

ONE
DOLLAR
A YEAR.
WEEKLY.

THE RANCH

THE
TRUTH
IS
ENOUGH

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Prospects.

A big DON'T is frequently of as much value as DO. The don't on the suga beet business for the Yakima valley uttered by Prof. Fulmer last Saturday will be of great value and importance to this region, if taken with the big But with which Prof. Fulmer accompanied it. Don't plant a big acreage this year, nor until you are sure that all of the conditions are right for a successful issue of the campaign. But do plant an experimental plot, a hundred or more of them, one on every farm in the valley, from the special seeds that will be furnished gratis by the agricultural college, and cultivate under the same system laid down by Prof. Fulmer. Then send specimen beets to him for analysis, all free of charge. On the results thus secured, and only thus, will it be safe to enter upon the industry. The terms are so liberal and easy, and as the beets are good stock feed, the Yakima farmers will not fail to take advantage of this fine opportunity to determine upon the subsequent establishment of a beet sugar industry in the valley.

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I say, Fred! You claim to be a friend of your neighbor, a good citizen, interested in all that pertains to the true welfare of your family, your neighbor, your town, your county, your state, your nation! Are you so in fact? You know that your property will be benefitted by the improvement of any bit of ground in its vicinity; your family life by the advancement of your neighbor in the world. The way to improve your neighborhood is, first, by beginning yourself; second, by awakening your neighbors to a knowledge of their needs. How can you do this easier and at less cost to them than by causing them to read THE RANCH? Every one of them can do it for three months at a cost of "two bits." Not at your expense. That won't do. A man does not value what costs him nothing. He should pay for it himself. What do you think of the preachment? Will you act on the suggestion?

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One of the best indications of economy and thrift, as well as of a return to more prosperous times, is the alacrity with which the people of Washington are meeting their town and county taxes. We hardly glance over a state exchange that does not speak of the subject, ac-

companied by a comparative statement showing how much greater the tax receipts are now than they were at the same date in 1893. As a rule property owners do a great deal of squealing about taxes, more we believe from habit than anything else. Unjust taxation is robbery, of course, but just taxation for the support of government, local or general, that affords protection to life and property, should be forthcoming as a welcome tribute. We have no patience with the chronic tax grumbler or tax fighter, or with the man who conceals his property in any manner to escape his just dues to the state. Fashionable though it is, and smart as it may be considered in some quarters, the man who is guilty of it is little above the till-tapper or the highwayman.

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The variety of minus-knowledge (it would be ungracious to say ignorance) concerning varieties of fruit grown in the Northwest is only partly excusable by the differences in fruits grown in soils and climates varying widely from the conditions prevailing in the older sections where types are well known. Every apple, or other fruit with well marked characteristics, has certain distinctions wherever it is grown. But vanities so nearly resemble each other that experts often disagree. The very fact of the changes in appearance (color, size and quality chiefly) of variety under differing conditions makes it all the more important that every lot of trees should be most carefully labeled from the very day of grafting or budding on to harvest time years afterward. The dollar-and-cents side rules the case. A package of good fruit always excites the intelligent buyer to ask the name and a false name given by an over-eager salesman will invariably hurt the industry.

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A fine example of the value of an experiment station to a state or a community was given last week by Prof. Fulmer in his address on the beet sugar industry before the Yakima County Horticultural Society. Prof. Lake spent several days in the valley investigating the needs of our farmers in the way of experimental work, and his observations will be of importance in the organization of the work of the proposed experiment station at Zillah. Let it always be remembered that in a state of several different climates and varied classes of soils, one experiment station can do only a small

part of the work necessary. In Germany and France every soil, every crop, every branch of agricultural industry has its special experiment station; so this state needs at least three, one eastern, one central, one western. Always remember, too, that no station can do its best work without the cordial co-operation of the farmers. And the best work, with quickest results, will come by experiments repeated on a score or a hundred farms, under identical conditions, and with carefully kept records for comparison and study by the experts at the experiment station. Under the comparatively homogeneous conditions of the irrigated region of central Washington an experiment, as that proposed at Zillah, may by this co-operative system accomplish rapid work of incalculable value to the whole region.

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With all the advice and exhortation to plant fruit in eastern Washington must be coupled the admonition to plant only the best varieties, to cultivate in the most approved manner, and to handle and pack so that shipments will reach their destination in presentable form. Without these things dissatisfaction will follow, not only one year, but continually. This means labor and care. The lazy man, the careless man, will not succeed as a fruit grower where his products must go into the markets of the world for customers. Competition will be sharp and strong. Washington growers not only must grow the best fruit possible, but they will find themselves forced to fight for position. The commercial side of the fruit business is to become the important side. But we have faith that Washington intelligence, thrift and push will prove equal to the occasion.

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As the Connecticut valley is to New England, so we believe the Yakima valley is to Washington her chief agricultural section; and the development will be on the grand Washington scale. On the 100,000 acres of land now under irrigation there is room for the self-support of at least 10,000 families. With the two or three times greater area to come "under the ditch," and the additional population of the towns necessary for such a region for manufactures and commerce, the certain future of the Yakima country will be paralleled only by such valleys as the Hudson, the Rhine and the Moselle. Here may be a civilization that the twentieth century may well be