

Historical Society

LEXINGTON GROWS WITHOUT WATCHING

LEXINGTON WHEATFIELD

VOL. I

LEXINGTON, OREGON, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 1906

NO. 50

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)

After planting, the dry farmer does not trust to luck and Providence to do the rest, and blame it all on the weather if the final result is failure; but he continues to harrow over the ground after each rainfall until the growing crop is too far advanced to permit of this without causing its destruction. By that time it covers the ground fairly well, protecting it to some extent from the sun and hot winds, and making the constant loosening of the soil less imperative.

No sooner is the crop harvested than preparation begins for the next seeding. The plow follows close behind the harvester, cutting a furrow seven inches deep. Behind the plow follows the sub-soil packer, similar in shape to a disk-harrow, but having ten sharp wheels that cut deeply into the plowed ground and press the soil firmly together. The packer is drawn every slowly, but all ground plowed is packed and harrowed before work is

stopped for dinner or for the night's rest. No matter how long a time must elapse before the planting of the next crop, the ground is harrowed over after every rain, but never when it is dry. Through winter and summer this persistent and untiring stirring of the soil mulch is continued, whether anything be planted or not. The dry farmer, therefore, knows no season of rest or idleness. He knows that eternal diligence is the price he must pay for good crops. He not only believes, but practices, "the gospel of work," and richly deserves the ample reward that are surely his.

It has been thoroughly demonstrated that rational dry-farming methods, as above outlined, will produce from three to five times the results of ordinary farming methods on the same lands. In the sub-humid belt between the ninety-seventh and the one-hundredth meridians, the additional labor and expense amount to about 25 per cent. West of the one-hundredth meridian,

twice the usual amount of labor is necessary. This is partly offset by a saving of more than two thirds of the seed, and is richly compensated for by an increase in the harvest amounting to from 200 to 400 per cent. The ordinary farmer on the plains sows forty quarts of wheat to the acre, and threshes anywhere from nothing at all up to twenty bushels. The average crop grown in Kansas for the last fourteen years has been thirteen bushels to the acre, and fifteen bushels to the acre was the highest average for the State in any year in that time. The farmers who followed the Campbell system sow only twelve quarts to the acre, and never fail to harvest from thirty-five to fifty six bushels. Last year the third largest crop ever produced in Kansas was cut. It averaged twelve and three quarters bushels, aggregating 75,576,867 bushels, grown

on 5,854,047 acres of land. The average crop grown in the State by users of dry-farming methods was thirty-seven bushels to the acre. If this average had been maintained throughout the State, the Kansas crop for 1905 would have amounted to 216,599,739 bushels.

The average annual precipitation between the foot-hills of the Rocky Mountains and the Kansas-Nebraska line is 14.93 inches. In this arid region, in which long experience has proved ordinary agricultural methods to be unprofitable, there is a margin of almost three inches over the requirements for the successful following of dry-farming methods; and Julesburg, Limon, and many other flourishing agricultural communities are living witnesses of the efficacy of the Campbell system. While an annual rainfall of

(Continued on page 4.)

NOTICE

All accounts with the Pastime due J. V. Grimes have been transferred to me. If you owe a bill drop in and settle at your earliest convenience and the favor will be appreciated.

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9.00	" "	-	-	-	-	6.75
10.00	" "	-	-	-	-	8.50
12.00	" "	-	-	-	-	9.00
14.00	" "	-	-	-	-	10.50
15.00	" "	-	-	-	-	11.25
16.00	" "	-	-	-	-	12.00
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" 2.25 " " "	-	-	-	-	-	2.05
" 2.50 " " "	-	-	-	-	-	2.25
" 2.75 " " "	-	-	-	-	-	2.45
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" 3.25 " " "	-	-	-	-	-	2.95
" 3.50 " " "	-	-	-	-	-	3.15
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