

# 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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It would not surprise us to hear of serious trouble in the office of the general manager of the Spokane Fruit Fair. H. Bolster may as well be prepared to make the fight of his life—or maybe he'd better run. Why? Well, he has announced that to serve during the fair, "the following committee on entomology has been selected: E. F. Babcock of Waitsburg, Wash.; Prof. J. A. Balmer of Pullman Agricultural College, and Prof. Fred A. Huntley of the University of Idaho, Moscow." Now the gentlemen named are all skilled horticulturists and "entomology" is the science of bugs! Possibly Professors Balmer and Huntley will understand that Mr. Bolster meant to create a committee for the very commendable purpose of the proper classification of fruits, but then there is that noble old warrior from Waitsburg who was sent to the great Columbian Exposition to judge the fruit of the world. He's the fellow that we are expecting to sail into the general manager's office and make the whole force see bugs and stars and various other things.

"Down with the hog!" is the cry in the great wheat-raising belt of the Northwest. Six bit wheat has set the farmers to rushing their hogs to the markets, and next year they will be importing their bacon and hogs as of yore. More wheat and less hogs is going to be the rule and the farmers are plowing their pig styes up to sow to grain. It's a mistake—a big mistake, these people are making to go out of the swine-raising business entirely just because one year of high prices makes it more profitable to sell wheat than to feed it. It is all right to cut down the size of the swine herd at such a time, but hang on to the breeding of stock. The hogs have been good friends to the farmers of our grain districts—and they will be wanted again, as sure as the season of low prices comes around. And we never know how soon it is coming.

In the United States an average farm hand will produce more than three times as much grain, and from one and a half to three times as much meat as the average farm laborer in European countries can do. This is accounted for partly by the superiority of our farm machinery and partly by the greater fertility of our land; moreover, it must be acknowledged, by the superior energy and skill of our farmers, who are not machines, but think, and for the most part act, for themselves. The hands in foreign countries work for the proprietors of the estates on which they are employed. Here they are mainly the owners of the land they farm, or their sons, and have a personal interest in what they do. This stimulates brain as well as muscle to make the most possible out of the advantages they possess.

The farmers of the State of Washington are the ones who are after all drawing the big advances on the Klondike gold deposits. By the sales of millions of dollars' worth of

provisions to the thousands thronging to Alaska, the ranchers are going to keep continually ahead of the game. There will be fifty dollars spent by those going in to every dollar that comes out. The richer the finds are proven to be the wilder the world will go and the greater the number who will turn a-fortune-hunting. The farms and stock ranges of Washington are the bases of supplies, and the ranchers and rangers will receive the most general distribution of the flood of wealth.

Our readers will learn with pleasure that we have engaged Adam M. Stevens to write a series of articles for this journal. Mr. Stevens is a dairy specialist and successful farmer of note in the Kittitas Valley, and his writings are the condensations of years of experience and will not only be of real interest but of great instructive value. The articles published from his pen will alone make our paper worth many times the price of a year's subscription. RANCHE AND RANGE is a practical paper, full of the brightest ideas of the most practical people.

J. A. Woll, who has had the management of the Stanwood Creamery for some time, has been placed in charge of Jno. B. Agen's cold storage department at Seattle. Mr. Agen is instituting a system of grading in his establishment by which all butter will be paid for according to quality. Mr. Woll is a thoroughly competent man for the position and undoubtedly the dairy men of the state will find their relations with this house still more pleasant because of Mr. Woll's identity with it.

The experiment which has been carried on in the Yakima Valley for some months of rural mail delivery is proving a success. The service in that valley has been arranged to continue until July, 1898, at which time the authorities will decide as to whether it will be generally introduced throughout farming districts of the United States. Sixty million dollars would be required to provide rural free delivery all over the United States and it would give employment to 200,000 persons.

The endorsement of The Trade Register, Seattle's weekly journal of commerce, given by the chief of the section of foreign markets of the United States Department of Agriculture, is something that is worthy of more than passing notice. We do not think that we are making the statement too highly colored when we say that the State of Washington has not an institution that is doing more to develop the varied commercial interests within her borders than The Trade Register.

Redfield & Son, fruit commission merchants of Philadelphia, Pa., have added to the personnel of their firm, and now do business under the name of The Hughes Redfield Co., with offices in Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Baltimore and Salt Lake. Among those we hear speak well of the firm we mention J. W. Godwin, who says he has found them good people to deal with.

A week of Farmers' Institutes has been arranged to be conducted in three different agricultural districts by the professors of the Agricultural College. Following are the dates: Stanwood, September 13th and 14th; Auburn, 15th and 16th, and Enumclaw, 17th and 18th.

Wilson Rogers & Co. inform us that they are desirous of purchasing lots of hay direct from farmers. If you have hay for sale better write them. They are an old established firm of Seattle.