

THE RANCH.

\$3,000. Certainly a very moderate outlay for so important an industry. There should be no difficulty whatever in getting stock subscribed for a company with two or three times as much capital. The committee in charge will proceed immediately to secure pledges from fruit men and farmers for supplies of such a character that the cannery and evaporator may be kept in operation throughout the entire season from May (strawberry time) to December, after which the starch factory department, if money is raised to establish that also, might go to work on the potato crop and so keep the works in operation the whole year around.

Walla Walla has "taken the bull by the horns," or, as an hibernian would have it, proposes to kill the insects before they are born. The folks down there have instituted a fire boycott against all fruit trees brought from east of the Rocky mountains. Hold on, gentlemen! Look out that you don't cut yourselves off from the opportunity of enriching lines of valuable varieties. To follow California's example of preventing shipments from infested sections would seem the more business-like method to pursue. There are many sections, and many nurseries that are as free from pests as any in Washington; many nurserymen whose stocks are kept scrupulously clean, for reputation's sake as well as for business reasons. The producers of the new varieties may not be shut out of this field without injustice to ourselves, and a retarding of the progress of horticulture.

Great excitement along the N. P. R. R. Word from Washington, D. C., to the land offices announced that certain sections of railroad lands really belonged to the government, by reason of a decision by the Secretary of the Interior that the law giving the railroad every alternate, odd section, meant just as it read, and not every alternate section as heretofore interpreted. The lands are simply held for the government, and are not thrown open for settlement. This decision simply puts the disputed lands in a form for further discussion and equitable adjustment.

DAIRY GROWTH.

Do you want some convincing figures to prove that dairying is a profitable branch of farming, then here you have them, as given by the managing editor of the St. Paul Pioneer Press: In 1865 Green county, Wisconsin, was absolutely poor, and soon the chinch bugs had added their ravages to the causes of despair (The farmers were wheat growers then.—Eds. Ranch). Now the county has 540 cheese factories, from which the revenue amounts to \$2,000,000 annually, and there is on deposit in the county banks \$700,000 in the names of farmers. Nor is this case exceptional. In 1874 Wisconsin produced 3,000,000 pounds of

cheese. In 1892 her product amounted to 50,000,000 pounds. In the same period the butter product increased from 6,000,000 to 45,000,000 pounds.

Horticultural Meeting.

A special meeting of the Yakima County horticultural society will be held at the Commercial club rooms on Saturday, March 17, at 2 o'clock p. m. The special subject for consideration will be "Insect Pests and the Means of Suppressing Them."

THE STATE OF TRADE.

The tone of the trade journals of the country is less encouraging than we should like to chronicle yet it is not wholly bad. In some branches of trade there has been a slight improvement, both in volume and rates, but severe weather at the south and southwest has interfered considerably. From the central cities, Buffalo, Indianapolis, Louisville, Memphis, Mobile, Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Duluth, reports are more cheerful. In New England lockouts and strikes continue in some lines of manufacture and the prices of manufactured articles have dropped more or less. As will be seen by our quotations wheat is down $\frac{3}{8}$ c, corn $\frac{1}{4}$ c, oats $\frac{1}{4}$ c, cotton $\frac{1}{8}$ c, sugar $\frac{1}{8}$ c, pork 25c a barrel, and lard $\frac{1}{4}$ c a pound. Quotations for oats and for cheese are practically unchanged compared with one year ago, while those for butter and petroleum are higher. On the coast there is a general improvement in the wholesale trade, both in merchandise and groceries. Receipts of provisions are large at Portland and San Francisco but the demand keeps pace with the supply. There seems to be no change for the better in the prices for dressed meat or live stock. Hops are quiet, with no favorable indications for the immediate future. The wheat market at coast points is yet badly demoralized, but shipments abroad continue under a slightly improved foreign demand. The detailed quotations at different points, as given below, will be read with interest and profit.

The Wheat Market.

Dullness prevails in the wheat outlook the world over. At Chicago receipts and shipments are less than last year at corresponding date and prices have tended downward for several days. May wheat is quoted at 59 $\frac{3}{4}$; New York 63 $\frac{3}{4}$; San Francisco 95@97 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per cental for good to choice shipping and \$1.00@1.05 for milling quality; Portland, valley, 85@86 $\frac{1}{2}$ c and Walla Walla, 75@77 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cental.

Grain Statistics.

The statistician of the department of agriculture at Washington D. C., estimates the amount of wheat in farmers' hands at 114,060,000 bushels, which is 21,000,000 bushels less than last year at this date, and 25,000 less than the average for the last eight years. The average weight of the

crop of 1893 per measured bushels is calculated at a little over 381,500,000 commercial bushels, against 306,000,000 measured bushels as heretofore reported. Corn in producer's hands, estimated, aggregates 589,000,000 bushels. Official and commercial estimates of the world's wheat crop for 1893 make it 32,000,000 bushels less than last year. A final estimate will probably still further reduce the total for 1893, as the preliminary estimates of Russia and Germany are greatly reduced by the final estimates.

North Yakima Markets.

Following are the prices paid to farmers:

Wheat, No. 1, per bushel....	50
Wheat, No. 2, per bushel....	40
Corn, per bushel.....	50
Barley, per ton.....	\$13 00@15 00
Oats, per ton.....	17 00@20 00

The prices at which milling produce is sold are as follows:

Flour, patent grade, 50lb sacks.....	90
Flour, straight grade, 50lb sacks....	80
Flour, low grade, 50lb sacks.....	65
Flour, graham, 50lb sacks.....	80
Flour, graham, 10lb sacks.....	30
Flour, corn meal, 10lb sacks.....	30
Bran, sacked, per ton.....	\$13 00
Shorts, sacked, per ton.....	17 00
Rolled barley, sacked, per ton.....	18 00
Wheat chop, sacked, per ton.....	17 00
Corn chop, sacked, per ton.....	21 00
Chicken wheat, sacked, per ton.....	16 00

Farm produce is being purchased by North Yakima merchants at about these rates: Potatoes, \$10 per ton; apples, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2c per lb. Shippers are paying \$1.00 per box for choice. Eggs, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 15c; butter, 40 to 50c per roll; hay—alfalfa, baled \$6 to \$7 per ton; wild, baled, \$5 to \$6.50; loose, all kinds, \$4 $\frac{1}{2}$ to \$5 $\frac{1}{2}$; onions, 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c per lb. The offerings of vegetables are very light. Grocers are selling granulated sugar at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; Costa Rica coffee, 25c, browned, 30 to 40c; Java and Mocha 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 40c; cheese, 20c; rice, 7c; beans 4 to 5c.

English Crops and Prices.

Latest cable advices from London report crops looking well and good progress being made in farm work. The wheat market is steady, with little disposition to trade by shippers and holders. Wheat is sparingly offered. La Plata is in request. Other red wheats are slow. Indian wheat is neglected. California afloat is quoted at 25s 3d per quarter. Hard winter, March delivery, and Northern spring afloat is quoted at 23s. Corn is weaker, owing to low prices of barley and mild weather. Mixed American is firmer, March delivery being quoted at 18s 3d. Barley is in large supply and poor demand; market weak and values very cheap. Oats firm and imports light; business small.

The Apple Trade.

The Baker City (Oregon) Democrat says that a grocery firm of that city has recently shipped several car loads of apples to Omaha and Denver for which they realized \$1.35 per box, net. The boxes averaged 41 pounds each. This would give a return of about 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents per pound. Today Yakima merchants tell us that they are paying about 2 cents per pound for choice apples, but they have