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Campbell Talks On Farming

Says the Right Method Has Been Discovered for Successful Farming, But That It Must Be Thoroughly Understood

"Now, let me just make a few remarks upon that question of every-other-year farming which I find is not generally understood. A great many people seem to have grasped the idea that we mean to raise a crop every other year only. That was the idea we started out on a number of years ago, but we have found that by storing this water and by what seems to us the development of plant elements or fertility that we can grow two or three or four or five crops successively without getting the soil into bad condition; that is, by following the harvester with the disc and keeping it loose and keeping up the cultivation. The minute one crop is off we should begin preparation for next year's crop."

Mr. Briggs: "I would like to ask Professor Campbell one more question and that is, if he knows of any process by which the fertility of the soil can be continued year after year with the same cropping."

Professor Campbell: "In answering that question, I must theorize a little bit. I do not know it at all. But the experience we have had, the results we have secured, the apparent fertility of our ground after growing the four crops, indicate that the loss of humus in soil properly handled is not so great as some of our predecessors have anticipated or believe. You understand that you cannot grow a stalk on top without a good many roots under it. Now, the more you grow above, the more roots you put into the ground. It is my opinion that, as we grow the big crops, we place back in the soil material that, when decomposed and denitrified, makes humus."

Mr. Adams: "That comes from the decay of the roots."

Professor Campbell: "Yes. It is my opinion, backed up by the experience we have had in seven years, that with the kind of soil we have and under existing conditions you can grow crops of from ten to forty or fifty bushels of wheat, and that at the end of the ten years you will be no further

short of the necessary fertility to go on another ten years than when you began, if the proper steps are taken."

Mr. Briggs: "This you have not demonstrated?"

Professor Campbell: "No, sir. This thing has got to be proven."

A Delegate: "Do I understand that the fertility of the soil might be continued by proper cultivation for ten years with constant cropping and without manuring?"

Professor Campbell: "Yes, sir, in our soil, in its present condition. Now, the trouble in getting onto a platform and asking questions in this manner is in being misunderstood. On this question of fertility, I am the strongest believer in the utilization of our barnyard manure. Not that our soil hasn't the ability to produce, but the more humus we get into the ground the easier we can control this proposition. I think a man should take precaution to gather up as large a percentage of barnyard manure as they do in the old New England states where I was raised, putting it on, scattering it over the surface and discing it in, plowing under when the soil is in condition, following it with a packer, packing it down, and that will make it decompose and enable you to carry a very much larger percentage of moisture."

Another question: "How much of the minimum of ten inches of rain must fall in the growing season?" I do not consider it absolutely necessary to have very much of the rain during the growing season if your ground has been summer-tilled and you have a sufficient amount of moisture stored under it. We have grown one crop at Hill City practically without any rain, and a big crop, too. Of course, if you could have it just as you wanted it, it would just keep the rains off until the grain had gotten up to the heading point, and then have the rain. If you can get your ground thoroughly and nicely prepared, put your seed in and not have a bit of rain for thirty to sixty days, your chances for a big crop are very much better

than they would be if you had rain after seeding."

Mr. S. G. Rosecrans of Colorado: "Would you use the harrow or weeder upon that ground in the spring? Say the Hallock weeder?"

Professor Campbell: "No, I would use a harrow instead of the Hallock weeder. The Hallock weeder is not severe enough. It wouldn't tear it up enough. I would invariably harrow in the spring all small grain, and almost always in the spring our sowed grains. Now, down in the Panhandle, in the fall of 1905, I made a little talk. A gentleman who was farming in that vicinity and had been there then for four or five years, after I had made the remark that I would harrow oats at a certain point, said: 'What would you do if you got another big rain right on top of that?' I said, 'Harrow it again.' Well, the spring came on and he sowed his oats and the rain came and he harrowed it as suggested, and in a very few days after that there came another very heavy rain, and he said to his neighbor, 'I am going to follow Mr. Campbell's ideas, but I expect to ruin this crop. I am going to harrow it again.' And he did. And he insisted that he did ruin that piece of grain, but he got 72 bushels to the acre."

Mr. William Hill of Utah: "How high were those oats when harrowed?"

Professor Campbell: "Well, my recollection, from his explanation, would be about four inches."

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Daily	Daily	Daily
Leave:		Arrive:
2:15 p.m.	Biggs	11:50 a.m.
2:35 p.m.	Gilsons	11:19 a.m.
2:50 p.m.	Sinks	11:10 a.m.
3:12 p.m.	Wasco	11:00 a.m.
3:18 p.m.	Klondike	10:45 a.m.
3:30 p.m.	Summit	10:40 a.m.
3:45 p.m.	Hay C. Je	10:31 a.m.
3:50 p.m.	McDonalds	10:22 a.m.
4:05 p.m.	DeMoss	10:05 a.m.
4:20 p.m.	Moro	9:55 a.m.
4:35 p.m.	Erskineville	9:37 a.m.
4:50 p.m.	Grass Valley	9:20 a.m.
4:55 p.m.	Bonbon	9:15 a.m.
5:11 p.m.	Kent	8:40 a.m.
5:21 p.m.	Wilcox	8:30 a.m.
5:30 p.m.	Shaniko	8:00 a.m.

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