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CATARRH
HAY FEVER

DRY FARMING IN CENTRAL OREGON

Prof. Scudder of O. A. C. Tells How 4,000,000 Acres of Rich Tillable Land May be Made to Produce Profitable Crops Under Dry Farm Methods

Oregon is, perhaps, best known the country over as a dairying and fruit country. To many of you, perhaps, it is known as a hinter and livestock country. To tell you Oregon is a dry farming country might surprise you. To speak briefly of the geography of Oregon would make clear at once the immense moisture-laden winds from the west over the Coast range and deluges western Oregon with a rainfall of from 40 to 75 inches which brings generous crops of fruit and dairy and forage products; but as this moisture-laden wind passes over the Cascades and reaches eastern Oregon it has reached high altitudes and that moisture is practically out of sight. There are but remnants of the moisture from this wind from the Japan current left after it has gotten over the crest of the Cascades. More than two thirds of the state lies east of the Cascade range—sixty thousand square miles of territory, 40,000,000 acres, practically a dry farming country. There are several great irrigation projects in the midst of this territory, where alfalfa and fruits are raised, but the great bulk of this 40,000,000 acres has a rainfall of only 10, to at the most 15 inches, annually.

The eastern Oregon dry farming ground may be divided into two sections, the one of which Mr. Hunter has spoken, the Columbia basin wheat belt, the section which is now partially developed by dry farms and which has a rainfall of from seven to nine and sometimes 1 to 11 inches and to south of this Columbia basin the great country called central Oregon, often marked on the many maps in school geographies still as a desert. I have just come from a 1200 mile trip through central Oregon, and if those of you who are not familiar with the dry farming country in Oregon could have taken such a trip I am sure it would make clear the immense territory yet to be developed, largely through dry farming methods.

In eastern Oregon we have some 4,000,000 acres of tillable land susceptible of profitable crop production under dry farming methods. Of this 4,000,000 acres there is only 1,000,000 acres at present under cultivation,

producing annually some 10,000,000 bushels of wheat. The great bulk of this country is a livestock country. The Columbia basin has an average elevation of 2000 feet, while the central Oregon country has an average elevation of 4000 feet. The rainfall in the Columbia basin is about eight or nine inches; in central Oregon it is 10 to as high as 20 inches toward the southern boundary. The Columbia basin has a silt loamy soil, a volcanic ash, often called an ideal soil for the dry farmer; the central Oregon country has a sandy loam soil, not perhaps so good for moisture conserving, but it has a higher rainfall and these two regions, almost equal in their dry farming area, are almost equal in their comparative return for dry farming production.

As to the particular practices we believe the best for this entire section, fall plowing is the most important, although fall plowing is but very slightly practiced as yet in Eastern Oregon due largely to the dryness of the soil and the difficulty in handling it at this time of the year. This difficulty may be avoided by discing thoroughly the stubble immediately after harvest, preventing the soil drying thoroughly and catching the early fall rains, and making it possible to plow more easily at that time. Wherever fall plowing has been done we have found it has worked successfully.

Deep plowing of course, goes with us as it does everywhere. Where the farmer cannot plow in the fall, or thinks he cannot, we find that thorough discing is of the greatest benefit. Where he cannot or does not, disc in the fall, we find that very early spring discing before plowing is of the greatest benefit, not only in preparing land for spring plowing and getting rid of the early weeds and stubble, but making the only perfect bed for dry weather coming later on. Of course in the spring we believe in sub surface packing and spring plowing. We also believe in the more common practices, such as the harrowing of grain in the spring. We find that a little harrowing after plowing is necessary. We find that press drilling where a packer is not

used after a drill is a great advantage, and, above everything else, is the importance of the tillage of the summer fallowed land.

Many are interested in the question of summer fallowing. For Oregon, we can say that summer fallowing will also be necessary over a considerable area, where the rainfall runs from 15 to 18 inches. As summer fallowing is now practiced, we do not believe that summer fallowing is necessary every other year. We believe that fallow crops may be substituted for that practice in eastern Oregon, and that summer fallowing is not as successful as it might be if thorough tillage was instituted. We advocate the summer tillage as will maintain a mulch, but a variation in the implements used in producing that mulch will leave the land somewhat rough, in order to prevent blowing.

The crops in eastern Oregon are similar to all dry farm crops the fall grains, of course, the fall wheat of which the Turkey Reds and Golden Queen are the most successful. We are encouraging the growth of winter barley. We have not the best varieties yet, but we are sure we are going to find winter barley successful.

The crops we are looking forward to in eastern Oregon are the Canada field peas and alfalfa, grown largely for seed production. We believe that these are the crops that may be successfully and profitably introduced into a rotation with the grain on the dry farm to offset the effect of continuous wheat farming and its associated bad results. We realize, however, that to grow field peas and alfalfa and such forage crops as kaffir corn and milo, farming must be done more intensively and to do it intensively the size of the farm in this region must be reduced.

The greatest need of eastern Oregon is a closer organization among the farmers, to bring about a wider dissemination of knowledge concerning the successful methods and at the same time promote livestock interests on the small farm, particularly. We hope in the near future to form a state Dry Farming association in Oregon, which will look to this organization as a parent, and which will lead to a more permanent agriculture.

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Sin Eaters

"Sin eaters" of the old days, like "nutes" of quite recent times, were hired performers at funerals. In consideration of sixpence in money, a bowl of beer and a crust of bread these sties, as they were called—"long, lean, ugly, lamentable rascals"—would by eating over the body take upon themselves all the sins of the deceased and so free him from afterward walking the earth as a ghost, so that his soul might rest in peace. This custom prevailed all over Wales and the adjoining English counties and was observed even down to 1686. The usage is said to have arisen from a mistaken interpretation of Hosea iv, 8, "They eat up the sin of my people." The more likely origin of this strange custom is the Levitical scapegoat. A much later remnant of this obtained at Amersden, Oxfordshire, where, after every funeral, a cake and a flagon of ale were brought to the minister in the church porch.—London Standard.

Stone Cake.

In very unusual seasons the people of Rajputan, in India, are deprived of seeds and succulent roots of grasses. Under these very adverse conditions the barks of trees and even ground up rocks are resorted to principally to give bulk to the scanty meal and thereby to stay the pangs of hunger for a longer time. A soft stone found on the Bikanir-Marwar border of Jaipur is largely used in that part of the country to give bulk to the meager meal. This stone is friable and easily ground into fine powder. It contains an oleaginous substance which has some nutritive qualities, and the people have found that when finely ground and used in proportions of about one-fourth to three-fourths of flour it does not impair digestion for a considerable time.

Appropriate.

A family of children, after the usual Saturday night rump, gathered in the drawing room for music and singing. As bedtime drew near the mother said:

"Now, children, choose one hymn to finish up with, and then you must all say 'Good night!'"

"Let's have 'Ere Again Our Sabbath Close,'" suggested a bright little girl of about seven years of age.

"Well, I think that would be more suitable tomorrow evening," replied the mother.

"Oh, but you always at our Sabbath clothes on Saturdays, mummy!"—London Tatler.

What Did She Mean?

Harold—What did she say when you turned out the gas and kissed her?

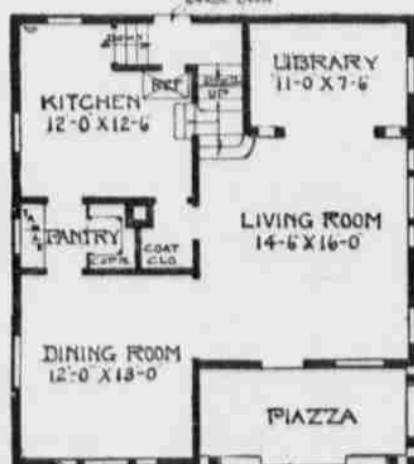
Rupert—Said she felt as if she never wanted to see my face again.—Philadelphia Record.

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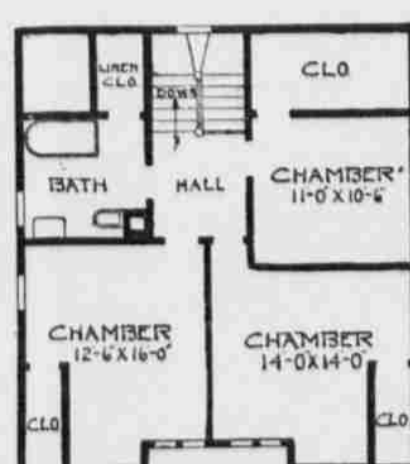
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 No. 4 leaves Reno for the East at - - - 9:25 p. m.
 No. 2 leaves Reno for the East at - - - 9:50 p. m.