

# THE RANCH.

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For Everybody Who Wants It

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## RANCH SMALL TALK.

The way in which our eastern friends are subscribing for THE RANCH is pleasing evidence of the interest taken in Washington agriculture by eastern farmers and business men.

In THE RANCH article on sugar beets in Washington last week the printers made us say Whatcom for Whitman county. Of course Whitman was in the lead in interest in this line of experiments. The same will be true this season, with Yakima a fair second.

Do you know of any better way of improving the farming and fruit growing of your neighborhood, and so the value of your own real estate, than by getting all of your neighbors to read THE RANCH? It works well wherever tried. Try it, please.

Wenatchee farmers are being encouraged to try tobacco culture this season. An enterprising business firm of the town of Wenatchee is distributing the seed to those desiring to try the experiment. Nothing like branching out into new lines not requiring expensive experimenting.

THE RANCH sees no reason why some of the eastern Washington owners of small ranches may not make a pretty good thing from a crop of peanuts. This winning favorite with the children, and grown people as well, will flourish here without doubt. Then why bring them in from a thousand miles away?

Eleven thousand gooseberry plants were lately set on the farm of R. T. Ray, near Marion station, Or. Mr. Ray also planted 2,400 fruit trees. This is planting on a large scale, and the gooseberry patch is probably the largest on the Pacific coast. We believe the owner will find it a most profitable investment.

The trade in sweet pea seed is becoming very large. One company in California has a field of 100 acres in the crop. They are cultivating about

ninety distinct varieties, and last year supplied most of the large seed merchants of Germany, France, Great Britain and Australia, besides immense quantities to American dealers.

The slight frost of Saturday night did no harm, so far as we have heard. In the lower Yakima valley, where the peach trees were mostly in bloom, some of the fruit points were nipped a little, but this was more a benefit than an injury, as the trees are so thickly studded with bud and bloom that a vigorous thinning out will be necessary.

Maj. Powell estimates that there are 570,000,000 acres of government lands in arid and "sub-humid" regions, where irrigation is necessary or desirable. Of this amount Washington has 11,000,000 acres, Montana 74,000,000, Idaho 47,000,000 Oregon 30,000,000. These figures do not include the vast areas in the reservations, or those owned by railroads, the states or individuals.

How would it do for the professors at Pullman to come over and unite with the farmers and hold a grand round-up farmers' institute at North Yakima during fair week? THE RANCH believes such a meeting would be productive of much good in stimulating similar work in the various counties of the state during the following winter.

We notice by Barnett Bros.' price current, Chicago, April 10, that Burbank and Early Ohio potatoes are quoted at 90 cents per bushel, or \$30 a ton. Yellow onions, \$2.50 to \$2.75 per barrel; white turnips, \$1.25 to \$1.40 per barrel; parsnips \$1 and carrots \$1. How our Yakima potato planters would like to empty their potato pits into that market about this time!

Prof. Fulmer, of the state agricultural college, writes THE RANCH that he has had about 1,200 applications for sugar beet seed for experimental planting. He says that "if present indications count for anything, we can depend on very general and intelligent co-operation, and he looks for very satisfactory results next fall—be they favorable or unfavorable" to the idea of future planting for sugar.

The next legislature of Washington should designate an Arbor Day for general observation throughout the state. Were it declared a legal holiday no one would be the loser by it, and the people generally would be material gainers. Last year Gov. McGraw only issued his proclamation after considerable prodding by the press. He will understand this year that Yakima county, like time and tide, waits for no man. The governor should "get on a move."

While we are talking about the introduction of song birds from the outside world our good friends at Spokane are proceeding to make birds for the sportsmen to exercise upon. It is humane work withal, for it takes the place of the cruel sport of live pigeon shooting. The idea is to establish a plant for the manufacture of clay birds or "blue rocks." Heretofore these dumb and featherless imitations have been made almost exclusively at Cleveland, Ohio. A good shot for Spokane!

The Southern Pacific railroad company has begun the meritorious work of beautifying the grounds about its stations. Last week it transported twenty-four car loads of earth from near Woodville, Or., to Grant's Pass, where it is to be used to enrich the earth about the station for flower garden purposes. If the Northern Pacific will adorn the grounds about its stations between Spokane and the Cascade foothills, as we have said before, it would drop many a passenger this side of the mountains who now goes further and fares worse.

A brief call was made at the Ahtanum creamery last week. We found Expert Hill busy in his cheese vat preparing a batch of curd for the press. Eight cheeses of 25 pounds each are being turned out per day. Within a few days quite a shipment will be ready for the market and they will be prime in every respect, fully maintaining the reputation so deservedly earned last season. Mr. Hill pronounces the milk he receives the choicest he has ever worked, owing to the feed—alfalfa and some of the wild grasses. He is never troubled with floating curd or other difficulties common in eastern dairy regions. A considerable increase in amount of milk is expected soon.

Here is the latest wide tire test that we have seen. It was made at the Ohio state university. An ordinary wagon, with a new three-inch tire, was loaded with two long tons, or 4,480 pounds, and the draught was measured by a dynamometer. On an ordinary earth road, in good condition and hard, the draught was 254 pounds. On a grass field it was 468 pounds. On newly plowed land it was 771 pounds. As the draught power of an ordinary horse of 1,000 pounds is 150 pounds, two horses could draw this load with ease on an ordinary road, and a ton and a half on a grass sod, while with a narrow tire half as much, or a single ton, is a full load for a double team. Besides this, the broad tires roll and level a road so that the more it is used the better it becomes, while narrow tires cut it into ruts if at all soft.