

THE RANCH.

A Weekly Newspaper
For Everybody Who Wants It

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RANCH SMALL TALK.

A box of good winter apples pays for THE RANCH for a year.

Two sacks of potatoes or less pay for THE RANCH for a year.

Send us your name and \$1, and receive THE RANCH for a year.

Stretch the noon hour reasonably these hot periods. Some things are good alike for man and beast, and rest is one of them.

Have you got that hop vine started on its way over the porch? If not, put in the root now. You will enjoy its shade and its beauty in the coming midsummer.

And behold the weeds of the field. They toil not, but O, how they "spin" these warm bright days. But the cultivator lays them low and they revive not. Run the cultivator more and the water less.

The Italian prune is said to be dropping to a considerable extent in this vicinity. The French variety is behaving better and seems to be gaining ground with orchardists. The Italian maintains its position very well in the Sound region.

A hop vine is a phenomenal jumper anyway; but the biggest leap we have heard of was over in the Moxee, where a vine mounted upward 26 inches in 36 hours last week, counting the darkness of night, when the measurer would have noted but slight changes.

The Chicago Inter-Ocean of May 22 contains a well considered and comprehensive letter about Yakima valley from the pen of Mr. Nixon, who was a member of the eastern editorial party who visited this region a few weeks ago. Come again, Mr. Inter-Ocean, when you can stay longer, and in a season to enjoy a taste of Yakima's luscious products.

The sugar people want protection, which means money in their pockets;

so do the iron men, the tin men, the silk men, the cotton men, and all the other manufacturers; so do the wool growers. The "petitions in boots," it is understood, make a direct demand for money for the benefit of all the people. But what is the difference in principle? All are actually wrong.

Gov. McGraw has appointed John R. Reyvis of Spokane, Fred R. Reed of North Yakima, and W. G. Armstrong of Seattle, commissioners for the state to the interstate fair at Tacoma. Now THE RANCH respectfully submits to the governor the claims of the state fair to at least equal recognition. Let there be a state commission to make special report upon the greatness of Washington's first state fair.

Flax culture thrives in a moist country. Control of the moisture, as under irrigation, produces conditions for flax the nearest to perfection of any obtainable. Moisture at the right times in the right amounts mean the highest point of success. We trust that Dr. Van Marter's effort will be promptly seconded. The Indian labor is of the very best for flax farming conditions, especially in preparing the stems for milling.

It will not pay to become discouraged about butter making simply because the price goes down as the mercury goes up. In regions not prepared with cool places for storing butter this is always the case. Of course, when production is heaviest and facilities for keeping are deficient, prices don't keep pace. Just wait a little until you get fixed up for storing the product, and the play will be even. Pack for winter as soon as you can prepare for it, and keep out of the hot weather market.

THE RANCH would be very glad for reports from farmers who secured sugar beet seed for experiment purposes regarding germination and growth of the plants. These reports made several times during the season would be read with interest, for the entire community has a desire to see a sugar beet factory established here, provided that it is demonstrated that it can be made profitable. This is an important year in the history of the enterprise, because upon results will depend the establishment of a great industry in the Yakima country.

Gather in the ashes. Every pound of wood ashes leaching away at the back door is so much fertility wasted. In the vicinity of towns it would pay fruit growers to contract with residents for the removal of the ashes. Residents would be glad to take the trouble of keeping the ashes from waste and protected if the man who wants them for his garden or orchard

would agree to remove them at stated periods. The ashes from the wood burned here are less valuable than those from the hard wood regions, but they are worth a good deal, say as 11 to 20.

Secretary Tonneson, of the state board of horticulture, has taken unto himself a wife. We saw signs of this spring movement last winter, when Brother Tonneson was so much interested in ways and means of house building. The bride was Miss Ida B. Dukes, a teacher in the Tacoma schools. When General Insect hears of this he will breathe easier, as one of his worst foes will have his attention distracted for a while by gentler duties. We wish the couple health, wealth and happiness.

The Northwest Pacific Farmer of May 24 said that the first Oregon strawberries reached the Portland market last week. They wholesaled readily at 20 cents per box, while Californias brought but 10 cents. Now that's about the right thing to do—give the preference to the home market. Of course the Oregon berries were largest, best and freshest. It's an "awfully" good country that can beat Oregon for strawberries. Though some reports made out that frost had damaged the crop, there will be an abundance, and prices for the flush season will be low.

The alfalfa harvest—that is the first harvest—is inaugurated. Dr. Morrison began on his 120-acre field on Tuesday. The crop is heavy and uniform. Besides this, the doctor has a 20-acre patch "on the side." These acres mean a wonderful weight of flesh-forming material. Let us see:—140 acres at 2 tons per acre means 280 tons; cut four times, 1,120 tons. That means a good deal of money at \$6 per ton, and much more if fed to stock and marketed in the form of meat. The alfalfa stack is one of the greatest things in Yakima agriculture. Give it room.

Mr. Pincus enters upon very uncertain ground when he ventures to predict the outcome of the hop crop before half the vines have reached the tops of the poles. It is mere idle talk. We remember hearing this same man in the month of July last year arguing that no early prediction concerning the growing crop was worth a straw. Wait, said he, until the vine in England and the eastern states is safe from the attacks of "fly" and mould. Many things may happen to the hops in various localities before picking time, and if nothing happens it is not likely that first quality hops will be valueless. Keep on training and cultivating, just as though Mr. Pincus' views had not been made public.