

**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 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 of those 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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**WOMEN OF ARMY AND THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE**

**Wives of Generals Bell and Edwards Chief Among Social Leaders at White House.**

**GOLD LACE HAS GREAT HEYDAY**

**Presidential Affairs Made Gay Through Presence of Land and Sea Fighters of Nation.**

Washington correspondence:

When Mrs. Taft, in her official role as first lady of the land, surrounded herself with a coterie of the cleverest and brightest officers of the twin branches of the service, everybody in Washington society recognized that the era of the army and navy set had arrived. In brave array the military men form a moving background at Mrs. Taft's at home, and in their immaculate dress the officers of the land and sea forces are a splendid attribute at Mrs. Taft's fascinating garden parties.

At the White House entertainments scarcely has the line of guests passed until Mrs. Taft is surrounded by a group of officers and their wives, daughters and sweethearts, whose persiflage and laughter instantly dissipate any indication of an oppressive or a "military" perfunctoriousness.

Replacing Col. Bromwell, who with Mrs. Bromwell were dominant factors in the social life of the capital in the last administration, is Col. Spencer Cosby, whose career has been marked with distinction. Col. Cosby is the first of the administration bachelors to announce his engagement, and in the fall Miss Yvonne Shepard, daughter of Mrs. Charles H. Shepard of New York and Washington, will fall heir to the position vacated by the withdrawal of Mrs. Bromwell.

Miss Shepard is tall and svelte, her well-carried head is graced with quantities of silky, fair-brown hair, and her pretty complexion is set off by the taste Miss Shepard displays in the selection of the color of her gowns. She wears large hats, flower trimmed, and long, sweeping gowns, which accentuate the graceful slenderness of her figure.

As the wife of the President's aid and constant attendant, Miss Shepard will be thrown constantly in association with the White House family, and her adroitness and social graces will be put to a severe test in the carrying of a role not less influential than difficult.

**Gen. Bell's Wife a Power.**

As wife of the chief of staff, Mrs. J. Franklin Bell will have a high position in the full tide of the official season.

Not content with standing at the head of the serried ranks of armydom, Mrs. Bell is no less popular with the diplomatic as well as the congressional and president set. As a great friend of Mrs. Edson Bradley of New York, she is in touch with the smart life of the little coterie of the rich and important who come to Washington each winter to enjoy its season.

Gen. and Mrs. Bell last winter took possession of a commodious home at Fort Myer and there throughout the season Mrs. Bell challenged the admiration of society by the conduct of a series of delightful entertainments, her guests including the grizzled veterans who surround the chief of staff, the young officers eager for an opportunity to display their mettle, the debutantes, the foreign "guests" of the nation and the general everyday-man and woman who goes in for Washington's social good times.

Associated with Mrs. Bell in the so-

**WOMEN WHO LEAD IN MRS. TAFT'S SOCIAL LIFE.**



**MRS. J. FRANKLIN BELL**



**MRS. CLARENCE EDWARDS**

cial life of the army set is Mrs. Wetherpoon, the attractive wife of Gen. Bell's first assistant. Mrs. Bell's sister, Mrs. Ernest Garlington, wife of Gen. Garlington, is another army matron whose power in society has to be reckoned with. Mrs. Garlington is a pretty, fair-haired woman, endowed with a liberal share of the good fellowship and good humor Mrs. Bell displays in such a marked degree.

In the childless home of the chief of staff Miss Sally Garlington, Mrs. Bell's jolly, good-natured and good-looking young niece, has a large and important role to carry. Miss Sally is a dancer who has won acclaim at the amateur dramatic productions which have been features of Washington's smart life for the last few years, while her skill as a horsewoman gives her a forward place in the gay little company of "paperchasers" who gallop over the hills two or three times a week.

Mrs. Aleshire, wife of Gen. Aleshire, is one of the army matrons whose wit and poise count in the proper equipment of an army officer's wife. She is large and nice-looking, noticeable chiefly for the sweetness of her expression and her general air of extreme good breeding. She is the moth-

er of a debutante daughter, who has the distinction of being one of Miss Helen Taft's best chums.

**Mrs. Edwards Wins Laurels.**

One of the handsome homes of the army set established in Washington is presided over by Mrs. Clarence Edwards, wife of Gen. Clarence Edwards, chum to the President and general good fellow. Gen. Edwards, who is one of the most generally liked officers of the service, has his honors to look to when it comes to a discussion of his wife's popularity. Everybody likes Mrs. Edwards and her place in the favor of the community waxes as the years increase.

In girlhood, as pretty and vivacious Bessie Porter, she made her first appearance in Washington, coming over to visit her great-aunt, Mrs. Saunders Irving, widow of Washington Irving's nephew. Mrs. Irving maintained a menagerie second only to the White House in point of social importance, its gentle mistress, who was an invalid, being one of the few women upon whom the wives of the Presidents felt it incumbent to leave cards.

Mrs. Edwards is a slender, delicate-looking woman, whose chief beauty lies in her sweetness of expression, her well-bred air and her lovable manners. She looks at life through two jolly, twinkling eyes and she has sympathy with everybody and with everything that lives, without regard to place or position. Her servants adore her and pay her the sovereign compliment of remaining in her service two decades or more.

A very great-great-granddaughter of the first white man that settled in the western part of New York, Mrs. Edwards' family, the Porters of Niagara, N. Y., held the original grant of the immense tract of land which included the falls until the taking over of the property by the State government.

Gen. Peter B. Porter, Mrs. Edwards' great-grandfather, served as secretary of war in the cabinet of President John Quincy Adams.

Gen. and Mrs. Edwards' daughter Bessie is a pretty little woman of 10 years, who is a chum of her father and the boon companion of her mother. The Edwards home is a reflex of the character of its owners. Beginning with the general's office on the first floor photographs of familiar friends—men, women and small children—run riot and overflow into the attractive drawing room on the second floor, gay in its dress of summy English chintz and filled with fine old mahogany and interesting things picked up in the out of the way corners of the army officers' world.

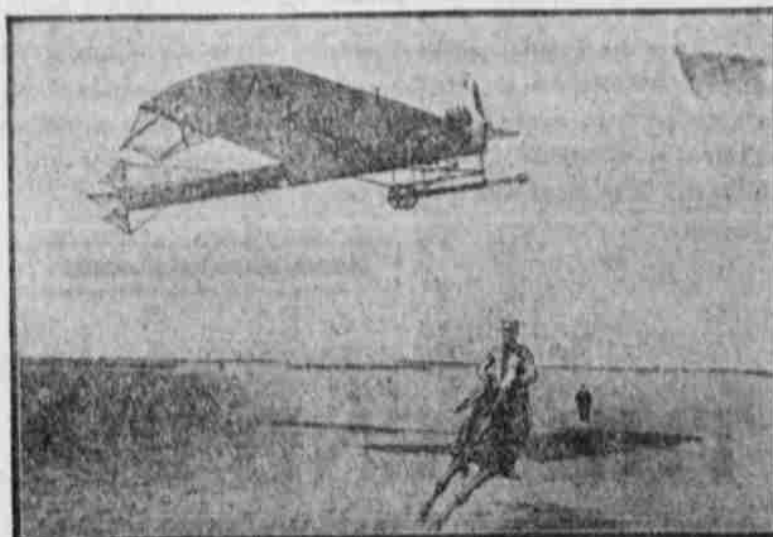
The Edwardses keep open house in and out of season and aside from dispensing a hospitality as smart as the smartest, Gen. and Mrs. Edwards delight in having friends to lunch or dine en famille.

**Cynical Interpretation.**

She (sentimentally)—It means a great deal to a girl of Emma's nature to marry a man like Dick.  
He (brutally)—Naturally. He is a man of means—Baltimore American.

Before a woman has returned from her wedding trip she has all her plans laid for freezing out his kin, and making a home for her own.

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