

insignificant culls with the good fruit; this brought the entire lot into very deserved disrepute. Hong Kong is a long way off, but Calcutta is eighteen steamer days beyond, and that is where a part of the Yakima product is wanted. Nothing but the soundest of apples can stand the voyage and go ashore in presentable shape. A shame isn't it? Well, gentlemen fruit growers it is just such an opening as this for your fruit that you should be preparing for. What do you think about beginning next fall to pick your fine apples by hand from the trees, then sorting with the utmost care, wrapping each specimen in soft paper and packing them with all the delicacy of touch that a poultry farmer exercises in packing his choicest eggs for long distance shipment? Will it pay, do you think?

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The board of horticulture tell me, sub rosa, that they think the 1,400 samples of fruit in jars, etc., brought from the world's fair to North Yakima for the purposes of the state fair, are not doing full duty; that the exhibit should be divided and distributed around the state and kept constantly on exhibition; that so great a collection should not be held exclusively for six days' exhibit at the state fair, and lastly that the Yakima country would be far better advertised by such a distribution of the collection. There is sense in this, and the last named consideration is very likely to start a movement for a legal change in the disposition of this superb collection of Washington fruits. If the Yakima County Horticultural society will take the matter in hand and so arrange that fresh samples of Yakima fruits shall be constantly on exhibit along with the canned specimens at the different points of exhibition, a famous advertisement of this region would be effected. It might not be a bad idea for some of these jars to be placed in the rooms of the Yakima Commercial club.

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About that Sunnyside experiment station? If the Agricultural College don't take up the work pretty quick on the land given it at Zillah, it will be too late for effective work A. D. 1894. The people of the "arid region" rejoice at the prospect of an experiment station being established on the Yakima, but their rejoicing will be turned to alkali bitterness if the learned professors don't bestir themselves, attack the Zillah sagebrush and get some work in motion this spring. No great expense is necessary or even desirable in the beginning. Some of the very best work in this line is of the lowest in cost. A good local board of overseers could easily be secured to give their services without pay. Experiments in use of water, as to time and amounts; testing of varieties of vegetables and forage crops, textile plants, etc.; systems of planting—and similar comparatively inexpensive work might well employ the stations for one year or

many seasons. One bright scientific man, with two or three student assistants, could do the technical work. And if every man within 10 or 15 miles would not contribute a day's work for the rougher parts, then we mistake the temper of the white Yakimas.

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Science is knowledge: scientific is knowing: simply that and nothing more. Thus spake that gentle minded nature-lover and student of her varied phases, Francis Parkman. An agricultural experiment station is only an institution to study into the unknown of nature's ways that we may learn how the better to adopt our practice to her laws. The issuing of bulletins is not experimental work: it is properly only a record of scientific (seeking-to-know) work already performed. Bulletins that are poor copies of newspapers or book work have no place in the so-called experiment station. These remarks apply to any station where they fit.

FEBRUARY 10—FEBRUARY 14.

Another Open Letter From President Wilcox—Topics for The Ranch Readers to Think About for the Saturday Meeting.

To The Yakima County Horticulturists:

GENTLEMEN:—Taking a broader view of the questions referred to in the last week's issue of our valuable journal, why not have an Inter-State Fruit Shippers organization composed of the territory to be represented at the coming Spokane meeting? I believe it can be, and if done, am sure good results will follow. There is no doubt but that the time is coming when this whole coast will need to be organized under one management, or nearly so. Although it is a difficult problem, I believe its correct solution will be of untold value. The fruit industry of the northwest has a rival in California which none of us can compete with single handed, while organized as one we can best hold our own. Think of this, gentlemen, and if favorably inclined let us instruct our Spokane delegates to use their efforts to this end.

In regard to the other question, fruit-pests, we ought to have our county divided into districts, by section, township or other boundary lines, and an inspector appointed for each district, with prescribed duties. This is going to be a line of work requiring special and careful attention, and we cannot get ourselves to work systematically any too soon. Are you ready for the question? Come to the meeting in North Yakima next Saturday, February 10. We have engaged Mason's opera house as we expect a large attendance.

As to the beet sugar industry, I was somewhat skeptical when the subject was first suggested to me, but reflection leads me to think very favorably of it. I believe it to be a move in the right direction, and also think I see a field for

the surplus labor of the community, men, women and children. I feel quite confident that there are many acres of good, unoccupied land contiguous to the city—or any point where it may be best to locate a factory—the proprietors of which would be willing to give the use for little compensation for the purpose of seeing this move consummated. Such land could be parceled out to the unemployed of the city, in tracts of 1, 2, 3 or more acres each, and thus help many families over a hard year.

By giving these questions some thought, I think you will see where the good will result, and will not, therefore, consume more valuable space with details.

Very truly, C. P. Wilcox.

THE BEET SUGAR MEETING.

The representatives of the agricultural college at the beet sugar meeting on Saturday of this week will include not only Prof. Lake, but we are informed that Prof. Fulmer the chemist of the college, will also be present. Prof. Fulmer has had special experience in the conduct of the chemical work of beet sugar factories in Nebraska; so Yakimarians are especially fortunate in having a chance to hear him.

Prof. Fulmer told the beet sugar convention at Colfax last week that the land in that vicinity can be counted on to produce easily 20 tons of beets per acre, on which a net profit of \$25 can be expected. Some 300 farmers pledged themselves to plant one acre and upwards to beets this year if a factory is located there. The estimate of profits certainly is not extravagant.

When John R. Reavis, at the Spokane meeting, speaks about Washington's part at the World's fair, he may very appropriately put in some telling words for the state fair to be held at North Yakima next fall. He will have a hearing that, properly appealed to, may be aroused to do much in the way of collecting exhibits for Washington's great show. If such a talk does not occur to Mr. Reavis, perhaps some North Yakima man may take up the subject.

Following THE RANCH editor's earnest recommendation, Kiona fruit men, and many others there interested in seeing horticulture flourish, will join the county horticultural society. Of course Kennewick may not fall behind her elder sister in this movement; nor Prosser and Mabton. This is not a North Yakima affair, but a society for all the Yakima country.

It is proposed that one of the general meetings, or a special meeting of the Yakima County Horticultural Society, should be held at the time of the state fair. The idea is just as good for every other agricultural and horticultural society in the state.

Don't forget for a moment that it is the privilege of every fruit grower in the state to have an exhibit of his product at the coming state fair. Every man wants his own district well represented.