

*Historical Society*

LEXINGTON GROWS WITHOUT WATCHING

# LEXINGTON WHEATFIELD

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## DRY FARMING—THE HOPE OF THE WEST

A METHOD OF PRODUCING BOUNTIFUL CROPS, WITHOUT IRRIGATION, IN SEMI-ARID REGIONS

BY JOHN L. COWAN  
(JULY NUMBER CENTURY MAGAZINE)

(Continued from last week) one per cent. of the money now being expended for irrigation works were made available for the education of the people who ought to be interested in dry farming, it is probable that five hundred million acres of land—perhaps more than that—could be reclaimed from its present unproductive and comparatively worthless state just as rapidly as settlers, whether native-born, or immigrants from foreign countries, could be taken to it.

It has been demonstrated on half a score of experiment stations, on as many more model farms maintained by Western railroads, and on hundreds of private farms, that all that is necessary on the plains and in the intermountain parks and valleys is intelligently to make the most of the rains and snows that fall in order to grow as good crops as can be raised anywhere. In other words, farming methods must be adapted to natural conditions. This seems so simple and self-evident

that the only wonder is that men have been so very slow in finding it out. It ought not to be hard to believe that lands that produce the rich buffalo and gramo-grasses of the plains without cultivation, can be made to produce crops still more valuable with cultivation adapted to the soil and climate. Carrying the same argument a little further, there are many who believe that wherever sage-brush, cactus-plants, yucca, Spanish bayonet, and greasewood will grow, plants of economic value may be made to grow, also.

However, what the National Department of Agriculture, the various State governments, and the great railroad corporations have at last been made to see, has been demonstrated every season for twenty consecutive years by Mr. H. W. Campbell of Lincoln, Nebraska, the pioneer "dry farmer" of arid America. In scores of places from the James River to the Arkansas he has been uniformly successful in producing without irrigation the same

results that are expected with irrigation, with comparatively little additional expense, but not without a great deal more watchfulness and labor. What Western people have become accustomed to calling the "Campbell system of dry farming" consists simply in the exercise of intelligence, care, patience, and tireless industry. It differs in details from the "good-farming" methods practiced and taught at the various agricultural experiment stations; but the underlying principles are the same.

These principles are two in number. First, to keep the surface of the land under cultivation loose and finely pulverized. This forms a soil mulch that permits the rains and melting snows to percolate readily through to the compacted soil beneath; and that

"Make Hay While the Sun Shines."

There is a lesson in the work of the thrifty farmer. He knows that the bright sunshine may last but a day and he prepares for the showers which are so liable to follow. So it should be with every household. Dysentery, diarrhoea and cholera morbus may attack some member of the home without warning. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea. Remedy, which is the best known medicine for these diseases, should always be kept at hand, as immediate treatment is necessary, and delay may prove fatal. For sale by W. P. McMillan's Drug Store.

at the same time prevents the moisture stored in the ground from being brought to the surface by capillary attraction, to be absorbed by the hot, dry air. The second is to keep the sub-soil finely pulverized and firmly compacted, increasing its water-holding capacity and its capillary attraction, and placing it in the best possible physical condition for the germination of seed and the development of plant roots. The "dry farmer" thus stores water not in dams and artificial reservoirs, but right where it can be reached by the roots of growing crops.

Through these principles, a rainfall of twelve inches can be conserved so effectively that it will produce better results than are usually expected of an annual precipitation of twenty-four inches in humid America. The discoverer and demonstrator of these principles deserves to rank among the greatest of national benefactors. He has not merely made two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, but he has made it possible to cover with wheat and corn, alfalfa and other

(Continued on page 4.)

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10.00	" "	-	-	-	-	8.50
12.00	" "	-	-	-	-	9.00
14.00	" "	-	-	-	-	10.50
15.00	" "	-	-	-	-	11.25
16.00	" "	-	-	-	-	12.00
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" 2.50 " " "	-	-	-	-	-	2.25
" 2.75 " " "	-	-	-	-	-	2.45
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" 3.50 " " "	-	-	-	-	-	3.15
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