During the last decade there has been much agitation toward the utilization of the arid and semi-arid lands of the West for a more profitable and intensive agriculture than has as yet been practiced. A greater part of this land lies above the ditch and must depend for its moisture supply upon the scanty rainfall of that region. This rainfall varies from 12 to 24 inches depending in amount and time of precipitation upon the section of the country under consideration. In the State of Montana alone there exist today from fifteen to eighteen million acres of land which will some day be cropped by dry-land methods. The vast area in this state alone, if it produced only the minimum amount of wheat possible, would be no small factor in the markets of the world.

The light rainfall alone has so far discouraged the farming of these lands. Seventeen inches of rain a year, especially if it comes in the fall or winter, is not sufficient to raise an average crop. Even if

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