

PEASANTS WIN IN MONTANA

Wooden-Shod Natives of Holland Thrive on Farms.

C. A. McCANN GIVES INTERVIEW

Montana Man Tells How Immigrants Settle on Land with Hardly Any Money and Have Surprising Success with Crops.

"Wooden shod peasant farmers from Holland, who have settled in the Hedges section, are our best farmers," said Mr. C. A. McCann, whose land products are shown in the big booth fronting the Northern Pacific exhibit to a Bee Land Show writer this morning.

"Those who did not pay cash for their lands, have not only been prompt in meeting their payments from crops grown by them, but several instances they have discounted their installments."

Mr. McCann controls a large area of lands in the vicinity of Hedges, and is a colonizer who believes in development, and practices cropping considerable tracts in order to demonstrate their productivity, and as an aid to new settlers.

"What is known in Montana as the Hedges section is a portion of the great Musselshell valley, in width about twenty miles and in length about thirty miles. It is bounded on the south by the Musselshell river and on the north by the Snowy mountains. This low lying range separates it from the Judith basin, of which it is in all favoring aspects a prototype. It is traversed by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and the B. & M. railroads, the latter commonly known as a branch of the Great Northern.

"The whole section is well watered," said Mr. McCann, "living springs being numerous and constant flow. Its principal water resources are afforded by the snow-melting streams, having their origin in the Snowy mountains. The Snowy mountains, having some years since been created into a national forest by the federal government, the water sources are converted in perpetuity.

"The soil in this section of Montana is more than usually deep. It is a light brown loam, underlaid with a subsoil of clay intermixed with limestone gravel. The latter is not a wash gravel, but consists of about two-thirds clay and one-third lime gravel, which is nearly pure lime. Not having been subjected to the leaching of heavy rains for long periods of time, and not having been reduced by having forests removed, these soils are rich in all the elements of plant food. Nitrogen, phosphorus, lime and potash form a base which gives the soil fine lasting qualities.

"The rainfall in this section averages from sixteen to twenty-two inches, occasionally going to above twenty-five inches. Of this precipitation about 60 per cent falls during April, May, June and July—the growing season—just when it is most needed. The later months are comparatively devoid of rainfall, thus rendering crops to be harvested with little danger and at a small cost for protection from the elements.

"We have not yet found it necessary to summer fallow, for the reason that our farmers in the very early stages began crop rotations. So satisfactory have been the crops, even during the dry season of 1910, that last fall seven new power plowing outfits were bought and set at work by small companies formed exclusively of local farmers.

"The climatic conditions in the Hedges section are not excelled anywhere in the middle west or northwest. The clear, dry air is extremely invigorating and, combined with the large percentage of bright days, makes the climate one of the most healthful and pleasant. There are few days during the entire year in which outdoor work cannot be done with comfort. No one need fear the winters here. They are tempered by warm chinook winds and by the mountains, and are not as severe as the winters further east. I want to emphasize this matter of Montana weather, for I find that in no other respect is one state more generally misunderstood. I lived for a quarter of a century in the northern states of the Mississippi valley, and our Montana winters are decidedly less severe.

"Formerly Was Stock Country. In former years the Hedges section was exclusively a stock growing country, and for the main part the industry was based upon the nutritious grasses of the open range. The pouring of new settlers, who have turned the sod and put it into grains, has put an end to the range industry, and the transformation now well under way is from the free range, with its great herds and bands, to smaller holdings of a higher grade. These will be in increasing number fattened and fitted for the block on smaller areas of land. The experience of recent years has shown that here can be grown cheaply an ideal balanced ration for putting animals in marketable condition. Every year the number of stock growers who are coming to appreciate this truth increases, and the larger profits obtained makes the new era in stock growing an attractive one.

"The well-being of our farmers has been made possible not alone by grain growing and stock raising, however. There have been excellent profits derived from garden vegetables and small fruits, for these grow prolifically. Dairying is also a developing industry. Taken all together, specialized and general farming have played equally important parts.

"We hope the showing we have made at this splendid Land show will induce more new people to come out to the Hedges section and see just what our portion of Montana has to offer to the homeseeker."

A QUEER PAGE IN HISTORY

American Reenactment of British Prejudice Costs Many Lives.

The most notable real tragedy recorded in the history of the theater was that of the Astor Place riot, New York, May 10, 1849. Edwin Forrest, the American tragedian, had been treated with such hostility in London that he had to abandon his engagement in that city, although he enjoyed great success and favor in the English provinces. The friends of Forrest in New York took their revenge on Macready, the great English tragedian. He was hissed from the stage of the Astor Place opera

FAST PROGRESS IN FARMING

Utah is Showing Other States What Can Be Done.

DESERT WASTES HAVE GONE

Fields of Grain Now Smile Welcome to Visitor and Stand as Evidence of the Sturdy Westerner's Thrift.

By I. E. PRATT.

"Dry farming" is a term usually used when speaking of the cultivation of lands in regions where there are less than thirty inches of precipitation. The greater portion of the land of the United States west of the Missouri river is classed as arid or semi-arid, and the problem of successful crop growing within this area is of more vital importance, and the solution of which means more material prosperity, than any other industrial question before the American people today.

PRODUCING BIG FRUIT CROPS

Climate of Utah is Just Right for Orchards.

FINE RECORD IN STATE FOR 1910

Total of One Million Fruit Trees Planted During Year and Much Greater Number Will Be Set This Spring.

BY J. EDWARD TAYLOR, STATE HORTICULTURAL INSPECTOR.

Few states in the union have the diversity of climate that is found in the state of Utah, consequently few can produce the variety of horticultural crops grown within its borders. She has every degree of climate, from the sub-tropical "Dixie" land in the southern part, where the figs and pomegranates grow in profusion, to the more temperate mountain valleys of the north, which produce the crisp apple in all its perfection.

Some idea of the importance which this industry is assuming can be gained from the fact that nearly 1,000,000 fruit trees were planted in the orchards of Utah in 1910. The planting in 1909 was equally large and from all reports there will be a still greater number set in the spring of 1911. About five-eighths of the area is devoted to apples, one-third to peaches and the balance to cherries, pears and apricots, plums, prunes, small fruits and berries in the order named.

Some Early Experiments.

Fruit growing in Utah began with the arrival of the pioneers in 1847 and the growth of the industry has been steady and conservative since that time. The methods of the pioneers were necessarily crude and much experimental work had to be done to demonstrate the possibilities. The original idea was one of home consumption entirely, but the production soon outgrew the local markets and with the advent of the railroad it became necessary to revise the system and adopt different methods. The old orchard had to be removed and replaced with varieties adapted to the demands of the market. This checked the development of the industry somewhat for a few years, but the excellent results obtained by the pioneers were soon manifest in commercial orchards.

Soils and Climate.

The soils of Utah are extremely fertile, containing all the ingredients which thousands of years of erosion have accumulated. The air is dry and clear and there is an abundance of sunshine. By means of irrigation the water is supplied when needed. This makes an ideal combination for fruit growing—insuring a product with all the desirable commercial features, including flavor, size, color, freedom from blemish, and keeping qualities coupled with maximum yields. There is sufficient diversity of crops and animal production on the farms adjoining the orchards to insure the maintenance of everlasting fertility in the land. Sunshine is one of the important factors in the production of fruit. The sun's rays insure a large sugar content and likewise prevent the development of fungous diseases so detrimental, not only to the keeping quality of fruit, but to the appearance as well. That our fruit has good keeping qualities is best demonstrated in the Elberta peach. It is not an unusual occurrence to have a carload of peaches sold in the eastern markets, such as Boston, four weeks after being shipped. One car has been known to be six weeks between the orchard and the consumer, and still bring a good price. Peaches from Utah have been shipped to Liverpool, England, with satisfactory results to the grower and shipper.

Markets for Utah.

Utah peaches and apples are shipped to every large market from Los Angeles to British Columbia on the west and north and from New Orleans to Boston on the south and east and to all points in between. These markets are being gradually extended to keep pace with the increasing production and it is only a question of a short time when Utah fruits will be invading Europe. While there is a great deal of talk of over-production the ingenuity of the Yankee can be depended upon to convert the products of the orchards into profits.

With less than 30 per cent of the planted area bearing so the great stock food, are the great money crops of semi-arid Utah. There is no country in the world that produces larger continuous yields per acre than Utah. Through the adoption of scientific principles Utah has increased its acreage yields until we are in the United States only barley, 43; alfalfa seeds, 240 pounds; sugar beets, 180 bushels; and second in wheat, with 27; oats, with 43.1, and potatoes, 123.1. In connection with wheat production it is an interesting fact that 75 per cent is raised by dry farming methods.

Winter Wheat Money Crop.

Science has taught the lesson of conservation and utilization of natural resources and the knowledge has been so widely disseminated that it is needless to enter into details of principles involved; deep plowing, nine to twelve inches, for reservoiring the moisture; early spring plowing, and the fallow during the summer to better hold the spring rains, which during the summer months are dissolving the plant foods and holding them in solution, so that when planted in the fall the plants begin to send their roots in the soil in search of sustenance, the plant takes up barely more than half the moisture of the reservoir water as it would require of water fresh on the land and holding little plant food in solution; and it is by the process of transpiration through the stomata of the leaves that the largest quantity of moisture is consumed.

An Important Problem.

So this principle of summer fallow where deficiency of moisture occurs is one of paramount importance and one which has received too little attention. After the seed is drilled in the furrow should be kept busy, as the finer the mulch the less evaporation of moisture, and in this respect Utah's soils are loamy and friable and easily susceptible to pulverization.

Pleanty of Opportunity.

While the acreage in the state devoted to orchards is increasing, yet there are thousands of acres awaiting only capital and energy to transform them from sagebrush deserts to orchards and gardens. The same climate and sunshine which produces beautiful, healthy fruits will likewise give health and beauty to the children and wealth and happiness to all.

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Buy land!

Buy it now!

Every man should own a lot of land. Certainly every young man should own some. The opportunity is greater now than it has been in fifty years to realize on good property.

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Do it now!

There is no possible way for you to ever regret it.

For further information regarding this property call Douglas 238, or address The Bee Land Department.