Ranche and Range.

OLD SERIES, VOL. 3, NO. 52. } NEW SERIES, VOL. 1, NO. 19. } NORTH YAKIMA, WASH., AUGUST 12, 1897. $1 PER YEAR.

SUGAR BEET CULTURE.

Dr. Wiley, of the Department of Agriculture, in a recent address, maintained that it was possible to grow beets on 1,000,000 acres to supply all the sugar needed in the United States. The sugar beet was destined to revolutionize agricultural practice in many sections of our country. It was itself a most valuable experiment station, and was teaching the farmers something of the value of scientific methods. In order to grow the sugar beet successfully it must be grown scientifically, and when the results of such methods were seen with this crop, the same methods would be applied to others. Statistics have shown that in every locality where the sugar beet is grown, land has more than doubled in value. So far in this country the greatest difficulty was on the agricultural side. The farmers did not know how to raise the crop. They are now being educated, and soon the sugar beet will be grown as surely and economically as Indian corn. It is simply a question of experience. Sugar is about the only product that can be and is not produced in sufficient quantity to meet the demands of our own country. This will soon be changed, and the United States will have this product for export.

SHOULD GROW OUR OWN SEED.

BY A. B. LECKENBY.

To recognize and provide for future needs is the sphere of intelligent and thoughtful farmer. Too often our efforts to success are barren of good results for lack of working on lines that are useful or they are influenced by the fickle fancy of fad or fashion.

The industry that I have in mind is growing and saving of grass and fodder plants and seed of standard or useful kinds. Many parts of the state are eminently adapted to the production of seed of the best quality. There is a ready sale for and no supply of the needed varieties. Most of the grass seed is of foreign growth, poor in quality, of indefinite age, which to the purchaser is high in price and unsatisfactory in results. Home grown seed from a reliable farmer would need no advertising, would be all disposed of through our farmers' institutes or kindred methods. Thousands of tons are needed for this state alone, and there are many substantial full grown reasons why we should supply the other states grass and clover seed.

My reasons for arriving at the conclusion that it is a good industry are that this state by natural advantages and special fitness is adapted to stock raising and dairying and these industries are dependent upon the grasses. Much of the land today that produces nothing does so because the seed is not there, or that the varieties adapted to the conditions has not been supplied. It is a well known fact that when ground is cleared or cultivated, that if something useful is not sowed the weeds will take possession of it. Instance the denuded timber lands, the badger farms, the claims or other deserted cultivations on the plains.

In self-defense against troubles once weeds we must sow grass seed. The judicious sowing of suitable seed on a large scale in this state will add more to the material welfare than the same amount of energy expended in any other line. This fact is daily becoming more recognized, and a man does not need to be much of a prophet to foretell a large demand for seed. To parties who wish to engage in the industry, I will take pleasure in giving them the result of my experience.—P. C. Dairyman.

MUSCLE VS. BRAIN POWER.

Although the past two years have been very unfavorable to the success of the farmer, there is abundant evidence to prove that those who have been educated up to a point to give them a good understanding of the way to utilize to the best advantage, both labor and materials on the farm, have made a fair profit on most of the crops; while those who have relied principally on muscle, have met with losses on almost every crop. We have yet too many farmers who rely so much on muscle that they tire the body by hard work to that extent which nearly destroys the activity of the mind; such men are likely to believe that thay can fit their sons to be better farmers by keeping them at home on the farm, than they would be if sent to some agricultural college. They do not realize that it is very much more important to know how plants feed, and how to feed them in the cheapest and best manner, than it is to hold the plow, or drive the horse to harrow the land. As there is no occupation which opens to a man a deeper and wider field for investigation than that of tilling the soil, all reasonable efforts should be made to give the coming farmer as thorough knowledge as possible on every point which will, directly or indirectly, aid him in making a success of his chosen calling.