

Professor Campbell's Address

The following is the gist of Professor Campbell's address which was crowded out of last week's issue:

In his opening remarks Mr. Campbell said he wished to correct an error that his topic, "Dry Farming" might suggest. He could not grow crops without water but his plan was to cultivate to save the moisture and to use it at the needed time to grow plants. Scientific Soil Culture was a better term to describe his system.

They had all noticed the effect of horse tracks or wheel tracks across their fields. The grain grew better had broader leaf and better color. The packing of the soil increased capillarity, regulated the amount of air in the soil and led to increase root development, giving such vigor to the plants as led to enormous yields. These facts long ago set him to thinking about a machine to pack the soil. His first effort was a machine with wheels with 1 inch face, five inches apart. But this failed. Like the roller it only packed the surface and did not go deep enough. Finally the sub-soil packer with its revolving inch square faces, that with its wedge like action penetrates the soil, pressing it together to the bottom of the plowing was thought of.

There is a wide difference between summer fallowing and summer tilling. As usually followed, the first means allowing the weeds to grow up, then plowing them down leaving the surface rough till time permits the harrowing. Summer tilling on the other hand means double discing, always overlapping to make the disc cut both ways, early in the spring, then plowing just before the summer rains, firming down soil with packer right after plowing. A man with one team should hitch on packer just before noon and night and pack what he had plowed. Then cultivate frequently with a harrow with knife teeth. The common harrow does not cut deep enough.

This kind of tilling saves all the water, prevents evaporation and keeps the ground fine and loose on top. Land should never be plowed unless it is moist enough to break up fine.

Showing the power of weeds to rob soil of the moisture he told a story of a renter who double disked right after harvest, then began to plow around the field, but when only a narrow strip was done he was called away and did not complete it for five weeks. Next year the strip that was plowed early gave an estimated yield of 50 bus while the centre gave only 20. The reason was weeds had grown up in the centre and robbed the soil of its moisture, while this had been saved on the outside strip.

Farming was becoming a science. That is the reason for its present popularity. Men in every walk in life were looking forward to the time when they could retire to the farm. Scientific farming would bring all the comforts and conveniences of the city home to the farm.

Good Crops

This will be the record year in Southern Alberta, is the message which everyone brings about the crops. It is claimed that:

The acreage of wheat is larger. The crops are better. The prices are higher.

Never before in the history of the province have conditions been quite so satisfactory as at the present.

Never before have farmers been speaking with so much faith and hope.

For winter wheat conditions have been ideal. The late spring did not effect the acreage. The winter was ideal and the spring after it came the very best that could be.

Two Ways of Looking at It

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SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST

HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS

ANY even numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the North-west Provinces, excepting 8 and 29, not reserved, may be homesteaded by any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section of 160 acres, more or less.

Application for homestead entry or inspection must be made in person by the applicant at the office of the Local Agent or Sub-Agent.

The homesteader is required to perform the conditions connected therewith under one of the following plans:

1. At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year for three years.
2. If the father (or mother, if the father is deceased) of the homesteader resides upon a farm in the vicinity of the land entered for the requirements as to residence may be satisfied by such person residing with the father or mother.
3. If the settler has his permanent residence upon farming land owned by him in the vicinity of his homestead, the requirements as to residence may be satisfied by residence upon the said land.

Six months' notice in writing should be given to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa of intention to apply for patent.

W. W. CORY
Deputy Minister, the Interior
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