

# THE RANCH.

A Weekly Newspaper  
For Everybody Who Wants It

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## RANCH SMALL TALK.

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

A first-class farmers' institute should be held here during state fair week. Who will work up the proposition?

That Wisconsin county referred to under "Prospects" as appropriating \$60,000 for a fair ground is Bayfield county, and the 1893 figures give it but 7,390 population. And of course neither its agriculture nor its territory can compare with that of Yakima!

More rain! Well, well! That's a great thing for the Yakima country, saving lots of irrigation and doing wonders for the wheat on the hills. One potato grower says that the rain of two weeks ago was worth \$250 to him, and last week's rain \$500. If this thing keeps up through the season he'll come into winter quarters a rich man.

Before kicking too high about low prices and the scarcity of money, just look back to the times when dollars were plentiful and see how near 50 cents will come to buying as much as 100 cents did then. Things are cheap, very cheap, these days. Clothing, dry goods, boots and shoes, sugar and most of the necessities of life are as low as any reasonable man could expect. This is some consolation in these times of low wheat, potatoes, hay, eggs, butter and most farm products.

It has been asserted quite frequently in the outside world that this is an arid country, a veritable Sahara in fact. But the season of 1894 seems determined to put an end to all such talk. Along in July or August we shall be prepared to take back anything we may now intimate regarding the ease with which crops may be grown without irrigation in the Yakima valley. Just now, however, after two heavy showers, and the ground soaked to the depth of several inches, it does seem

as though the necessity for irrigating ditches is a long way off.

Here is an item for the curious in such matters to remember: Corinth was the sponser of "currents" and Damascus of "damsons." The English have borrowed the word "gooseberry" from the French "groseille;" "apricot" is derived from the Arabic, "peach" from the French or the Italian, and "tomato" from the Mexican Aztec "tomotel," while the word "cauliflower" is almost comically close in its derivation from the Spanish "col-y-flor," cabbage and flower.

During the year ending the present month the United States will have shipped to foreign countries about 45,000 bales of hay, which is about twice as much as during the previous twelve months. It is thought that the price for hay this year will advance. California will be short, and the news from England is that forage crops of all kinds are far from promising. But it will hardly do to depend on distant cities for marketing the hay crop. Better increase the dairy and other stock in the country and feed the hay.

The Pullman agricultural college should be interested in the state fair. It is announced that the students will make an exhibit at Tacoma. They should be invited to prepare an exhibit for North Yakima. The managers have not the means to enable them to scour the country for attractions, but we see no reason why a state institution near home may not by a proper course be induced to do something to help out the state fair. No better advertisement of the institution can be put forth than an exhibit showing the work of the students in shop, garden and field. We have no doubt about the hearty co-operation of faculty and students in making the state fair a success if their attention is called to the matter.

Get out and take a hand in the election of school directors. Place the management of school affairs in the hands of the very best and most intelligent and broad-minded men in the district. Put aside petty spite and jealousy, politics and sectarianism, and unite on first-class men for school work. This election is more important than either county or state elections. It touches every home in the land. It is the privilege of the women of this state to vote at these elections. Being a privilege, it becomes a duty.

Verily it is better sometimes to run a mill than to run a farm. Rural World tells about an Illinois farmer who took a load of wheat to mill to have it ground for feed. The miller told him he would charge him 8 cents a bushel for grinding, and offered in

place of that to buy the wheat at 45 cents a bushel and sell him an equal quantity in mill feed at 70 cents per 100 pounds. The farmer accepted the proposition, and the miller sold his feed within 3 cents a bushel of the price he paid for his wheat. Some people can't see through a millstone though it have a rod square hole in the center.

Fruit growers are "catching on" rapidly. They keep a business eye open on most occasions now-a-days. The latest indication of this comes from Albany, Or. Albany was lately the scene of a large gathering of Presbyterian clergymen from the "ef-fete" east. When they departed each bore away in his little "grip" a neat box of dried prunes—the real home product, the gift of the orchard owners of the locality. Now that may be mixing business with religion, but it is not a bad mixture. The preachers have long been urging the mixing of a little more religion with business transactions, which is entirely proper. It's considered a poor rule that don't work both ways.

Here's good news for the cattlemen of eastern Washington! Joe Scott, president of the Montana cattlemen's association; Frank Robinson and Henry Tusler, of Miles City, and J. T. Boardman, of Deer Lodge, have just completed a cattle purchasing tour of eastern Washington. They bought 15,000 head, the prices averaging \$10 per yearling, \$15 for 2-year-olds, and \$20 for 3-year-olds. It is estimated by local cattlemen that 40,000 head will be taken out of Washington and Oregon into Montana this year. This is what THE RANCH believes the beginning of another prosperous era in the cattle business. It is a long lane that has no turn. Following a renewal in this direction will come prosperity to other branches of farming.

Growing crops always look badly after a severe storm such as this part of the country experienced on Saturday and Sunday last, but "after the clouds roll by" vegetation has a way of shaking off the water and straightening itself up that is perfectly marvelous. First appearances and reports are discouraging almost always, but things look decidedly better after a day or two. So it is this time. Damage has not been general nor important. Not being used to such a shaking up, people were a trifle "flusterated" by the wind and the lightning. So far as seen and heard from the high winds did no harm whatever to the hops except a little to some of those trained by the high trellis system. The fruits were whipped off the trees a little, but to no harmful extent; they were too young for that.