lime?" If the shells are pulverized as fine as flour, and you can get them at a reasonable price, say \$1 a ton, they will pay very well, and can be used more heavily than burnt lime. But burnt lime well slaked and allowed to get carbonated in the air will have a more speedy effect in smaller amount.

**H**OW shall I keep my Irish potatoes?" You cannot keep the early crop of potatoes for winter, no matter what you do. The only way is to have a late crop from July planting which will grow till frost. Then, if these are stored in a perfectly dark place and kept at a temperature but little above the freezing point, they will keep all right. Heat and light will ruin them quickly.

**W**HAT is the proper color of Jersey cows? I have one that has some white spots that was bought for full-blood, and some say that this is not a true Jersey." Your cow may be all right, for white spots do not indicate impure blood in a Jersey cow. They are generally buff in color and sometimes squirrel gray, and at one time there was a fad for solid color and black points, but some of the best Jerseys have white spots, and no one demands solid color now.

**C**AN I sow onion seed now for plants to set in fall, as the soil is hardly workable in early spring?" You can sow seed of the Prizetaker onion in early September and transplant them when they are the size of a goose quill, and they will do very well and make large onions. Or you can sow the seed in February under glass sashes in a cold-frame, as I did this spring, and transplant them and they will do well, for mine are now of good size and still growing.

**W**HAT do you think of the open-furrow method of sowing oats?" I have never tried it, and from what I have seen, never shall want to do so. The best way to sow oats is to prepare the land thoroughly by harrowing till fine and then drill the oats in with a regular wheat drill. Rough preparation and the loose and lumpy soil cause more winter-killing than anything else. With the soil well settled and the surface made fine, the winter oats will stand as well as in furrows and the crop will be heavier.

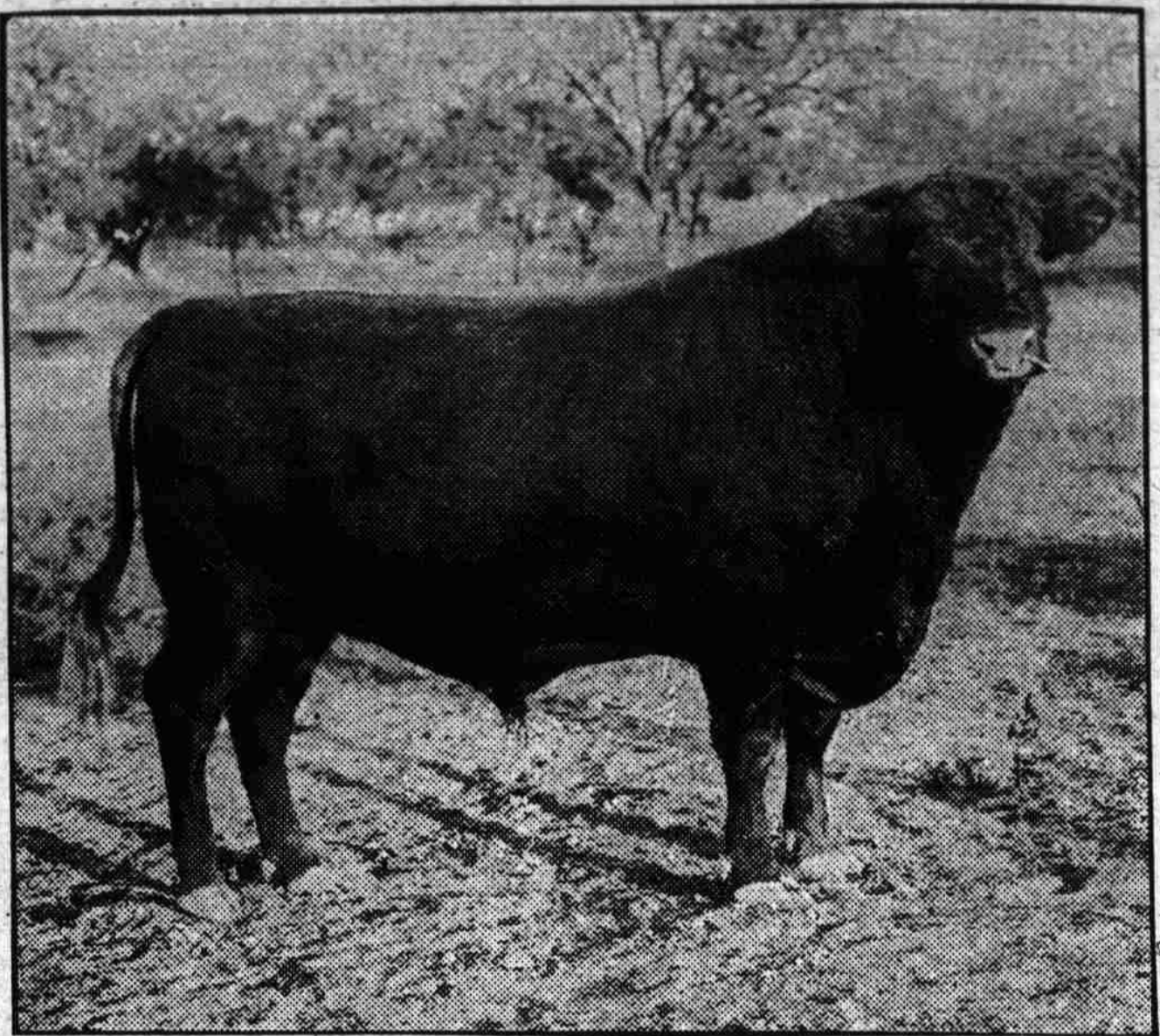
**W**HILE the regular tiles are best for under-drains, you can make very good drains with pine poles skinned. Give the ditches a regular fall with no sags in it to fill up; dig the ditches as deep as you can get a fall of a few inches in 100 feet, say two to three feet deep. Lay two poles side by side in the ditch with a space between them, and then lay another pole on top, rather larger, to cover this space. Then put in some pine straw to keep the soil from working in, and fill the ditch. Dig straight to a good outlet, and put the ditches about fifty feet apart. It will pay well to under-drain as it will dry the land better than open ditches.

**I** HAVE two letters from North Carolina farmers, stating that they bought cottonseed and both have the cotton anthracnose in their crop. This disease is conveyed in the seed and has not heretofore been common in North Carolina, and growers should be extremely careful in getting seed to know that they are not getting the disease. There is no remedy for it. Some bolls will make half a crop and seed from such bolls will carry the disease. The only thing to do is to plant perfectly

**R**EAD Mr. A. L.

*French's article on page 12 telling how the young folks can help raise the beef calves and find it pleasant and profitable work. The South is going to be a great cattle country one of these days, and it will pay you to interest your boys in good cattle of both the beef and dairy breeds.*

### A GOOD BEEF SIRE.



healthy seed and to avoid planting land where the disease appeared the year before, for the germs may live in the soil for several years. In South Carolina they have found that seed taken from a healthy plant among diseased ones may breed a resistant strain. North Carolina farmers had better be careful where they buy seed.

**W**HAT is the best top-dressing for bluegrass lawns?" Dressing with stable manure will, of course, make the grass grow stronger, but it is apt to bring in so much crabgrass and chickweed that it damages the lawn. The best top-dressing I have ever used on a lawn is raw bone meal. This will have nitrogen enough to encourage the growth, and the phosphoric acid in the bone will maintain the growth well. An annual dressing of bone meal in the spring as the grass starts in growth will keep the lawn in a healthy, growing condition. Then, in all growing weather, cut the lawn every week and leave the cut grass to decay where it falls, and it will thicken the sod. If you leave the grass to get tall before mowing, the lawn mower will not do good work and the cut grass will be so heavy that you will have to rake it off, and that tends to the exhaustion of the sod. The fine cut grass will build up a mulch that will be a protection to the sod in dry weather.

**Y**OU can grow violets in a cold-frame under glass. The common hardy violet known as the Tarboro violet, and the Pinehurst violet, will bloom very well in the open ground, and seed freely and stands the summer heat. The finer sweet violets such as the double Marie Louise need to be grown in frames. Then there is a fine single one that sells well. This is the Princess of Wales. But I hardly think that you can make anything shipping violet flowers North. With a little frame, tho, you can have more and better flowers than outside. The plants are set in the frame in September six inches apart each way. In the spring, runners are rooted and placed in three-inch pots and packed closely together on a bed of coal ashes with a lath screen over them. Then, by watering, carefully protected from the sun, you can have fine plants for setting in the fall, but planted outside the red spider will destroy them in summer.

### Good Farming and Poor.

**T**HERE is a great difference in the agricultural development in various sections in the South. In the upper Piedmont section of North Carolina, from Greensboro to Charlotte, one finds that the shallow and level cultivation of the corn crop has very generally been adopted, and here and there we find one who is trying it with cotton and tobacco with success.

But last week I went from Raleigh down into the near-by county of Harnett to attend and speak at the annual picnic of the local Farmer's Union. Down in this section I find that the modern methods of cultivation have not yet taken hold, and I saw field after field of corn "laid-by" with turning plows, throwing up high ridges of earth to the

rows and evidently the roots of the corn had been severed, and but for the fact that the rainy season had enabled the corn to recover more quickly from the mutilation, there would have been seen far more damage done.

I had a large audience in the schoolhouse and tried to show them the error of this sort of work, not only cutting the corn roots but throwing up the soil to dry out rapidly, and only the rainy season had saved much of it from serious loss. It is surprising how slow farmers are to fully realize the mischief they are doing with turning plows in the corn field.

The weather is now changing from wet to dry, and the piled up soil around will dry out and the corn will suffer, while corn that has simply been kept with a shallow dust blanket will thrive.

### The One Way Out.

**A**SK a small farmer in the South why he keeps growing nothing but cotton, and he will tell you that it is the only money crop, and that he cannot afford to grow things that he cannot get cash for, as he can for cotton. And he goes along making a little crop of cotton and being carried by the merchant, and the store bill at the end of the year takes his cotton. In fact, he never sees any money, does not know what it cost him to make the cotton, and instead of getting ahead, he goes backwards till the merchant owns him and his land.

He could not afford to raise forage and feed stock, but he could afford to pay two or three prices for hay that he could have grown, and for meat that he could have raised, and his little crop of cotton helps to make rich a host of other people who furnish him food for himself and his mule, while it keeps him poor and makes him poorer year after year. Why will men keep doing this hopeless sort of work? Why, in the name of common sense, do they keep on making a couple of hundred pounds, or less, of lint an acre, when by better farming they could make three or four times as much cotton per acre, and at the same time raise most of the things they now buy on credit at three prices to be paid for out of a poor crop of cotton?

Cotton is a splendid money crop to the man who farms well, buys what he must buy for cash, and can hold his cotton till the speculators have gobbled up all the weak cotton at their own price, but to the farmer who grows nothing but cotton and buys everything on the credit of the cotton crop, cotton is far from being a money crop, and becomes simply the emblem of his enslavement to the merchant and the fertilizer man. And the only way out is to farm right and grow the things he is now paying exorbitantly for, and to stop trying to make cotton pay for everything that he needs.

As an aid to getting a stand of crimson clover, we would use lime and stable manure freely on a small area. It will pay, for when crimson clover is once made a successful crop on the farm, its value is very great.