

# Ranche and Range.

VOL. I, NO. 2.

NORTH YAKIMA, WASH., APRIL 15, 1897.

\$1 PER YEAR.

## VALUE OF HARROWING.

BY ED. WELLEW.

In riding over our county a few days ago the writer noticed many fields being plowed for grain, potatoes, hops, etc. More than one-half of the plowed fields were just as the plow left them, some very poorly plowed, some rough and uneven, while in a few cases the harrow or "drag" had followed the plow.

We certainly have one of the best farming countries in the world, but even here such beginnings will not result in successful farming. Here, where we have warm, sunny days and occasional dry winds, the harrow should follow the plow if good results are to be obtained. Never allow plowed fields to remain exposed to the sun and dry air, but pulverize the surface as quickly as possible. In this way the moisture is retained, germination hastened, irrigation delayed, better crops assured, and much time and labor saved.

It is surely a serious mistake to expose a rough surface of the soil and let the moisture evaporate simply because we have an abundance of water to irrigate with.

Last year on a piece of grain land forty-eight bushels per acre of barley were raised where the ground was well plowed and the harrow followed. On the same kind of soil, near by, a little less than thirty bushels per acre of barley were raised where the plowed field was exposed from two to three days before harrowing. This last field required more irrigating than the first, had the same kind of seed put in just as well, equally as good soil, was planted nearly at the same time, and yielded more than eighteen bushels less per acre. There may not always be so great a difference, but there will be a difference. The successful farmer in any country will agree with us, we believe; at any rate, experiment will prove beneficial to the doubtful.

NORTH YAKIMA, Wash.

## HOTBEDS.

BY WILLIAM LEE, JR.

In this irrigated country I prefer to have the manure under the ground; therefore I make a pit about six inches larger around than the frame used, and eighteen inches deep, fill this with heated manure, and put on between four and five inches of soil, letting it remain a few days before planting for the earth to get warm. The seed is planted in rows four inches wide, to allow space to cultivate between. Draw the rake lengthwise

of the rows and press the dirt firmly with a board. Much of the failure in plants not coming up is that the soil is not in close contact with the seed. Place covers over the sash and in four or five days see if the plants are coming up. If they are, then we let in the light and air. This is a very important time in the plant life, for if we do not give sufficient air the plants will grow too spindling. Six or seven weeks from planting the seed the plants will be large enough to set out in the open air. A few days before doing so remove the sash entirely from the frames to harden the plants.

## WORLD'S WHEAT CROP FOR 1896.

The world's wheat crop for 1896 was 2,428,393,000 bushels. This fact will be officially announced by the secretary of agriculture in a report to be issued soon. Although the total wheat crop is 18,000,000 bushels less than in 1895, it is larger than earlier estimates indicated. This is largely due to an increase of 5,000,000 bushels in European Russia, as shown in the final estimate of the minister of agriculture of that country. The crop for 1896 is the smallest for six years. Regarding the distribution of the wheat crop of the United States for 1896, the report will state:

All sections report an exceptionally small percentage on hand, the general average being 20.6 against 26.3 last year, and showing but 88,000,000 bushels in farmers' hands March 1. Unusually little of the crop of 1895 remains—but 3 per cent against 4.7 per cent of the 1894 crop so held a year ago. A larger proportion than usual must be retained for home consumption.

## ALFALFA LEAVES FOR TEA.

It is claimed that there has been discovered a good substitute for the finest brands of Japan tea in alfalfa leaves, properly picked and cured. The advocates of alfalfa tea claim that its continuous use proves a great benefit to the human system, as it serves as a sort of tonic and corrective, and will keep one in a state of splendid health without the aid of doctors or drugs. It is estimated that the people of our country demand from the Oriental tea trade about 78,750,000 pounds of tea per year. The immense expenditure of millions of dollars annually for this one article of diet, when supplanted by the alfalfa leaf, which is produced so luxuriantly all over the arid and semi-arid districts of the west, means a big bouanza for somebody, and a good thing for American industry.