

## MR. MILLION'S COW.

Mr. Million is a real man, and he has a real cow. The two together can read a valuable lesson to Palouse, and Olympia Marsh, and Skagit, and all other farmers have damaged grain they don't know what to do with. This particular cow was trying hard to manufacture hay, and other stuff usually fed to the family cow, into good milk for the household. Try her best, she could only turn out about a half gallon at a time.

Now Mr. Million is in the nursery and seed business, along with J. G. Burrows, in Seattle, and some alleged seed oats they had bought looked so musty they declined to try to polish 'em up to sell for planting; so Mr. Million took them home. Horses eat dry oats well enough, but respectable cows don't take to that sort of feed. So the oats were thoroughly steamed, and a half peck fed into the walking milk machine twice a day, along with a little bran. Madam Bovus took kindly to the new diet, and went to work with her masticator and three stomachs, her alimentary and her fatty tissue departments with such success that the faulty oats and other things were transformed into purest lacteal at the rate of a gallon a trip, and gradually increased to 12 and 14 quarts a milking. Mr. Million estimates that the increased product of his milk apparatus cost about 1½ cents a quart. So he advises the wheat growers in their projected addition of stock to their ranches, to select milk giving strains of cattle. THE RANCH would add the suggestion that the Guernsey combines milk, butter and beef characteristics to an unusual degree.

## FRUIT PROSPECTS FOR '94.

The state board of horticulture is making thorough preparation for the fruit-growers' convention at Spokane, February 14. Information estimating the coming fruit crop is important and a synopsis of the reports received to date on that subject is as follows:

C. P. Wilcox, of North Yakima, estimates that more than 1,500 tons of fruit will be raised in that "postal district."

M. B. Curtis says that 15 growers adjacent to Simcoe station will produce from 2,000 to 2,500 tons; nearly one-half being peaches. According to these and other estimates about 225 car loads of fruit may be the expected crop in Yakima county, besides small fruits, melons, garden crops, etc.

Commissioner Chatfeld Knight reports about 20 car loads of dried fruits, and 80 of fresh fruit as the expected yield of Clarke county. If the crop was all counted as fresh, the amount would be about 170 car loads there next season.

D. M. Holt, of Wawawa, writes that about 2,000 tons of fruit will be raised for market, by 13 growers. This district is largely devoted to peaches, of which there are over 20,000 bearing trees, and about

10,000 each of prune, plum and apple trees.

Com. H. H. Spalding, of Almota, estimates that 13 growers will produce 200 tons in that "postal district." W. M. Martzell, of Endicott, gives 500 tons by 12 growers. John Cummings, of Farmington, estimates over 300 tons for his district. George Ruedy, of Colfax, gives a list of over 100 persons having orchards at that office. These will produce over 2,000 tons for market, besides family supplies. Based upon reports received, a conservative estimate for Whitman county is over 350 car loads of orchard fruits for the markets, and if all small farm orchards were included, over 100 car loads might be added.

Dan Jordan, of Columbus, Klickitat county, reports an amount of bearing trees which should yield over 800 tons. H. C. Cook, of White Salmon, names 19 orchardists whose crops will approximate 400 tons of fruit. Other estimates show that at least 90 car loads will be grown in Klickitat county. Lewis county, it is estimated, will yield above 100 car loads of orchard fruits, and Cowlitz county over 60 car loads. Twenty-five other postal districts report trees sufficient to produce 100 car loads. The estimates for other counties will soon be ready.

C. A. TONNESEN.

## CLOVER OR ALFALFA PORK.

Theodore Louis, an experienced swine breeder, and a lecturer before the farmers' institutes of Wisconsin and Minnesota, astonished his hearers by stating that he annually made 6,000 pounds of pork from an acre of clover. His farm was on the sandy, unproductive pine lands of Wisconsin. By growing clover and plowing it under, in a rotation, he brought his farm into fair productiveness for all ordinary crops. But hog raising was his specialty, and clover his mainstay for pork making.

His brood sows were bred to drop their young in April and they reached the grazing age by the time the clover pastures were ready with their succulent, nutritive food.

His fields were small and when one was well fed down the pigs were given another, and this alternation was kept up through the season, the pigs having all the clover and fresh water their nature demanded. No other food was given them until the frosts of fall had withered the pasturage. Against the arrival of this time a crop of Indian corn had been grown, and a few acres of sowed corn, with juicy stalks and half ripened ears, were in readiness to carry the pigs gradually onto the hardened corn which was always fed in the form of dry meal.

The "shoats" were ready for market by the middle of November, or earlier, if better prices were probable. The average weight was 225 to 275 pounds, dressed. These are large averages, but it must be

taken into consideration that Mr. Louis was an intelligent, experienced man who handled both his breeding stock and their progeny in a manner that brought about the best possible results. The breed was right, the care was right from the moment the pigs were dropped; the clover did the rest, with the aid of the corn finish, which hardened the pork so that it was a favorite with the packers who had become familiar with Mr. Louis' product, and who always paid him the top market price.

But here is the real point to the telling of this bit of experience: If a man can accomplish such results in Wisconsin, on comparatively barren soil, what may not the same skill and care do in the Yakima region, on a soil needing only water, which is now assured beyond a peradventure; where four or five times as much green food can be grown, and where Indian corn thrives and matures? The fact is, this irrigated country must become the great swine raising center of the western slope, more famous and more remunerative than in the corn belt states. First, because here pork can be made more cheaply than there, and second because swine constitution will not be weakened and undermined by an almost exclusive corn diet, leaving the animals a prey to hog cholera and kindred ailments that decimate herds and sweep away the profits.

## HORSE IMPROVEMENT.

The Arab horse is appreciated in Egypt. The government promotes improvements in breeding, and pure bred Arab stallions have been purchased and stationed in various districts for the use of the local breeders. Horse shows, under the auspices of the government, are kept in those districts and certificates furnished to owners of such mares as are considered to be perfectly sound and to promise usefulness in their offspring. These mares are entitled to mate with the stallions in their respective districts.

In this country it is considered no part of the government's business to engage in horse breeding. That is left to the individual and to associations. In many cases, however, these agencies are not doing all that they might do to improve the equine species. This is in a measure true of all the northwest.

The cayuse has its merits, of course, but at best it is an inferior animal. Much has been done by the intelligent and progressive owners of range bands of horses, by the introduction of blooded stallions. They have thus raised the grade many per cent, but not always in the direction of the most profitable animals.

This is a period of great depression in the horse market, the choice being given to buyers at a ridiculously low price compared with that of two years ago. For instance, we recently heard a horseman say that he had permitted a purchaser to take