

THE RANCH

A Weekly Newspaper

For Everybody Who Wants It.

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RANCH SMALL TALK.

There seems to be a glut in the prune market just now, but there is nothing discouraging in the fact. It is more the result of hard times leading to greater economy in consumption than anything else. The reputation of the Washington product is becoming better each year. A push with the next crop will place them well to the front.

Those having live stock-breeding animals of any kind to sell should remember THE RANCH can easily dispose of it. Cows, horses, swine, poultry—all are increasing in demand and will continue to do so until Eastern Washington is filled up with live progressive farmers.

Have you planned to grow anything for exhibition at the state fair? Yakima people—all this part of Washington in fact—should bear in mind that this part of the country has much at stake in this fair. It will be the first state exhibition. It should be a representative one, but it will not be so unless earnest enthusiastic effort is made.

In 1893 there were in the United States twenty-two horses in the 2:10 trotter list, six of them had records better than 2:09. The old Arabs were not in it for speed with American horsemen of today.

The convention of Pacific Coast horticulturists to be held at San Francisco in April is a good idea—a valuable means for our northwestern fruit growers to learn about the California methods that we may well follow in fruit drying, fruit shipping and fruit marketing. So it was a wise decision on the part of the Spokane convention to appoint delegates.

British Columbia was not strongly represented at the fruit growers' meeting as to numbers; but in Fruit-pest Inspector Palmer and Messrs. Hutchinson, Henry and Kirkland she was strong in intelligence, and they have carried back with them a manifest of the cordial reception they will have when all of B. C. comes to U. S. to stay.

Mr. Fisk, of Fisk & Parker, broom corn growers, up the Ahtanum, says he thinks the broom crop requires only one watering. More than enough injures the quality of the brush.

Frank Adams spent two or three

days in this part of the valley last week in consultation with parties interested in dairying. Mr. Adams is introducing the excellent dairy apparatus manufactured and sold by G. G. Wickson & Co., San Francisco and Portland. He talks very encouragingly of the dairy future of Eastern Washington.

The latest in large farming projects is that announced by Gen. Booth, of the Salvation army. A syndicate of these Christian warriors has purchased 200,000 acres of land of the Mexican government. As a starter they propose to locate upon this tract 5,000 families from the crowded precincts of the large cities of England and America. Salvation army officers will direct all the operations of the colony. The location chosen is in Chiapas, Southern Mexico. This certainly is practical religion with a capital P.

Montana people are still undecided about their state flower. The one most talked of now is the wild portulaca, better known as bitter root. Its roots in former times formed a principal article of diet for the Flathead and other Indians. The plant has lovely flowers of various shades of pink, varying in size from one to two inches in diameter. Hon. Granville Stewart, who is a leading champion of the flower, says the plant is to be found in most of the mountainous districts of the state. It thrives well when transplanted, making beautiful borders or even entire beds in the flower garden or lawn. Like most Montana wild flowers, however, it is destitute of odor. If a vote from outside the state is allowed, THE RANCH shies a ballot for the wild portulaca.

Pullman expects to have a fruit and vegetable cannery. So does Yakima. Perhaps we will call ours an evapory? Mr. Wilcox proposes to see the best in this line in California and give Washington fruit growers the benefit of his observations. No man is better able to conduct such an investigation. Watch THE RANCH for a report of what he sees and hears.

"The secretary of state is having a pamphlet prepared to answer the inquiries of eastern people about the resources, soil, industries, crops, climate, population, etc., of the counties of Washington." That may be a very good move, but if the state would subscribe and pay for a few thousand copies of THE RANCH for a year and send them broadcast over the east it would be doing a much better thing for the state at large. If the state is going into the boom business at all it should begin aright. By the bye, we were told in Tacoma the other day that the state had not yet paid for its World's fair state boom pamphlets, and were shown a big pile still on hand. Better wipe off the old score first!

Spokane's home industry movement has resulted in the proposed establishment of a breakfast-food factory: Oatmeal, buckwheat flour, pearl wheat, and all that sort of thing. We hope they will also include an entire-wheat flour, like that of the Ar-

lington and Franklin mills in the east. It is of that sort that the real "staff of life" is produced. Our Yakima product is as good as the best of its kind, and we predict a big increase in our home mill's trade when it adds the whole-wheat flour.

C. L. Gano will grow for state fair exhibition some forty odd varieties of potatoes. What are you planning in this direction? THE RANCH wants to record a hundred similar items of news. Please send 'em in.

Hello! Don't forget an exhibit for the state fair when you plan your planting.

Ellensburg people fear that the recent cold snap has ruined the peach crop of the Kittitas valley. We hope not, though no great dependence is placed upon its commercial value, we believe. It is the red cow and the big red apple that are bound to shine in that beautiful little valley.

Captain—O, fie! (General at least. A man who can make things hump as the genial Fred R. Reed does with his Prosser enterprise may as well be named general at once. Come to think of it, the company got ahead of us, and made a general of him some time ago—General Manager. Well, General Reed has got back from wicked Gotham at last, and the Vale of Prosser smiles once more, and all Yakima with her. He tells us that King Irrigation, of the Inland Empire will be recognized by the manates of Wall street after due diplomatic delays and settlement of questions of precedence and privilege, as always happens among crowned heads. Meantime the Prosser lands promise to fill up rapidly with plain folks to whom old King Irri is good enough.

Loose hay is selling at \$6 per ton delivered in Ellensburg, says the Register. Milk feed is low, and milch cows cheaper than ever known before in Kittitas valley. Milk and butter remain at the top notch, so it looks as if the dairy business must be profitable.

A northwestern dairyman's convention is suggested by the Ellensburg Register. As it is too late to carry out the project this spring, the state fair commission is likely to hump itself in getting the dairymen together at the fair next September.

The people of the United States eat wheat at the rate of about 20,000,000 bushels per month. That's a pretty good bread bill, but unlike our sugar and coffee bills outsiders don't get the money. Perhaps the same may be said of sugar after Eastern Washington really gets down to sugar beet growing.

Have you asked your neighbor to try THE RANCH for three months or a year?

If you want to get up a club of subscriptions to THE RANCH, just remember that \$5 pays for six copies a whole year.

That "Pig Tale for Boys," that Old Rooster retails this week is all right. I know the boy. That sort of youngster will make his way right enough if he keeps in the right way, the way of truth, integrity and right habits.