

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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The citizens of Ellensburg and farmers of Kittitas are planning to hold a county fair this fall.

That feller "Bill" has a good article this week under the head of "A Time for All Things." Read it. It may remind you of weaknesses of some of your neighbors.

A tip for a shorthorn breeder: Dan Sinclair, of the Natchez valley, is desirous of purchasing a pure-bred roan shorthorn bull to go at the head of his herd. His address is North Yakima.

We should like to have the opinions of our county horticulturists in regard to the matter of forming an organization as suggested by Hon. J. E. Baker, Commissioner of Horticulture, in this week's issue.

The stockmen of the states of Oregon and Washington have no one to thank more for the modifying of the order of Cleveland's setting aside the immense forest reserves in these two states than Hon. John Minto, of Salem, Or. It was largely due to his efforts that sentiment was aroused and a general protest sent in to Congress against the closing of our mountains to miners, stockmen and homeseekers.

A. B. Leckenby, the authority on grasses, has concluded to locate in the Northwest permanently and has established his home in Tacoma. He is devoting all of his time to studying the conditions of our soils and climate with reference to introducing new and more valuable grasses and forage plants. He has aroused the people all over the state to fight such pests as the California foxtail, the Russian and Canadian thistles, etc.

In driving through the valley it was noticed that the hay on the ranches is being stacked in the same loose, slovenly manner as last year, when thousands of dollars were lost in damp, discolored hay on the tops and bottoms of stacks. In one instance nearly half the alfalfa in a stack yard was unsaleable and could not be baled. A permanent platform of logs or planks can be built which will last for years. As soon as the hay is removed, the planks are taken up and piled to keep them dry until the following season. The farmer in Illinois and Iowa uses split rails or poles, which are

laid across logs or large timbers for a foundation. Planks laid on top of the hay stacks and securely lashed in place, would more than save their cost every year. Back East, light, permanent roofs are supported on heavy upright timbers and can be raised and lowered to suit the height of the stack. Hay barns are perhaps too expensive for the small rancher, but they pay for the larger one. The small farmer can, however, practice the above economics, and by doing so will find himself dollars ahead every year. And all farmers can promptly shovel off every fresh fall of snow, and prevent its melting gradually and soaking several feet into the stack. Farmers to be successful must do something more than work hard for twelve hours a day. System and thoroughness pay as well on the farm as in any mercantile business.

We notice that dairymen in all the leading Northwest cities are using patent preparations to preserve their milk for a longer period than allowed by nature. Here is what the last number of the Rural New Yorker says about it: "It has been so cool this season that the old-time 'Preservaline' fraud has been slow in starting his rounds. He is coming. Already readers begin to ask if they may safely use the stuff in their milk. No! It is against the law to do so. It is also a mean and dirty trick to sell milk containing such drugs as borax and salicylic acid. Pure milk can be made and handled in such a way that these drugs are not necessary. Don't try to sell what you would not dare give your own children. Some stranger may have confidence in you and use your drugged milk to poison a sick child! Preserve us from 'Preservaline.'"

It is a good time to call farmers' attention to the great value of root cellars. They are inexpensively made in any side hill, or can be excavated in level ground near the house. They should always be lined and floored, with stone or plank, and have double roofs with air space between. But when covered with a sufficient depth of earth, having a ventilating shaft that will keep out the rain, they are found to be very satisfactory. It is best to always have double doors to be closed during the coldest weather. Apples should be stored in a separate cellar, as they lose their flavor in the same apartment with potatoes or other root crops. The cost of the cellar is more than reimbursed by the better prices secured for a single season's crop.

A certain rancher in the Yakima valley supported a good sized family—had all the comforts of life—and put a thousand dollars into bank last year, as the proceeds of a ten-acre fruit farm. If this can be done by one, it can be done by others, and, as has often been claimed for irrigated land in this locality, ten acres of good land, free from incumbrance, is an independency. However, twenty acres is surely one, with ten of fruit and ten acres of hay and garden. A man so situated is happier than the millionaire, with all his cares and worries, for industry and reasonable economy, in this land of sure crops, means health, happiness and a competency.