

THE RANCH.

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For Everybody Who Wants It

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RANCH SMALL TALK.

My! but ar'nt the tree roots going into the ground at a lively rate these warm spring days!

Are the laterals ceaned out for the coming water?

Five copies of THE RANCH, one year, \$4; Four copies, three months, \$1.

Nature in this part of the country postponed her Easter decorations to a later date. From a commercial view, Nature did a very sensible thing. Later bloom means bloom's perfection—the matured fruit next autumn.

Do you know the ladybird when you see her? If not, get an introduction; she is your friend and the particular enemy of the green aphid that destroys tender vegetation. She is worthy of your careful protection.

The sheepmen are pleased at the condition in which they find their flocks this spring. The bleaters will go upon the ranges this year in shape to do their best in wool and increase.

Professor Lake over at the experimental farm at Pullman continues his tests of the germinating power of wet wheat. Of the first 22 samples he finds 50 per cent to grow. That's a pretty poor kind of seed to depend upon.

The Northern Pacific Railroad company have issued a charming little folder, beautifully illustrated and descriptive of the Yakima valley, especially of the Sunnyside district watered by the big ditch. It is an excellent thing to send to friends in the east along with a copy of THE RANCH.

Of course a start has been made on that stomach-and-soul-satisfying garden!

The seeds of peas, lettuce, radishes, onions, early turnips and beets are among the varieties of garden seed that may be entrusted to mother earth at this time. Some of the young plants may get nipped, but probably not. If they do one can start in again and be as far along as those

who put off planting until dead sure of continued warm weather, and if they don't you will be way ahead, as you ought to be as a RANCH reader.

At the Illinois experiment station, the Snyder heads the list of blackberries; black raspberries, the Kansas; red raspberries, three sorts divide the honors—Turner, Cuthbert and Philadelphia, each having merits peculiarly its own. Has any one tried the Kansas in the Yakima? The others are standards everywhere.

Prof. Geo. E. Morrow, professor of agriculture in the University of Illinois, has resigned. Prof. Morrow is an earnest, capable educator in agricultural lines, and we trust that he does not intend withdrawing from the field in which capable men are so much needed.

A great mistake quite often made is to plant too many trees about the house yard. A forestry plantation is one thing, trees for an orchard is another, and trees for beauty still different.

Use a line to make the garden rows by. One gets as many vegetables from a crooked row, of course, but a cross-eyed garden is not a sightly thing.

It is an open question perhaps whether the farmer can afford to grow wheat as a food for stock or not, but it is a closed question that at present prices for the great human food cereal that he can better afford to feed it to the hogs than to sell it. If it won't pay to feed stock upon it then cut down the acreage and substitute something else.

The Northwest Pacific Farmer says that the people of the midwinter fair are going crazy over the Oregon apple, and the smallest specimens are sold at 5 cents apiece. If that's the case what a Bedlam would have reigned at San Francisco if Yakima fruit had not been prohibited from the show by exorbitant space rates. Probably the fair managers foresaw what would happen if eastern Washington got in its fruits. Some people have intimated that it was jealousy on the part of California fruit growers and shippers that led to the snub dealt out to applicants for space from this part of the country, but now we know that this is an error.

A very proper addition to the proposed canning plant will be a pickle factory, or, perhaps it would be best for a separate establishment. Such a factory can work off green tomatoes, cucumbers, small onions, cauliflower etc. Such a plant would furnish a market for a great deal of produce that can be plentifully and cheaply grown and it would add materially to the profit of the gardeners and small farmers. Some one can build up a good business of this kind here.

Do not follow beaten paths altogether, but vary your farm methods a little just

to see if the forefathers and the first settlers adopted the best ways of doing things. We don't mean expensive or laborious experimentation, but such as may be done at no great outlay of money or time. If results are not always satisfactory the "play" is interesting and lends an added charm to farm life.

Do you plant whole potatoes or cut your seed; small potatoes or large ones; plant immediately after cutting or let them lie and callous; in drills or hills; deep or shallow; trench or "hill up"?

Commissioner Maxey and Secretary Tonneson did the valley good service last week in organizing those two horticultural societies. Now it depends upon the members to keep up the interest and make the societies really useful.

Is the sweet pea a fly killer? If so it has an additional claim to popularity among housekeepers. A Kentucky man relates that he accidentally discovered this attribute. He happened to throw a bunch of sweet peas upon a newspaper in his store and soon found that every fly that alighted upon the blossoms was a sort of "good Indian" fly in a twinkling. Worth a trial anyhow.

Common prudence dictates that the farm house and outbuildings should be insured in some good reliable fire insurance company. The cost is in accordance with the risk, quite small, but that risk is entirely too great for the farmer to carry. The means with which to build a destroyed home are not always at command. Better have an insurance company in readiness to furnish it.

Here's an item for American hens and their owners: A trial shipment of eggs has been made from Australia to England. The eggs were rubbed over with grease and packed with bran, flour, lime and pollard in small cases, and when opened were found to be perfectly fresh and sweet.

"Bully for THE RANCH, I say," was the greeting of Commissioner Maxey of the state board of horticulture as he entered the sanctum the other day. It was hearty and expressive, —complimentary if not elegant.

And now comes the Sprague Mail with another hearty "whooper up" for the state fair in North Yakima. It says that "The state fair will be visited by thousands of people, not only from this state, but from all parts of the Northwest and every tourist and traveller who happens to be in Washington at that time will want to visit the fair and see the wonderful products of the state. A fine exhibit will be the best advertisement that Lincoln county can have and there is no question but that the exhibit from this county can equal if not surpass that from any other county."