

# Ranche and Range.

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## IRRIGATION IN WASHINGTON.

**Yakima County Leads in Number of and Length of Canals—Kittitas County is Next On the List.**

Yakima county, it is estimated, has 139,408 acres of lands under irrigation, covered by 420 miles of ditches. Kittitas county is next on the list with 40,000 acres, irrigated by 25 miles of ditches. Walla Walla county is third in order with 10,498 acres watered through 37 miles of ditches, while Okanogan follows with a round 10,000 acres, but has 120 miles of ditches. Douglas county is the next in the importance of her irrigation enterprises, showing 4,700 acres of land supplied by 60 miles of ditches. No other county in the state makes any considerable showing, Adams being the highest with about 900 acres of irrigated territory. Franklin county, the sagebrush plains of which surround Pasco, is given by the authority at hand, but an infinitesimal fraction of twenty acres reclaimed, out of a domain of 785,500 acres of desert lands. In Yakima, Douglas, Kittitas and Okanogan projects for watering larger areas are under extension. Some interesting matter is further found in the classifications and figures of extent of the so-called arid lands of the state. The southern half of Douglas county is classified as arid territory to the extent of 1,449,930 acres, and Yakima, Kittitas and Adams, with Franklin, are designated as arid. These four counties with the arid portion of Douglas, make up a total estimated arid domain of 8,095,300 acres, but this classification should not be applied strictly to all the land embraced, as many fertile spots which are productive without watering by artificial means, are found. An estimate of the actual arid lands in the state, the same authority says, places the figures at from 3,000,000 to 3,500,000 acres, of which fully one-half can be irrigated profitably, while with the increase in land values it will be found profitable to irrigate an additional 1,000,000 acres. The latter suggestions have a peculiar force when contemplated in connection with the possibilities of watering the Columbia valley lands from the banks of the river in Douglas county.

## A GROWING INDUSTRY.

**The Tacoma Woolen Mills Meeting With Success—A Credit to the State of Washington.**

One of the most successful enterprises in the Northwest is that of the Tacoma Woolen Mill Company, located at Tacoma, Wash. This institution was taken possession of by a company of four energetic young eastern men, after being closed for a period of two years, and on September 1 it was put in operation. In the course of the few months that have passed, they have placed it upon a profitable basis, with a rapidly developing business in hand. They are manufacturing all grades of woolen goods, from the finest of suitings to the durable Alaska blanket, and all from wool grown in the Northwest country. About eighty men are regularly employed in the mill. They dispose of the product direct to the consumer, through retail stores, where they have their own force of skilled tailors. At present they have houses at Spokane, Everett, Seattle, Walla Walla and Olympia, and are planning to open one in Juneau and another in Butte, Montana. Together with the employes in these branches there are altogether 250 people employed



*Woolen Mills, Tacoma, Washington.*

—a number that makes a very creditable payroll for such a new industry. Since commencing operations there have been converted 150,000 pounds of wool into cloth. By June 1 it is expected to have thirty establishments doing business in all the Pacific Coast states and Alaska, requiring the use of 250,000 pounds of wool at the factory for their supply during the next year. The management feels very much encouraged because of the liberal patronage they are receiving, while in turn, Tacoma and Washington state are to be congratulated that such a thriving industry is being built up. It is confidently expected that the Tacoma mills will assume mammoth proportions, and that in a few years they will be supplying not only a very large part of the Pacific Coast trade, but will be doing a gratifying share of the business with Central and South America and the practically inexhaustible markets of the great Oriental countries. Washington needs more institutions of this character.