

The River Press.

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EXPLAINS DRY FARMING.

The general principles of dry farming, which appear to be misunderstood by many who have not given careful attention to the subject, are described in a statement recently made by Professor F. S. Cooley, of the agricultural college at Bozeman. Professor Cooley says that in Montana probably about 20,000,000 acres of arable lands—three-fourths of the total farming area—will have to be handled by some system of dry farming. The irrigated area, though important, will be a small fraction of the total.

Dry farming does not mean farming without water. Water is absolutely necessary to agriculture, being one of the essentials of life itself. Dry farming means such use of the natural water supply as to secure the best results. It means the conservation of moisture and the prevention of waste by evaporation or useless vegetation. It even means the accumulation of the rainfall of two seasons for a single crop.

The first requisite to successful moisture conservation is superior tillage. After the ground has been well plowed and pulverized, harrow shortly after each rain and whenever the crust begins to form, thus making a soil mulch two or three inches deep on the surface, which allows rain to go down, but prevents the capillary water in the soil from reaching the surface and evaporating.

By thorough summer tillage, it has been found possible to store eight to ten inches of water in the soil in one season for the next season's crop. Eight to ten inches more water will be found in four feet of ground after being summer tilled one season, than in four feet of ground adjoining untilled. This means a difference of fifteen to twenty-five bushels of wheat to the acre.

Harrowing grain in the spring until it is six or eight inches high also helps to save moisture and increase the crop. Alfalfa ground should be well stirred every spring. Early maturing crops, such as white hullless barley, sixty-day oats and Macaroni wheats are safer for dry lands than the later maturing varieties.

Light seeding has been found to give the best results on dry lands. Heavy seeding tends to increase the growth of straw and is prodigal of moisture early in the season, so that there is insufficient to fill out the grain, and the berry is less plump and the heads are lighter.

Two or three pecks of plump seed carefully selected, sown in properly prepared soil, with a press drill, will give much larger yields than four to six pecks of good seed sown in the ordinary way.

Intertilled crops, like corn, beans, potatoes and garden crops, etc., permit of moisture conservation during growth and have proved very successful on the dry farm. A rotation is desirable to give variety of employment and product and prevents the rapid depletion of soil fertility, such as always follows continuous grain growing. Soil fertility may be maintained without expensive fertilizers by judicious rotation, using a reasonable proportion of the soil enriching crops, such as alfalfa, peas, beans, clover, etc. Feed as much as possible on the farm. Do not pay heavy transportation charges on hay and such crops of low value, but export the higher priced commodities.

MONTANA'S BANNER YEAR.

Montana's present and future were never pictured in more glowing colors than at the present time. Throughout the state new enterprises are passing from theory to actual condition.

New irrigation enterprises, which mean much to their respective localities, are under way and many more in contemplation which, before the year 1909 passes into history, will become reality. New mining districts are being rapidly opened up and it is apparent that Montana as a producer of the precious metals is yet in its infancy.

Some time this fall the vast area of excellent agricultural land embraced in the old Flathead reservation will be thrown open to settlement. In this tract are some of the most tillable lands within the borders of the state. The water supply is abundant for all purposes, including agricultural and domestic use, and the Flathead river with its large waterfalls offers wonderful advantages for the equipment of plants for the manufacture of electrical power.

Railroad building was never so active as at the present time. New lines are penetrating every section of the state, bringing markets to the very doors of the most productive portions. Electric lines which a year ago were considered a thing of the far distant future, are becoming fixed realities. The Gallatin valley will have an interurban line, giving quick connec-

tions to all parts of that wonderfully productive region. In western Montana electric lines will form a network of railroad facilities calculated to enhance the industrial growth of that section. The Helena to Butte electric line has passed from the mythical state to one of fixed security. Right-of-way has been secured, equipment outlined, and all along the line there is keen interest manifest in the construction of the new road, which will link the greatest mining camp on earth to the capital city of the state, and be of equal advantage to contiguous territory.

The new idea of dry farming has found trenchant lodgment among the enthusiastic devotees of this novel method of tilling what were heretofore supposed to be vast non-producing areas. At the Dry Farming congress, to be held at Billings this fall, this new departure will be exploited and the seeds of investigation and demonstration of the new idea will be scattered broadcast with magnificent profit to the state.

Montana's assured enterprises and future possibilities would fill columns, and without any question there is ample cause for congratulation in the glowing prospects which confront the various sections of the state. The spirit of unanimity with which the integral parts of the commonwealth are striving to upbuild and create will be fully apparent in the magnificent progress that is destined to mark the passing year in state history—Helena Independent.

DEMOCRATS AND TARIFF.

It appears from recent Washington dispatches that the democratic members of the United States senate will not make a very vigorous fight against the tariff measure favored by the political opposition. Their efforts will be centered mainly upon the adoption of an income tax provision, a method of raising public revenue that is also favored by many republican senators, and it is possible that the proposed new feature in federal taxation will become a law.

The position of democratic senators in the tariff controversy is the subject of comment by the Anaconda Standard, which reflects the views of its party in Montana, to this effect:

And, in turn, it appears that the democrats in the federal senate are proposing to relate themselves to the Payne bill very much as the rival contestants do in what is called a friendly lawsuit. These gentlemen—if their attitude and frame of mind are accurately described in press news from Washington—will put up a sort of love-tap opposition to whatever is evolved by the majority, in the way of revised schedules.

But these minority senators will be quiet and "dignified" about it; those who go in full length for tariff benefits—because they want some—will not be noisy and spectacular, as were some of the house democrats whom Mr. Cannon captured. The whole thing will proceed to a senate vote, in orderly manner and as a matter of course.

One press dispatch dated at Washington says that the subject was taken into consideration at a conference of the democratic members of the senate. The remark is that the democrats would like to see an income-tax law enacted and that they are in favor of a reduction in the too-high protection which many of the schedules carry. But thereto is added the statement that "there is indication that several democrats in the senate, in the interest of their own localities, will oppose certain proposed decreases."

Alas for the Bryan tariff plank in the Denver platform; how soon it is forgot! Prominent democrats in congress are making a sorry mockery of it. What a lot of discipline the great Un-Commoner will need to administer! Of course, these senators rest assured that their states will approve what they do. But even were some of the states to rebel, that would make little odds; state legislatures elect senators but cannot call these elect, in any practical way, to account.

Manifestly it is up exclusively to the republicans. The only remaining fact of interest is that the republican end of the senate evidently proposes to be the real maker of the new tariff bill. The federal constitution provides that all bills for revenue must originate in the house. This Payne bill started there. But it is going to be shown that all it really did was to originate in the house. The senate will do the rest; and, in reality, two or three senators will say how it shall be done. In view of recent doings the New York Sun, which cannot be classified, politically or otherwise, asks: "What is a democrat, style of 1909?"

TOWNSEND, April 21.—One of the largest sales of real estate in recent years in Broadwater county was consummated today when the Potts and Harrison stock ranch, more recently known as the American Sheep and Land company's ranch, consisting of nearly 4,000 acres, was sold to the Townsend Realty and Investment company.

Parties wishing to purchase live stock will find some attractive offerings in our advertising columns.

WOMAN AND FASHION

For the First Warm Days. This pretty suit of white linen, which, with its simple decoration, its sensible instep length and its longer waist line, will prove serviceable as well as attractive for summer time wear, is something that can be fashioned by the home dressmaker during these spring days. The chief trimming of the costume consists of bands of linen



SUIT OF WHITE LINEN.

laid in half inch tucks. Linen covered buttons also decorate the waist and skirt. The bertha is trimmed with narrow lace—heavy lace—insertion and a lace motif. The yoke and collar can be made of dotted net or swiss.

Between Season Hats.

Among the between season hats there are three really sensible, pretty shapes to choose from, all equally fashionable. There are the hatty, smart turban in horsehair, crushed novelty braid or jet for the elderly woman; a neat little high crowned, narrow brimmed hat, becoming to the petite figure possessing small features, but lacking height, and the bowl shaped toque or hat, named according to its size—for it may be an inverted bowl or an immense mushroom—that will suit the tall figure.

Violet For Spring.

Indications point to a soft, light violet color as the dominant one for spring. One sees it on the new embroideries, in the flowered tulles and mousselines, in the bordered dimities and in the soft silks and plumes. The French dressmakers say that the dull brick tone which we called Egyptian red all winter will be used as the ultra color. The new dye in it is a little off the shade that we have now.

To Trim Pongee.

Natural colored pongee bandings embroidered in self tone or in natural color, with a touch more or less of color, come in widths between an inch and a half to three inches at prices from \$1.25 to \$3 a yard.

The Correct Aigret.

The slant of one's feather makes all the difference in the smartness of one's headgear. The latest notion is to have the aigret—a favorite feather trimming this year—stand stiffly upright in approved military style. This upstanding aigret, moreover, is placed in the exact middle of the front of the hat. A pretty style, shown here, is



AIGRET WITH THE CORRECT SLANT.

suggestively springlike in its airy daintiness. The shape is of white horsehair braid, the crown being massed with puffed white tulle, or illusion, as old fashioned folk call the filmy stuff. This tulle crown is encircled by a wreath of orchids in mauve shades, and at the front of the hat are two mauve and pink roses.

OPENS TARIFF DEBATE.

Senator Aldrich Declares New Measure Will Produce Revenue.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 19.—In opening the debate on the pending tariff bill today Senator Aldrich, chairman of the committee on finance assured the senate in most positive terms that the bill reported from the finance committee would produce ample revenue for the government. He suggested that, if by any possibility, these estimates should prove to be incorrect the duty of congress would be "to reduce expenditures and make them conform to actual revenue conditions and not to impose new and onerous taxes."

While he did not refer specifically to any proposition to impose an income tax, his statement declaring that ample revenue may be derived from other sources, was accepted as direct opposition to all such propositions.

On the desk of each senator was a comparison of the text of the Dingley tariff law with the Payne tariff bill as passed by the house, and as amended and reported from the senate committee on finance. In addition a statement was furnished to each senator showing the estimated revenues under the present law compared with amended Payne bill.

Mr. Aldrich called attention to these volumes in beginning his speech. The net increase from customs over the existing law was estimated at \$11,666,748 for the Payne bill, as passed by the house; and \$9,934,426 under the bill as reported from the senate committee. In making the estimates the revenues produced in 1906 were used in attaining the comparisons with the house bill, and the revenues for 1907, when the imports were much larger in arriving at the comparison with the possibilities under the senate bill. Mr. Aldrich believes that 1907 was a normal year, while Representative Payne, chairman of the house committee on ways and means, believes 1906 was the year when conditions were normal.

In commenting on the tariff bill, Mr. Aldrich said it was not his purpose to discuss the wisdom or unwisdom of the protective tariff policy. He added that there would be no attempt to restrict debate on the democratic side upon the question.

Land Restored To Entry.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—More than a million acres of land were today restored to the public domain by Secretary Ballinger. Of the total acreage restored, 400,000 acres are in Billings and Bozeman, Great Falls and Helena land districts, also in Montana, and 372,000 acres in the Evanston land district in Wyoming.

Railroads Want Business.

SPOKANE, April 19.—Eastern Washington, central Idaho and western Montana are the checker-board upon which Hill, Harriman and Earling are playing the game of modern railroad building, and the presence of engineers in Spokane, Lewiston and Missoula suggests that the Inland Empire will be the scene of a struggle which, for opposition and energy, has no parallel in the entire northwest.

There are indications, too, that Harriman has broken truce with the veteran empire-builder in the Clearwater country in central Idaho, southeast of Spokane, and it is generally believed that the plans now being exposed by the appearance of engineers, have been under preparation since the fall of 1907, and that every detail required for an alliance of the Harriman and Earling interests to wrest the territory from Hill has been arranged.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound Railway company, which expended \$100,000,000 in completing its transcontinental line through Washington, is also making a fight for feeder territory in this state, Idaho and Montana.

Germany Fears New Tariff.

BERLIN, April 19.—The belief that the provisions of the new tariff bill practically will exclude their wares from the American market is causing German exporters engaged in certain lines of manufacture to redouble their efforts to store a large supply of their products with their American agents at the earliest date.

The manufacturers in Solingen, Germany's great cutlery center, are running their establishments overtime with a view to having the largest possible supply of goods ready for delivery in New York before July 1, when the law takes effect. Similar measures are being taken by firms engaged in the manufacture of toys, porcelains and certain textiles.

Many Railroad Casualties.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—There were one hundred and eighty-four people killed and 2,924 injured in train accidents during the three months ending Dec. 31, last, according to interstate commerce commission report today. Other kinds of casualties foot up to 17,644, including 798 killed and 16,846 injured.

THE WEEKLY RIVER PRESS is a good newspaper to send away to your friends in the east. It will save you the trouble of writing letters.

A SUNDAY STROLL.

This Recreation Was at One Time Unlawful in Maine.

Something of the exact behavior demanded from young people by those in authority in the early days of the nineteenth century is brought to notice in the biography of Peter Edes, a pioneer printer in Maine. Mr. Edes had an apprentice, James Orrock, who enjoyed a walk on Sunday after a week of indoor employment.

Mr. Edes soon found out that this was not permitted at Bangor and wrote to a friend of the trouble caused him by his apprentice's apparently innocent amusement.

"You must know," he writes, "that the people are very strict on this day and will not let men walk out, much less boys. James was strolling about and was ordered home by the tything men, but he would not obey them. A complaint was lodged against me on the next day, and I should have been obliged to pay a fine had not Judge Dutton pleaded in my behalf that I did not approve of such conduct and so got clear."

Another interesting incident in connection with life in Bangor at this time is an advertisement which appeared in Mr. Edes' paper, the Bangor Weekly Register, stating that "E. & M. R. Edes have opened a school in the room over the Register office for the instruction of young misses and small children in the useful and ornamental branches of education."

The terms were: "Orthography and plain work, 17 cents per week; writing, English grammar, geography with the use of maps, composition, ornamental needlework, 25 cents per week." This was probably one of the first schools in Maine for teaching young ladies exclusively in the branches of education and also including plain work and fancy needlework.

CAN YOU SPELL?

Test Your Ability by Writing This Jumble From Dictation.

It is some time ago since spelling bees were popular forms of entertainment in this country, but still one occasionally comes across the very superior person who tells you he can easily spell any word ever printed in a dictionary. If ever you meet this type of man, just ask somebody to dictate the following jumble to him and see how many mistakes he will make:

"Antinous, a disappointed, desecrated physicist, was peeling potatoes in an embarrassing and harassing way. His idiosyncrasy and privilege was to eat mayonnaise and mussels while staring at the Pleiades and seizing people's tricycles and velocipedes. He was an erring teetotaler and had been on a picaune jamboree. He rode a pair of stallion and carried a salable paper mache bouquet of asters, phlox, mule-lein, chrysanthemums, rhododendrons, fuchsias and nasturtiums.

"He wore a sibil's resplendent turquoise paraphernalia, an ormolu turban and astrakhan chaparejos. He drank crystallizable and disagreeable curacao juleps through a sieve. He stole some moneys and hid them under a peddler's mahogany bedstead and mattress.

"Like a fiend in an ecstasy of gaudy I rushed after him into the maelstrom, or melee, and held him as in a vise. I could not feaze him, however, and he addressed me, with autocracy, in the following imbecile words, which sounded like a soliloquy or a superseding psalm on an oboe: 'You are a ratable lunamoth, a salamning vizzler, an equinoctial coryphee and an isosceles dagnerreotype.'"—New York Mail.

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