

ONE
DOLLAR
A YEAR.
WEEKLY.

THE RANCH

THE
TRUTH
IS
ENOUGH

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PROSPECTS.

The Navajo Indians of New Mexico own a million or more of sheep, and in the serenity of a thousand years on the oldest and safest homestead on the continent, look upon the American's haste to disperse his flocks as their golden opportunity. As a result the wise Navajos are swapping off horses for sheep in a fashion that would make a Maine Yankee turn greaser to get a whack at such trades. But the Navajos will come out ahead. Sheep will pay best in the long run, and the country may hope for a greater supply in the future of the genuine Navajo blankets, by all odds the finest product of the blanket loom known in any country. Sheep men will do well to go slow on selling out, for a while at least, till the recovery begins.

The Yakima dairymen's meeting, suggested by THE RANCH for next Saturday, as preliminary to a permanent organization, has met with instant favor, and there will be a good turn-out at the commercial club rooms at 2 p. m. The quick success following the organization of the county horticultural society and of the commercial club stimulates the dairymen to believe that an organization of their important interest will lead to a rich development in this direction. That is as certain as that 2 and 2 make 4. The dairy has been the chief means in the enrichment of the agriculture of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota and may well be the bridge out of the slough of adversity to many farmers in the new northwest who have leaned too heavily upon wheat as the "staff of life." This dairy meeting will discuss the pros and cons of organization, prospects of the industry, and take steps to promote a general dairyman's convention at the state fair in September.

In these days of no sheep and wool destruction scare agitation, it is profitable to put the curb on Old Scare, jog along quietly and reflect a little. That will give you time to think about George Rea, the famous breeder of Cheviot sheep. He was the largest tenant farmer in Great Britain, renting some 17,000 acres, and at times paying an annual rental that would buy out a Tacoma bank—or a Yakima bank in two or three years. All from sheep, and under free trade at that. It will lead you to think of the New Zealanders who last year sent two million

of frozen sheep to England, and are extending their flocks, and improving them by introduction of the mutton breeds. Free trade there, too. This cogitation may bring you to think that the day has past when a sheep is a sheep regardless of blood or feed or keep. By this time you will be getting near home, and probably discover that Old Scare is only a dead horse after all—a spook affair raised by politicians, that is easily laid by a few whacks with the whip of Good Sense.

In the arid lands, the forestry problem gains in interest. As the people get settled down and into working order as communities, they will rouse to action and plant the forests that they see are greatly needed. Already the Yakima commercial club has started a movement for extensive tree planting in the foot-hills and along the water courses. From these tree-oses it will be comparatively easy to gradually extend the borders of the incipient forests, until they become in a measure self-supporting. The forestry congress is doing good work for the whole union, but more is needed. Every state should have its forestry association, and act vigorously for the care and preservation of existing forests, as well as for planting of new ones. Arbor Day is close at hand, or ought to be. As the governor has made no appointment, THE RANCH suggests Wednesday, April 11, as Arbor Day for all central and eastern Washington. Yakima will have her Arbor Day anyway. She believes in tree planting.

The Nicaragua canal is an American enterprise of direct importance to every person on the Pacific coast, and indirectly to every American citizen. So it is good news that the canal company reorganization has been successfully accomplished with capital enough in sight to insure continuance of the work. It is good news, too, that congress and the president look with favor upon the proposed government contract and possible ownership of the vast enterprise. In the same direction is government interest in the landing of British soldiers in Nicaragua, and Europe may as well understand that the Monroe doctrine of non-intervention by foreign powers is vigorously believed in by every loyal American citizen, and will be supported to any extent necessary to its rigid enforcement. The only way that John Bull can have any direct interest in Central America is

to say good bye to Victoria and Wales, and become a citizen of the country. Likewise as to the Pacific cable. The leaders of all parties at Washington agree in the importance of an American cable to Hawaii, Asia and Australia, and its construction is only a matter of brief time. With an American Nicaraguan canal, and an American Pacific cable, there would speedily develop a mighty trade on the Pacific coast, with corresponding industries in all lines of human endeavor.

Forestry—tree planting for wood, timber, shelter and climatic influence; and care and preservation of forests—is a most important feature of every civilized government but ours. The American principle of letting alone the splendid gifts of nature—letting them alone to fall a prey to the greed and rapacity of individuals, regardless of the interests of the people at large, the nation as a whole—this reckless system has brought our magnificent forests into sad condition. Perhaps the grandest forests of all, those of Washington, are fast going the same way because of the foolishly false idea that they are inexhaustible. They may be for the present generation, if used as forests should be, and not wantonly wasted by destroying them to make room for other industries of doubtful value. To lay waste miles and townships of splendid forest lands for the growing of fruits, for example, when within the state are millions of acres of the finest fruit land that can be bought for half the price of the cost of clearing the land of the tree stumps alone, is as foolish and wasteful as was the destruction of the matchless California valley lands by hydraulic mining in the mountains. That had to be stopped, and so must in time the waste of the Washington forests.

The leading paper of Oregon severely criticizes the present fruit pest law, and urges horticulturists to cease their bickerings and formulate a statute that will protect the vast fruit interests of that state. Two bills were before the last legislature, each providing stringent quarantine regulations with penalties, and delegating executive functions. One contemplated the administration of the law by the state horticultural board, the other by a state protector with county subordinates responsible to him. Contentions between the two factions of horticulturists lost both to the fruit growers