

# 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 ability of the farmer to transact his business in a businesslike manner is increased in proportion to the increased knowledge of his business details, and in the same proportion are his profits increased. Too often is loss a result of carelessness in keeping accounts of outlay and productions.

The telegraph dispatches inform us that the demands from the eastern markets have solved the prune question for the growers of the Potlach, Idaho, country. There are at least 1500 acres of prune orchards directly tributary to Kendrick, most of which are bearing, and at the present time indicate a large yield. A representative of a Chicago commission house has made arrangements to handle the entire crop of the section at figures that will net the growers between 60 and 70c.

It is told of Guy MacL. Richards that while in attendance upon the recent Farmers' Institute, at Ellensburg, in driving out in the evening with B. F. Reed, a couple of mallard ducks were sighted upon a pond and Richards took a shot at them. Being a Kentuckian, it was rather disappointing to him to find when the smoke cleared away that the ducks still floated on the water unharmed; but when a moment later a couple of white Pekins hove in sight he concluded that Providence had misdirected his aim and prevented him from murdering the fowls of a nearby farmer. Fortunately they made their escape safely, and the Dairyman still appears regularly.

The wonderful and startling character of the gold discoveries in Alaska arouses the probability of such an emigration to that country as to require to sustain it all of the available surplus farm products of the Northwest. Already the boom has set in, and steamers loaded to the water line with passengers are leaving the Sound ports for the new Eldorado. Although but a few days have passed since the steamer Portland arrived with its cargo of lucky miners and news of the great strikes, we are receiving intelligence from every port of North America to the effect that parties are starting to Alaska. These people will have to be fed—they will all be consumers of the staple agricultural products. It is a fortunate turn of events for the producer, and though there will not be the element of chance in his line and possibility of his suddenly unearthing wealth, yet there is a certainty that the influx of the thousands and perhaps hundreds of thousands of gold hunters will have the effect of raising prices on everything he puts on the market to

such an extent that there will be some mighty nice clean profits realized. The money will be distributed among the many, and the general tone of all business be greatly benefitted. The Sound cities have established themselves as the natural points from which the commerce will be carried on, and trade there will be greatly enlivened by a big increase in business and addition of transient population. We do not pretend to moralize on the effects of extreme excitements on a community, but we are sure that there is to be one of the greatest rushes to Alaska that the world has ever seen. We are in the track of the rush; and again we are most availably situated to supply their needs after they arrive on the ground.

A. B. Leckenby has enlisted the co-operation of the State Agricultural College and the railroads in making a systematic effort to keep down destructive weeds. The section men of the Northern Pacific have been set to work clearing the right-of-way, and in districts where such pests as the Russian thistle are appearing are aiding the settlers to keep them down. Mr. Leckenby informs us that he is preparing a great many samples of the Canadian and Russian thistle and the California foxtail, putting them in frames, and that they will be hung conspicuously at every railroad station, postoffice and newspaper office in the state. The State Agricultural College is getting up a special bulletin, giving illustrations and timely matter on how to recognize the dangerous weeds that are being introduced. Mr. Leckenby is endeavoring to find suitable grasses that will cover the ranges and uncultivated parts of the state, and thus prevent the pests from spreading, at the same time affording increased pasturage for stock.

Spokane has among her foremost citizens some who recognize the deep necessity of bringing out the resources of the surrounding country to the fullest extent possible. That is why you see coupled with the fruit fair and insuring its success the very best people of the city. John A. Finch, the president, is one of those who has stayed by Spokane through all its ups and downs and ups again, and while he is now reckoned one of the wealthiest men in the city, thanks to his lucky mining ventures, still takes pride in aiding the upbuilding of his community. Howell Peel, the treasurer, is with Holley, Mason, Marks & Co., and generally is one of the first to contribute substantially to home enterprises. E. P. Gilbert one of the pioneers in the establishment of the fruit fair is a horticulturist of much merit, while John L. Smith is at the head of the Hazelwood Dairy Co. and also one of the first to expend time and energy in making the first fruit fair a success. H. H. Spaulding is known all over the Northwest as a pioneer and the son of a highly honored pioneer. As for H. Bolster, the secretary and manager, the very mention of his name as serving in that capacity is enough to satisfy the public that the exposition will eclipse everything of the kind ever before undertaken.