

# DRY FARMING ENTERPRISE THAT IS UNIQUE

C. A. Newberry of Alliance, Neb., Shows His Faith in Scientific Farming by Financially Backing Prof. Hunt

(Written by G. W. Hervey and Published in the Twentieth Century Farmer July 21, 1909)

There is now being conducted at Alliance, Neb., an example of farm enterprise that possibly has no parallel in local agricultural interest in any other district of the United States. It has been the custom since the founding of this country that the land owner, unaided and alone, takes his chances when buying a piece of land, whether or not it is productive and to what extent it may be made a remunerative investment. His methods of tillage and his general conduct in crop management have not been questioned, in the sense of placing him under the direction of an instructor to teach him how to plant, how to cultivate and how best to proceed in the general labors of getting a remunerative yield.

The innovation in farm management that has been introduced at Alliance, Neb., is, however, a feature in present-day agricultural education that means much to the progress and development of the dry land districts of the west. The same system and method of education and instruction could, with profit, be introduced into every state in the United States, and every county in each of these states. There is a lack of knowledge in how to handle lands in cultivation to secure the best yields in crop and at the same time maintain soil fertility. This is not alone true in the newly settled farm districts on the frontier, where many of the land owners and farmers are novices in the business of soil tillage, but it is true of many land owners in the older states where careless methods have been pursued for generations.

## No Cost to Farmers

The Alliance, Neb., agricultural enterprise is peculiar and out of the ordinary, from the fact that business interests not directly associated nor possessing agricultural lands were the promoters and supporters of the plan whereby there has been organized and put into operation a system of scientific farm training for the benefit of a score or more of farmers in the immediate neighborhood of Alliance, at no cost to the farmer. The demand for instruction in scientific agriculture at this particular point was introduced last February at the annual meeting of the Box Butte County Farmers' Institute association, from a speech made by Prof. E. W. Hunt of Syracuse, Neb., who was then engaged in the State Farmers' Institute lecture course of Nebraska, in which the speaker outlined a course of training which might with profit be pursued in western Nebraska. Prof. Hunt made himself so impressively familiar with the needs of the western part of the state of Nebraska, from an agricultural and crop-producing point of view, that he started his hearers to thinking seriously whether or not they could afford to continue longer in their present hit-or-miss methods of farming.

## Hunt's Idea Indorsed

The food for thought that Prof. Hunt distributed at this meeting of better farming, of the application of scientific methods and the urgency of at once taking hold while the advantages of the crop year of 1909 were available, resulted in a called meeting of the Commercial Club and a general endorsement of Prof. Hunt's advice as to employing some competent, practical, scientific farmer to come to Alliance and instruct a dozen or more farmers in that locality in crop-growing upon a basis adapted to the conditions that exist there, in climate and soil. This was at first planned to make of each farm an experiment station, so to speak, a plot of five acres or more was to be selected and planted in various crops, under the direction of the expert farmer. The usual tools of the farm were to be employed in this work and the work done by the farmer according to instructions, and results compared with the same kind of crops raised over the country under different treatment.

It fell to the lot of C. A. Newberry, a prosperous hardware merchant of the city, to become the Moses for the occasion. Mr. Newberry for many years has been impressed with the possibilities of the Alliance country as an agricultural district and has been trying to instill this sentiment into the citizens of his town and neighborhood. Seventeen years ago this man started in business at Alliance with a small tin shop; he is now the owner of one of the largest and finest hardware stores in the state and realizes the advantage that agriculture would have in building up the commercial and local business interests of the town and county.

In the absence of substantial support to go forward with this farm development enterprise that had been suggested and seemed to receive the endorsement of public sentiment, he felt inspired to take up the work himself and at once commenced a canvass of the country for a competent man to take hold of the work, but failed to find him. He then fell back upon the originator of the recommendation, Prof. Hunt, and prevailed upon him to quit his farm for six months and take up the work planned for the Alliance experiment. Prof. Hunt was finally secured and at once took up the work of organizing about twenty farmers into a club for crop raising, under his directions. The five-acre experiment plot, however, had to be given up and in its stead the general farm was adopted as the method of operation. The



C. A. NEWBERRY, THE PROMOTER and Financial Support of the Alliance, Neb., Dry Land Crop Experimentation.



PROF. E. W. HUNT, DIRECTOR OF the Scientific Farm Crop Work now Being Carried on at Alliance, Neb.

farmers were not inclined to putter with a small tract, a garden patch, in their way of looking at it, and thus neglect their big field crops. The more extended work of the farm was taken hold of by Prof. Hunt and he is delighted with his prospect, though the real force of his instruction cannot be made so manifest to the observer nor to the farmer, as instructions will be only partially carried out, some doing better work than others who are more crowded.

## Newberry the "Moses"

It was observed that C. A. Newberry was the Moses of the occasion. He not only led the way in this educational enterprise, but has put up the money from his own bank account to employ Prof. Hunt to conduct and carry out the work thus planned as a scientific test of what the crop resources of the Alliance country are worth; furnishes him with a team to travel over the country in his mission of instruction and supervision of crop management. Prof. Hunt goes from farm to farm five days each week and on Saturdays meets these farmers in Alliance for consultation and discussion on any feature of the work they desire to bring up.

The best feature of this crop-growing enterprise, under the instruction of an expert farmer, is the fact that it is not carried on under experiment methods of small test plots. The growing of crops under farm plans and farm proportions robs it of the experiment station prejudice that some farmers may have who will say, "Yes, you can grow a little garden patch of wheat and corn and get fine yields, but you can't grow a whole field of forty acres, like I do, and get any better returns than I do, and I doubt if as good." Here Prof. Hunt matches his knowledge of how to do the work against the farmer's disposition to get his crop in, and there is business going on from the start that convinces the farmer that this expert is not afraid of the real thing and knows what he is talking about. This is the way it seems around Alliance now. Prof. Hunt is the man who knows things about farming up in that country and there would be no use in anyone setting up his views against the professor's. Public opinion would not stand it for a minute.

This is an advance measure in farming that the agricultural college and experiment station is not yet prepared to take hold of, owing to there being no provision or liberty in the government of these institutions authorizing such steps. The time is not far off, however, when there will be county experiment stations owned by the several counties of the leading agricultural states, whose duty it will be to farm under the instruction of an expert college man, and this supervisor be employed by the county to give instructions.

## Hint for County Poor Farms

The county poor farm of each county could profitably be made to carry on this farm experimental work and thus become an educational interest to the citizens of the county, as well as an asylum for the indigent poor. The beautifying of these county farms by horticultural attention whereby scientific instruction and practical tree, orchard, garden and floriculture is taught and demonstrated, would make of these places a kind of paradise on earth, instead of habitations of distress and misery as many of them portray at the present time.

The soil testing that Prof. Hunt introduced with his work in the outstart, determining how much soil and subsoil and the character of these soils that each farm possessed, was a new idea with the farmer. He had a soil testing auger which he applied on the various lands where crops were to be grown, from which observations he determined the kind of crops best suited to these fields, the tillage needed, etc. The present season has been of such character, from a moisture standpoint, as to partially interfere with the force of the system of cultivation in use by Prof. Hunt. It has been a saying all over western Nebraska for years, even in the sand hills, "Give us plenty of rain in the growing season and we can raise as good crops as can be grown anywhere." The very remarkable wet season that has prevailed throughout that district this summer has made crop-growing a certainty, under most any kind of system. But the

force of good cultivation and scientific methods applied is expected to be in evidence with Prof. Hunt's work at Alliance, notwithstanding.

## Potatoes a Feature Crop

One of the special features of crop in the Alliance country is Irish potatoes. These are grown in great abundance and in quality far exceeding those produced in most potato-growing districts of the United States. In round numbers it is given out that there were shipped from Alliance of the 1908 crop 400 carloads. The acreage is steadily increasing and this year's shipment is expected to greatly exceed that of last year. Prof. Hunt says: "This is a natural soil and climate for the successful growing of potatoes of a superior quality. There really should be no disease here among potatoes if the potato growers would only use a little judgment and caution in the handling of their seed. All the potato disease found here has been imported with foreign-bought seed. We expect to show the potato growers how to get rid of these diseases and then to tell them how to keep rid of them."

E. Mead Wilcox, from the Nebraska experiment station, professor of agricultural botany, a specialist in plant diseases, has been sent to Alliance to conduct an experimental plot of five acres in potatoes. His first assistant will live in this potato patch day and night. There will be no opportunity missed in the learning of diseases and how to combat them. "The dry rot, or rather a new form of this disease, is the great trouble here, but we are on the road to completely wipe it out of existence in this district," remarked Prof. Hunt. The disease called "stem end disease," which develops in storage and does not show when harvesting, is a form of rot that has given much trouble. Prof. Hunt has invented a treatment in storage which effectually kills the germ that causes this ailment.

Mr. Newberry has supplied the fighting force at the potato disease headquarters with a four-row Aspenwall sprayer to handle the treatment such as the experiments demand until the crop is grown. Prof. Hunt says: "Home grown seed is the thing, as it is acclimated and need have no disease infected district. No imported seed should be used unless inspected by some expert to guarantee freedom from disease."

## Favors a County Appropriation

Prof. Hunt is growing more earnest and enthusiastic in the work in which he is engaged. He feels that he is the originator of this method of carrying information to the farmer. There is a demand for more such work in all lines of agriculture and stock raising. He recommends the passage of a bill authorizing county commissioners to levy a tax to create an experiment station in each county, where this work can be carried on under the supervision of an agricultural expert. Mr. Hunt can no doubt get all the backing necessary for the passage of such a bill before any body of legislators that Nebraska may elect. This would give progressive, up-to-date counties an opportunity to go forward as rapidly as they desired in the matter of agricultural training.

Prof. Hunt, who figures so prominently in this new farm educational enterprise, recently opened up at Alliance, Neb., is a native of the state of New York. He was born on a farm and graduated at the Rochester, N. Y., university. His vacations during his earlier years as a teacher were spent on a farm in preference to idle summer outings or sight-seeing. In 1885 he took the chair of English in the University of Nebraska, which he held until failing health in 1891 caused him to resign and return to the farm. He located near Syracuse, Neb., on a 100-acre run-down farm and commenced to practice and study scientific agriculture, and succeeded in both regaining his health and building up a worn-out farm to a degree of fertility that has been a source of great satisfaction to himself and an advantage as an object lesson to others. He has also been engaged on the farmers' institute lecture course for several years.

It may be safely predicted that Prof. Hunt is one of the coming prominent characters in the agricultural educational work of the country. He is an affable

gentleman, a fluent talker and is imbued with the spirit of his work to such an extent that makes him not only highly serviceable as an instructor, but an entertaining discussionist on agricultural topics at all times and on all occasions. We hope to be able at the end of the present crop season to give our readers a detailed report of the work that Mr. Hunt is now overseeing at Alliance, Neb.

## CROSSES CHANNEL

Louis Bleriot, Frenchman, Flies From Calais to Dover.

## MAKES TRIP IN MONOPLANE.

Clever Parisian Sails Over English Channel in a Little Less Than Half an Hour, Twice as Swiftly as the Fastest Mail Boat—But Few Persons on Scene to Witness Finish of Remarkable Feat.

Dover, July 26.—This sleepy seaport town experienced the keenest thrill known in a generation when at sunrise a white winged, birdlike machine, with loudly humming motor, swept out of the haze obscuring the sea toward the distant French coast and, circling twice above the high chalky cliffs of Dover, alighted on English soil. A Frenchman, Louis Bleriot, portly and red mustached, calmly descended from the saddle, limping on a bandaged foot which had been burned on his previous overland flight. Immediately two compatriots, who had been waving a big tri-colored flag as a signal for the landing place, fell upon him enthusiastically, embracing him, shouting and pounding him on the back. They, with a few soldiers and others who happened by chance to be on the scene, were the only persons to witness the finish of a remarkable feat.

Bleriot left Les Baraques, three miles from Calais, about 3 a. m. on one of the smallest monoplanes ever used. He crossed the channel in a little less than half an hour, twice as swiftly as the fastest mail boat. His speed averaged more than forty-five miles an hour and sometimes it approximated sixty miles. He kept about 250 feet above the sea level and for ten minutes, while about mid-channel, was out of sight of both coasts and the French torpedo boat destroyer which followed him with his wife and friends aboard.

The wind was blowing about twenty miles an hour and the sea was choppy. The aviator was swathed in a single garment of drilling impervious to the wind, which covered him from the top of his head to his feet, only his face showing. He wore also a cork life belt.

## KING VISITS WHITELEW REID

British Monarch at Country Home of American Ambassador.

Silsoe, England, July 26.—The royal standard floats over Ambassador Reid's residence at Rest park and the precincts were the center of attraction for the country people, who came from miles around.

The king and queen, with the American ambassador and Mrs. Reid and several of the other guests attended services at Silsoe church and received an ovation. A guard of honor, composed of several corps of boy scouts from neighboring villages, was drawn up outside the church and saluted the party when it entered. Thousands of spectators, many of whom came on bicycles, crowded about the church and swarmed on fences and trees, cheering the king. The church was filled with parishioners and tenants of the estates, the service lasting an hour. At the close the choir sang the national anthem and the people outside took up the hymn.

## SIoux GO TO NICARAGUA

Little Bison Secures Unsettled Tract and Will Move Hundred Families.

New Orleans, July 26.—That a colony of Sioux Indians will remove from the Dakotas to an unsettled tract of land in Nicaragua is declared by Little Bison, a Sioux chief, who reached New Orleans from Bluefields. He went to Nicaragua to arrange for the concession of the land with President Zelaya. Little Bison declares he will immediately take 100 Indian families to Nicaragua and that his colony will soon be increased by the addition of several hundred other families of North American Indians.

General Strike Called in Sweden. Stockholm, July 27.—Forty thousand workers in the paper, woolen, cotton and allied industries went on a strike. The strike, it is stated, will be extended to the iron works on Aug. 2. A circular has been issued to the trades unions throughout the country calling for a general strike on Aug. 4.

Battleship Michigan Shows Speed. Philadelphia, July 26.—The United States battleship Michigan, which returned from her trial trip, is reported to have broken all speed records for a vessel of the battleship type. The Michigan is said to have made a fraction over 19 knots an hour.

## BRENNAN'S SANITARY FOUNTAIN

It couldn't be better IT'S BEST

## Conrad Koch

Jewelry

and Watch Repairing

Special attention given to RAILROAD WORK

## BRENNAN'S DRUG STORE

## Burlington Route Time Table Alliance, Nebr.

GOING EAST	AR. M. T.	LV. C. T.
No. 42, Daily, Lincoln Flyer—stops at Seneca, Broken Bow, Ravenna, etc.	2:25 a.m.	3:50 a.m.
No. 44, Daily, Local from Alliance to Seneca; thence stops at Seneca, Broken Bow, Ravenna, etc.	11:45 a.m.	1:00 p.m.
No. 36, Daily, From Edgemont and Deadwood.	1:35 a.m.	
GOING WEST	AR. C. T.	LV. M. T.
No. 41, Daily, Flyer—Edgemont, Deadwood, Newcastle, etc.	4:55 a.m.	4:10 a.m.
No. 43, Local, Edgemont, Newcastle, and west.	1:30 p.m.	12:45 p.m.
No. 35, Daily, Edgemont and Deadwood.		3:20 a.m.
GOING SOUTH	LV. M. T.	AR. C. T.
No. 301, Denver Flyer.		2:55 a.m.
No. 303, Denver Local—connects at Bridgeport with Guernsey local.		12:45 p.m.
GOING NORTH	AR. M. T.	LV. C. T.
No. 302, Flyer from Denver.		3:10 a.m.
No. 304, Local from Denver and Guernsey.		11:50 a.m.

## YOUR DOLLAR

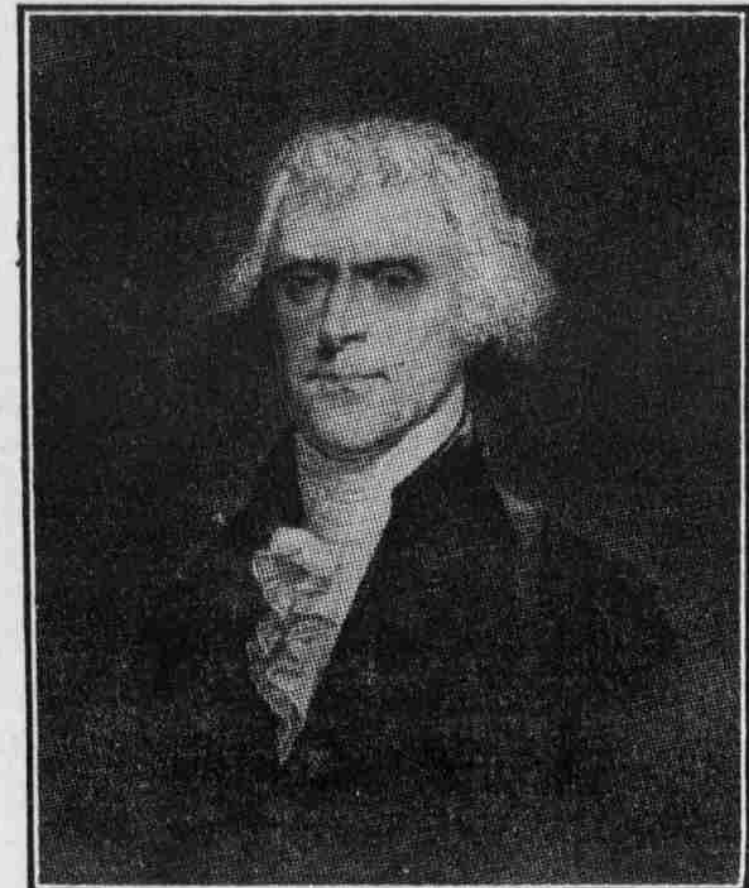
Will come back to you if you spend it at home. It is gone forever if you send it to the Mail-Order House. A glance through our advertising columns will give you an idea where it will buy the most.

## National Monthly

A Democratic Magazine for Men and Women

PRICE, ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

NORMAN E. MACK, Editor and Publisher, Buffalo, N. Y.



THOMAS JEFFERSON.

ONE of the largest and handsomest illustrated magazines published in the United States. Each issue contains a mass of valuable information for Democrats in every locality, and articles by well known leading Democrats throughout the country. The NATIONAL MONTHLY will keep every Democrat thoroughly posted upon all the leading issues of the day. It will also contain a mass of Democratic news and current comment from the leading Democratic newspapers throughout the United States. In addition to the political features above mentioned every issue contains a large amount of interesting fiction and good reading for the entire family, thus making it a doubly welcome visitor in every home.

One of the thousands of letters received commending the NATIONAL MONTHLY:

## Hits the Nail Right on the Head

HON. NORMAN E. MACK, Buffalo, N. Y.

Dear Sir:—I herewith enclose you my check and ask my name to be enrolled as a regular subscriber to your National Monthly. I have just finished examining the first number. It is a publication of stupendous merit, and it will exert a great influence for good in our country. It ranks with the best magazines that are printed in all respects, and its genuine Democracy gives it distinctive superiority. It will succeed for the Democracy is not dead, but very much alive. It will help save the country from capitalist greed on the one hand and from the dangers of socialism and anarchism on the other. I am heart and soul with you in your new enterprise. Yours truly, FRED J. KERN, Mayor of the City of Belleville, Ill.

Subscriptions received at this office and liberal clubbing terms are offered by this paper.

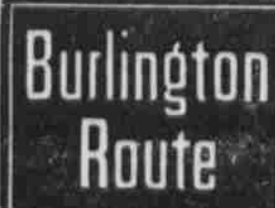
## Excursion Rates Everywhere

It is impossible to present a detailed list of the attractive excursion rates now in effect.

YOU CAN GO EAST on daily low rates to Atlantic cities and resorts; every day rates to Wisconsin, Michigan and Canadian resorts and for the celebrated tour of the lakes.

YOU CAN GO WEST: There are very attractive rates every day to Colorado, Yellowstone Park, Seattle, California; homeseekers' rates every first and third Tuesdays everywhere west. Inquire about the personally conducted camping tours from Cody into the Yellowstone Park.

SEE YOUR OWN COUNTRY: Between America's prosperity and low railroad rates there is every reason why you should join the great summer travel throng.



F. L. Skalinder, Agent, Alliance

L. W. WAKELEY, G. P. A., Omaha