

Ranch 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.

UNDER THE BUSINESS AND EDITORIAL MANAGEMENT OF

MILLER FREEMAN

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DATES OF EVENTS.

Fifth annual meeting of the Washington State Dairymen's Association, Seattle, December 28 to 30.

Fourth annual show of the Tacoma Poultry Association, Tacoma, Wash., December 26 to January 3.

Third annual poultry show, Spokane Poultry Association, January 11 to 15.

Fifth annual meeting of the Northwest Fruitgrowers' Association, Portland, Or., January 11 to 15.

Mr. E. H. Libby, president of the Lewiston Water & Power Company, which is organizing the Vineland colony, writes that land sale contract No. 205 was concluded on Oct. 25, which is certainly a splendid record for a little over a year of active operations. L. W. Staub, a practical gardener, reports that his first year's crops paid for his land at \$100 per acre, and enabled him to purchase another five acres adjoining at \$125 per acre. With white potatoes producing 500 bushels to the acre, and sweet potatoes nearly as well, such reports are not altogether surprising. Peanuts yielded one to two pounds per hill, and a large acreage of goobers is promised for 1898.

What a ring of confidence there is in the announcement of the Tacoma Poultry Association of the fourth annual show, to be held Dec. 26 to Jan. 3. Theo. Hewes, a judge of national reputation, is to score the birds. Half rates have been secured on all express lines upon all poultry and pet stock transported to and from the show. Prof. C. D. Nairn, of Ballston, Or., will judge the dogs of fine breeding that will be entered at the bench show in connection with the poultry exhibition. The officers of the association are all live people, and, backed up by the Pacific Poultryman, the exhibition will be a great success, beyond a doubt.

RANCH AND RANGE is digging around in all directions for facts—experiences—in farming and fruit growing in the Northwest, but its editors cannot reach everybody hand to hand. Uncle Sam, through his postal department, is our special authorized agent for filling the knowledge box of this journal. Any written matter properly addressed and deposited with his sub-agents, the postmasters, may be sent at our risk and will be received with thanks.

We are indebted to L. K. Cogswell, the veteran breeder of Red Polled cattle, located at Chehalis, for a copy of his catalogue. He reports that he has sold fourteen cattle in the past few weeks, and the other day sold a bull and twin heifers, netting \$320 for the three. It is pleasing to note that Mr. Cogswell is meeting with such a good demand for his stock.

C. E. Setzer, of Linden, Whatcom county, Wash., was a caller at the office of RANCH AND RANGE last week. He is the owner of an eighty-acre farm and is engaged in dairying, fruit culture, hog raising and cultivates two acres of hops. He has sold part of his hop crop and still holds a ton for future marketing. Mr. Setzer is the proud grandfather of a quarter of a hundred grandchildren.

The faculty of the Puget Sound University have had to undergo, during the past two weeks, some pretty harsh criticism from the press regarding the fact that a consignment of rich, yellow oleomargarine was seized by the dairy commissioner, consigned to the address of that institution. Investigation goes to show, however, that the importation of oleo from Armour's factory was a matter in which the steward alone was interested, and, as Hon. C. S. Barlow, who is president and treasurer of the board controlling the university, was one of those who warmly supported the dairy law passed by the legislature, of which he was a member, it is hardly just to condemn the university management for something in which they had no part. Such institutions as this are founded for a noble purpose, and, in a new country, where population is yet sparse and resources still in an undeveloped stage it is the duty of every citizen to strengthen and aid them by all possible means. The use of a substitute for the product of our dairies rightly brings forth indignation and condemnation, for it is a grave question threatening the prosperity of thousands of our best people, but a false basis for accusation such as has most certainly been the case in this instance, is equally as cruel and to be deplored.

It has been pointed out that in the formula recommended by the Washington State Board of Horticulture in the report now being circulated that the kind of sulphur recommended (flours of sulphur) has not the merit that the crude sulphur known as ground sulphur has. In the first place the cost for flours of sulphur is from 8 to 10 cents in our markets, while crude sulphur can be obtained for 1 3-4 cents per pound. Secondly the crude sulphur contains impurities of an arsenical nature that are, in the opinion of some, of the greatest value, and it is held that they constitute the most important part of the wash. There is none of it contained in the flours of sulphur, the additional cost being due to the heavy expense of removing the important ingredients. The formula as given, including two pounds of concentrated lye to sixty gallons of water will be questioned as to its value as a wash for fruit trees in RANCH AND RANGE a safe and necessary wash in the next issue. Research is now being made regarding this important topic, and we hope to bring out some facts of material value to our horticulturists and that they may be the means of saving them a great deal of unnecessary expense, and also render their efforts in fighting insect pests much more effectual.

A few days ago an exceptionally active reporter of the Tacoma Ledger essayed an interview with Horticultural Commissioner Baker, and that gentleman gave him the necessary data to make up a very readable article on the growth of the fruit industry in Washington state. When the interview appeared it was found that there were some statements included that were far beyond the basis of exactness, and Mr. Baker was put in a rather embarrassing position thereby. But we have it from the honorable commissioner himself that the reporter was evidently too eager to fill space with sensational matter to adhere to facts. One of the most conspicuous assertions represented to have been made by Mr. Baker was that the value of Washington's fruit crop this season will total up \$6,000,000. While the income from our orchards this year was remarkable, considering that horticulture is still an infant industry with us, it did not reach this figure, and, if cut in two, it would still leave room for question.

J. B. Palmer's ground was not well taken when he stated that W. H. Brown was not qualified by law to hold the position of inspector of fruit pests of King county. It is not a requirement of the law that any one holding this position pass an examination before the state board of horticulture.—State Horticultural Commissioner Baker.

We have at hand a communication from J. W. Of-field, a fruitgrower of Wawawai, Wash., reviewing the treatment he has received at the hands of a prominent commission firm. It is our intention to publish this next week.

The hay raisers of Kittitas county are feeling pretty well, thank you, with hay at \$10.50.—Ellensburg Capital.