

TOMATO BLIGHT INVESTIGATIONS.

By Prof. C. V. Piper, Washington Agricultural College.

The fact that this term is used to denote at least three distinct diseases, in different sections of the country, probably explains the error in your last issue of confusing our Washington tomato blight with the tomato blight of Florida. As a matter of fact the latter is an entirely distinct disease from the one which damages our tomato crop so seriously.

The Florida tomato blight is caused by a fungus which attacks the tomato stem at the surface of the ground, the result being the more or less complete wilting of the tops of the plant, but never any yellow discoloration. Our Washington blight, on the contrary, first discloses itself by the yellowish color of the diseased plant, the color being more pronounced as the disease progresses. So, unfortunately, the discoveries regarding the Florida blight are only of suggestive value to us.

It may be that our blight is the same as the one described from Mississippi under the name of "Southern Tomato Blight" by Dr. B. D. Halsted, who ascertained that the disease was caused by a species of bacterium. No remedy has yet been discovered for this. However, our studies into the Washington blight last fall lead us to believe that our disease is caused by a fungus which we find abundantly enough on all the blighted plants, and which at present we believe to be intimately connected with the cause of the disease.

This coming season we have already arranged for experiments, with a view of ascertaining the true cause of the disease, and also if possible of discovering a remedy.

To this end we shall be pleased to receive the experience of any of the readers of THE RANCH with this disease, especially with any facts which may throw light on the subject.

WOMEN IN THE DAIRY.

Prof. Henry, of the Wisconsin agricultural college station, sees in dairying an inviting field for young women, and he wonders why more of them do not fit themselves for working it. He says:

"The making of fine butter is a part of farm work which is becoming more and more differentiated and separate from the other duties. The careful farmer finds that it does not pay to add to the numerous duties of the wife that of making fine butter. He will either send his milk off to the factory or else set apart the work of butter making, giving it over to a son, a daughter, or some one employed for the purpose. Why should not young

women prepare themselves to take charge of the butter work on a dairy farm or in a private creamery?

"Scarcely a month passes but what I have calls for young men to take up this line of work. I feel quite certain that in some cases young women would be entirely satisfactory to the inquirer. The work of butter making calls for qualities possessed by many women. It is not so confining as house work, and less wearing than school teaching.

"Here is an opportunity for those who believe in the advancement of women. Some of the advocates of large spheres of usefulness for women seem to think that it covers only the learned professions—the law, medicine and editing, with possibly school-teaching. These professions are already too crowded, and surely, so long as there is so much poor butter in the market and on the tables of civilized beings, woman had better enlarge her sphere by taking up dairying as an art well worthy of her skill and ability."

HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

A county horticultural society has been organized in Whatcom county. It is now proposed to organize a fair association. To that end a meeting is called for the 24th inst. at Whatcom to which representatives are invited from all the local societies, boards of trade, etc., in Whatcom and San Juan counties. The newly-elected officers of the horticultural society are: D. C. Jenkins, president; M. C. Latta, first vice president; Andrew Smith, second vice president; W. L. Minturn, secretary and treasurer. The executive committee consists of Charles McGee, Morris McCarty, W. A. Perry, D. H. Henderson and A. B. Hart.

Dr. W. F. Morrison celebrated Arbor Day by having his whole force of eleven men set black locust trees around his place and along the county road. The doctor is also setting about ten acres in Bartlett pears and thirteen in winter apples—Spitzenbergs and Red-cheeked Pippins.

Samuel Storrow is putting out 45 acres in fruit near North Yakima—Crawford peaches, Bartlett pears, Esopus Spitzenberg and Red-cheeked Pippin apples.

The favorite apples among Yakima planters for this spring's planting are Esopus Spitzenberg and Red-cheeked Pippins.

The so-called Pound pear, grown considerably hereabouts, is probably the Vicar. It is used here for general market purposes, but is really of little value for table use in its natural state. The Vicar is pre-eminently a pear for canning, preserving and evaporating,

and for these purposes is excellent. Its really fine qualities and great size are only brought out in cooking. Its great productiveness makes it highly profitable for manufacturing in these ways. On the other hand, the tough, woody character of the flesh renders the Vicar wholly unfit for ordinary fruit stand sales, in spite of its fine appearance, and when put upon the market for ordinary table use is apt to prejudice consumers unfavorably.

A Remarkable Collector.

A boy in Portland, Me., many years ago, was deeply interested in collections, and after taking up several things, minerals, stamps, and the like, he settled down to making a collection of shells. At 17 he had developed such keenness of observation as to discover a new species of shell, and presented a paper before the Boston society of natural history on his discovery. In a few months he again discovered a new species that had been classified as the young of a known species. A great English naturalist visiting this country was taken to visit this boy and see his collection of shells. He was so interested that on his return to Boston he spoke of the collection to Prof. Agassiz, who invited the collector to Harvard as a special student. That boy is known to the world as Prof. Morse. He went to Japan as professor of zoology in the university of Tokio, and while in Japan began studying the beautiful pottery of that artistic nation until he had become an authority, and was made judge at the Chicago exposition. Prof. Morse attributes his knowledge of Japanese pottery to the habits of close inspection acquired in his boyhood when he was making his collection of shells.—Outlook.

A Splendid Farm Journal.

It stiffens one's backbone materially in these gruesome days to read volunteer words of this kind in such a leading state paper as the Chehalis Nugget:

"Messrs. Libby and Corbett are making a splendid farm journal of THE RANCH, which they are publishing at North Yakima. There must be a good field in this state for such a paper. These gentlemen evidently know how to completely satisfy the demand; for in our judgment THE RANCH far excels many eastern papers of its class which have been established many years and are supposed to be leaders of the procession. The Nugget will state for the benefit of its farmer readers in this vicinity that it is confident they cannot make a better investment of a dollar than to send it to THE RANCH publishers for a year's subscription.