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PER
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WEEKLY.

THE RANCH

THE
TRUTH
IS
ENOUGH

A Journal of The Land and The Home in The New West.

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Prospects.

THE RANCH seeks to promote the material interests of the newer West and the happiness and thrift of its people. Its methods evaporate the water and leave the meat. It is non-partisan. The editors don't know it all: they seek information from all sources for discussion on common ground in these columns. THE RANCH shall be clean and wholesome from tip to tip. Let it speak for itself.

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Capital: not great capital in the hands of a few, but distributed among many, is the great need of all new states. A thousand men with \$500 to \$1,000 each will do Washington infinitely more good—make for progress and development a hundred-fold faster than a score of capitalists with a million apiece. The thousand make business for the transportation companies, make trade for the merchants, occupy the land, develop our agriculture and the lesser industries with a speed that great capital in few hands may not even emulate and indeed is worthless without the thousand. And, in fact, these lesser but relatively stronger men are slipping in now day by day, all unheralded and unnoticed, quietly looking about and picking up "snaps" here and there, proposing to stay in the country and work their pickings-up for all they are worth; not stowing their money away in great propositions and going back east to wait for the workers to dig out and send them the profits. We welcome the capitalists, but they are bright and wise and sure to come. We rejoice with great joy at the coming of the thousand thrifty, energetic farmers and mechanics with modest but more helpful savings. Here the gates of Industry are wide open: the coffers of Success ajar, waiting for bright workers to take possession.

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The comparative great prosperity of the Pacific northwest, and of Washington in particular, is attracting most careful attention throughout all the east, from the Rockies to the St. Croix river; from the Alamo to the heights of Quebec. People out here think times are hard, but to one who has studied the financial conditions in the east, business and things in general look in very fine shape and highly promising for the near future. Miners are growling, but are picking up their tools and making ready to peg away as soon as weather will permit them. New grain elevators at Seattle are being

crowded from sections that never before shipped grain. Tacoma shipments constantly increase. Merchants are selling car loads and reporting fair collections, where the growl of "hard times" has been deep and hoarse. Local markets are receiving produce from lands new to the plow. Farmers in nearly all sections of Washington, Oregon and California are doing well—better than their eastern brothers. When they cry hard times it is mostly due to extravagance, or to mismanagement, or bad roads; and the lessons of the year will but aid to proper methods and greater progress in the future.

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Col. Pope for his bicycles, John Farmer for easy and cheap marketing, Jack Merchant for more trade, and all the rest of the world for comfort's sake are interested in getting the wheels out of the mud and ruts onto a smooth and hard road bed. Gov. McGraw told in graphic speech at the Olympia road meeting about the early efforts to involve Uncle Sam in building national roads, apparently with a tinge of regret at the failure. Never mind, governor, the convention laid out work enough to make you forget all that. Now we modestly suggest a better scheme than any of them. If THE RANCH had been born a year or two sooner it might have unloaded this at the convention. But here it is: Why not build state roads from state capital to state capital? Washington would build a macadamized highway from Olympia toward Boise by the most direct and cheapest route; also one to Portland. Idaho and Oregon would meet us at the state line with similar roads. Then let each county build roads from its county seat to the county line to join like roads from the other county seats. A state road commission could do all the surveying and laying out of the state roads; and also of the county roads. The entire expense should be borne by the community as a whole, and not by abutting property holders, save that landowners adjoining would of course be glad to give the land for the purpose. Why not?

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Is the football craze become so much a gladiatorial combat, and gambling sport as to keep the sons of men of high morality and modest means away from the great colleges, as suggested by *The Nation*? If so, it is high time a halt were called along the whole line, and a warning sounded at the smaller and newer colleges that they too, may learn the lesson without the expense. Public show,

and exploiting of our boys in the press before their teeth are fairly cut is not what education is for. "The wealthy are going to college in greater and greater numbers, but it is not they who keep alive the traditions of American scholarship, or show the world what a college education can do by way of preparation for life." Athletic sports are all right when kept within the limits of healthful exercise for body and mind. Beyond that, in the pale of the circus, menagerie and prize ring, they have no place.

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Hard times and extravagance make Uncle Sam short in his income a few millions, so he is hunting around for an increase. As it is all in the family, of course the plain people will help him out. There's money enough. The only question is how to make it change hands. About the best way for the present emergency that THE RANCH has seen proposed is for the government to issue treasury notes bearing a low rate of interest, subject to being called in on short notice. The interest would be only enough to make them change hands easily at par. They would not be legal tender, but would of course be readily accepted by any one in lieu of money. A similar custom is in vogue in England during like emergencies, and it is said to work well.

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Freshets that do not result in washouts are in nowise to be deplored. Really they benefit rather than damage. The December overflows in White, Green, Puyallup, Skagit, Snohomish and other valleys were blessings undisguised, except in individual cases. These freshets in the past made those valleys the gardens that they are. Now that things are brought under cultivation, these floods keep up the fertility more certainly, more uniformly and more cheaply than any artificial fertilizer could do, no matter how scientifically applied. A thousand years of cropping cannot diminish the productiveness of these lands so long as the melting snows of the mountain ranges annually bring down life-giving plant-lood in such unstinted abundance.

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A. D. 1894 opens well in the Pacific northwest. Confidence means trade. Brisk exchange of products means prosperity. Seattle and Tacoma merchants and manufacturers say that free lumber will mean sharper competition. B. C. will not get away with U. S. markets. Cost of production will settle that; if too