

All crops have made wonderful progress; warm sunshine has benefited fruit. The Skagit, Frazier and Columbia river freshets have damaged things a good deal—especially in Clarke and Snohomish counties.

THE HOP SITUATION.

Better weather for forwarding the growth of the vine never fell to the lot of any country—warm, bright and without wind, and but moderately cool at night. In the older and better cared-for yards the vines are arming out in good shape at least ten days earlier than last year. Mr. Fleming reports growth so dense as to interfere somewhat with cultivation. Most of the yards are twined and the vines are taking a rapid horizontal run. The new yards down in the Sunnyside region are reported in first-class condition. Quotations at San Francisco are unchanged, ranging from 15 to 16c. At Portland and Seattle no transactions are recorded. A late London circular says: "There is little inquiry for coast hops just at present. The scarcity of English, and possible coming pinch for good hops, may yet favorably affect prices." Local buyers differ in opinion regarding the future. One of the Pincus Bros. told a RANCH man the other day that he does not believe that the price next fall will justify harvesting the crop. He had never known a year when the month of May did not bring news of a failure somewhere. This year the crop is promising large results the world over. His view of the situation is gloomy indeed.

AT PUYALLUP—Commerce says there are rumors that dealers are arranging to make advances on the coming crop on a basis of about 12 cents per pound. In the Northern Pacific warehouse 35 bales remain. Slight increase of acreage noted. Citizen says Fred S. Mecker reports that he can buy good '93 hops at 8c. The new disease reported by this gentleman is in the nature of a hard fungus, shaped like and of the color of a cauliflower. It grows at the surface of the ground and can, therefore, be destroyed before it matures by carefully hunting it out. The roots of these diseased vines were bought of A. T. Long, of the Sacramento valley, and whose yards grow strong, rank, heavy-yielding vines. This disease has prevailed there for twenty years, and it has not done any perceptible damage. The warm summer weather of the past week has made hops take a jump, and their height will average seven feet throughout the district. In some of the yards the vines have climbed to the tops of the eight-foot poles in the trellised yards, and have reached out fully two feet along the strings.

AT SUMNER—The Herald reports a very sensible progress by hops. It is a forward season in that section compared with the past two years. In some yards the vines are ten feet up the poles; training is completed and the growers are busy cultivating.

AT KENT—At every point in the Pacific northwest the vines show a healthy, thrifty, promising condition. The weather is splendid—all that could be wished for. Throughout California the same encouraging conditions exist. In Washington the vines are exceedingly free from lice.—White River Journal.

AT BUCKLEY—The Banner remarks: The local prospects for a good crop were never more gratifying. This week's warm weather has done wonders for the vine in this vicinity.

Hop Association Meeting.

A call is out for the third annual meeting of the Yakima hop growers' association. The meeting will be held in North Yakima on Saturday of this week at 2:30 p. m. This association did most excellent work last year in securing pickers and keeping down the price of picking to the reasonable rate existing in the older hop growing districts. The circular calling the meeting closes in this way:

"While all our work has been effective in the past, it stands us in hand to prepare early for this season's crop. By careful estimate it will be increased at least one-third over last year's; and our acreage to-day is about 3,600 acres of old hops; or a yield of about 20,000

bales; consequently the demand for pickers must necessarily be greatly increased, and our efforts toward securing them must be doubled. It is hoped, in view of what good has been accomplished for the growers, that every one interested in hop culture, whether he have one or one hundred acres, bearing or not bearing, will be present at the first meeting at Mason's opera house, Saturday, June 2, at 9:30 o'clock p. m., to thoroughly organize for the season of 1894."

The annual election takes place at this meeting, and many important points will be discussed.

THE RANCH thirteen weeks for 25c.

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I have, at a great expense, succeeded in getting through by express from Little Rock, Ark., a lot of the best sorts of Sweet Potatoes grown in Arkansas or elsewhere. They consist of

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4. **Tennessee Yam**, very productive; an excellent keeper; good.
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