

Prospects.

War! War! War! War was declared at Spokane against all the hosts of the under world that come upon us in countless legions, robbing us of home comforts, stealing away our bread, purloining our interest and mortgage money and the principal itself. The fruit growers rallied at Spokane last week, coming tens and hundreds of miles to organize against the common foe—the Insect Pests that are costing America millions upon millions of dollars every year. The war is on, gentlemen. The enemy's advance guard has already got inside your barriers. If you would save your orchards from the fate of those in the east, you must beat back these invaders that steal upon you as secretly as disease and death. They are Disease and Death to the greatest material interests in this great Northwest.

General In Sect commands a bigger army than the numbers of all other sects combined. His minions cost more to feed from June to harvest moon than Xerxes' army consumed in a dozen campaigns. Some place the figure at \$350,000,000; others at half a billion, for a single year in Uncle Sam's domain alone. The real amount is as unguessable as the tally of the ancient Inca's horde. As yet only a few of his advance guards have entered upon this promised land, but they find that land under the Gentile's hand flows with milk and honey and produces of fruit as fair as the grapes of Engedi. They need not return to tell the tale; the van-guard of the army of conquest is close upon their heels. Only by most prompt and vigorous action, calling upon our new allies, the forces of General Spray Pump and Private Poison, may we hope to stem the tide. But it must and shall be stemmed. This fair heritage just from God's hand must be saved to our use and for those that come after us. The hordes of old In Sect and Fun Gus must be kept beyond the Rocky mountain barrier. But we must watch and fight. Eternal vigilance is the price of the finest fruit under the sun.

There is a rumor of a gigantic wheat purchase on the Chicago board of trade. Such millionaires as Armour and Marshall Field are reported in the deal. If this is true, there must be in view to those shrewd financiers sure indications of an advance in the price of the world's great cereal. When that takes place all

other produce of the farm will follow suit. "Roll swiftly on ye wheels of time," etc. But the exclusive wheat growers doubtless have learned a lesson that they will not soon forget. They will divide up their large holdings and diversify their crops. Exclusive wheat farming for a long series of years never yet rendered a people or a country wealthy, and it never will. It has been a "skin" game from its advent in western New York, on through Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, the Dakotas to its "last ditch" in the Big Bend country of eastern Washington. It has been a grand pioneer crop, though, but the industries of live stock and dairying that have followed in its wake have been the real civilizers, the home and happiness builders of the country.

THE RANCH shares little in the fear expressed in some quarters that this part of the country will suffer from an over-production of hops. We say this part of the country advisedly, for it is admitted that there is danger of over-production taking the world together. The effect may be discouraging here for a time, but this great fact stands out in bold relief: The Pacific coast, Washington especially, produces three times over, per acre, the crop produced in any other part of the world. If this interest goes to the wall in any present hop growing center Washington will not be that center. Just as the flocks of the great plains of the west and southwest rendered unprofitable the merino flocks, and as these flocks of the ranges are now being hard pushed by those of cheaper Australia, South America and Africa, so will the hop yards of the Pacific coast force the hop growers of New York, of England and Germany into other lines of husbandry. Mind, we don't advise everybody to go into hop raising any more than we would into fruit growing or dairying. We simply say that it is our belief that here the hop industry will thrive and be profitable after the 500 to 700 pound per acre regions are driven out of the business. But Washington hop growers must not rest satisfied until they produce the best possible article and handle and cure it to meet the requirements of the consumers.

Business is surely coming out of the shade into the sunlight. The wheels of the factories and shops will begin to turn with the advent of spring. The hope of a productive farm year is inspiring the hearts of those manufacturers most intimately connected in their dealings with

the producers—the farmers. Within a few days the great shops of the Case threshing machine company will open with a force of 500 men, a number that will increase to 1,000 very soon. These works have been closed since last July. In the same town, Racine, Wis., the Lewis & Mitchell wagon works will begin operations at the same time with a large force which also will be increased later. Thus the record goes on. Capital has become tired of playing the recluse and is emerging for investment in new enterprises. The pay roll is putting new life into trade in hundreds of towns where it has been languishing because men were idle and credit was dead and buried. The tariff scare engineered by the politicians has about spent its force. Keep a lookout for the good time coming.

The market prospect for northwestern fruits in 1894 and coming years is excellent, and was greatly augmented by the Spokane convention. Methods of harvesting, packing and shipping as there discussed are presented this week, and much more will follow in coming issues of THE RANCH. As to transportation, suffice it to say that the general freight agents of the railroads expressed themselves as well pleased with what they learned at the convention as to the prospects of the country, and would do all in their power to promote the industry. Mr. Moore, of the Northern Pacific, said this in convention, also to a special committee and repeated it to THE RANCH. The Great Northern made similar promises, and it is expected that the Union Pacific will do likewise. Now with right grading, careful packing and shipping through proper organization, fair prices and rich profits may confidently be expected.

Don't waste any time waiting for congress to remove or decide to retain the bounty on sugar, but plan to put out the experimental plot as outlined by Prof. Fulmer. Select the site and make application for seed and instructions at an early day. And right here where's the harm of remarking that it seldom pays for any industry to wait upon government action. If it is the profit of legitimate enterprise and work that is expected in any direction such enterprise will receive the reward justly due to it. If it is a bonus that either capitalists or farmers are after and depending upon they are working upon a wrong principle. To become a permanent institution beet sugar growing