

Ranche and Range.

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY.

In the Interests of the Farmers, Horticulturists and Stockmen of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Utah and British Columbia.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

Good machinery properly used will materially lessen the cost of putting up the hay crop, and a less cost of production means a better profit.

Scrub cattle are dear at any price, even as a gift. The best thing to do is to weed them out and replace them with choice bred ones. A thoroughbred is easily kept.

The state of Illinois, at its recent legislative session, passed a law appropriating \$50 for each county farmers' institute. This is a good idea and may well be patterned after by other states.

Guy L. McRichards asked at the Farmers' Institute, why farmers in good circumstances, with big dairy herds, used skim milk in their coffee. Everybody gave it up, and so do we.

In the current crop report of the Department of Agriculture for June, just at hand, Washington is credited with being at the head of the list of states in the condition of the growing grain crops.

Just at this season of the year the greatest battle is against weeds. Weeds must be annihilated from the farm or they will become a monopoly as disastrous to the farmers as any other we read about. Keep down the weeds.

In connection with the Spokane Fruit Fair there will probably be held a first class live stock exhibit. Arrangements are now being concluded to this end, and it is expected that within a few days formal announcement of the fact will be made.

That the horse-canning enterprise near Portland is flourishing, is shown by the fact that The Dalles Times-Mountaineer reports that 10,000 head have been purchased in Eastern Oregon by the cannery representatives at prices averaging \$1.50 per head.

It is hoped that the farmers and fruit growers all over the Northwest will make it a point to save their best specimens of fruits, vegetables, grains and grasses for exhibiting at the Fruit Fair to be held at Spokane this fall. It is expected that very low passenger rates will be secured on all lines of travel so that the cost of visiting the exhibition will be within the means of every one.

A subscriber writes that he understands that hogs fed on alfalfa will die of cholera, and asks if it is so. Our correspondent has been misinformed. All through the Northwest hogs are raised on alfalfa, and we have yet to hear of a single instance of the disease resulting. Cholera comes from a germ.

The East Oregonian, of Pendleton, Or., in a recent issue comments upon the peculiar situation existing in the hog industry in the Northwest, which is the shipping of fat hogs from Nebraska into this country, and then foolishly asks what is to be done about it. Undoubtedly the condition could be remedied by growing more hogs.

Under date of June 18 the Department of Agriculture issues a notice to the railroad companies of the United States that the law passed in April by Congress regarding the transportation of diseased sheep goes into effect June 30, and after that date sheep affected with scabies cannot be accepted for transportation. It is also unlawful to take scab-infected sheep from one state to another.

The small farmer must devote his time, skill and land to special crops that require the greatest amount of labor to make successful. If he does this thoroughly his limitation as regards land will prove an advantage, not an injury. It is only by thoroughly mastering some one business and then sticking to it that men make money. This is as true of the farmer as of men engaged in other vocations.

The governor of Wisconsin in his Arbor Day proclamation urged that teachers and citizens in arranging a program for tree day give a prominent place therein for birds. It seems most fitting that the two be associated on such occasions, unless we go a step further and set apart a day to be known as Bird Day. The thrift and life of our forest and fruit trees are so intimately connected with birds that we may claim that as the numbers of birds decline insect pests increase and trees weaken, our forests fade and fruit crops fail. The relation of birds to insects on which they feed is as close as the relation of insects to trees, fruits and farm crops which they destroy by the million each year. The growth of the use of spraying machines in the orchard and insecticides on orchards, fields and gardens begins with the decimation of birds. At a recent meeting of the Oxford Farmers' Club it was shown that there are four active forces at work for the destruction of birds. First, sportsmen and pothunters. Second, egg collectors. Third, bad boys. Last and worst, the slaughter of birds for decoration of ladies' hats. Love of sport, greed of gain and love of display which conspire for the destruction of birds can only be corrected by a change in public sentiment. The evil that is done through ignorance, wantonness and vanity is a national calamity and a disgrace to our civilization. Where Bird Day has been observed in Pennsylvania, under the influence of its originator, there has been a marked improvement in public sentiment and in the relation of boys to birds.