

YAKIMA REGION AT THE FRONT.

Interesting Extracts From a Letter From Judge J. R. Lewis.—The Yakima and the Santa Clara Valleys Contrasted.

"I am pleased to note your club's reorganization as the "Commercial club," and have no doubt that it will accomplish much for your country. The fact is your noble people do not know what a splendid country they have, located as it is in the heart of the young giant state of Washington, near to the cities of the Sound and on the trunk railroad line east, which passes through a splendid country, inhabited by a most enterprising people, and who will be excellent customers for all the fruit you can raise for years.

"What Yakima county can do in the line of fruit growing is well illustrated by an object lesson in Santa Clara county, California. Fifteen years ago little fruit was grown in this now famed valley; a valley practically extending from Menlo Park south fifty miles to Gilroy, with an average width of say twelve miles between the foot-hills. The mountain ranges on either side are quite similar to those along the Yakima river, and while Santa Clara valley is known as a land of sunshine, the sun of Yakima is as bright and continuous and you have not the fogs that often float up from the Bay of San Francisco, while Yakima being at an elevation of 1,000 feet gives it a lighter and more bracing air.

"The great industries of this valley are fruits, wine and olive-oil; but fruit is king. While Yakima is located much to the north and you may succeed with the apricot, olive and vine, as well as the planters do here, there is no doubt that you grow the finest apples in the world, and your winter apples will be noted and in demand in all the cities east. Your peach is as luscious as is grown at any place. What the apricot will do is yet an experiment but in my opinion "Sunnyside" will produce excellent ones. The prune as yet, has not been fully experimented with, but no doubt the Italian prune produces most abundantly of excellent fruit. With the French prune, I am satisfied you will do finely. Those on my farm at Yakima bore well last year at only three years old, while here the prune is not in bearing until five year old.

"Much money has been expended in this country in developing the best qualities of fruits and no doubt we now have here the genuine French article which is the only prune grown here to any extent. So the apricot is fully developed, the Moorpark, the largest and best is an uncertain bearer. The Royal is a sure bearer but small; the Blenheim and Peach apricots are of good size and the trees good bearers. Fruit trees here have never been so abundant and cheap as now. Splendid prune trees at \$40 to \$50 per thousand and other fruits in proportion.

"Your fruits will ultimately be one of

THE RANCH.

the great sources of wealth, but the hop and alfalfa and your wonderful vegetables along with the fruits will make your people rich. Viewing the future of your country, the outlook is most encouraging. I have faith in Yakima county. The Sunnyside canal, hops, fruits, alfalfa and vegetables will make your county Queen of the state. Look well to Yakima."

J. R. LEWIS.

CREAM CUPS.

Wheat bran is the thing for milch cows. Wisconsin dairymen pay heavily for the bran product of the Minneapolis mills with freight added. At \$13 per ton, the price charged at the North Yakima mill, there is a large profit in bran fed to cows for winter dairying.

From experiments at the agricultural college it has been found that a cow the fourth month after calving, gives milk near the average quality for the whole year. Make two tests, fifteen days apart, and in each test use the milk of eight consecutive milkings and the average of these two tests will give the approximate average of the quality for the year. By knowing the amount of milk given during the year one can get a pretty accurate estimate of the quantity of butter fats the cow gives.

Montesano has a creamery company, with a capital of \$10,000 divided into shares of \$25 each. These shares are principally owned by farmers who propose to furnish milk for the creamery. And now good cows will become more numerous in that region.

When ex-Governor Hoard, of Wisconsin, opens his mouth at a dairymen's convention he is sure to say something to the point. At an Ohio meeting this winter he said this among the other good things: Men today are talking about overdoing the dairy business. It never has been overdone except in two ways, scrub cattle and scrub dairymen. Oh, if the cow could but talk today she would be heard all over this land calling for an improved breed of dairymen. Her cry would go up; it does go up today, "Breed me better, breed me better." Did you ever hear of a customer hunting around the market for poor butter? Did you ever know of a man coming into the market of Columbus, or Cincinnati, or Pittsburg, or New York, or Chicago and go poking around inquiring for stinking butter? What is the matter? Neither the cow nor the consumer want any such administration. Who is to blame? The man of "general purpose" ideas! The man that has no distinct, definite purpose as to the character of cow that he ought to make; no distinct education and training and thinking along these lines, and the result is poor cows, poorly kept; a profitless life, and wasted effort all the year around; poor butter; flooding the market all the time with grease, in place of valuable fat.

If you are breeding fancy poultry never sell a cull. Cut off their heads and send them to market.

DITCHLETS.

Congress has passed a bill to extend the time allowed the Umatilla Irrigation Company for the completion of its canal across the Umatilla reservation in Oregon.

The Yakima Land and Irrigation Company has located its fifth well in the uplands of the Moxee. All flow freely, supplying water at about 70 degrees or higher.

Surveys have been completed for an irrigating ditch on the south side of the Wenatchee river, starting at Peshastin creek, and destined to supply water in Wenatchee, Pine Mission and Brown Flats.

Colorado as a state is trying an irrigation project. It is constructing a canal eighty-five miles in length and calculated to irrigate 70,000 acres. The work is being performed by prison convicts at a cost of only one-half that of building in the usual way. About \$90,000 has thus far been appropriated for the work.

The Dell Haven irrigation district directors met at Kennewick last week to consider the engineers' report. The upper ten miles of the ditch is in good condition for a three-foot flow. A little lining up and dressing of the slopes will put it in good condition. The estimated cost for clearing out, reinforcing embankments, etc., will be \$1,132.80 for putting the canal, laterals, flumes, etc., in shape to furnish the amount of water for this season's use, which is less than 10 cents per acre of the actual taxable land in the district. In addition to this \$1,367.20 will be required for care, operation and management. The directors call for a vote of the taxpayers on the assessment question. The election will be held on March 3 at Kennewick schoolhouse.

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