

DRY FARMING CONGRESS.

Methods of Increasing Crop Output Will Be Discussed.

The Dry Farming congress is now organized, with some persistency and determination to be heard from in the matter of urging its claims upon the attention of the public. The faith that the promoters and operators of this association have in their claims of dry farming methods, well carried out, cannot be questioned, says the editor of the Twentieth Century Farmer. The experiences and results of careful and persistent work in crop growing efforts are the evidence that is offered in testimony of the feasibility of dry farming methods and dry farming as an industry.

It is not surprising that there are the doubtful, the skeptical, the unbeliever in converting the dry land of the arid West to agricultural purposes, the growing of crops, the cultivation of orchards and forests, the establishing of homes and the building up of commercial interests and industries on these lands; we say that it is not surprising that some hesitate, that they doubt the availability of sufficient moisture to grow crops; that they forecast seasons of drouth, etc. All these things had their period and have exerted their influence to discourage and prejudice the mind of the public as the settlement of the country has progressed westward for the last fifty years, and yet cultivation has been the civilizing influence that has conquered drouth, hot winds and the barrenness of the plains and prairie countries that are now the dependence in production.

The Fourth Dry Farming congress will hold its meeting at Billings, Montana, October 26, 27 and 28, 1909. This will not only be an institute for dry farming farmers and dry farming instructors and teachers, but it will be an exposition of dry farming products such as this or no other country has ever witnessed. There are pledged already exhibits from thirteen Western states that are engaged in dry farming work. The organization by states, to show what each is doing and capable of doing in the raising of grain and vegetable crops, without irrigation, is a feature never before undertaken in this district and promises some great surprises for visitors.

The area of tillable lands in the United States not yet turned to cultivation is comparatively small, and under present conditions of demand by the homesteader will last but a few more years at most. It is only the part of good business judgment that the dry farming districts be investigated by those who contemplate getting a home under the free homestead law. Good lands and the best locations will be the first taken. Each year will reduce the quality of lands to be disposed of as government homesteads.

The Dry Farming congress will be a good place to visit next October, in view of getting dry farming information and dry farms on which to put it into practice. The Dry Farming congress announces that there are 200,000,000 acres of arable land awaiting development by the dry farming methods.

Many a man is an expert hand at putting his foot in it.

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Science AND INVENTION

As a substitute for the baby carriage a French inventor has brought out a portable hammock by which an infant can be carried between two persons by straps from their shoulders.

A new type of electric locomotive, of which the New York Central Railroad will soon have twenty, is capable of 4,000 horse-power at high speed, the armatures being mounted directly on the driving axles.

The new field gun of the French army requires one less man to operate it than its prototype, as the recoil opens the breech block and ejects the cartridge, the block closing automatically when a new cartridge is inserted.

The Pennsylvania Railroad is experimenting with heating ordinary passenger coaches which are run over its electric lines by steam secured from boilers mounted on baggage cars, to which electric heat is supplied from the third rail.

English experiments in the spontaneous combustion of stacked hay indicate that the phenomenon is due to bacteria, as hay that would not ignite when sterilized did so after being sprinkled with water containing earth or ordinary hay.

The Hon. C. A. Parsons says that at the beginning of his experiments with turbines, in 1884, high steam velocities had to be avoided because of the cutting action on metals of minute drops of water entrained by the steam, and hurled against the surfaces at a velocity of 3,800 feet per second. This was sufficient to erode a hard file one

of the American ambassador; Bridge-water House; Chesterfield House, built by the great author of political letter writing; Apsley House, the home of the Duke of Wellington; Devonshire House; Grosvenor House, the custodian of a vast treasure in pictures, manuscripts and sculpture; Lansdown House, with its great gallery of busts and statues; Stafford House, whose great staircase alone is worth a king's ransom; Wimborne House—these are only a few of the number. There are many other houses of minor importance which would be starred in the first line if they were anywhere else.

There, for instance, in Arling street, a small, narrow thoroughfare close behind the Ritz Hotel, where Wimborne House casts its great shadow, are a dozen mansions which contain treasures almost beyond belief. The Marquis of Salisbury lives there in a magnificent palace—magnificent as to interior, insignificant as to exterior.

Sir Alexander Henderson, a great railway magnate, hides the nobility of his possessions behind a modest street frontage. At No. 17, a house built 150 years ago by Lord Carteret and now owned by Lord Yarborough, lives H. Gordon Selfridge, late of Chicago. It is a simple-looking London residence, but the vast interior, spreading out as you progress, is a perfect storehouse of beautiful objects of antiquity.

Here are the most wonderful Van Dycks, Greuzes, Rembrandts, Reynolds, Lelys and Gainsboroughs; gallery after gallery, room after room filled with them; books of great rarity, bindings that would make the curators of most museums giddy with delight and furniture that one only finds usually surrounded by chains to keep off the curious public; and this is only one of the dozens upon dozens of old London houses.

As a matter of fact, this does not

THE NEW CURATE.



Mother (nervously)—You know what I told you, Johnnie.
Johnnie (who has been told not to make personal remarks)—I wasn't saying anything. I was only looking at it.—London Weekly Telegraph.

thirty-second of an inch in 145 hours. But in the compound turbines now used this erosion is practically eliminated, so that brass and copper blades can be used. Advance has been made in the reduction of steam per horse-power. In 1897 the Turbinia consumed 16 pounds per shaft horse-power; in 1901 the King Edward consumed the same amount; but in 1907 the Lusitania consumed only 12 pounds and the Mauretania 11½ pounds. In large turbines there is a loss of about 30 per cent in the total energy, but it may be possible to reduce this.

The growing use of metallic filaments for electric lamps, formed of the rare metals tantalum and tungsten, attracts much attention to those metals. Tantalum is pure white and as hard as the best steel. When hot it can be rolled, hammered and drawn out into wire. Its tensile strength exceeds that of steel. For lamp filaments it is drawn into wire hardly more than one five-hundredth of an inch in diameter. Its electrical resistance is much less than that of carbon, so that the filaments have to be much longer than the ordinary carbon filaments when they are used with the usual 110-volt lamps. Tantalum lamps have high efficiency and long life, and give a brilliant white light. Sometimes when a filament breaks it can be mended by tapping the lamp while the current is on. The ends coming into momentary contact are welded. Tantalum melts at 2,300 degrees Centigrade. Tungsten melts at 3,030 degrees Centigrade. Like tantalum, it has a much lower resistance than carbon. Tungsten filaments are somewhat delicate, and must be handled carefully.

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