

Fourteen Nations Join in Dry Farming Congress

Lethbridge, Oct. 21.—Under glorious sunshine with the flags of all nations flying just below the Union Jack and the inspiring strains of the bag pipes, the exhibition of the seventh International Dry Farming Congress was opened at 11.30 o'clock. The officers and speakers were grouped in the attraction platform in front of the grand stand. Grouped about the stand were a thousand or more visitors, nearly everyone wearing a badge, a ribbon or a flag.

On the stand were: J. W. McNichol, chairman of the exposition; Hon. Geo. H. V. Bulyea, Hon. Geo. W. Brown, Hon. Martin Burrell, Hon. Duncan Marshall and J. H. Girdale, director general of experimental farming. The first ceremony was that of handing over the exhibition to the chairman of the Canadian board of control.

In a brief speech J. W. McNichol, chairman, presented the exhibition to Hon. Duncan Marshall, taking occasion to mention that while last year there had been only two provinces and three state competitions, this year there were seven states and four provinces, while representatives and exhibits were present from all parts of the world. In concluding he handed to Mr. Marshall a small glass jar of the wheat that had just won the world's championship, and had been grown by H. Holmes, who lives between Lethbridge and Raymond. Hon. Duncan Marshall, in accepting the wheat and the exhibition, declared it the biggest thing that had ever been handed to him.

Fourteen National Flags

One of the most charming features was the saluting of the flags. There were fourteen nations represented, and as the flags were carried in, and again as the cadets stood and waved them from the platform, the crowd clapped and cheered while the Carston Choral society sang the international anthem, which, by the way, consisted of a verse of "Rule Britannia," a verse of "The Star Spangled Banner," and "God Save the King."

Welcoming the Delegates

The address of Mayor Hatch was brief, cordial and very much to the point.

Governor Bulyea gave the formal address of the opening on behalf of the Duke of Connaught.

Hon. Martin Burrell, minister of agriculture for Canada, spoke on behalf of the Dominion of Canada, laying emphasis on the need of improved methods of cultivation to reduce the high cost of living by increasing the productive power of the land. Incidentally, he took a little crack at the disciples of taxing the unearned increment on land and pointed out that with dry farming the increment was earned and well earned.

Chinese Delegate Speaks

En Ling Phieh, the international delegate from China, was most interesting. When he mentioned the republic of China, he was greeted with loud applause. He spoke on the large proportion of the lands of China, that were either arid or semi-arid, of the density of their population and the need of improved method of cultivation in order that these lands that are now unproductive may be made productive to help in supporting the great nation. Also the need of improving the fertility of the humid lands, which after being cropped for 5,000 years was becoming exhausted. He stated that his government had been eager for him to attend the congress in order that he might profit by what had been done in this direction by the use of dry farming methods in other countries. He was listened to with profound attention.

Persian Poet and Philosopher

It remained, however, for the Persian ambassador to make the speech of the afternoon. He proved to be a poet, an orator and a philosopher. In opening his address he spoke of the warm friendship which had existed so many years between his own country and Britain and how this friendship had made his government eager for him to attend this gathering in Canada, the great colony of

Britain. He then spoke of farming in his own country, showing it to be part of their religion to cultivate the soil, calling to mind the command of their prophet Zorvator that every Persian should plant at least one tree every year. He spoke of the Parsees as the best Persian farmers of the present day, because they were the most devoted followers of Zorvator. From this point his address was a most beautiful picture of how the drawing together of nations in the study of modes of cultivating would make for the peace of the world. The old idea had been that a nation to prosper must be antagonistic to other nations. The ancient Greek had thought all the world barbarians, but his own little nation. Now representatives from many nations came together to study common problems as one big family. Better cultivation of the soil would, he was sure, make for the ultimate peace of the world.

What Dry Farming Is

What dry farming is and what it aims to accomplish was summarized thus today by Dr. John A. Widstoe, international president of the Dry Farming congress.

"Dry farming is a branch of agriculture that primarily aims to conserve, for the use of crops, the moisture that falls as rain or snow. The difference between dry farming and older farming is that the former is simply a question of the conservation of mois-



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