Subject: Soils for the Landscape Gardener.

The subject of my paper soils for the landscape gardener is intended to cover a field of operations in soil that pertains to the home grounds, private estates and favors the horticultural use of soil rather than agricultural. Hence, I have used the term landscape gardener in a broad sense. I choose to call anyone a landscape gardener who embellishes his home grounds though he may not be a professional landscape gardener, by so doing I cover the field I wish to talk about because all horticultural operations are covered more or less by this term in much the same manner that Forestry, Pomology and other studies are included under agriculture. To use the word gardener and florist would bring us into another field of operations. The florists methods for preparing soils are rarely ever those practised by the amateur landscape gardener.

Professional landscape gardeners are frequently called upon for information relative to soils suitable for the building of lawns, gardens, orchards, public parks, cemeteries and private estates. The public parks are probably the largest users in the field and these institutions in Chicago alone have spent over two and one-half millions dollars ($2,500,000.00) for soil in the making of their parks and many thousands more will be expended before the present extension and improvement plans are completed.

Nearly every householder has occasion at one time or another to use soil. This is not only true in Chicago but in every large City and Suburb throughout the country. This is particularly true of communities in sandy regions. I give as illustration the nearby cities of Gary, Indiana, Michigan City and others located in this sandy region. In the latter instances the cost of obtaining a suitable soil is enormous when you take into consideration the fact that some eight hundred cubic yards are required to cover an acre of ground to a six inch depth and that a supply is rarely obtained at less than one dollar a yard and when to this is added the handling cost, the labor of spreading, rolling, etc., the total expenditure per acre will run from eight to sixteen hundred dollars to obtain a lawn. When the soil is brought in from any distance the transportation cost becomes quite a factor and will bring my estimate as high as twenty-five hundred dollars ($2500) per acre, so you see the expression, "Cheap as dirt" does not apply here. Now, I have used this word Dirt purposely, and with your permission I will digress momentarily from my subject, and give you my own idea of the absurdity of employing this term in referring to soil. Soil is not dirt and the converse is also true that dirt is not soil, dirt is some-