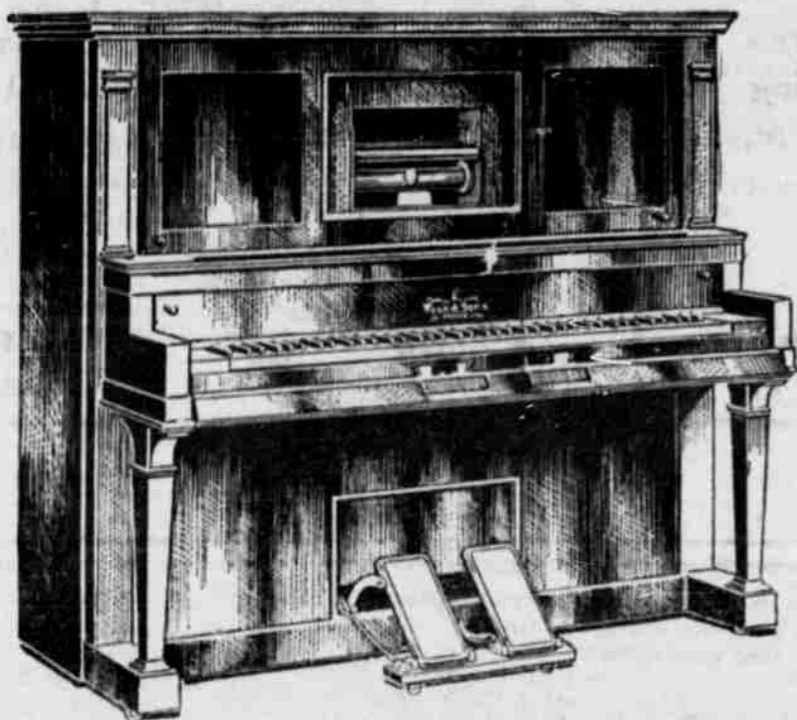


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TULSA CONGRESS AID TO FARMERS

Scientific Methods of Dry Farming Thoroughly Discussed By Experts.

(Special to the Examiner)

Omitting the brass band, the military display, the fireworks both technical and verbal, the Eighth International Dry Farming Congress which was held at Tulsa, Okla., from October 22 to 31, inclusive, marked another milestone of that progress which should be the goal of every farmer and farmer's wife of the Northern Hemisphere. It was the most stupendous testimony to the modern theory of agriculture, that head work plus hand work means success, that the writer ever witnessed. From origins which as recently as ten years ago were considered leagues beyond the deadline came wheat weighing 62 1-2 pounds to the bushel and 38 bushels to the acre, potatoes weighing over 6 pounds each, squashes over 3 feet long, alfalfa making 5 tons to the acre, and corn that would make the average corn belt farmer envious and sad.

Five large buildings were required to furnish sufficient room for the exhibits which poured in, not only from states and counties, but from individual farmers. Many thousand dollars, much farm machinery, and several cups were awarded as prizes to the various exhibitors. But these awards and prizes were merely symbols—badges of recognition. The real winners, as shown by the Congress, were the two nations, Canada and the United States—winners in that the food problem was being solved within their borders, and winners in the possession of a rural population with the spirit to brave unfriendly natural conditions and the brains to conquer them.

The Dry Farming Congress, from the speeches of the illustrious agriculturists who were there, to the long rows of soil products, was an indirect but deadly protest against American carelessness in farm methods. It was shown at Tulsa that to a man who is familiar with the general farming from Florida to the Dakotas, dry farming is nothing more or less than applying, to land which suffers from lack of rain, principles which produce the best results when applied to land enjoying plenty of rain.

It was a nation-wide lesson on good farming. It proved that the successful rules of good farming were the good rules of successful farming. The pioneer settlers on practically desert land were left to demonstrate by practical results what farm journals, government schools, and the service bureaus of the big machine companies have tried to teach, that the fundamentals of farming are deeper plowing, better cultivation, more animal fertilizer, and better seeded selection. It was claimed by those who had experimented for years that in breaking up the sod it is more profitable to turn it under from 10 to 12 inches than from 4 to 8, which is the popular depth. By actual experiment between two acres in the same field, land treated by deep tillage yielded \$100 more in produce in 10 years than a similar acre plowed only 6 inches. In another case in bringing out the value of humus as a factor in increasing the water holding power of soils, it was found that in 100 pounds of ordinary sandy soil there was 19 pounds of water, while on the other hand, the same amount of garden soil, well filled with humus, contained 53 pounds of water, or nearly three times as much. By deep plowing before the rains, followed by good deep cultivation to save the stored water, the amount of water available for plants can be increased nearly fifty per cent. With such an increase there should never, even in the driest sections, be such a scarcity of water as to cause a loss of the crop. The best insurance against drouth next summer is deep plowing this winter and early spring. Turn the land, if possible, to a depth of at least eight inches, and then follow this plowing with some implement in each furrow that will stir the soil at least another four or six inches. With such preparation before the rains come, such soil should and will absorb enough water to insure a crop next summer.

Another significant event which characterized the Tulsa Congress was the assembling of the third annual meeting of the International Congress of Farm Women. It was in session five days and many women of national note were present and addressed the delegates on matters of special interest to the housewives on the farm. The keynote of this event was contained in an address by Mrs. Belle V'D Harbert, Mansanola, Colorado, who presented the life's duties of the home-building mother in a brilliant speech characterized by one of her auditors as "almost pathetic in its challenge and almost challenging in its pathos." She said:

"The International Congress of Farm Women, organized at Colorado Springs in October, 1911, is a woman's movement toward the goal of social justice. 'The world has absolutely failed to appreciate the economic value of the farmer's wife, and she has now stepped upon the stage of social progress and offered to help in the solution of the world's great problems. Her experience as the keeper of the rural home from which so many great men of all nation as have come, her knowledge of the burdens and care which have driven so many thousands of her sisters from the farm to take refuge in the cities, and her unselfish desire to be of real service to humanity, have prompted this organization. Results most important to the future of all nations are sure to follow.

"It is the beginning of a new era in country life. There is no doubt as to the responsibility for the wholesale movement toward the city during the past decade. Women become tired of the drudgery caused by lack of convenience in the rural homes, but which are furnished in the cities. In the city she has water in the house, fuel for cooking, lights, and often heat. The sewerage problem is solved and there are a thousand other conveniences which she could not have under present existing circumstances in the rural communities. She becomes tired of the monotony and isolation she has to endure and naturally turns to the city as a means of relief.

"Farm women have hitherto labored and died as individuals. They have never been recognized as a class or factor in the world's work. Other great industries have always had ample consideration and by the student of social problems; so have the wage earners, but she who has given to the world its recruits of brain and brawn has had no fitting recognition.

"Much has been said of late about the popularity of the 'Back to the Farm' movement on account of modern methods of soil tillage, up-to-date machinery and a better knowledge of farm management; but practically nothing has been said in regard to power for household use, best methods of securing a plentiful water supply for the house, the most sanitary methods of disposing of sewerage, and up-to-date methods of furnishing light and heat for the farm home.

"These household problems must be solved before the 'Back to the Farm' movement will ever be popular. Women are not going back to the farm to milk cows and make butter without the help of a cream separator and other modern conveniences with power to run them. Never again will she be willing to carry water for household use when modern inventions are cheaper than human strength; never again will she be content to spin and knit and weave like her grandmother did, or be a slave to the broom and dustcloth when a vacuum cleaner saves its price in doctor's bills every year of its installment.

"The International Congress of Farm Women has been organized as a sort of clearing house for the farm home troubles. It exerts a unifying influence which binds the farm women of all nations as into one great sisterhood."

As a tribute to what American farmers have accomplished, seventeen foreign nations sent over two score of delegates to investigate American methods and American machines.

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Notice of Lease of State Lands

The State Land Board desiring to lease all unsold school sections (16 and 36) will receive offers for same up to December 22, 1913. Leases will be made for a term of one year, subject to cancellation in event of sale of land. Remittance to cover annual rental must accompany offer.

G. G. BROWN,
Clerk State Land Board,
November 1, 1913. N6-14

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