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LEXINGTON GROWS WITHOUT WATCHING

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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)  
irrigated farms around Greeley, Fort Collins, Grand Junction and other parts of Colorado "under the ditch." A six year old orchard is in prime condition, the trees being as large as eight year old trees in the famous fruit-growing district of Palisades. A more complete vindication of all the claims made by advocates of the practicability of farming on the plains without irrigation could not well be imagined. About a year ago, the members of the Young Men's Club of Cheyenne, Wyoming, given to the cause of dry farming by State Engineer Clarence J. Johnston. A project was at once set on foot for the opening of a demonstration on waste lands near the city, supposed to be entirely worthless without irrigation. This farm was put in charge of Mr. F. C. Herrman of the Irrigation and Drainage Bureau of the United States Department of Agriculture. Last season record-breaking crops of corn, po-

tatoes, peas, oats, and garden vegetables were grown on those "waste" lands. Winter wheat, rye, alfalfa, and barley were also sown. Within ten days the grain was ten inches high covering with a perfect carpet of green the land that had been considered incapable of raising anything.  
At this writing all these crops promise a more abundant yield than will be obtained from the irrigated lands of the same neighborhood; and, unless hail or some unforeseen cause works havoc, a great impetus will be given to the cause of dry farming throughout Wyoming and adjacent States. In the work of this demonstration farm, the Board of Trade of Cheyenne, the State and National governments, and the great railroads, are all cooperating, in order to determine just what can be done by scientific soil culture to improve agriculture conditions on the arid and unproductive lands of Wyoming. A full description of the methods used and the

results obtained will be published in pamphlet form, and will be distributed broadcast through the West. During the present year, exhaustive tests of dry farming will be made at this place with corn, potatoes, durum wheat, field peas, sugar beets, bromegrass, beardless barley, and a large variety of forage plants, cereals, and vegetables. So promising has the experiment so far proved that one hundred farmers of the neighborhood are now trying dry-farming methods under the direction of the superintendent of the demonstration farm.

Near Julesburg, Sedgwick County, northeastern Colorado, dry-farming is practised more generally than in any other portion of the West, with highly gratifying results. The average crops reported last year by the farmers of that region without irrigation were: wheat, thirty-five bushels to the acre;

corn, fifty bushels; oats, sixty-five bushels; potatoes, 200 bushels; rye, thirty bushels; millet, two tons; cane for forage five tons. As a result of this showing many of the farmers of the neighborhood who have been irrigating their lands have sold or given up their water-rights and abandoned the use of the ditch entirely. A similar movement has been begun at Fort Collins, some of the farmers who tried both methods last season finding that dry farming yielded larger returns than they were able to obtain in adjoining fields by the use of irrigation. However, action of this kind is at present ill-judged and premature, and is discouraged rather than countenanced by the true friends of dry farming. No doubt irrigation is the best, safest, and most economical treatment for lands on which irrigation is practicable. It

(Continued on page 4.)

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12.00	" "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.00
14.00	" "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10.50
15.00	" "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11.25
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