

# Reclaiming the American Desert Without Irrigation—By A. H. Harris

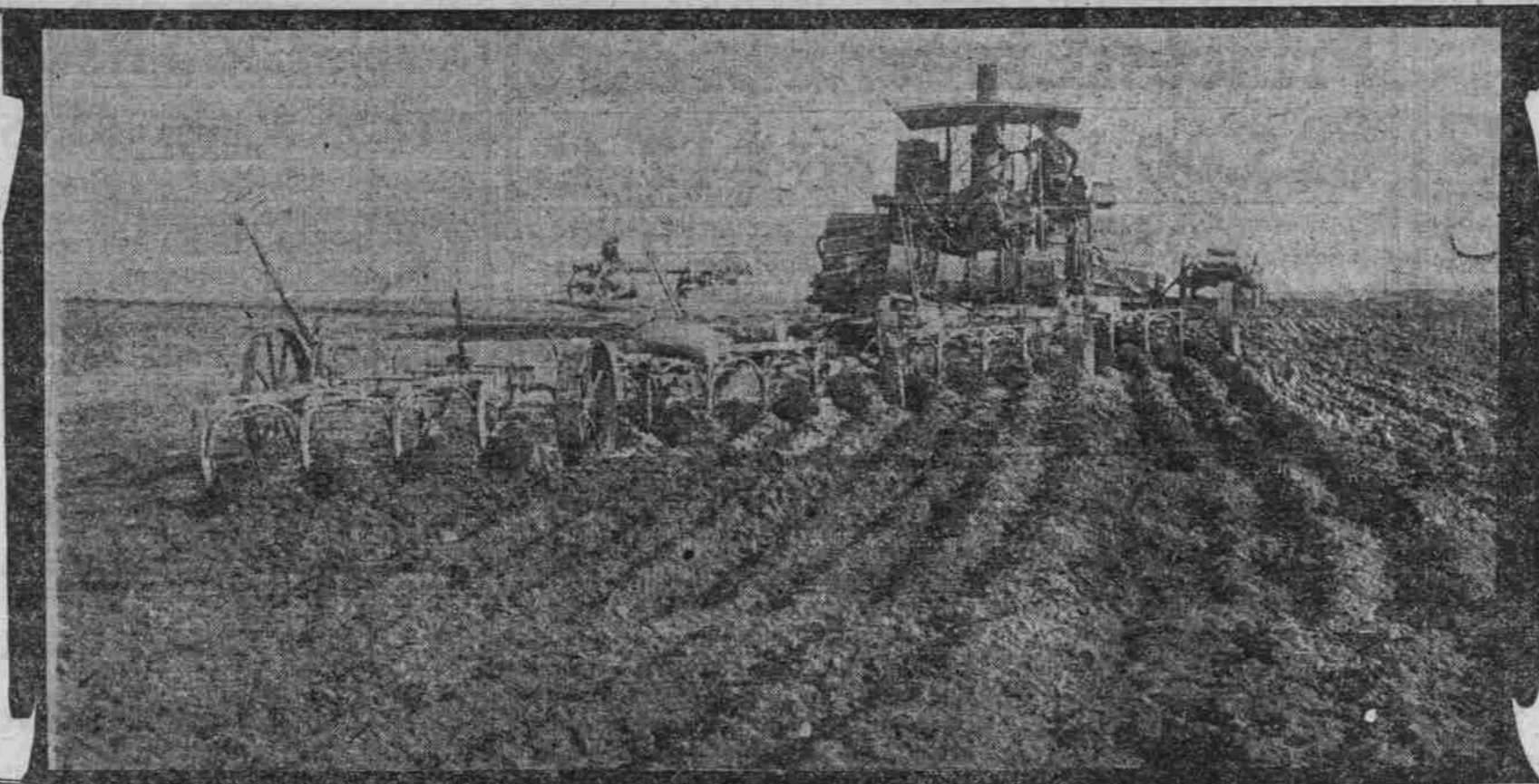
S SHALL the Great American Desert disappear from the face of the earth?

Will 70,000,000 acres of arid land be transformed into happy homes for prosperous and energetic people?

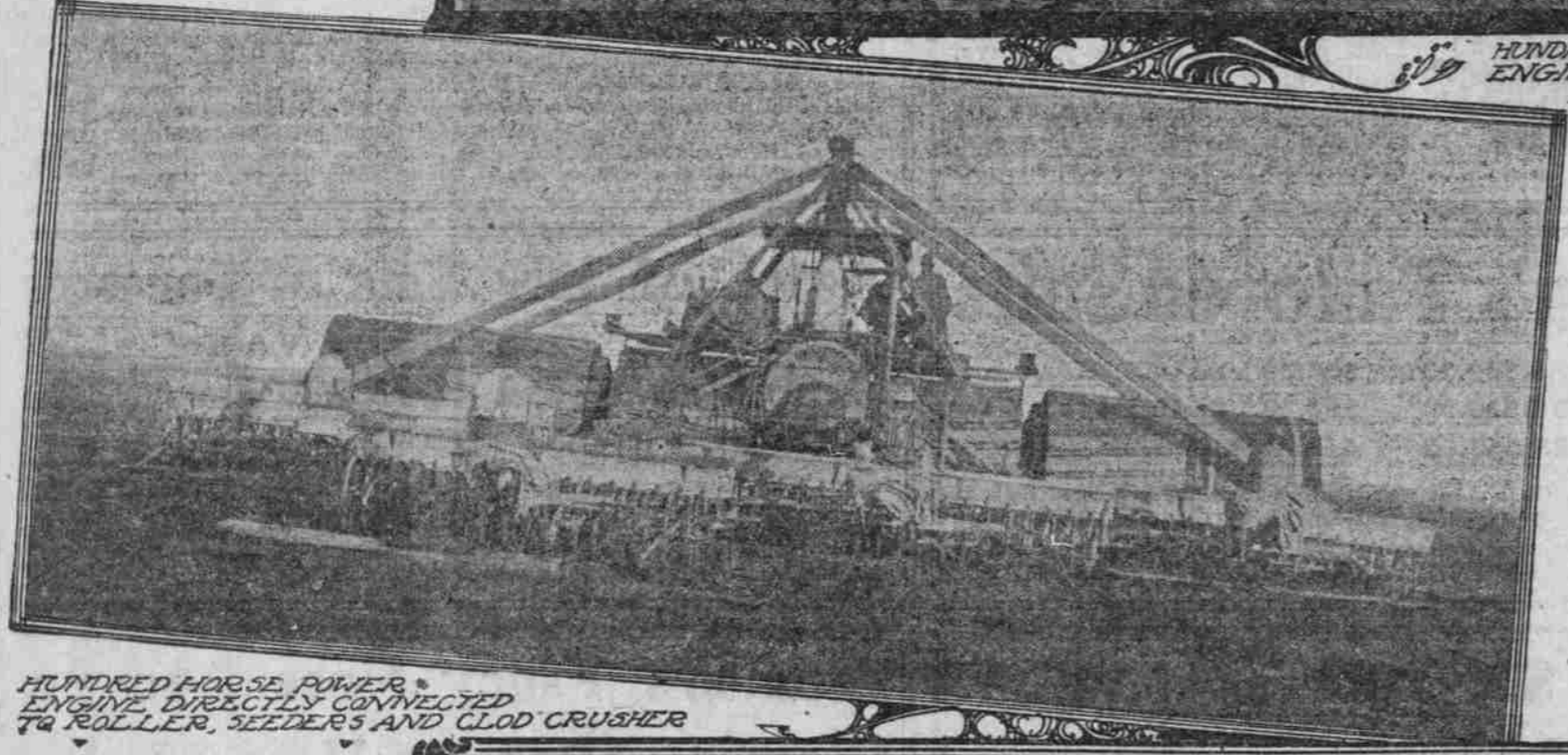
Stretching from Canada on the north to Mexico on the south, and from the Rocky Mountains westward hundreds of miles, rolling sage-brush or sand-dune land, lies that great blemish upon the fair face of nature, that great tract of worthless land known as the arid part of America. Twelve hundred miles north and south and hundreds of miles east and west, it comprises an area equal to one-fourth that of continental United States, exclusive of Alaska.

Six hundred millions of acres in extent, the public domain has lain dormant for ages, while all over the country men have been fighting for land like hungry men, and finally discouraged at the fruitless search, the wisest of them have turned to this trackless waste as the scene of future activity and splendid achievement. Not all of this barren plain has been considered desert, but it has been held as arid by geographers since the first map was made showing the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. Before the enormous area of Government land involved, great tracts of railroad grants and state lands are to be found, while fully 70,000,000 acres are held to be desert land with a big D.

Great stretches of this land are to be found in Southern Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Nevada, Arizona, Utah and patches exist in Eastern Oregon. In Washington, particularly in Douglas County, the effort to reclaim the land by dry farming



HUNDRED HORSE POWER ENGINE DRAWING 20 FOURTEEN INCH PLOWS ON STUBBLE



HUNDRED HORSE POWER ENGINE DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO ROLLER, SEEDERS AND CLOD CRUSHER

methods has already proved successful, fair crops having been produced from land that has been held as arid for ages.

## Farms on Big Plan.

W. H. Babcock, known as the "wheat king" of the State of Washington, has been operating a big outfit on the dry land plan for two or three years, with splendid results. An immense traction engine furnishes power for the work. In Southern Idaho the same methods are in use, while in Wyoming and Colorado great progress has been made in reclaiming the deserts by methods entirely different from irrigation. In Eastern Oregon large tracts of land await the development of dry land farming or irrigation, as conditions may warrant, and as the years roll on the demand for land will force people to resort to the scientific culture of at least a great part of the arid belt.

Between Uncle Sam's Reclamation Service and modern "Dry Land Farming" methods a great change is soon to come over the face of this great domain. In fact there are now many evidences of the work done and to be done which show conclusively that the next decade will work wonders and give over to future generations a new subdivision of working people and a new field of development.

The Federal Government is spending \$50,000,000 in sending water over the waste places, in building reservoirs and immense canals, in constructing great concrete dams, in surveying millions of acres topographically, in educating the people in the proper manner of cultivation and care of the land after they have been induced to settle upon it. In addition to these millions taken from the general treasury, the wise men of the West have gathered and expended millions in irrigation projects, in altering the face of nature, in building up projects amid the most unseemly surroundings. Still settlers have expended years and years of labor, some entirely unsuccessfully in an effort to try out the land and establish the fact that it could be made the home of human beings.

The expense thus far has been tremendous. What will the harvest be?

## Pioneer in Dry Farming.

To William H. Campbell, of Lincoln, Neb., properly belongs the honor of being the pioneer dry land farmer of the world. To him belongs the honor of having thought out a system by which moisture may be conserved, a system which removed the sage brush and planted in its place alfalfa, fruits and vegetables. Over 20 years ago, Mr. Campbell evolved the theory, and he put it to a practical test. He experimented, and everywhere success followed his efforts. Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, in turn sang his praises, and soon the people west of the Rocky Mountains heard of the new scheme. They were interested. Everywhere it was tried properly, the same result followed. Other men became Campbell's disciples, and carried on the work, and still others are preparing to follow.

## WELCOME ROAD BUILDING

## COVE WILL CELEBRATE ADVENT OF RAILWAY.

## Four-Weeks' Frolic Planned for First Week in July—Citizens Happy Over the New Line.

LA GRANDE, Or., June 30.—(Special.)—Cove, the fruit-growing community on the east side of the Grande Ronde Valley, joyous over the advent of rail connection with the main line of the O. R. & N., is busily preparing for a monster celebration, to last four days, July 1, 2, 3 and 4. July 1 is to be "Pioneer" day, and Joseph Miller will address the old settlers. Hon. T. T. Geer, ex-governor, will deliver the address of welcome. The Cove baseball team, as yet unbeaten this year, will play

In the wake of the disciples of William Campbell, the sturdy Westerners who have chosen the arid regions, the sage brush, the greasewood, the yucca, the Spanish bayonet and the cactus are rapidly disappearing, and wheat, corn, alfalfa, barley, grasses, fruits and vegetables are springing up in most lavish profusion. Homes, cities, towns, are coming to life as if by the touch of the magician's wand. All very well, but will it last? It has never been done. Wrecks all along the pathway show how failure has preceded. The secret of success in the future lies in the one primary fact that the dry land farmer must never stop work. He is not to be given vacations, he will not ask for holidays, he will not go fishing and expect his crops to grow during his absence. He must work and watch continuously. In the older fields of the East and South, there are periods of idleness and carelessness that follow the "laying by" time, or the harvest rush, and the farmer may turn his thoughts to barbecues, picnics and the like, or simply go out under the inviting trees and follow James Whitcomb Riley's plan of seeing "jes' how lay he kin be."

Working irrigated or arid land is constant, hard work. It requires ap-

plication study, constancy, indefatigable care. But the harvest is sure. With irrigation, the hot wind has no terrors, the dry, late Spring does not interfere. With a ditchful of water, a disposition to work and a handy shovel, the irrigation farmer feels as independent as a king and as confident of success as Napoleon ever felt.

## Must Conserve Moisture.

But the dryland farmer must make the best of conditions aside from the ditchful of water. The minute a few drops of rain fall upon his land he is out in the field with his harrow to stir the surface of the soil and powder it so fine the moisture may not rise again. He stirs it in this way a year before he plants it to grain or other seeds. He stirs the land while the seeds are sprouting until there is danger of injuring the plants by breaking up the tiny roots, and then takes up the work again and ceases only when the plants are large and strong enough to cast a protecting shadow over the surface of his fields.

The minute the crop is off the land he follows the harvester with the sub-soil plow, and the fields are made ready for another crop. Usually he

## others are the promoters on the east side of the fighting line.

The rivalry between these two artificial divisions became intense several months ago, and reached one climax recently when a member of the east side fraternity purchased the blacksmith shop which was located on the west side and proposed to move it over to the other. A small war nearly ensued, but the building was finally moved in the was small stroke, the Maxwell people persuaded the proprietor of the meat market who had his shop in the building and who had a lease for a year, to file an injunction suit to prevent the sale and removal of the building. This was done Saturday, but according to Colonel Newport, the transferee of the property has already been made and the building is to be moved.

## seeds and clod-crushed at one operation.

A dozen or 20 plows in gangs, two immense rollers, seed rills, harrows, clod-crushers and sometimes other implements, make up the load for the iron horse.

## Will Hasten Bridge Work.

LA GRANDE, Or., June 30.—(Special.)—Since early last Spring, people living above Perry on the Grande Ronde have been unable to reach La Grande with teams except by a roundabout way, owing to the destruction of two county bridges during the high water. The County Court has become impatient at the delay in construction of the new bridges, and a few days ago set July 1 as the limit for the contractors to finish their work, and declared their intention to claim the forfeit of \$100 per day after that time, according to the conditions of the contract. The construction company agreed to have the bridges completed by that time. The County Court has advertised for bids for the construction of a steel bridge across the Grande Ronde at a point about three miles west of Egan. This will be the fourth steel bridge to be built in the county this year.

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## New Sturgeon Fisheries.

SOUTH BEND, Wash., June 30.—(Special.)—A new fishing industry is being established at Bay Center in the catching of green sturgeon for the markets. Two tons are shipped daily to the cities and the Indians, instead of going to the Columbia River to fish through the season, are running fishing boats at the mouth of the Willapa and are averaging \$60 to the ton per night. The green sturgeon are said to be superior to the white sturgeon for eating, and this promises to become an important industry and is one which has heretofore been overlooked.

## New Mill for Long Beach.

SOUTH BEND, Wash., June 30.—(Special.)—J. A. Kennedy is building a shingle mill at Long Beach and will have it in operation by the middle of July. This will provide a market for the cedar which grows so plentifully near that town.

# SPARKLING APENTA

(NATURAL APENTA CARBONATED),

## IN SPLITS ONLY.

A Refreshing and Pleasant Aperient for Morning Use.

DRINK WHILE EFFERVESCENT.

Sole Exporters: THE APOLLINARIS CO., Ld., London.

## RAISES SPLENDID FRUIT

## TIMBER VALLEY ADAPTED TO STRAWBERRY CULTURE.

Without Irrigation, and With Little Cultivation, Excellent Specimens Are Produced in This Section.

LYLE, Wash., June 30.—(Special.)—Timber Valley, lying between this place and Camas Prairie, is unquestionably the coming fruit section of the Pacific Northwest. This is not an idle boast, for the horticultural products of this valley are eye-openers and suggest almost unlimited possibilities for growing fruit of all kinds. E. L. Smith, of Hood River, one of Oregon's pioneer horticulturists, recently visited Timber Valley and declared that owners of land here have but a slight knowledge of its value for horticultural pursuits.

A. E. Weber, who owns a small tract of land seven miles from here, was in Lyle a few days ago on his way to Portland. He had several boxes of Ma-goon strawberries he had raised without irrigation. He employed no fertilizer and says the land required but little cultivation. The berries were large, well flavored, and, as is the case with all fruit grown without irrigation, were hardy and good keepers. They are especially suited for shipping.

## WILL HAVE MILK CONDENSER

## Big Plant Assured for Albany and Stock Is Subscribed.

ALBANY, Or., June 30.—(Special.)—A milk condensing plant, to cost at least \$50,000, is assured for Albany. The stock for the industry has all been subscribed, and stockholders will meet in this city at 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon to form the company to manage it. It is planned to erect the plant in the month of August. The establishment of this industry has been promoted by H. H. Olmstead, representing Eastern manufacturing interests. For a number of months he has been securing subscriptions of stock and enlisting farmers to furnish milk for the enterprise. Most of the stock for the plant has been subscribed by Linn County people.

## OUTLOOK GOOD FOR HUNTERS

## Young Chinese Pheasants Are Plentiful This Summer.

ALBANY, Or., June 30.—(Special.)—There are plenty of young China pheasants in Linn County fields this year. The 1907 "crop" of these unexcelled game birds is a good one. Linn County is the first home of the birds in this country, and they are yet more plentiful here than anywhere else, so the fact that the fields are full of young birds this summer is a good omen for sportsmen.

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## Seek Location for Library.

ALBANY, Or., June 30.—(Special.)—Albany's public library will be started as soon as a suitable location can be found for it. Arrangements are complete for instituting it and, as soon as temporary quarters be rented and the library will be opened. Nine directors have been elected and their election has been confirmed, in accordance with the state laws governing public libraries, under which this institution was formed by the City Council. These directors are Frank J. Miller, Mrs. J. K. Weatherford, H. H. Hewitt, Fred P. Colville, Mrs. H. H. Merrill, Mrs. S. E. Young, M. H. Ellis and Miss Lucy Gard.

## To Create Drainage District.

COLVILLE, Wash., June 30.—(Special.)—The effort to create a drainage district to include the lands in the Colville Valley immediately west of town, will be renewed at an early date. It is proposed to restrict the area to the actually overflowed lands of the valley. The project which was recently voted down included nearly half its area in uplands, and acreage that needed no drainage. The new plan is receiving much encouragement and will doubtless carry when put to a vote, and when adopted the work will be executed according to the survey made under direction of the Government last

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