

Ranche and Range.

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY.

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

Official organ of the Northwest Fruit Growers' Association, embracing Washington, Oregon, Idaho and British Columbia.

Subscription (in advance) - - - - - \$1.00 per year

MILLER FREEMAN - - - - - Editor

Address all communications to 534-535 Pioneer block, Seattle, Wash.
Branch office at North Yakima, Wash.

We will take it as a great favor if subscribers who do not receive RANCHE AND RANGE on or before Saturday of the same week in which it is published would notify us. We want every reader to get this paper promptly.

Great Britain's parliament has passed a law which, in effect, prohibits the importation from any foreign port of prison-made goods, unless such goods shall have been made in the penal institutions of any part of the United Kingdom. The authorities of the state of California have been plainly notified that this law will be carried out. As a very large number of grain bags used by the grain farmers of Washington are made by the penitentiary at Walla Walla, this is a law that hits our own state pretty hard.

The Washinton Fruit & Produce Union, of Tacoma, may be a reliable firm, but they certainly are not very prompt in paying their advertising bill to this paper. If they are as slow in making remittances to farmers who make shipments to them we would like to know it. Have any of our readers had any experience with this company? In their prospectus they announce that the capital stock of the company is \$10,000, divided into shares of \$5 each. We note that it is another one of those special combinations for the farmer which enables him to become a stockholder of this company and have his own market by paying the sum of \$5 per share. We note also that the stockholders have the privilege—the great privilege—of paying the salaries of the officers which were set at \$100 per month. Also other expenses of the company. Now those who have had dealings with the Washington Fruit & Produce Union will confer a favor upon the shippers of this state if they will write and tell us exactly how they have been treated.

The interview in this issue with Mr. Chas. Bruhn contains some particularly valuable pointers for our stockmen. There is one thought which is alone worth considering well and that is the advantage of providing more comfortable conditions for animals that are being prepared for market. There was never a farmer yet that found a good big barn, properly built, an unprofitable investment.

Very happily for the Northwestern farmers the weather for the past ten days has been all that could be desired for the furtherance of harvesting operations. There was a spell of threatening rainy weather during the early part of September that, had it continued, would have had a most disastrous effect upon the great grain crops. However, the clear skies and bright, sunny weather have taken its place, and the harvesting operations are coming to a merry conclusion. But are the farmers of our country to continue to allow their crops to be at the mercy of the elements next year? Proper provisions for storing the grain can be made, and an investment that would be very small in proportion to the loss that might be sustained by the visitation of a week or two of bad weather at the critical harvest period.

During the past week farmers institutes were held at Stanwood, Auburn and Enumclaw. These institutes were conducted by Professors Spillman and Balmer, of the State Agricultural School. They were very interesting and instructive. The audiences were small, when we consider the benefits that might accrue to the farming people if they would only attend these meetings. We sincerely hope that the future meetings in the Sound country will be better attended. The committees having the institutes in charge made every

effort possible for their success, and the lecturers and members of the press in attendance were royally treated.

The Whatcom Blade says: "If the thistles in Whatcom county are Canadian thistles as many report, it is high time to prepare systematic operations for their extermination during the growing or blooming season next year; it is already two months too late to accomplish anything in that direction with this year's crop, but farmers of experience ought to be sufficiently alarmed by current reports to institute investigation and prepare for a crusade against the rapacious weed." RANCHE AND RANGE may state that investigation has proven that Canadian thistles have obtained a foothold in that county, and that there is but one way to get them out: The farmers must organize and turn out in a body to destroy them. This thistle business was promptly decided by the farmers of Kittitas county, where, early in the season, it was discovered in two parts of the valley. A meeting was called, an organization effected and systematic effort soon disposed of the patches. There is not a man, woman or child in Whatcom county, whether living in town or country, but should take the liveliest kind of a part in such an organization, and next year carry on a campaign so vigorous that not a single thistle will be allowed to cast its seed. The Whatcom papers will not be doing their duty if they do not stir the residents of their county up to the importance of this question. The time to commence is not next summer. If allowed to go on and multiply it will steal the lands of Whatcom county, and by its occupancy rob the farmers of millions of dollars. This is a warning to be heeded. Its importance is not magnified. No alternative remains. Thorough organization and complete extermination are in order. Organization for the next season's fight should be commenced at once.

The Sentinel of Asotin, Wash., reports that the farmers are all preparing to market lots of hogs this fall. But will they have any for sale next fall? We fear not. Wheat's too high.

The wheat crop of Washington, Oregon and Idaho is being harvested in good shape. The weather for the past 12 days has, in most districts, been as good as could be desired.

Marcus Daly, the Montana millionaire mine-owner, has retired from the turf, and closed down his racing stables. Daly has for years been one of the most prominent men in racing circles in the United States and has spent many hundreds of thousands of dollars in following the sport. His retirement will be something of a damper on racing in Montana.

Sherman county, Or., with 2,200 population, will have 3,000,000 bushels of wheat.

J. M. Hixson, of Seattle, is going to contribute to the glory of the great Spokane Fruit Fair by adding his presence to the great concourse that will gather there during the gala two weeks. He has placed an order for a new suit of clothes especially for the occasion.

Two of the regents of the Washington State Agricultural College, Messrs. Windus and Powell, have resigned. There is a most shameful lot of political jugglery going on over that institution. It is outrageous that this college, which has been ably handled by its faculty, should for a moment be made the center of contention for partizanship fights. The question of political faith of its instructors should not be allowed to ever be brought into consideration. Windus has been, we understand, working very hard to have the present faculty removed, but as he has dropped out it is very probable that no change will be made. It would be very unfortunate if the college were to lose its present corp of able instructors, as they are all thoroughly in touch with the requirements of their departments. If left to a vote of the farmers they would stay.

A peculiar case of alleged cruelty to animals is described in a news dispatch, reporting the attempt to drive out a colony of bees that had taken possession of a vacant house in Elizabeth, N. J. The contractor, who wished to make some repairs, was the first to be driven back, after being severely stung. He turned them over to the president of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. He marched to the health inspector. He did but little better, and soon beat a hasty retreat, leaving the bees master of the situation.