

ONE
DOLLAR
A YEAR.
WEEKLY.

THE RANCH

THE
TRUTH
IS
ENOUGH

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PROSPECTS.

As an aid toward attracting attention to the practicability of the ultimate opening of the Yakima Indian reservation, the irrigation canals, for which bills are now before congress to permit their construction, will be a powerful factor. It is proposed to build these canals across the reservation to water lands to the south of it, though of course water can be sold to Indians. A right-of-way 150 feet wide is proposed, for which the Indians shall recover full payment by the canal companies, and they are to be allowed to use the waters of the Satas and Toppenish creeks. The bills require that the companies shall make no effort to acquire any further rights or grants from the Indians. Of similar and equal interest are the small canals built and being built by the Indians themselves under the supervision of Agent Irwin, who has had \$5,000 appropriated for opening new irrigation ditches. He expects that "several thousand acres of the finest land in the state" will thus be brought into cultivation, and is very enthusiastic over the ultimate results of irrigation on the reservation lands.

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The activities of the irrigated sections of the "arid region;" the ascendancy of the agriculture of irrigation this very year in the superior condition of the crops above those of other sections; the wonderful fertility of the volcanic soils that cover the "arid lands"—these things are attracting widespread attention in the east and in the cities of the west coast. Chicago is taking particular interest in irrigation enterprises as investments, by reason of the location there of offices of the companies and of that splendid magazine, the Irrigation Age, which is doing good work for all of irrigated America. Chicago newspapers are friendly toward these enterprises, for they see the great good to come to their beloved Chicago by the development of the greater west. Chicago capitalists have made their money in broad undertakings, and are willing investigators of great schemes of irrigation. New York will not be far behind Chicago, if she does not lead, in any great enterprise, and we confidently look forward to a constant and rapid increase in the development

of western arid lands by irrigation, from the Gulf of California to Manitoba. By the middle of next century the river-like irrigation canals of India will cease to be held up for Yankees to admire. Even as the World's fair knocked the "seven wonders" into smithereens, even so shall America's great ditches swamp the Asiatic rivulets.

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Recent crop bulletins from state and government bureaus indicate the wheat crop of the country as being about ten points ahead of last year in condition except in California. The early fruits of the states east of the Rocky mountains were quite generally destroyed or badly injured, while the late fruits, especially apples, in the more northern districts, mostly escaped any serious injury from frost. The Wilamette valley prune crops have been badly damaged, especially the Silver; and other parts of Oregon report injury to the crop. All over central Washington and the Snake river country the promise of great crops of all kinds of fruits, grains and fodder continues good, the late light frosts having done harm only in a few limited localities. Grazing on the hills was never better. The irrigated lands of the "arid region" to-day hold more of promise for agriculture and horticulture than the most favored portions of any "rain-blessed" land that we read about. The sun-kissed vales of the Yakima, the Columbia and the Snake are good enough for us.

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Confirming the statements of THE RANCH, President Parker, of the Washington state fair commission, just returned from California, says that far from making the fair chiefly a horse race, quite the contrary is true. He stands firmly with those of the commission who insist that agriculture and horticulture shall have precedence over sport of any kind. The products of the field and stable, both animal and vegetable, shall have the chief place in the premium list and in the exhibition in September. Horses will occupy their proper place as the foremost animals of the ranch, but their speed on the track as trotters will not be the only mark of excellence. The roadster, the draft horse, the walking horse, the family horse, the saddle horse, will have an equal chance with

the trotter. And the sheep for mutton and wool; cattle for beef and the dairy, the jack and the mule—all will find their place in the state fair and receive fair treatment. Fruits and grains, fodder and special crops, our most important products, will naturally be the foremost in interest to the greatest number of people and will necessarily have their full share of space and emoluments. Altogether, we feel very sure that the Washington state fair will be an agricultural success.

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Dr. N. G. Blalock, the former "wheat king," and now the biggest fruit grower in the northwest, having some 500 acres planted, mostly in standard fruits in the Walla Walla country, has been traveling through the Yakima valley investigating the fruit prospect. He says that the outlook is one of remarkable promise, and that he knows of no district in the northwest which has so brilliant a future before it as the Yakima country. The doctor spent several days in the valley last month, inspecting the ranches carefully from Kennewick to North Yakima, and fully confirmed all previous good impressions. Of course it could hardly be otherwise, when he considered the wonderful development of the past few years, and saw the three and four year old peach, apricot and prune, and five year apple orchards ready to yield a good crop this year, examined the great irrigation canals and saw the inexhaustible supply of water ready to be spread over a vast body of as fine and fertile a soil as the world ever knew.

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Coxyism is teaching Washington as well as other states that the gospel of work is a much neglected issue by the so-called labor agitators. Many of the poor, misguided wretches in the "army" are no doubt honest in their intentions and in their belief that they can reach the ear of congress, but the leaders who encourage them in the idea that the citizens should feed and shelter them as they go through the land, and that the railroads must carry them gratis, willy nilly, cannot be equally honest and sincere. The system of support is organized beggary and nothing else; the transportation system is ride stealing and nothing more nor less. The submission of