

THE WHEATFIELD

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EASTERN OREGON WHEAT LANDS

Dr. James Withycombe, extensive farmer and director of the agricultural experiment station at the Oregon Agricultural college, makes the somewhat startling statement that if eastern Oregon wheat raisers persist in their present course of procedure—raising a crop of wheat on the same piece of land every other year and letting it lie fallow the intermediate years—all that region will relapse into a desert waste. He declares that letting the land rest every other year not only does not benefit it, but on the contrary exhausts it more than raising several crops of wheat does.

Dr. Withycombe ranks as an authority on this subject. He says that to conserve the fertility of the soil the wheat farmers, instead of letting half their land lie idle alternate years, must raise other crops upon it, preferably alfalfa or vetches. This, the theory probably is, will really "rest" the land so far as its wheat raising energies are concerned, and will prevent the wasteful evaporation or exhaustion of its chemical properties that are requisite in the production of wheat.

Something analogous to this is true of any individual. A change from one form of work to another is a relief and equivalent to a rest, while continued or frequent spells of idleness leads to incapacity for work.

There appears as yet, we think, no plain signs to indicate to the average observer the catastrophe Dr. Withycombe predicts, for land on which wheat has been raised for a quarter of a century or more still produces as well as ever; yet he may, as he should be able to, look farther below the surface of the agricultural industry than most other men; and his advice as to raising alfalfa and vetches, is certainly good.

It has been demonstrated that these crops can be produced on dry uplands and that being the case there is prob-

ably as much profit in these fodder crops as in wheat. On some farms around Walla Walla four cuttings of alfalfa were made this season, aggregating perhaps 9 or 10 tons an acre, besides several weeks pasturage early in the spring and again in the fall. Surely this is better than the best wheat crop.

At any rate, Dr. Withycombe's declaration and suggestion will arouse much interest and wide attention in the wheat belt.

DON'T BE A KNOCKER

If there is any chance to boom a business, boom it. Don't be a knocker. Don't pull a long face and look as though you had a sour stomach. Hold up your head, smile and hope for better things. Hide your little hammer and try to speak well of others, no matter how small you may really know yourself to be. When a stranger drops in jolly him. Tell him this is the greatest town on earth—and it is. Don't discourage by speaking ill of your neighbors or opposing firms. Lead him to believe he has at last stuck a place where white people live. Don't knock. Help yourself along by becoming popular, and push your friends with you. It's dead easy. Be a good fellow and soon you'll have a procession of followers. No man ever helped himself by knocking other people down in business or character. No man ever got rich by trying to make others believe he was the only man in town, or the only man in town who knew anything. You can't climb the ladder of success by treading on other people's corns. Keep off the corns and don't knock. You're not the only, there are others, and they have brains and know something as well as you. There's no end of fun minding your own business. It makes others like you. Nobody gets stuck on a knocker. Don't be one or two. Be good and if you want to live in a good town come to Lexington. There are no knockers here.

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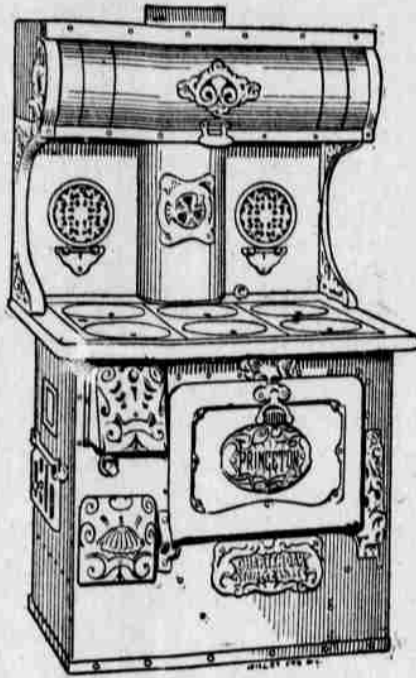
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