

The Station News

Vol. XIII, No. 17.

October 18, 1929.

Geneva, N. Y.

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The fine qualities of the man that commanded the respect and the admiration of all of those who came in contact with him, the energy and enthusiasm with which he met his daily tasks, his unfailing loyalty to the Station, in short the things that we all recognize as having made Mr. Hall a "Prince of a Fellow", render wholly inadequate such poor words as we can assemble to express the sense of personal loss felt by each of his associates and the very real loss sustained by the Station in an able and tiring worker.

To Mrs. Hall and to the other members of the family, we extend our sincere sympathy with the assurance that their bereavement comes very close to all of us.

The impress of Mr. Hall's years of service at the Station will long make itself felt. Coming here, as he did in 1897, as the first experiment station editor in the United States, we owe to him much of the ground work upon which is based our present editorial policies, policies which we believe have been proved wise by the test of time and which it has been a privilege to perpetuate.

One of his first duties upon arriving at the Station was to assemble and organize a working library. At that time the Station did not even possess a complete collection of experiment station and Department of Agriculture literature, and this Mr. Hall set about collecting at once. As the Library expanded, he developed a simple system of cataloging that for many years proved highly satisfactory and was only replaced by the present system with the rapid expansion of the Library and certain economies and "short cuts" that this system makes possible.

It would be difficult to single out one of Mr. Hall's contributions as the outstanding thing of his work here, for his contributions have been varied and numerous, but referring again to his editorial activities, we believe that the inauguration of the "Popular" bulletin was at least one of his important achievements. These bulletins were unique in that they marked one of the first efforts on the part of any experiment station to put the results of its experiments in a form designed especially to appeal to their farmer clientele. Mr. Hall possessed genuine skill in accomplishing this purpose, and without doubt his series of popular bulletins played an important part in gaining recognition for the Station and its work and rendered a real service to New York farmers. Mr. Hall also participated for many years in the farmers' institutes that were held about the State, an institution that was superseded by the present-day extension service. His abilities as a popular lecturer led to many requests for his presence at institute meetings. For six years he was Vice-Director of the Station.

Of his work with vegetables in recent years, we need say little as all readers of the NEWS are familiar with the purpose and scope of this project. It seems especially fitting, however, that Mr. Hall had the opportunity to see the first tangible results of this work in the form of The Peas of New York, and to hear the many favorable comments passed on the volume. This treatise will stand as a worthy monument to the closing years of his life.

Mr. Hall had two avocations, or rather we should say at least two avocations, in which he displayed the same enthusiasm and which he pursued as vigorously as he did his vocation. These were the study of birds and the cultivation and development of the dahlia. In the former he advanced far beyond the rank of an amateur in his knowledge of the habits and identity of the birds of this region, while in the latter enterprise he attained a nation-wide reputation, if not a degree of international fame, by his writings and achievements. He was a charter member of the American Dahlia Society, and had only recently completed arrangements with Orange Judd Company to write a popular book on dahlia culture and varieties. During this past season his circular on dahlias was in stronger demand than probably any other single publication sent out by the Mailing Department. Also, just two or three days before he entered the hospital, he had agreed to talk before the Geneva Garden Club on dahlias at a meeting of the Club which was to have been held last night.

Surely it is eminently fitting that when the time came to write "thirty" at the close of Mr. Hall's career, he was able almost to the last moment to engage actively in the things he prized most--his work and his flowers.