Christmas Fair of the Churches

In the Court of the Bee Building

Continues This Week

December 6th and 7th--
First Methodist Church
Clifton Hill Presbyterian
December 9th--
First Christian Church

Home Made Canned Fruits

Jellies, Jams, Marmalade,
Cakes, Home Made Bread,
Mincemeat,
Home Made Canny.

Here are some of the articles to be offered at the fair:

Embroidered Goods

Towels, rag rugs, dish towels, doilies, hand hemmed kitchen aprons, handkerchiefs, cotton bags.

Traveling Conveniences

Fancy silk bags, collar bags and boxes, comforters,
Hand made raffia and rattan baskets, very unique.
Fancy aprons, stocks and collars.

Luncheon

11:30 to 2 p. m.
every day

Sandwiches
Doughnuts and Coffee,
20c

Books

Cook Book, recipes tried by the ladies of Omaha.
Book of Candy Recipes.
Label Books.
Hand Recipe and Address Books.

Baby Supplies

Children's dresses and skirts, lingerie,
Flowers, dressed dolls,
Japanese articles.

FARMING FOR REAL FARMERS

Some Suggestions from a Practical Man on Practical Points.

CORRECT TREATMENT OF SOIL

What is Needed to Secure the Best Results Under Given Climatic Conditions and Composition of the Ground.

While I have in the past protested against the name, which the dry farming congress bears and while we still think it wrong because it is indefinite, yet it is a good deal like the case of the boy and his nickname. John it was in fact, but they called him Jack. When everybody knew that Jack was John it was just as well to call him Jack. In fact it did not make so much difference whether Joan was Jack or Jack was John, as it did what he stood for, whether his principles were right and his influence good, and whether he really accomplished any good for himself or for those with whom he was associated. So with this dry farming congress. What we are really interested in is what the organization stands for and the good it can do.

Its history commences back only a few years ago when a few thinking men began to realize that there was something worth while in soil culture, that the farmer did not have to be content with what providence was willing to give from the soil year by year, but that it was possible to compel mother earth to give forth 2, 3 or 4 blades, where one grew before. It is to this end our efforts should be faithfully and persistently directed.

Laying the Foundation.

My thoughts were first directed to tillage and the growing crop some twenty-six years ago. At first we jumped at conclusions as to the kind and time of tillage only to find that results were uncertain. Progress was slow because we did not and could not grasp the fundamental principles of scientific soil culture. Practically nothing was known of this among the farmers generally and not a line could be found in the teachings of the books and papers. The foundation had to be laid in the bitter school of experience and disappointment.

Not until 1892 did we gain confidence and become enthusiastic, and by the close of 1894 we had just begun to realize the great future of the west under scientific soil culture. Up to 1894 our main efforts had been to overcome the evils of the drouth; but from that time on the work broadened until we came to know that tillage of the right kind, at the right time, means more to the development and prosperity of the great west and its railroads than any other one thing. It will not be disputed today by anyone who knows, that by and through scientific soil culture more is being accomplished for the betterment of all crops and the increased prosperity of the great west in all seasons and under almost all conditions than in any other way. O, that you could all see these things as I see them. Were it so less effort would be put forth to spread the news that it can be done and for more to the practical dissemination of information as to how it is done. To simply know a thing that will bring results can be done and to know how to do it, are two quite different conditions in shaping the destiny of the new farm home.

General Principles Involved.

To understand this we must discuss briefly a few of the general principles involved. The one essential to crops is correct treatment of the soil. The soil is the farmer's workshop and laboratory, and what happens in this laboratory depends upon the kind, time and manner of tillage. The farmer cannot control the rain or sunshine nor fix the temperature, but within certain limits he can maintain that certain physical condition of the soil that shall control therein both air and water, and we shall endeavor to show a little later on that herein lies the hidden secret of successful farming.

The one thing to be sought in scientific soil culture is such a condition of the soil as will secure in available form the greatest amount of fertility. But what is fertility? Is it something that is within the grains of the soil in fixed quantity only to be reduced as each crop is taken from the field. We very much doubt it. We have seen abundance of evidence in our work the last ten years to fully convince us that in the main it is something that is developed each year in quantity just in proportion to the physical condition of the soil, that condition which permits the soil to carry just the proper proportions f air and water s that sunshine and warmth will promote the necessary chemical action. Soil is fertile where the chemical changes and processes are active, and this is made possible by bringing together the elements of air and water in right proportion and subjecting them to the action of light and heat and, perhaps, of electricity. This can be brought about very largely by mechanical processes.

Cannot Lay Down Fixed Rules.

But you cannot lay down a fixed rule for this mechanical work. Any such fixed rule would break down whenever there was a radical change in conditions, such as excessive heat, a prolonged dry period, high winds, light showers or heavy downpours. We can outline certain general mechanical work that will succeed if the farmer understands just what the finished work must be. Therefore, the only thing to do is to help the farmer educate himself in the true principles of soil fertility, so that he will understand just what he is aiming at in cultivation and in all field work. He must know why things are done. He must ever be alert to these things, know in what way they may be favorable or detrimental, and what he should do and when to derive the greatest benefit from his labor. He should always look to securing and maintaining that certain ideal physical condition of the soil that is most favorable to promoting the chemical changes which develop fertility. For, let me repeat, the great secret of such successful crop growing as shall result in doubling the average yield of all crops in all sections of the country in good years and of producing good crops in drouthy years, lies in the farmer's knowledge of how to properly combine the elements of air and water in the soil.

Water Movement in Soil.

Let me illustrate by referring to some phases of the process that have received too little attention. In a region where the rainfall is more than ample, the farmer finds that he gets best crops when the rain comes in frequent gentle showers. Why? Because nature does the work of regulating the quantity of air and water, which, under other conditions, such as prolonged drouth or excessive downpour, the farmer would have to do the work to overcome the detrimental effect of nature's own hand. To illustrate: If after a heavy, beating rain the field is left untouched the surface dries off and the water soon comes back up by capillary movement, carrying to the surface of the then firm soil the soluble minerals from below, and they are left there as a deposit of dry matter, just as the salt is left in a glass from a salt solution when the glass is placed where the water will evaporate. Thus a dense crust is formed which shuts out the air from the roots, thereby checking chemical action, and the plants soon cease to grow. If the immediate surface has been stirred, and a prolonged dry period follows, the crust will form from below the loosened layer, with an effect just as bad. To thus permit the growth of the plant to be checked means a decrease in yield of grain, and the extent of this decrease depends upon the period in the plant's growth.

I feel free to say that there is no one subject about which farmers know so little as this one of the movement of water in the soil, and the formation of a crust and why it is so injurious to the crops, and it is one of the most important.

Each Region Has Its Problems.

It is evident any attempt to lay down a rule as to how to till the soil without due regard to these somewhat new and very vital questions would often result in total failure. Each region will have its own problems, each one different. Every season will compel revision of the rules of mechanical work. Complete as we have made this seem, yet the farmers can by study and observation so completely control these elements of fertility as to bring favorable results where total failure had been recorded in the past.

Now as to the mechanical processes to be used in bringing about the desired conditions in the soil, I have no quarrel with anyone who may differ with me or refuse to go as far as I do. Use any method, do the work in any way, make use of any tool or implement or device or invention. All I shall insist on is that the farmer know what soil condition is necessary to bring about the results he desires and that he shall go by the most direct route to obtain those conditions. Let me assure you that no matter what your mechanical work may be, the crop growth and grain yield will be just in proportion to your ability to obtain the ideal, fine, firm, moist soil condition for nature to do its work.

Thing That is Essential.

It is the physical condition of the soil at seeding time and maintained in the growing period that is essential rather than any particular system followed in getting it. Timeliness in plowing and cultivation is more than depth of furrow. Watchfulness to avoid ruinous conditions is better than an argument on plowing.

I feel that I render no greater service than to impress upon you the fact that the one great and essential factor in development of the agricultural resources of the semi-arid belt is that of more intelligent, hence more scientific, tillage of the soil. All else is incidental or leading up to this vital truth. We have here today these reports of large crops, better yields, more profit, greater prosperity, because men who study behind the plow have come to know the inestimable value of scientific soil culture in making and maintaining fertility of the soil.

I say to you that in the near future larger yields of grain will be obtained in the great plains region of the west than has ever been known; not by accident, but by knowledge along right lines.

Official Commendation.

I regard it exceedingly unfortunate that encouragement from official sources should be given those who are crying down and belittling the work you and I and all of us have been doing in recent years in relation to dry land tillage. In a Washington dispatch last month the head of the Department of Agriculture is represented as voicing this sentiment: "The Campbell system of dry land farming he pronounces wrong and hurtful."

He is quoted as condemning cropping every other year because he says this means burning out of the vegetable matter. I say such suggestions coming from Washington are unfortunate, because it is evident that Mr. Wilson knows nothing of that which he condemns. The plan of cropping every other year, which he holds to be a fixed part of our work, is not an essential of the system and is resorted to only incidentally as known conditions demand it. Evidently, too, he draws his conclusions regarding the burning out of the vegetable matter from experiments with the old familiar summer fallow, which is as different from the true summer tillage that we advise as night from day.

Field for Investigation.

And again Secretary Wilson speaks of his plan of changing the character of the soil and improving conditions in the dry regions by turning under drouth resisting plants, perhaps imported from Russia. He refers especially to the sweet clover and the Russian thistle as useful in this scheme. I do not know, and I do not want to dispute him as to the utility of these familiar plants. But I am willing to leave the field of investigation of the usefulness of the thistle and sweet clover and similar plants from Siberia and the far north to the Department of Agriculture.

I do insist, however, that it is wrong and hurtful, and wholly inexcusable, for the authority to be given at Washington for sensational attacks upon the work that we of the west are doing. Better that aid and encouragement be given us in our work of development of scientific soil culture by and through which we have already accomplished so much that is of permanent value.

Never in the history of all our work has our desk been so flooded with reports of success and expressions of gratitude from all over the country as during the last ninety days. Which shall we be guided by—the theory of the one great man at Washington, or facts from hundreds of practical men tilling the soil right out here in our great west?

Soil Culture for All Lands.

It behooves us to go on in our own way, making study of the problems of soil culture as applied first to the dry lands, then also as to irrigation lands, and then to the humid regions. Methods we must adopt, for results in the area of limited rainfall will always be found immensely profitable, also where there is abundant water. Scientific soil culture is never in any sense dry farming. It is farming with just enough water.

We have made some progress in a quarter of a century, much of it since this congress was organized, which has aided in the publicity the movement so greatly needed. I can see there has been a wonderful advance made. Persons in the eastern states find it hard to believe the things which have become commonplace with us. To many the change wrought has seemed almost a miracle.

I believe I have had exceptional opportunity to witness the change taking place, with an enormous correspondence and then my travels have been into Mexico and Canada and all between. Within a week I have seen in Texas, in a region of deficient rainfall this season, results brought about by scientific tillage that would have been regarded as impossible a few years ago. Letters from Alberta tell of splendid results there from soil culture science. I have kept in constant communication with sixty-eight farmers located in fourteen different states, with ten more in Alberta and two in Saskatchewan, all working along lines we have suggested, and contesting for $2,000 in cash prizes offered for the best yields of wheat, oats, corn and cotton. They all began work early last spring. From many of these we have had very enthusiastic reports regarding their success, and especially in the dryer sections their ability to control the moisture. Others have failed by just a little carelessness. Yet I know that wonderful progress has been made. I know much of what has been done in the splendid state of Montana and in other states of the west. It is all good.

We of the west no longer need to defend ourselves from attacks inspired by jealousy or selfishness. The movement has made good, and day by day it is becoming greater, grander, stronger.

It is significant to me that almost the only question now asked at every farmers' meeting where the subject is discussed is how to get results. But how well I recollect that for years the chief discussion was as to whether or not anything could be done or accomplished by any different methods of tillage. The change marks the passing from the old to the new.

What is the future of the west under scientific soil culture? If I was to speak what is in my heart you would credit me with extravagance or exaggeration. I have great confidence in the great west. I believe of a truth that this region which is just now coming into its own is destined to be the last and the best great grain garden of the world. Good farming can be done here better and with less difficulty even than in the humid region, but the work must be understood and be carefully applied. The highest degree of intelligence is needed. It means real head work in every process.

Scientific tillage means to convert hundreds of millions of acres of the once seemingly worthless land of this great west into rich farms with beautiful ideal conditions are maintained. It means producing grains and grasses for finishing off our live stock. It means producing and groves and school houses, towns and cities with banks and stores and newspapers. Yes, it means a stream of wealth pouring into the channels of trade over these magnificent railroads.

Mistakes Still Being Made.

But there are still mistakes being made and hopeful workers are meeting with disappointments now as in the past, only because they don't know how. There are regions in the southwest where as the result of the drouth hundreds of families have moved away; but in that same region there are farms on which good crops have been secured. Failure and success lie side by side. I would therefore warn against assuming that it is easy. Men must learn and learn well before they can succeed. Old half hearted investigation and application of all branches of study and research has always brought sure failure. Some who have tried very hard to get results in scientific soil culture have failed because they have kept their thoughts riveted on certain mechanical processes and have not given enough consideration to the principles involved, therefore have never grasped the true foundation in securing the right physical condition. Others, for instance, have fallen short because they have not watched the condition of the soil just beneath the mulch. So long as the top of the compact soil is moist the conditions are all right, but dryness of this top indicates that trouble is near at hand and the cultivator should be applied. It is in these apparently little but all important matters that success lies, and it is when these many seemingly little things are well understood that the general average yield of all our farms will be doubled in good years and when such drouthy years as have prevailed in the southwest and may again occur in any part of the semi-arid country the results will cease to discourage or terrify the settlers. Therefore I commend to you this motto: As we cultivate so shall the harvest be.

The Huskers

It was late in mild October, and the long autumnal rain
Had left the summer harvest fields all green with grass again;
The first sharp frost had fallen, leaving all the woodlands gay
With the hues of summer's rainbow or the meadow flowers of May.

Through a thin, dry mist that morning the sun rose broad and red,
At first a rayless disk of fire, he brightened as he sped;
Yet, even his noontide glory fell chastened and subdued
On the corn fields and the orchards, and softly pictured wood.

And all the quiet afternoon, slow sloping to the night,
He wove with golden shuttle the haze with yellow light;
Slanting through the painted beeches, he glorified the hill;
And, beneath it, pond and meadow lay brighter, greener still.

And shouting boys in woodland haunts caught glimpses of that sky,
Flecked by the many tinted leaves, and laughed, they knew not why;
And schoolgirls gay with aster flowers, beside the meadow brooks,
Mingled the glow of autumn with the sunshine of sweet looks.

From spire and barn looked westerly the patient weathercocks;
But even the birches on the hill stood motionless as rocks.
No sound was in the woodlands, save the squirrel's dropping shell,
And the yellow leaves among the boughs, low rustling as they fell.

The summer grains were harvested; the stubble fields lay dry,
Where June winds rolled, in light and shade, the pale green waves of rye;
But still, on gentle hill slopes, in valleys fringed with wood,
Ungathered, bleaching in the sun, the heavy corn crop stood.

Bent low, by autumn's wind and rain, through husks that, dry and sere,
Unfolded from their ripened charge, shone out the yellow ear.

Beneath, the turnip lay concealed, in many a verdant fold,
And glistened in the slanting light the pumpkin's sphere of gold.

There wrought the busy harvesters, and many a creaking wain
Bore slowly to the long barn floor its load of husk and grain;
Till broad and red, as when he rose, the sun sank down at last,
And like a merry guest's farewell, the day in brightness passed.

And lo! as through the western pines, on meadow, stream and pond,
Flamed the red radiance of a sky, set all afire beyond,
Slowly o'er the eastern sea bluffs a milder glory shone,
And the sunset and the moonrise were mingled into one.

As thus into the quiet night the twilight lapsed away,
And deeper in the brightening moon the tranquil shadows lay;
From many a brown old farmhouse and hamlet without name,
Their milking and their home tasks done, the merry huskers came.

Swung o'er the heaped-up harvest, from pitchforks in the mow,
Shone dimly down the lanterns on the pleasant scene below;
The growing pile of husks behind, the golden ears before,
And laughing eyes and busy hands and brown cheeks glimmering o'er.

Half hidden in a quiet nook, serene of look and heart,
Talking their old times over, the old men sat apart;
While up and down the unhusked pile, or nestling in its shade,
At hide-and-seek, with laugh and shout, the happy children played.

Urged by the good host's daughter, a maiden young and fair,
Lifting to light her sweet blue eyes and pride of soft brown hair,
The master of the village school, sleek of hair and smooth of tongue,
To the quaint tune of some old psalm, a husking ballad sung. —J. G. Whittier.

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"I passed examinations for government situations but was finally rejected at the medical examinations. After three attempts to enlist in the British army I succeeded at last but was discharged on account of my eczema. The disease was confined to face, arms and legs, my face being actually raw at times. I came to America thirteen years ago, but my face became worse, if possible. When in New York City I was advised to go to —— Hospital whence I was sent to the —— Hospital in Brooklyn. I was put under the care of Professor —— but this also added to the number of unsuccessful attempts. I returned home to England and tried the —— Hospital, Liverpool, the —— Hospital, London, also the world-famed London —— Hospital, but without getting cured. I came back to America five years ago. I had overlooked the Cuticura Remedies dozens of times, but three months ago I decided to give Cuticura a trial and I can safely say I am cured of one of the most torturing skin diseases a man ever had. Richard Curley, New Canaan, Conn., Jan. 10, '09."

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NOTE.—All the names left blank are given in full in Mr. Curley's letter.

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