

The Station News

Vol. XV, No. 2.

July 9, 1930.

Geneva, N. Y.

-----+
DR. ROBERTSON : Dr. A. H. Robertson, for several years assistant in the Bacteriology
IS PROMOTED : Division here and previous to that City Bacteriologist, has been
-----: appointed Director of the Food Laboratory of the Department of
Agriculture and Markets at Albany to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of
Dr. White, well known to many on the Station staff, who has gone with the U. S.
Department of Agriculture in Washington. Dr. Robertson's appointment became effective
July 1. "Robbie", as he is better known at the Station, left here a few years ago
to accept a position with the Vermont Experiment Station and returned to New York
State about three years ago to become the first bacteriologist for the Food Laboratory
which he now heads. The personnel of the Laboratory includes several chemists and
branch laboratories are maintained at Buffalo, Ithaca, and New York City. The duties
of the Laboratory cover a wide range of activities, its chief function being to guard
the public against adulteration of food products and all forms of misbranding. We
extend our best congratulations to Robbie on this splendid recognition of his
abilities.

-----:
INTERESTED IN : Mr. C. C. Kwan, a graduate student in the Department of Plant
VEGETABLE WORK: Breeding at Cornell, is spending the week at the Station, reviewing
-----: especially the work of the Division of Vegetable Crops. Mr. Kwan
is a graduate of the University of Nanking.

-----:
A CALLER FROM: Mr. Leslie, a member of the Staff of the Manitoba Experiment Sta-
MANITOBA : tion, spent yesterday at the Station, with his interests centered
-----: chiefly on the Station's horticultural projects.

-----:
REPORT A : A postcard communication from our able correspondent, J. C. Mar-
FINE TIME : quardt, depicting certain views in La Crosse, Wis., tells of a de-
-----: lightful vacation. Passing thru La Crosse reminded Jules of the
subject of fairs, for that is the seat of the Tri-state Fair of the Middle West.

-----:
TRACKS IN : To Many of us "Orchard 20" is mostly a geographical expression, but
ORCHARD 20 : if stories such as we heard last week continue to originate from that
-----: region we shall be inclined to make a personal investigation. Briefly,
the report is that deer tracks (spelled as indicated, not deer) were found between
the rows of fruit trees one morning following a heavy shower. No less an authority
on such matters than Bill Harman verified the observation made by Vic Hopkins and
sustained Vic in his first diagnosis. No one has admitted seeing the animal, altho
the chief chemist has been asked to be on the lookout.

-----:
ANOTHER RECORD: The Station herd has been credited with another record in the Register
-----: of Merit maintained by the Jersey Cattle Club. The latest accomplish-
ment is credited to Superb Owlrest Eva, known to the barn force simply as Eva, for
holding the highest butter fat production record of Jerseys of all ages in this State
for the month of April. Her output was 86 pounds. The Jersey Cattle Club announces
its Register of Merit ratings each month, but obviously the compiling of the records
is a time-consuming job, hence the announcements are somewhat delayed.

-----+
HEARD ACROSS : The loud wail heard recently for the West emanated from Leon Ralph
THE CONTINENT: Jones who was announcing his arrival in Pullman, Washington, to the
-----: great delight of Dr. and Mrs. Leon K. Jones. Dr. Jones, formerly
plant disease specialist at the Station, is now a member of the Department of Plant
Pathology at Washington State College and the Washington Agricultural Experiment Sta-
tion.

-----+
VISITING : Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Gordin of Champaign, Illinois, are spending a few
THE SAYRES : weeks with their daughter, Mrs. Sayre. A visit to Geneva in the summer
-----: has become an annual pilgrimage for Mr. and Mrs. Gordin, and their com-
ing is always welcomed by the wide circle of friends that they have made here.

-----:
AN ABLE : Occasionally, one of the large metropolitan dailies comes out with a
EDITORIAL : farm editorial that is remarkable for its insight and constructive point
-----: of view, in spite of the prevailing opinion that city papers have no
interest in agriculture, but we were unusually impressed by an offering in a recent
issue of the NEW YORK TIMES of which space will not permit a full account, but which
we quote in part, chiefly because it is entirely removed from the farm "problem." To
us, there is just a hint of homesickness for the country in the writer's comments on
"Barns", and we are sure that everyone who has had the good fortune to "know" a barn
of the sort described will appreciate fully all that is said about these landmarks.
Under the simple heading of "Barns", the TIMES editorial writer says,

"Preferably unpainted barns. Painted barns combine all the virtues of
civilization; they are clean, bright and thrifty. Being unexceptionable
in every particular, they are heartily to be recommended wherever progress
has become hopelessly entangled with human life. Unpainted barns belong
to a different kingdom; they are a part of natural culture, sagging a little
in the direction of the prevailing Winter wind and beaten by the weather.
Of course, they are old. There is no such thing as a new barn. There may
be new farm buildings occasionally to house farm machinery, automobiles
and perhaps a registered herd. But all barns, meaning literally "barley-
places," are at least as old as the oldest inhabitant. He says that
although he was too young to take an active part in the raising, he re-
members hearing who built the barn. When he was a boy the oldest inhabi-
tant was probably spinning the same yarn out of his pride and his neighbors'
credulity. Let us be candid. No one remembers when a barn was put up.
***** Although men still carry on their labors there,
opening and closing the heroic doors every day as though that act of simple
piety had any influence, they no longer control its destinies. No one has
touched that dusty window in the peak since the barn was completed. When
the hay crop was heavy, the hired man, who was stowing away, may have
mounted high enough under the roof boards to look through the three broken
panes. But no one ever considered replacing them, or brushing the cobwebs
from the frame. Excepting a little essential repairing to the roof or the
foundation, no one would be rash enough to disturb the natural order of
a barn's transmutation. Man's authority over it ceases as soon as it is
constructed.***** As the barn swallows have plastered their nests
against the eaves and the spiders spun their webs across the windows, so
generations of men have scattered their litter everywhere. Every beam
within arm-reach bears its jumble of rusty horsehoes and empty liniment
bottles. Hunt long enough and you can always find just the right sized
nail you require. Old scythe blades and scythe wrenches, old rasps and
files and a broken whetstone--every generation has bequeathed something to
the next.***** Fire may destroy a barn completely. But
nothing less lambent can alter its destinies. If it is not propped up,
a little more desperately by each succeeding generation, it will collapse
under the weight of the snow or the fury of the blasts. But it does not
lose character.***** The barn yields slowly. Since it has never
been far from nature, nature is merciful to its ruin. The wheel-wrench
that grandfather mislaid lies rusting under a heap of decayed shingles.
Now that men have moved out for good, the song sparrow has moved in, and
is raising a hungry family in the alders."

-----:
INSPECT THE : Messrs. Wellington, Hawthorn, and Tapley spent yesterday on a tour of
NEW CUCUMBER: inspection of greenhouses in the famous Ironduquoit region in the
-----: vicinity of Rochester where vast amounts of truck crops are grown.
Several of the market gardeners in that territory had been supplied with seed of
the Station's new seedless cucumber, the Geneva, and the Station "specialists" were
interested in seeing how the new variety was prospering.

-----:
DR. HEDRICK : An editorial in Pennsylvania Farmer, edited by E. S. Bayard who is one
DIDN'T TELL : of the guests of the Chilean government and producers of nitrate of
THIS ONE : soda on the expedition to Chile upon which Dr. and Mrs. Hedrick em-
-----: barked recently, voices a wish that we all share. It says, in part,
"Since all hands have been notified to take along full dress, we hope that the movie
men get a good picture of them, clad in swallow-tails, tall hats, and white gloves,
just after they have scaled the Andean heights of Chilean hospitality."