

Ranch and Range.

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FOR A BIG MEETING.

Secretary Woll Tells of Some of the Good Things That May Be Expected.

Editor RANCH AND RANGE: We want 300 live farmers and dairymen to attend the annual meeting of the Washington State Dairymens' Association that is to be held in Seattle December 28, 29, 30, and if our programme, which is partially given below, does not bring them I do not know what will. Here is part of it, as far as known:

Prof. H. J. French, of the Oregon Agricultural College. Lecture on: "Silos and Ensilage."

Prof. E. A. Bryan, president Washington Agricultural College, "Dairy Education."

Prof. W. J. Spillman, "The Milk Supply of Cities."

Dr. J. Allen Smith, State University, "Duty of the Government Regarding Adulteration of Foods."

Dr. S. B. Nelson, Washington Agricultural College, "Sanitary Science on Dairy Farms."

E. A. McDonald, dairy commissioner, "Needed Legislation."

G. MacL. Richards, "Effect of Dairy Legislation in the United States."

A. M. Stevens, vice-president Washington State Dairymens' Association, "How to Improve the Dairy Herd."

Miller Freeman, "Good Roads, How to Make Them and What They Cost."

Wm. F. Izett, "Root Crops."

Mr. J. P. Sharp, "The Mutual Interests of the Creamery Man, the Cheese Factory Man and the Dairyman."

Mr. M. L. Matterson, "Conquering Difficulties."

And there are others not yet heard from who will give papers on all subjects pertaining to the dairy industry and its welfare. Then the creamery, dairy and cheese exhibit, with its prizes:

\$30.00 cash and gold medal, 1 ton of salt, testers and other articles, altogether of more than \$150.00 value. This should bring out competition from every buttermaker and cheesemaker and dairyman that thinks he knows anything about butter and cheese making at all. The eyes of the world are upon us. Let us show the wonderful progress we have made in dairying and the reflection of the gold finding its way to our state from Alaska and our own mines will be outdone by our golden grained butter, produced by our creameries and dairies.

Let us work together to make this state what its natural conditions so fully warrant—the ideal dairy state of the Union. Come one and all and let us talk the matter over, and engender a spirit of co-operation that will mean new and greater laurels for our industry.

Secretary Washington State Dairymens' Association,
J. A. WOLL, Seattle, Wash.

Large shipments of California cabbages are being landed at Puget Sound ports. There is no section of the Union where the cabbage does better than in Western Washington, and it seems to us that if it pays the California grower to raise them after standing cost of rail and water transportation up here, that there must be a profit in it for home gardeners of enterprise. Quotations are 75 cents per sack. At Seattle eggs are firm.

Onions are just like gold these days. The price of onions always advances along toward spring, but already quotations are going away up. There has been a big demand from the evaporators and heavy inroads have been made on the Northwest supply. California and Oregon are also being called upon, but supplies from these states have not been sufficient to prevent a healthy advance in prices. Home grown stock rules, \$1.50@2.00.

COMMERCE OF AN EMPIRE.

Is Puget Sound Forgetting Her Opportunities? Not All The Gold's in Klondike.

While the cities of the Sound have good reason to feel jubilant over the remarkable stimulus that has been awakened by the Alaska mining excitement, it is to be deplored that the proper value of the trade of the great agricultural districts is not meeting with the recognition it deserves. Seattle is clapping her hands with glee over her mastery of the Klondike outfitting business, and poking all sorts of fun at Portland for allowing herself to be left so far behind in the race. But from reports received from correspondents in the great grain and stock districts of the basin of the Columbia and Snake rivers and their tributaries, Portland is pursuing an exceptionally active fall and winter canvass for trade of a different sort. That city has had for a number of days a specially chartered train full of members of its leading jobbing and mercantile houses traveling throughout Idaho, Eastern Oregon and Washington. Something of what this trainload of rustling representatives has been doing has appeared in our daily papers, but it has excited scarcely a murmur in our city, where every one is dreaming of the great harvest to be reaped from the tide of speculative humanity that will sweep through in the spring for the land of the midnight sun. Portland is said to have moss on her back and to be in a continual state of lethargy. It is not true. Portland is a city of banks, and one of the richest of her size in the Union. What has made her so? No Klondike has spurred her in a day from a hamlet to a metropolis. Her strength and her wealth are in the vast commercial relations she has built up with the immense country behind her. One half of the state of Washington pays tribute to her. She comes into the districts that, by the law of the map, are fair territory first for the cities of Puget Sound, secures the handling of the productions of our ranches and our ranges, and gives them in exchange her merchandise, her clothing, her manufactures, without scarcely a challenge being heard. Portland can afford to forget Klondike if she can monopolize the agricultural trade of Eastern Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, to say nothing of other tributary states. At a low estimate there is \$150,000,000 in it for Portland. All money utilized in handling the products of a country pass like the ebb and flow of a tide through its leading commercial center. This money swings in and out and is part of a healthy circulation. We are not decrying the creditable and highly successful efforts of the Seattle merchants to control the Alaska business. Out of the Klondike there has come not to exceed \$4,000,000. That is a large sum, to be sure. But of the larger part of that we have seen only a shimmer, as it went hurriedly through to the great centers of the East and the Old World. Perhaps \$15,000,000 has been spent by those going in this season. The expenditure of this amount has been principally in Seattle, and the prospects are that there will be a glorious increase next year. It will make things boom, and there will be plenty of money floating around for everybody. Good prices will rule. But, we repeat, Portland is not going to dry up and blow away because she will not do the lion's share of the Alaska outfitting. That \$150,000,000 will enable her to continue to drag along for a while yet.

The United States paid \$382,000,000 the last fiscal year for sugar, hides, fruits, wines, animals, rice, flax, hemp, cheese, wheat, barley, beans, eggs, tea, etc.; \$6,000,000 for chicory, castor beans, lavender, licorice, opium poppy, sumac, etc., and \$2,000,000 for bulbs, nearly all of which could be grown and prepared for use at home. The department of agriculture will encourage the growing of these articles by the introduction of seeds and by sending out farmers' bulletins giving information concerning them.—Secretary of Agriculture Wilson.