

PROSPECTS.

Northwestern fruit growers seem to be fully alive to the opportunities before them. Spraying for the destruction and prevention of insect pests has been general, thanks to the efficient activity of state officials and public press. Orchard planting has been going on this spring at an unprecedented rate, and care seems to have been taken in most cases to select varieties with an eye single to market conditions, a few sorts of best selling and best shipping qualities. The older orchards that we have seen and heard from are mostly carefully pruned and cleaned and put in order by thorough cultivation—in condition throughout for a big crop. Lastly, shipping associations are being organized in the important districts for proper handling and marketing of the harvest. Now if all this careful and expensive preparation is followed up through the season by thorough work in repeated spraying, cultivation and right irrigation, systematic picking, sorting, grading and packing, and intelligent shipping—then and only then may we expect the best results for our labors. But these “best” results are well worth every intelligent effort we expend.

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The most intelligent people seen in any country west of the Missouri river—that is the remark of old frontiersmen who have led the van of the western march for forty years concerning the settlers who are now coming into the Yakima valley, and we presume the same is true of the other irrigated districts of the Inland Empire. Many of them are prosperous, progressive eastern farmers who have sold out their places to city men for investments and country homes; many are merchants and young professional men who see greater opportunities in ranching by irrigation than in the overcrowded professions. To these, when they come with a few thousand dollars, the chances of quick success are almost certain, if they work with thrift and economy, following the experience of the country. To the man who can bring but a few hundreds, with intelligent brains and willing hands, earnest endeavor, and patience and close application, the likelihood of success is just as certain, though not so speedy. In this proposition money

is only another name for time. Hard work is in store for every man, everywhere, who would win success honestly. But here we believe that the rewards for earnest, vigorous effort are greater than in any other agricultural region that has been seen in forty states.

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The long-named and long talked-of Vancouver, Klickitat & Yakima railroad, of which a short stretch is finished at the other end, has been sold to eastern parties. It is understood that the purchasers contemplate the completion of the road over the Cascades and down into the Yakima valley. If this is done, it will mean a new outlet to the coast for a fast developing region that now ships and receives more freight than any other in Washington between the Sound and Spokane. It is not to be expected that such a magnificent section as the Yakima valley will long be allowed to rest with but one railroad, and the chance is good that the railroads will come in quite as rapidly as our increasing productions will provide traffic for them. Indeed, the Great Northern is said to be looking with a practical eye to a branch from Wenatchee down the Columbia to Priest Rapids and thence through the Moxee valley to Yakima. With all this prospective opening up of the valleys tributary to the Yakima, the future development of the whole vast irrigated region of central Washington is a matter of comparative certainty. The immediate effect on the Yakima country of further railroad building will be only in the line of its present rapid growth and prosperity, a condition that is realized only by people who travel much and have a chance to compare this with other sections.

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A little farm, well tilled, was thought by the sages to be one of the elements of the happiest of lives. The small farms of France, owned by the occupiers, are the foundation of her greatness as a producing country. Land has been so cheap in America that the possession of great areas of land has seemed to be a necessary road to profitable agriculture. The result is thousands upon thousands of land-poor farmers. Happily, in the irrigated regions land that is of any value for cultivation is, nearly every foot of it, so very valuable that the owner-

ship of a large acreage is impossible. There is no waste land on an irrigated ranch; no rocky pasture and swamp and scraggly woodland. Every rod is the source of such great possibilities that one may not long own more than he can cultivate to good advantage. Here the farms, all save those of rich companies or individuals, run from 5 to 80 acres each, and very few are over 40; while the average is about 20 acres. What a condition is thus insured! A dense population; a high state of cultivation; a great volume of products to send to market, and a corresponding control of prices and markets; social conditions of the pleasantest by absence of the isolation that makes farm life unbearable to many people of intelligence who here make the best of farmers; good roads, schools, churches, and all the concomitants of civilization. Verily, Irrigation is king and here are the people!

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The Coxeyite “industrial” movement had better be called the anti-work movement, for it transpires daily that many of the alleged men in the “armies” are those who have refused work at prices which the times warrant employers in paying, and who vainly imagine that they can force congress to pass laws that will create work for them at their own prices. The conviction grows upon careful observers and practical thinkers that the fundamental cause of business depressions is extravagance in living and extravagance in business methods; spending money before we get it; running into debt; living beyond our means; looking at a dime as if it were a dollar. The commissioner of labor of Connecticut well expressed the idea when he wrote that an income of \$1 a day and expenses of 99 cents meant happiness, while an income of \$1 a day and expenses of 101 cents meant misery. A curious phase of the labor troubles is that most of the strikes and agitation is among men of foreign birth, and that there is very little opposition to the constant importation from Europe of the worst element of its population, while there is a constant howl going up against the industrious Chinese, who never strike, and are always ready to work for what they can get. We have every sympathy for honest workingmen, but we