### YAKIMA BEETS AT THE FRONT.

By direction of the secretary of agriculture, the department at Washington last year sent packages of sugar beet seed to about 350 experimenters, representing forty-three states and territories. Of the 2,428 packages of seed thus distributed this state received 250—next to California the highest number of any state.

The department also sent to each recipient of seed a bulletin giving detailed instructions regarding the propagation of tht beet plant, how to plant the seed and cultivate the beets.

It was also expected that each planter would furnish the chemist of the department samples of his crop for analysis. Only 283 samples were sent on, however. Of these 199 were analyzed at Chicago during the World's fair, and the remainder were tested at the laboratory at the department.

One hundred and fifty-two samples from this state were analyzed: The bulk of them were sent from Whatcom county. Only two were sent from Yakima county. These were sent by Judge J. M. Stout, of North Yakima. One of these Yakima specimens stands at the head of the entire list, all of the states included, showing a purity of 90.2. Next to this comes one from Whatcom county by J. B. Sempler, its purity being 89.7. Of course one swallow does not make a summer, neither does one analysis prove the quality of beet that can be grown in this region. But it is a very big straw when it is taken into consideration that the land upon which the best beets were grown seems to be precisely like thousands of acres in this region—at least there appears to be no good reason why as good quality may not be grown all about us.

THE RANCH has asked Mr. Stout regarding the manner in which these beets were grown. He says that he gave the ground the same preparation that he would give to his garden. No fertilizer was used, and the land had been in cultivation for more than fifteen years. The ground was well moistened before planting. The rows of beets were seventeen inches apart and thinned to eight inches in the row. The seed was planted on the 26th of April, 1893. The plat was given three irrigations and was thoroughly cultivated the same number of times. The champion sample was harvested on October 14; the other specimen on October 2. He therefore concludes that the eleven days following the first digging proved very important in the development of sugar.

THE RANCH heartily congratulates Judge Stout upon the prominence he has given to this valley as a locality of great promise in sugar beet culture. With like favorable results in this year's experiments we may safely expect this to become the leading beet sugar producing region of the country.

### YAKIMA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The meeting of the Yakima county horticural society on Saturday afternoon, April 14, should prove the most important yet held. The committee on the organization of the shipping association is expected to hand in its report, and the committee on cannery and starch factory will announce progress. Mr. Scudder, of the last mentioned committee, informs THE RANCH that he has received pledges of quite an additional number of acres in support of the enterprtse. These important subjects should bring out a full attendance of members and attract many who have not yet joined this progressive organization. The meeting will be called to order at 2 p. m.

### THE STANDARD FRUIT PACKAGE.

The standard sizes of fruit packages adopted by the Northwestern fruit growers' convention are as follows:

Apple boxes—18¼x12x11½ inches.
Pear boxes—18¼x12x8½ inches.
Peach boxes, 1st size—18¼x11½x4½ inches.
Peach boxes, 2d size—18¼x11½x5½ inches.
Prune boxes—18¼x11½x4 inches.
Grape crates, holding four packages, 16x16x4½ inches.

All of the above are inside measurements.

The ends of the boxes are to be ¾ of en inch thick and made of one piece, 19¾ inches long when the ends are ¾ of an inch thick.

We repeat the above in substance from THE RANCH of February 24, in order that its importance may be constantly before our fruit growers. These figures were again affirmed by the executive committee of the association at its session at Walla Walla last week. The second size of peach box was then added in order to accommodate different sizes of fruit.

### MULBERRY MUSINGS.

The mulberry tree is highly spoken of by the horticultural authorities of Cornell experiment station. To use their own words: "It possesses decided value in ornamental planting, and some of the varieties are useful for ornamental hedges, shelter belts and small timber. The fruit has merit for the dessert, is easily grown, and is produced more or less continuously throughout a period of two to four months every year."

Three well marked types are in cultivation in various parts of the country—the red, white and black. The New American, belonging to the white family, is thought to be the best for the north. The Russian, also a white, is perhaps best for hedges, windbreaks, etc.

In California nearly all the types do well and are highly prized. The California station reports: "The value of the mulberry for shade, for fruit for home use, for timber, ultimately for silk worm culture, and its extreme ease of culture, make it desirable that the people know more about the tree." It thrives well on widely differing soils in that state.

THE RANCH sees no reason why this part of the country is not as well adapted to this tree as is California. For hedges and windbreaks we can conceive of nothing finer, all things considered, for the small farms now being opened up, and which so greatly need beautifying and protecting.

### N. W. FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

The executive committee of the Northwestern fruit growers' association met at Walla Walla last week. N. G. Blalock, president; C. P. Wilcox, R. Sleischer, vice presidents; W. S. Offner, treasurer, and S. A. Clarke, secretary, were present. The object was plans to facilitate trade the coming season. The territory covered—Washington, Oregon, Idaho and British Columbia—was partitioned off into sixteen districts, a full list of which will be given in next week's RANCH. Plans for organization in each district were formulated, and an address will be issued to the fruit growers setting forth the importance of the movement.

### WALLA WALLA IRRIGATION MEETING.

Secretary Benson, of the Washington irrigation commission, furnishes THE RANCH with brief minutes of the convention at Walla Walla on April 4.

The members present were Dr. N. G. Blalock, president, H. S. Blandford, Walla Walla, and E. F. Benson, North Yakima; Dr. A. B. Ely, of Kennewick. J. R. Reavis, of Spokane, absent.

Mr. Benson was chosen secretary of the state commission.

For the purpose of collecting data as to area of irrigable lands, sources of water supply, and securing information as to irrigation generally, districts, ditches and all other informarion relative to irrigation in the state of Washington, the following districts are created.

No. 1—All that part of eastern Washington bounded by Idaho, Oregon, Snake and Columbia rivers.

No. 2—Fairhaven, Adams, Whitman, Spokane and Stevens counties.

No. 3—Lincoln, Douglas, Okanogan, Kittitas, Yakima and Klickitat counties.

To report on these several districts the following assignments were made:

District No. 1, H. S. Blandford; No.