

WHAT DRY FARMING WILL DO

SOME OF THE THINGS THAT MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED ON "WORTHLESS LAND."

Beach, N. D., March 28.—Four years ago a section house and coal box.

Today a thriving town of 600 people, the center of a prosperous dry farming community of three that population.

This in brief, is the history of Beach, the metropolis of the Golden Valley.

Beach owes its growth to dry farming. The secret which an old cattleman sought in vain to suppress has been discovered. Some years ago, it is related, this cattleman, who ran his herds just over the Montana line from here, thought he would raise oats for winter feed and told his foreman to plant 50 acres. During the summer when he returned to the ranch, he found a magnificent field of grain, waving in the breeze like an emerald lake glistening even in the glow of the sun. He looked at the growing oats for a minute or two, then called his foreman.

"Tear down these fences and turn the cattle in here. Clear this 50 acres before night," he ordered.

"Why?" asked the astonished foreman.

"Because," said the ranchman, "Some day a feck might come along and see it and think this is farm land and we can't grow a thing here."

Today that land is among the best farm land in eastern Montana and nobody is trying to conceal the fact. The ranchman himself admits it now.

This occurred in the extreme western end of the Golden valley, which, approximately 17 miles wide, extends eastward about 50 miles to the Little Buttes, North Dakota. It is rapidly being settled and practically all the government land has been filed upon.

The former cattle range is selling at \$25 to \$35 an acre, within five or six miles of Beach, and buyers are daily becoming more numerous.

But Few Acres.

Farming has been conducted here only during the last six years. When C. E. Barber of the Farmers and Merchants' State bank of Beach entered this valley in 1902, he found less than five acres under cultivation. In 1903 he says the first attempt at serious agriculture was made and he was among the first to try it. Last spring about 60 lower rigs were used breaking ground at the rate of 1,000 acres a day, according to Charles I. Cook, editor of the Beach Advance.

This spring, says F. E. Near of the Golden West Investment company, nearly 100 steam and gasoline plows are being employed and ground is being broken at the rate of more than 2,000 acres a day.

Already crops from this non-irrigated land have taken first prizes in state competitions and next October, when the dry farming congress will meet at Billings, Mont., a comprehensive exhibit of grains and grasses will be displayed at the international exposition of dry farm products.

The soil in this vicinity is said to be particularly adapted to the practice of dry farming methods. The surface is sandy with a clay subsoil, extending down 18 inches to two and even three feet. It is said to give remarkable results with corn and oats, as high as 117 bushels an acre of the latter being reported harvested.

The rainfall averages 17.5 inches, according to the records of the last few years. Some say the precipitation has increased the last two years.

Good Crops.

Mr. Near, who is one of the pioneers in this region, says good crops of oats are raised the next year ground is broken, and exhibits samples of grain to prove it. The second year crops, he says, can be depended upon to yield 60 to 80 bushels. The quality of the grain is said to be far above the average. Many of the settlers, however, Mr. Near says, are breaking ground and letting it lie until the following year before seeding and are getting better results, the one crop being said to be equal to two average yields. He says the best crops here are oats, barley, wheat, speltz, flax, and early corn.

Mr. Barber, who was among the first to farm here on a large scale, believes alternating with corn better than summer fallowing in this district. He says he got a better quality of fodder here than in Minnesota, although the yield per acre was slightly less. He has been unusually successful with grain. For two years in succession he took first prize for grains and grasses in competition for exhibits that were taken as a North Dakota display to state fairs throughout the middle west by State Commissioner Ellibeth.

Mr. Barber has also proven that trees can be grown in non-irrigated semi-arid regions by successfully raising box elders, elms, cottonwoods, ash, willows and native plums.

Burr Baldwin, whose land is just over the line in Montana, broke his ground in the spring of 1907 and planted oats in the following spring. His harvest is reported as a shade less than 117 bushels an acre.

Geo. Oech, on the North Dakota side of the line, raised 98 acres of oats, which averaged 91 bushels an acre. He received \$45 an acre for his crop. He believes in summer fallowing. Many other instances are cited here of equally remarkable crops.

Most Promising.

The town of Beach is regarded as one of the most promising sections of the state. Four years ago there was no town here. It has grown most rapidly in the last two years and today has a \$15,000 school house, two banks, four general stores, two newspapers, two hardware stores, five grain elevators, one grist mill, the capacity of which will soon be increased to 500 barrels daily, two lumber yards, a large implement house, a machine shop with more work than it can handle, and three churches, Catholic, Scandinavian-Lutheran and Congregational. Modern business buildings are seen on every street and every indication points to steady continuation of its growth. It is not a boom town, but business men here say, are struggling to keep pace with the surrounding country.

The town officers are: E. E. Dickerson, president of the town board; Edward Hoverson, and J. R. Nichols, members of town board;

U. S. Commissioner McClellan, town clerk; J. W. Brinton, treasurer; A. H. Sycle, assessor, and G. F. Francis, marshal.

They are actively working to secure improvements, which will make this one of the attractive cities of this fertile valley.

The majority of the settlers who have populated the Golden valley district come from the northern states, Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas have furnished more of these eminently successful dry farmers than any other states, but many have come from Iowa, Illinois and Indiana and a few from Nebraska and Missouri. They are a sturdy set, intensely devoted to their work, industrious and eager to learn how to improve their crops. The work of the dry farming congress has appealed to them as offering the best source of information to elucidate the problems they are facing. A large number will communicate with Secretary-Treasurer John T. Barnes of the dry farming congress at once to secure data available through membership in the congress and it is likely that a large delegation will attend the sessions of the congress at Billings next October.

One point emphasized by nearly every farmer the writer met at Beach was the necessity for more demonstration farms.

What They Need.

"What the farmers need," said Mr. Oech, the man who has raised 91 bushels of oats without irrigation "is farms easily accessible to the home-steaders where we can see dry farm methods explained. We do not want experiment farms, but we want to be shown how to put into practice the systems, manner of plowing, cultivating and planting, that already have been demonstrated successful. We are doing the best we can, but we know we could do better if some one would show us how, point out our mistakes and tell us how to correct them."

It is the response to this prayer of the settler that the dry farming congress aims to bring to him by urging the federal and state governments to establish demonstration farms in various sections of the west, where the farmers may see the process of successful arid land agriculture in actual and profitable operation.

Experiment stations are needed to work out the still unsolved problems of agriculture, but demonstrations of the methods already in use and instruction in the arts already known are the immediate and imperative need of these husbandmen.

Horses are in demand at Beach and command high prices. Work animals are being shipped by the carload daily to Beach from St. Paul and other eastern points and are sold at prices ranging from \$150 to \$200 a head. Those coming from St. Paul are heavy draft horses brought out of the Minnesota and Wisconsin logging camps to pull the plows, harrows, seed drills and other heavy implements of the western dry farmers.

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DRIVING OF GOLDEN SPIKE A MYTH

RAIL RETAINER USED ON N. P. IN 1883 NEAR GOLD CREEK WAS RUSTY.

Announcement has been made that the officials of the Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound railroad will unite the east and west ends of the new road at Gold Creek, April 2, says the Helena Independent, and the last spike driven will be made of gold.

In noting this statement several Montana papers refer to the driving of the spike connecting the two ends of the Northern Pacific road in 1883 as having taken place on Gold Creek and the spike being made of gold.

The golden spike playing a part in the Northern Pacific celebration is a myth, pure and simple, and the statement that the union was made at Gold Creek is also incorrect, the connection having been made, with spectacular ceremonies, at Independence creek, not far however, from Gold Creek.

The spike used was, as announced by Henry Villard, the first spike driven in the road west from Lake Superior. It was an ordinary iron spike and rusty when driven at Independence creek. The driving of the spike was started by the men who had first driven it at Duluth.

Henry Villard then gave it a few taps followed by Mrs. Villard. She had with her a little son, three or four years of age, noticing which Rod Leggett of Butte, who stood near, said: "Give the hammer to the boy," the crowd took up the word and Henry Villard, with apparent reluctance placed the hammer in the little fellow's hands, while Mrs. Villard, with smiles of pleasure lighting up her face, steadied the boy's hands, and he gave the spike a few gentle taps.

Then the call sounded: "Let General Grant hit it," which cry was taken up by the old soldiers in the crowd, numbering several hundred, and the hammer was given to him. Again Rod Leggett took charge of ceremonies by exclaiming: "Drive it home, general," and the surrounding hills echoed with the call repeated by the crowd, and the general, with a few strong blows, did drive the spike home.

These are the plain facts, and in referring to historic events why not state facts, instead of giving new life to milder myths, even though color of truth be given them by an erroneously entitled cartoon in the capital building.

One of the best narrations of the above event was written by Montana's veteran editor, Thomas Barker, at the time editor of the Madisonian, under the title "Hank and His Heavens."

Representatives of the Independent and Butte Miner, as well as Captain Mills of Deer Lodge, were present, and the report of each narrates the facts precisely as above stated.

There were many clever, as well as exacting circumstances connected with the affair, such as newspaper men receiving invitations and being denied access to the official lunch counter and returning to Helena in full possession of a 24-hour fast. How Rod Leggett fed his hungry Helena friends from supplies he brought in a wagon from Butte. Jog the memory of an old-timer who was present and he entertained—Silver State.

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amusement. It was unportsmanlike. The wedge-shaped door was somewhat different, until the crackman found a way to manage it. Then Mr. Inventor devised a combination lock, and thought he had utterly outwitted the thief. But the no less ingenious thief bought him one, and mercifully studied out its weakness. At first he did not attempt to break the lock, but devoted himself to blowing it open. This was child's play. He put up the crack all the way around the door, except a tiny hole at top and bottom. At the bottom hole he set a small shelf of very fine gunpowder. To the top hole he attached a vacuum pump. By exhausting the air from the safe he created a strong current at the lower hole, which sucked in the powder. Then he fired the safe. That was all.

"The safemaker met this advanced method by corrugating the door to his safe and fitting it with rubber, so as to make it air tight. The crackman took another twist in his art, used acid, destroyed the rubber, and again blew open the safe. As safe doors were made harder and harder, so did Mr. Crackman make his drills of finer and finer temper. But all of these methods were accompanied by more or less noise and the crackman dislikes notoriety. So he began to experiment with the combination lock and speedily found a means to open it. The crackman took the little finger on his left hand and kept it bandaged for weeks so as to make it highly sensitive to touch. Then he pared the nail down into the very quick, laying the nerve centers bare. Thus without drills or powder he was able to open a safe by placing the sensitive finger against the combination lock, while he slowly turned the combination. So keen and delicate had his sense of touch become that he could feel when each tumbler dropped into position. The safe would be opened and closed again leaving no sign to show how the trick was turned. The crackman was tickled mightily with his finger against and bewilderment he left behind him.

"The safemaker invented new safes, one after another, which could not be broken in this same way; the high-grade crackman bought them, one after another, took them to his quiet workshop studied every detail of their construction, and found new ways to break them. Next to neck rack the high-power gun of attack."

Perhaps of all modern inventions the telephone has been the thief agent in the field of crime, its commission and detection. How it has served as a protective agent and a means of detection are well known. The ways in which it is used by the criminal to further his success are less well-known, while equally subtle.

A common swindling trick made possible is thus described in the Appleton article.

"Goldsmith & Company are rich jewelers in a very large city. Their telephone rings.

"Hello! Is that you, Mr. Goldsmith?"

"Yes."

"This is Mr. Millions. I want to give my wife a handsome diamond necklace for a birthday present, say about \$25,000. Will you please send two or three of them up to my house in order that she may make her own selection?"

"Certainly, Mr. Millions, certainly."

"The jeweler rubs his hands complacently. An hour afterwards a carriage drives up to Mrs. Millions' house. Goldsmith's trusted clerk steps out with a small package under his arm which contains perhaps \$100,000 worth of diamonds. This he delivers into the hands of Mrs. Millions herself, and takes a receipt for them. The clerk departs, leaving the package. So far the transaction is perfectly safe and regular.

"Half an hour passes and Mrs. Millions' telephone rings.

"Hello! It that you Mrs. Millions?"

"Yes, sir."

"This is Goldsmith, the jeweler. Mrs. Millions, we regret very much to have disturbed you this morning, but we

REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES.

First Ward.

The republican primary of the First ward to select 20 delegates and 20 alternates to the republican city convention will be held on Monday, March 29, at Gannon & McLeod's barn, between the hours of 5 o'clock p. m. and 7 o'clock p. m.

Second Ward.

The republican primary of the Second ward to select 20 delegates and 20 alternates to the republican city convention will be held on Monday, March 29, at the city hall, between the hours of 5 o'clock p. m. and 7 o'clock p. m.

Third Ward.

The republican primary of the Third ward to select 20 delegates and 20 alternates to the republican city convention will be held on Monday, March 29, at the south side fire station, between the hours of 5 o'clock p. m. and 7 o'clock p. m.

Fourth Ward.

The republican primary of the Fourth ward to select 20 delegates and 20 alternates to the republican city convention will be held on Monday, March 29, at the bottling works, between the hours of 5 o'clock p. m. and 7 o'clock p. m.