

"SCIENTIFIC FARMING."

Another Exposition of the Dry Farming So Much Talked of in the West at the Present Time.

THE most interesting and unique feature in western farming can be seen on the prairies between the western line of Kansas and Denver, Col. It is an attempt to transform what have been arid plains, entirely incapable of irrigation, into productive farms. The method is called "scientific farming," but it is little more than the application of the old fashioned methods conducted with new fangled implements. The men who are at the head of this experiment are shrewd and intelligent business men. They are endeavoring to produce crops on cheap lands equal to those raised on the more expensive areas farther east.

Sometimes it is called "dry farming" and sometimes the "Campbell system," but it is all the same thing, and is all based upon the idea that frequent cultivation of the surface will keep the ground moist. H. W. Campbell originated the application of this method of farming through the high plains of the middle west. He began in South Dakota, and later operated in Nebraska and northern Kansas. Some capitalists with large areas of land for sale, and the Burlington railroad with land grants that it was anxious to dispose of to settlers, backed him in his experiments, and "model farms" were conducted for several years without attracting much attention.

In the last few months the idea has been taken up by wide awake promoters of Denver and Cheyenne, and they are endeavoring to show that the cheap lands of the Rocky mountain foothills are as valuable as the farms near the Missouri river. At the basis of their argument is the statement that 12 inches of rainfall is sufficient to raise a crop, and this regardless of when the water comes. The rainfall of central Kansas and Nebraska is about 40 inches annually. In western Kansas and Nebraska it falls to 20 inches. In eastern Colorado it is 12 inches.

Eastern Colorado is a mile above sea level; clouds are rare, and unless every particle of moisture is absorbed it is impossible to raise crops. "Now," say these scientific farmers of the new generation, "if the top of the soil is made fine like dust, it will keep every particle of moisture that falls and enable the roots of the grain plants to receive enough assistance to produce a crop. It is all a matter of evaporation and a matter of expense in preventing this evaporation."

Of course, it is easy to see that in the thoroughly cultivated field a finely pulverized surface will retard the evaporation of moisture and will likewise absorb the moisture from above and prevent it from running off to the sea. The secret of success is to keep the surface thoroughly cultivated, so that it is pulverized the season through without spending too much money on it.

There are doubters. A prominent railroad man of Chicago, interested in one of the great railway systems, said confidentially last summer: "It is a mighty good advertising scheme, but there is not much in it. It will raise crops, but it costs too much. If one can raise \$10 worth of wheat on \$5 land he is very foolish to advertise the fact. The thing for him to do is to buy all the \$5 an acre land he can get. When these promoters say they can raise big crops and then offer to sell the land at a low price, there is something wrong somewhere."

But the promoters do not look at it this way. They claim there is an abundance of land, but that it takes a vast amount of work to oversee a large area which is being farmed by the scientific methods. They can make more money selling land than raising crops. Mr. Campbell has raised as much as 54 bushels of wheat to the acre in western Nebraska and 43 bushels to the acre in the western tier of counties in Kansas, and 40 bushels of corn to the acre 5,800 feet above sea level in Colorado, and this without irrigation. The natural moisture of

these sections is less than 15 inches annually.

Along with the new system comes a vast amount of new machinery. It takes the ordinary farmer a half dozen trips over an ordinary field before his field is sown; it takes the scientific farmer one trip. On the prairies east of Denver are being operated combination implements which are the most wonderful ever seen in the middle west. At the head of one procession is a 32 horsepower engine, which pulls all the rest; next come 12 14-inch plows, behind them are two corrugated iron rollers, then two clod crushers; next come harrows, and behind them the seed drills. In front of the engine it is unbroken prairie, behind the drills it is smooth and seeded ground. The machinery prepares and seeds 35 acres in a day of 10 hours. Under the old system of farming in Kansas and Nebraska it costs, according to the records of agricultural bureaus, \$4.80 an acre to raise wheat; under this system it costs about 90 cents an acre to put in the crop. The importance of doing it all at once is that it absorbs the moisture in the ground and leaves the soil in perfect condition to absorb every particle that falls during the autumn.

It is estimated that 150,000,000 acres of the plains region can be utilized by this method of agriculture. On it can be raised not only wheat, but alfalfa, kafir corn, barley and durum wheat. Most of these crops will grow in the average year without any special agriculture. The farmer can depend upon enough of these new kinds of production to support his family. His orchards and his surplus income can be assured by such methods as are suited to the new conditions. It is one of the most interesting of all the west's present undertakings, and thousands of new settlers are watching it.—C. M. Harger, Abeline, Kan., in N. Y. Tribune.

THE MEASURE OF SUCCESS.

The yardstick which we may lay down as the measure of success in farming is the word "care." It is really painful to hear farmers say, as they do so often, "It is good enough." That is all I want about. Nothing ever is good enough unless it is the very best we can make it. Says E. L. Vincent in Farm and Fireside: Any short of that is an invitation to failure. And yet thousands of farmers all over the country are working on the "good-enough" principle. Their fields are plowed well enough. Their harrowing is

good enough. Their cows are well enough cared for so that they "get through" the season alive. That is all they ask. And so on through the whole list of farm operations.

What can we expect of the man who does his work on this principle? Just what we actually find. They are always coming just on the wrong side of the line which separates success from failure. Their crops are never above the average. Their cows make no records that the world knows of. They themselves always stay right where their fathers left them in the morning of life. There are no heights for them to scale. They do not care to rise above the common run of men. They are satisfied to drift, and we all know that drifting never brings a man out at the head of the boat race. The man that wins must get right down to business and pull for dear life. He must care. If he doesn't care for himself, nobody will care for him. Just what does the question of care in farming imply?

I know a farmer that keeps a number of cows. If a bad storm comes up while those cows are out to pasture, he gets them down to the stable as quickly as possible and feeds them so that they shall not be chilled while the storm lasts. He does more. He takes an old bran sack or some similar cloth and goes down the line of his cows, wiping the wet from their backs and a dew, rubbing them if they are all dry again. He chafes their legs if the hoofs are chafed. He makes them comfortable personally. I have seen him in the spring or fall, when there comes up a flurry of snow, cut off seasons of his cattle from top to toe, down to the stable brushing the cold mantle of white off carefully and rubbing them thoroughly if they are dry.

Why does he do this? Because he knows that there is a direct relationship between comfort and success in dairying. A cow that is chilled and uncomfortable cannot give as good milk nor as much of it as one that is not subjected to these unfavorable circumstances. That is why he gets his cows in out of the storm. That is why he rubs them dry. That is why he feeds them all well before the cold sets in again. That is why he does everything he can to make them feel comfortable and happy.

You call this foolish and say the man is a slave to his stock. It is harsh language, and you would never use it if you once became sufficiently interested in the work to follow his example. You would see that this man makes more out of his cows than any other man in the neighborhood. You are then convinced that from a financial standpoint alone that man makes his business a success. And that is where he has the advantage of others engaged in the same line.

But this is not the only particular in which the farmer to which reference is made excels. His horses are well cared for. If they have been out in a storm, when they come in they are first rubbed down with clean straw or a dry blanket. Then a light blanket is thrown over them. After they are partly dried off, he goes out and slips over them a heavier blanket, for he remembers how it is himself after an exposure of this kind. When he comes to sit down he begins to feel chilly and needs another hard frock. He knows that his horses cannot do that for themselves, and so he must do it for them. He does not end here either. Later he goes out and gives his team a careful grooming. The horses enjoy this. They rest better for it and turn them in good flesh and ready for business all the time. He prevents sickness in his horses by feeding them for health, and not by giving them medicine after they get down.

In the season when he is using his farm tools he sees to it that none of them are left out in the rain or snow or in the damp earth very long at a time. This saves tools, and tools cost money. We are few of us aware of the actual money loss to us as farmers every year through want of care in this one direction alone. Still further, his crops are all cared for when they should be. The hay is cut promptly and in good condition. His grain is harvested so that he gets all there is of it. In short, this man, who is not a fancy farmer but an actual cash-and-blood farmer, wins success because he measures everything he does by the single standard of care.

Here is a message every single man, this whole wide world over, may lay down for himself and be profited thereby. No man has a monopoly on care. It is free to all who will use it.

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Ladies' Heavy Box Calf Shoes, \$2.00 value, 1.65

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