

(W. F. Massey)

Prof. W. F. Massey, C. E., Horticulturist and Botanist,
of the N. C. College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts,
Raleigh N. C. who is a noted agricultural writer &
"the best living authority on all matters pertaining
to Southern Agriculture" writes:

Raleigh, N. C.,

March 22, 1899.

J. Bryan Grimes, Esq.
Washington, N. C.

Dear Sir: -

I am in hearty sympathy with
your efforts to bring a good class of farm immigrants
into eastern N. C. I know of no section where the
nature of the soil and the character of the climate
are more suitable to high farming than in your
section. Taken in connection with the facilities for trans-
portation, and the adaptability of the soil and climate
to the production of small fruits and vegetables for
the early northern markets, all can be suited, no matter
what the speciality is which he wishes to pursue. It is
said that Eastern N. C. is not a grass country like the
mountain country, and to a certain extent this is true.
But the wonderful yield of natural grasses that
follows the enrichment of the soil aids greatly in the
feeding of stock, and the facility with which the
best of forage can be grown there from the cow peas
and the great corn crop, indicates that eastern N. C. can

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become a great beef feeding and exporting section. Nearness to the ports from which cattle are sent abroad will give your section a great advantage in this business when the right kind of cattle are raised. Stock feeding is the great need of the cotton country, and nothing will so rapidly free the cotton farmer from the slavery to the fertilizer mixer and the money lender than the rational feeding of stock in connection with a rational system of rotating crops. I have long been impressed with the idea that it will be found that your soil and climate is adapted to the production of cigar tobacco, such as is being so profitably grown in Florida, and that hereafter by careful experiment it will be found that this class of the leaf is better for your lands than the yellow tobacco now grown. Of course I may be mistaken in this, but I believe that I am right. So far as health is concerned, while it is true that your section has a reputation for malaria, there is no reason why men cannot should suffer from any such thing, if they live right and avoid the water from shallow wells and the morning dews before breakfast. I should not fear to live and farm there at all, and should not fear that the air is not as pure as anywhere. In Columbus County, a colony of northern people have been settled on just such land for three years, and they report perfect health. They have

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drained the land and driven deep wells and never
think of malaria. Whatever I can do to encourage
your enterprise I will be glad to do, for that
section of the state should be a great garden.

Yours truly,

W. F. Massey.